



Reports from
THE ARMOR CENTER

1997 ARMOR SCHOOL UPDATE

Relocation, Consolidation Mark Year of Changes

This has been an extremely busy year for the Armor School. We are continuing our pursuit in establishing the highest quality institutional training achievable, and the important initiatives we've introduced will ensure that we meet this objective. The first and most readily visible of these initiatives is the realignment of the School's infrastructure. The Armor School currently occupies the same number of buildings that it did in 1989, but due to Army downsizing that has occurred since that time, student enrollment has decreased over 40%. Naturally, this situation drives us to pursue more efficient, cost-saving methods of instruction.

We are now in the process of moving some departments and classrooms out of old, one-story wooden and masonry buildings and consolidating all Armor School classes into Skidgel, Harmon, Marshall, and Boudinot Halls. Staff and Faculty, Automated Instructional Management Systems Redesign (AIMS-R), and the International Military Student Office (IMSO) will join the school headquarters in Gaffey Hall. The Directorate of Training and Doctrine Development (DTDD) will join the Armor School Library in Harris Hall. The Master Gunners and gunnery instructors will move into Serio Hall (the old 194th HQs). The entire Noncommissioned Officer Academy will join the Armor School complex

and occupy facilities opposite Skidgel Hall. PLDC, BNCOC, and ANCOG will gain "state of the art" classrooms, refurbished offices with enhanced communication links, and modernized billeting for soldiers attending these NCOA courses.

The 1st Armored Training Brigade will inherit several of the buildings vacated by the NCOA and use them to house two newly constituted basic training companies and some headquarters elements.

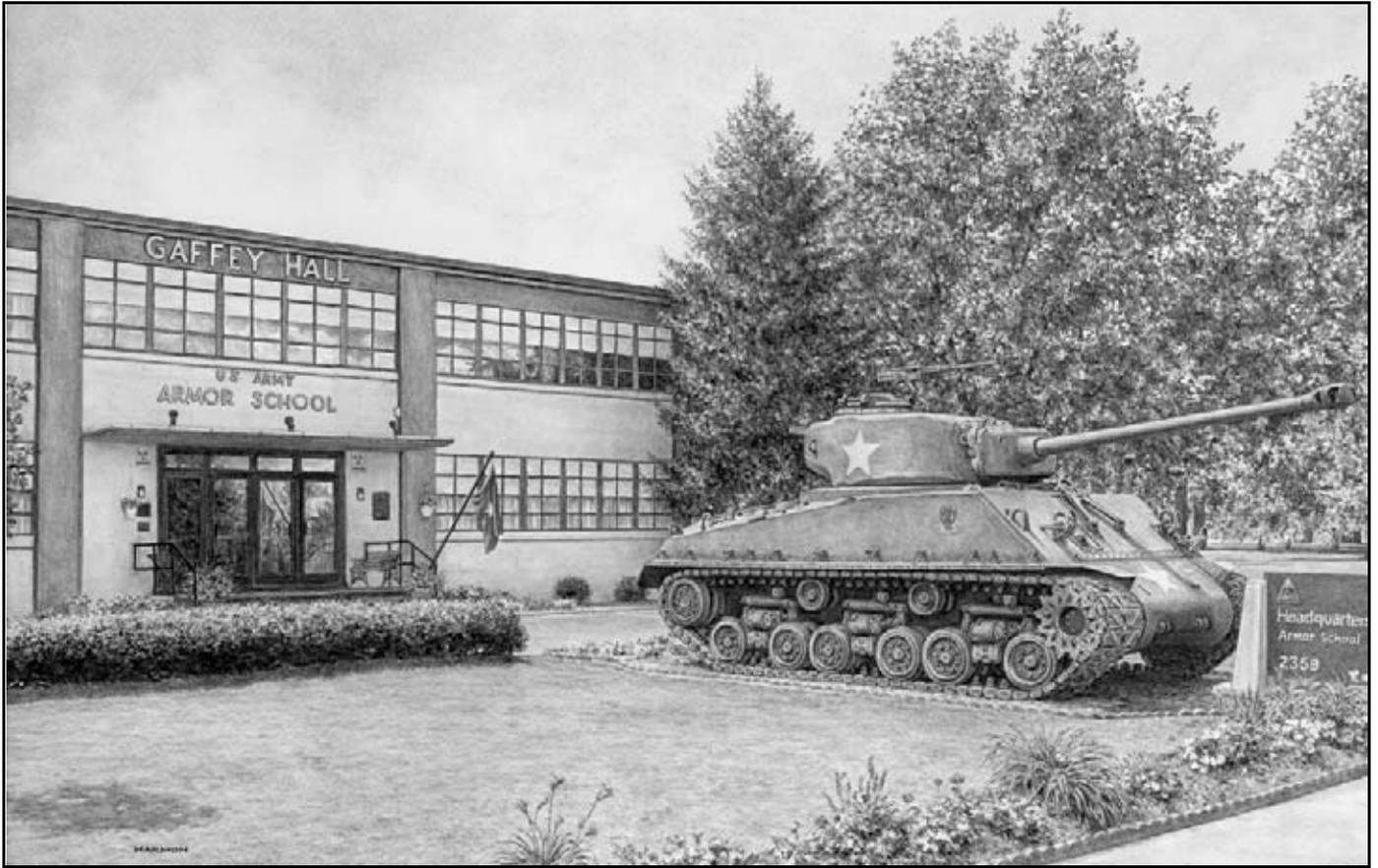
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Small Group Overview

Instructor ID: 21
 Instructor: Tim Kielpinski2
 Small Group: 4-1z
 E-Mail address:
 Total Number of Students: 17

Student Name	ID#	Diagnostic Test	Final Exam				Status of MA		
			1st Go	2nd Go	3rd Go	No Go	Done Diag?	Done MA?	Done Final?
Tim Kielpinski	4	8/ 50 Detail					Y		
Dave Nilsen	5	13/ 50 Detail					Y		
Bob	38								



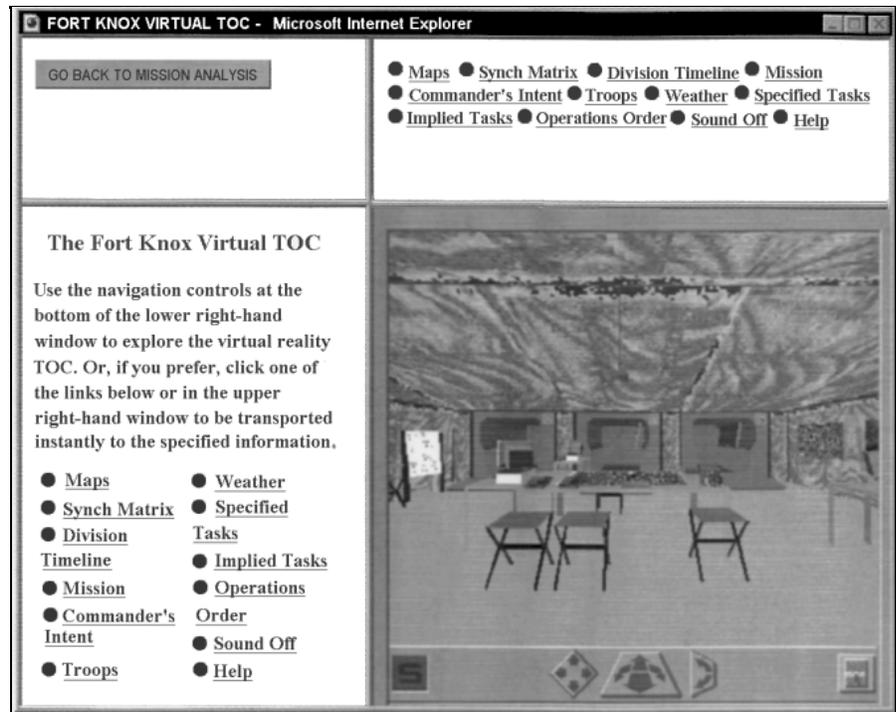
This new organization enables us to tear down 43 obsolete, inefficient buildings that used to house classrooms and offices. We will apply the money normally spent in maintaining these old structures to the upgrade and refurbishment of classrooms in the remaining buildings. The savings and benefits associated with this major project are indeed significant.

Another upgrade to the Armor School in 1998 will be the construction of six computer-enhanced classrooms on the second floor of Skidgel Hall. This is part of Classroom XXI and the Army Distance Learning Program. These are not merely classrooms equipped with computers, but rather a place to share student work products, access information from the Fort Knox local area network, the Internet, the Army Training Digital Library (ATDL), and other TRADOC schools and centers.

We also plan to begin the evolution to a paper-free classroom in 1998. Once given the funding, we will issue laptop computers to our students when they in-process into our schools. These state-of-the-art laptops will contain all the course materials the student will need, including a CD-ROM containing all manuals and texts needed during the course. Additionally, students will have the ability to

download updates to these manuals, whenever they occur, via the Internet. We believe that laptop computers will be a common management and training tool utilized by all units in the near future. In the future, we hope to allow students to

take their laptop "classroom" with them after graduating from their course; then we can ensure that units in the field will be directly linked to the schoolhouse at all times. Thus, we need to begin training tomorrow's leaders on computer ca-



pabilities and limitations today. Once funding for this concept is approved, we plan to start issuing them initially to AOAC students, followed by ANCOC, AOBC, and BNCOC.

Large-scale distance learning will arrive at Fort Knox in 1998. We have converted the Battalion Maintenance Officer Course (BMOC) into an interactive CD-ROM, and the resident BMOC will end here at the Armor School in the second quarter of 1998. Personnel wishing to take that course can receive the CD-ROM through a normal request to the Army Training Support Center (ATSC). We have begun the conversion of the Armor Officer Advanced Course to a distance-learning format for our Reserve Component officers. Our plan is to provide "Individual" Phase One instruction over the Internet, beginning in October 1998. Phase Two "Small Group" instruction, with emphasis on collective tactical tasks, will be in the video tele-training format beginning in October 1999. The Phase Three, two-week "resident" phase will begin at Fort Knox in the summer of 2000. Our goal is to phase out the current AOAC-RC course by FY00.

We plan to convert a portion of 19D ANCOC to distance learning in FY99, and we expect a relatively small TRADOC common core portion of BNCOC to be converted that same year. These distance-learning portions are oriented toward reserve component soldiers, offering them more and better opportunities to attain the same state of proficiency as their active duty counterparts. It is not our intention to attempt to convert "hands-on" equipment or initial entry tasks to the distance-learning format, now or in the immediate future. We intend to make the time spent on these critical "hands-on" tasks as the capstone training event of the courses.

Lastly, we expect to have our M1A2 Virtual Maintenance Trainer operational in Skidgel Hall in 1998. This device begins the initial mechanic training in a virtual world, transitioning them to a "hands-on trainer" for their validation training and testing.

The future of the Armor School is promising, and we will remain the best school of mounted warfare in the world. We will use emerging educational technology to our greatest advantage, knowing full well that the true test of our effectiveness occurs on the battlefield and not in the classroom.