

## 16TH CAVALRY REGIMENT

# Fort Knox Cav Unit Trains Armor Force Leaders

*The 16th Cavalry Regiment is the heart of the Armor School. The regiment aggressively stays engaged with the field to provide the best possible current, competent, and relevant instruction. Its primary mission is to train mounted force leaders in the operation, training, and maintenance of armor and cavalry weapons, equipment, and units from platoon through brigade. The regiment also provides technical overwatch and subject matter expertise in the development and evaluation of mounted force doctrine, training development, and force development; and it demonstrates excellence in mounted operations, capabilities, tactics, techniques, and procedures. The regiment accomplishes its mission by emphasizing task-based structured training on critical warfighting skills. It supports Army and TRADOC initiatives and is a leader in applying distance learning and Classroom XXI in institutional training. The regiment continues to improve digital instruction in all its POIs as the mounted force makes the transition from analog to digital. In addition, the 16th Cavalry is continuously refining the use of virtual and constructive simulations in POI training and in support of active and reserve unit training.*

### 1st Squadron

The 1,100 soldiers in the 1st Squadron provide world-class soldier and equipment support to the Armor School and Ft. Knox. It is equipped with 116 M1A1 tanks, 20 M1A2s, 20 M3 Bradley Fighting Vehicles, 9 M113 APCs, 72 Light Scout HMMWVs, and over 250 other combat and combat service support vehicles. It maintains the equipment, trains the crews, and provides them daily to the rest of the Regiment and Fort Knox in support of training. Additionally, 1st Squadron teaches, and is the proponent for, the M1A1 and the M1A2 Tank Commander's Certification Courses (TC3).

**M1A1 TC3 (2 Wks, 3 Offerings in FY98)** has experienced a significant reduction in enrollment in recent years and has been converted to The Total Army Training System (TATS) format. The

resident course at Ft. Knox will be phased out during FY98. We expect this course to be picked up as a resident course by the reserve component.

**M1A2 TC3 (3 Wks, 8 Offerings in FY98)** is designed to train qualified M1A1 tank commanders on tasks specific to M1A2 tanks. 73% of the course is on the tank and 21% uses M1A2 training devices, including crew station trainers (CSTs), Advanced Gunnery Training System (AGTS), and Tank Weapon Gunnery Simulation System (TWGSS). The 2.51 M1A2 software update will be incorporated in FY98.

### 2nd Squadron

The 2nd Squadron's mission is to produce Armor and Cavalry leaders imbued with the warrior spirit and proficient in the fundamentals of tactics and gunnery, maintenance, and leader skills. The squadron accomplishes this by conducting the following courses: Armor Officer Basic Course, Scout Platoon Leader Course, M1A1/M1A2 Master Gunner Courses, M1A2 New Equipment Training (NET), and Bradley Organizational Maintenance NET, UCOFT, and AGTS Senior I/O and Bradley COFT I/O.

**The Armor Officer Basic Course (AOBC) (15 Wks, 2 days, 11 Offerings in FY98)** serves as initial-entry training for all Armor second lieutenants in the Army and Marine Corps, as well as for foreign students from 34 countries. The end state is an officer who is technically and tactically competent, capable of effectively leading combat soldiers, and physically and morally strong. He is prepared to assume command of a tank platoon immediately upon graduation. The program of instruction focuses on tactics, and gunnery, maintenance, and soldier/leader skills.

The focus of tactics instruction is the tank platoon. The student learns through a combination of classroom instruction, Tactical Exercises Without Troops (TEWT), and simulations, culminating in a six-day FTX. Students are exposed to all facets of tank gunnery, with the goal of producing confident and competent

tank commanders. Gunnery includes offensive and defensive engagements, preceded by a Tank Crew Proficiency Course (TCPC) utilizing TWGSS. PGT exercises are also incorporated into the course.

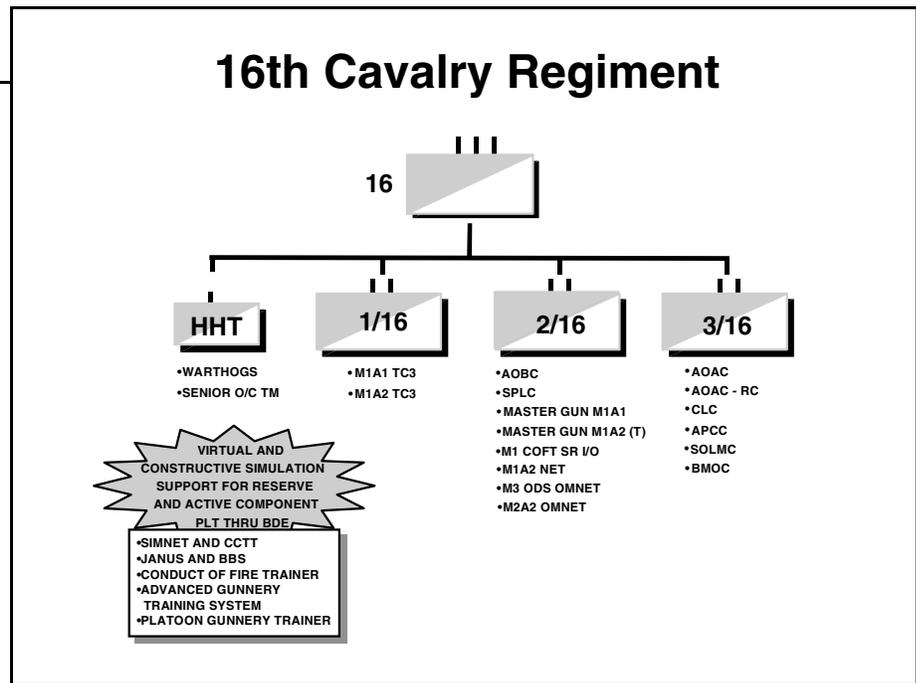
Students also receive extensive hands-on instruction on maintenance operations and PMCS. Soldier/leader skills instruction includes battle-focused training, terrain appreciation, common task training, troop-leading procedures, and the UCMJ.

Current initiatives for AOBC in FY98 include increasing the course to 17 weeks (currently, the shortest basic course in TRADOC). An additional 8 days will include job-specific equipment instruction and tactics to support the lieutenants' follow-on assignments in a cavalry organization, or in one of the M1A2 tank variants being fielded. This instruction is complementary to the instruction a student receives in the Scout Platoon Leader Course (SPLC), which focuses exclusively on tactics. Additionally, in keeping with the force's M1A2 fielding, AOBC will embed an M1A2 branch in the course in 3d Quarter FY98.

The **Scout Platoon Leader's Course (3 Wks, 9 Offerings in FY98)** prepares officers and Noncommissioned Officers to lead and employ heavy and light cavalry and scout platoons. Students receive two weeks of fast-paced classroom instruction, followed by a rigorous six-day field exercise. Instruction is primarily (97%) focused on critical scout skills, such as threat organizations and tactics, the IPB process, evaluation of routes and obstructions, platoon level obstacles, calculating and designating demolitions, and advanced reconnaissance and security techniques. Students are trained and evaluated on their ability to employ these skills during classroom practical exercises and mounted tactical training.

SPLC is changing the present prerequisite to include 19K30s in response to requests from the field. Also, shared training is conducted with the Cavalry Leader's Course and with D Troop, 1/16 CAV to broaden students' perspectives.

The **M1A1 Master Gunner Course (11 weeks, 7 Offerings in FY98)** continues to produce well-trained NCOs who can assist commanders in developing and executing a comprehensive year-round gunnery program. Course enhancements include assigning faculty advisors to each student, conducting video teleconferences semi-annually, and pub-



lishing a quarterly Master Gunner Newsletter. The course has also added a 40-hour block of instruction that certifies Master Gunners on TWGSS. Additional TWGSS instruction has been added to the M1A2 Master Gunner course. The **M1A2 Master Gunner Transition Course (3 Wks, 8 Offerings in FY98)** transitions M1A1 Master Gunners to M1A2 Master Gunners. This course continues to increase offerings in response to the needs of the field. The Master Gunner Branch communicates with the field through electronic mail distribution and is also located on the World Wide Web. Also, Master Gunner Branch has developed several videos now in local TASC offices, enabling soldiers to prepare for the course. Current tapes address Simplified Test Equipment (STE), Tank Crew Gunnery Skills Test (TCGST), Breakout Box (BOB), and boresight procedures.

Advanced gunnery training is further enhanced by the operation of tank and Bradley COFT facilities for visiting AC and RC units. Additionally, COFT personnel conduct **UCOFT and AGTS Senior I/O courses (3 Wks, 6 Offerings in FY98)** and the **BFV COFT I/O course. The M1A1 Master Gunner Transition Course (4 Wks, 2 days, 0 Offerings in FY98)**, which transitions M60-series Master Gunners to the M1A1, will not be offered after FY97.

The **M1A2 NETT** provides basic crew and organizational maintenance training to units receiving the M1A2. 3-8 CAV, 1-7 CAV, 1-8 CAV, and 2-12 CAV have been fielded. The NET for 2-12 CAV was a successful contractor pilot consist-

ing of 26 Tank Automotive Command (TACOM) contract instructors (all former armor NCOs/MGs) hired by General Dynamics, along with 14 TRADOC (military) instructors from the 16th Cavalry and augmentees from the 1st CD.

2-8 CAV and 1-12 CAV will complete the 1st CAV Div. OMNET begins in 1st Quarter FY98 and OPNET in the second. The M1A2 NETT is adding AGTS and more TWGSS training to the POI. The 16th Cavalry Regiment has conducted several monthly OMNET and OPNET classes for soldiers in the 1st CD going to units that already have the M1A2.

The **BFV OMNETT (our contribution to Bradley NETT)** trains active and reserve units receiving the BFV on organizational maintenance. The team trains three separate courses, a hull, turret, and a supervisors course. The team is currently at Ft. Stewart, training the 3rd Infantry Division on the M2A2 ODS (Operation Desert Storm) variant of the BFV. It recently completed training the 49th Division of the Texas National Guard on the basic BFV version. It will support NETT for subsequent variants of the Bradley, such as the ADA version (Linebacker).

### 3rd Squadron

Third Squadron's primary mission is to train and develop mounted officers to command and serve as staff officers at company, battalion, and brigade level. 3rd Squadron accomplishes this mission by teaching the Armor Officer Advanced Course, Cavalry Leader's Course, Senior Officer Logistics Management Course,

the Battalion Maintenance Officer Course, and the Armor Precommand Course.

The **Armor Officer Advanced Course (20 Wks, 4 Offerings in FY98)** prepares the mounted officer to command at company level and serve in a battalion or on a brigade staff with an emphasis on his role as a battle captain. The instruction includes tank gunnery, tactical training, logistical and maintenance procedures, training methods and techniques, leadership skills, and staff support functions. In addition to Armor officers, AOAC also includes officers from other combat and combat support branches, NG officers, Marines, and Allied officers from 34 countries.

AOAC is also changing to meet the needs of the mounted force in the 21st century. AOAC initiatives will include integration of BCB2 (Battle Command, Brigade and Below) and the five ATCCS (Army Tactical Command and Control Systems) instruction into the POI.

To further enhance task-based structured training, the POI will also begin to incorporate several Force XXI training products. These include a self-paced computer instructional package designed to train individual staff skills — the Brigade Staff Training System (BSTS), and a comprehensive brigade staff training package known as COBRAS.

The current AOAC is aligned with **CPT-PME Phase II**. Officers now attend the 6-week CAS3 after graduation (TDY at Ft. Leavenworth), then return to Ft. Knox to PCS to their follow-on assignments. Major changes to the FY98 course include increased brigade instruction, decreased planning time — increased amount of time for execution, refined SASO training, increased hours for battle-focused training, added brigade/battalion battle captain class, an R&S planning class, and additional hands-on maintenance instruction. In FY99 as part of CPT PME Phase III, the course will be reduced to 18 weeks. The regiment also offers an **AOAC R/C course (2 Wks, 4 Offerings in FY98)** which focuses exclusively at the company level.

The regiment is at the forefront of institutional training with several other initiatives in support of the Army and TRADOC's CLXXI and distance learning plan. The Military Decision-Making Tutorial (**MDMP TUTOR**), being tested with the Iowa National guard, uses the Internet and other computer- and instructor-assisted technologies to teach students in remote locations.

**Classroom XXI** - Starting in FY98, the second floor of Skidgel Hall will be remodeled into 14 small-group rooms, four level-III (hybrid) command posts to emulate FBCB2 and ATCCS, and a central room for recon/rehearsal visualization of the battlefield. All systems will be laptop-based and will also be able to tie into Janus/BBS and SIMNET/CCTT for exercises. Ultimately, students will also be able to link in with other TRADOC advanced courses, and graduates will be able to access a complete suite of doctrinal and instructional material from anywhere in the world.

The **Cavalry Leaders Course (3 Wks, 4 Offerings in FY98)** prepares Advanced Course graduates for assignment to cavalry units as troop commanders and squadron operations officers. Instruction includes tactical employment of cavalry troops and squadrons in economy of force, reconnaissance and security missions, planning and directing these operations, and the integration and synchronization of combat power and combat service support. Current initiatives in CLC include the formation of Mobile Training Teams (MTTs) that teach at unit home stations.

The **Senior Officer Logistics Management Course (1 Wk, 10 Offerings in FY98)** is a survey course on current policies, procedures, methods, and concepts used to achieve an effective unit-level logistics management program. It is focused on senior-level field grade officers. Current initiatives include the formation of MTTs. Certain classes can be tailored to the specific needs of the post.

The **Battalion Maintenance Officer Course (4 Wks, 2 days, 6 Offerings in FY98)** prepares company grade and warrant officers for assignments that are directly related to maintenance responsibilities at the unit level, with emphasis on management and supervision of battalion maintenance operations. Instruction includes organizational maintenance forms and records, administrative control of licensing and dispatch, use and control of tools and test equipment, repair parts (to include PLL), material readiness, and familiarization with vehicle systems and power generating equipment.

Current initiatives include the creation of a Multi-media Distance Learning (MMDL) CD-ROM version of the course. Version One of the CD-ROM will be sent to the field by the 2nd quarter FY98. The course will be phased out

of resident instruction at Ft. Knox during FY98.

The **Armor Pre-Command Course (1 Wk, 3.5 days, 5 Offerings in FY98)** is designed for officers selected to command armor battalions and brigades or armored cavalry squadrons, or regiments. Armor officers selected for garrison commands and those selected for acquisition commands also attend the course. Instruction includes tactics, CS/CSS planning and operations, training management, tank weapons, maintenance communications, and fratricide avoidance. Students visit the NTC to observe tactical operations and participate in the Leadership Training Program (LTP). They also participate in VTCs with JRTC and CMTC, and in shared training with an AOAC in session. Future initiatives include the formation of class elective tracks for those LTCs and COLs identified for garrison/BSB commands and in acquisition.

## WARTHOG

### Observer/Controller Team

The **Virtual Training Program (VTP)** trains active and reserve component armor, mechanized, and cavalry units from platoon through brigade level using virtual reality and constructive simulations. The three key components of the VTP are the Mounted Warfare Simulations Training Center (MWSTC), the Observer Controller (OC) Team and Training Support Packages. This very successful program has grown significantly in the last several years for both active and reserve component units.

The MWSTC is the site of the VTP and houses the (SIMNET), comprised of 41 M1 tank simulators, 10 Bradley Fighting Vehicle simulators, and 10 desktop reconfigurable simulators (which can be used as either HMMWVs or M113s). Thirteen Observer Controller Workstations (OCWS) allow training to be observed, controlled, and recorded. The exercise can be played back for AARs. The current mix of simulators and workstations enables simultaneous training of 12 platoons, four companies, one armor task force or one brigade in CFX mode. The MWSTC also includes two Janus suites and one BBS suite with a STOW – A Hub.

The Task Force Observer/Controller Team, made up of quality officer and NCO observer/controllers and civilian exercise controllers (E/Cs), is designed to provide Combat Training Center (CTC)-quality AARs. The O/Cs have ex-

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tensive field experience at their level, and many are experienced CTC O/Cs. The E/Cs manipulate the computer hardware and software to induce battlefield effects and control the Opposing Forces (OPFOR) to meet the commander's training objectives.

The Senior Observer Controller Team (SOCT) assists the active and reserve force in improving their brigade-level operations competencies with compressed, task-based, structured training (battalion and brigade). The SOCT are civilian contractors, retired senior officers, and NCOs with combat and CTC experience at the battalion and brigade level. The SOCT also mentors Armor Officer Advanced Course students in brigade tactics, techniques, and procedures, providing a level of experience not available anywhere else in the Armor School.

The training support packages that support the VTP enable the training unit to focus on execution with limited planning and preparation. The structured tactical exercises include scenarios, operations orders, and operational graphics that cause specific tasks to be trained and observed to meet the unit commander's training objectives. Current scenarios include movement to contact, deliberate attack, and defense in sector, all on the National Training Center database.

Scheduling is through the Ft. Knox G3/DPTM. A unit normally receives advance materials in a training support package six months before its VTP rotation, enabling it to conduct troop-leading procedures prior to its arrival at Fort Knox.

## **Conclusion**

The 16th Cavalry Regiment is committed to providing highly trained leaders for the mounted force. If you have an officer or NCO who would be able to make a significant contribution to the mounted force as either an AOB or AOAC instructor, an O/C in our Virtual Training Program, or an instructor in one of our other courses, please contact Armor Branch.

We, like the rest of the field, continue to find ways to operate more efficiently; what we have not done is sacrifice the quality or rigor of the training we provide. We will continue to provide the mounted force the best possible armor and cavalry leaders. To that end, we remain responsive to the needs of the mounted force in the field. If you have comments, suggestions, or questions please direct them to our web site at [www.knox.army.mil/school/16cav](http://www.knox.army.mil/school/16cav).