

19K One Station Unit Training Information On-line for All Armor Personnel

by Captain Brandon L. Zupancic

"What exactly is 19K One Station Unit Training?" "My unit is preparing to go to gunnery in a few weeks. Has my brand new loader taken a TCGST?" "What type of training do new 19KK4 soldiers receive on the M1A2?" The answers to these questions, and dozens of others relating to 19K Initial Entry Training, are available to everyone in the Armored Force on the 19K One Station Unit Training Internet web site.

According to LTC Paul C. Jussel, Commander of 2d Battalion, 81st Armor, "Our purpose in creating this web site was to provide armor leaders around the globe with a source of immediate information about the scope and quality of 19K skill level 10 training that all armor crewmen receive when they first enter the Army. It is also a forum for armor leaders at all levels to provide feedback and commentary directly to the tank commanders, drill sergeants, and officers who train their new 19Ks." The 19K One Station Unit Training (OSUT) web site is specifically designed to provide a two-way dialogue between 1st Armor Training Brigade's trainers and the units that receive new 19K armor crewmen. Because it is updated regularly, and has a dedicated e-mail address, the web site's author is able to provide detailed information and rapid response to questions or suggestions that would have been virtually impossible just a few months ago.

The 19K OSUT web site presently contains information about a number of topics, but a current comprehensive revision will organize the web site into a more detailed document, with more than 30 sub-pages, each of which will contain extensive information about various aspects of 19K OSUT. In addition, while the web site currently includes a handful of links to other related web sites that feature information about 19-series training, the revised page will include a number of special new links to even more sites of interest to armor leaders. Currently, users may find specific information about the following topics:

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). This section provides frank answers to important questions about soldier fitness, weapons training, maintenance, and "soldierization." Some of the current FAQ answers include information about whether all trainees have passed an APFT during OSUT; why trainees qualify with the M9, but not the M16; the difference between AR 40-501 and AR 600-9, and when each applies to a soldier; among others. The answers are provided in response to questions users post on the **Feedback** page, during video tele-conferences (VTC), from the Armor Hot Loop, and by soldiers returning to Fort Knox for additional training.

The 19K Program Of Instruction (POI). This section provides a specific breakdown of the entire 19K skill level 10 POI, to include subjects taught on both the M1A1 and the M1A2. Additionally, this section details the four phases of 19K OSUT training, as well as the type and scope of training soldiers receive during each phase. At the end of this section, users will find a "laundry list" of the more than 100 19K skill level 10 and common soldier tasks that every trainee completes, as well as the 19K skill level

20 (and even some skill level 30) tasks that every trainee completes prior to graduation.

The **Feature Topic** section details specific training initiatives underway to improve 19K OSUT. Previous topics have included the POI, and the Excellence In Armor program, while the next one will focus on current efforts to incorporate new M16A2 training and a Tank Crew Gunnery Skills Test (TCGST) into the POI. Comments and suggestions from users form the basis for the Feature Topic. In this respect, the Feature Topic is truly every armor leader's asset. The Feature Topic reflects those critical questions and concerns from across the entire Armor Force.

A **Feedback** section poses questions from the trainers in the 1st Armor Training Brigade to leaders in the field about a variety of training topics. Moreover, this is the forum where visitors to the 19K OSUT web site may submit e-mail directly to the web author concerning suggestions, comments, questions, criticism, and praise of 19K OSUT. Because the web author maintains a separate e-mail address, frank discussion is highly encouraged, and timely responses to every e-mail posting are the norm.

For information purposes, the web site incorporates a **Directory of Key Personnel** assigned to 2d Battalion, 81st Armor. This site is

updated regularly as personnel changes occur.

Users may access the 19K OSUT home page a variety of ways, the two simplest of which are to enter the following Uniform Resource Locator (URL) on a web browser:

<http://147.238.100.101/1atb/19kosut.htm>

Users should note the URL carefully, however, because the internet is case sensitive. In other words, "19kosut.htm" and "19KOSUT.HTM" are not the same address. The easiest way to access this web site without the URL is to access the Army Home Page at <http://www.army.mil> and enter "OSUT" into the "search by topic" box located near the top of the page. At present, the 19K OSUT web site is the only link that the Army Home Page search engine will present when executing this search.

The 19K OSUT web site is every armor leader's mouthpiece to the training that their soldiers initially receive upon entry into the United States Army. It is through this mechanism that each armor leader may help to improve the quality and scope of 19K skill level 10 training.

CPT Brandon L. Zupancic received his commission in Armor from ROTC in 1989 at Tulane University. He has served in Germany and Fort Knox, and his duty assignments include assistant S4, tank platoon leader, support platoon leader, battalion assistant S3, company commander, and battalion S3. A graduate of the Armor Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, he currently commands a company in 2d Battalion, 81st Armor at Fort Knox. He is also the 19K OSUT web site author.

