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1. THE COMBAT ARM OF DECISION

Armor possesses only 4% of the Army's numerical strength, but Armor generates 33 percent of the Army's firepower. Today's Armor officer is heir to the elan and daring of the Horse Cavalry, and he fulfills his duties with the same aggressiveness of the saber-wielding, pistol-shooting horseman. The Armor officer has at his disposal swift and overwhelming forces that are highly invulnerable to indirect artillery fire and which are wholly proof against small-arms fire. With such forces, Armor truly upholds the proud traditions of the Cavalry as THE COMBAT ARM OF DECISION.

a. Boldness and innovation have characterized Cavalry and Armor throughout their history. The great names of American Cavalry and Armor—Lee, Stuart, Sheridan, Patton, and Abrams—forge solid links in the historical Cavalry-Armor chain. Their far-reaching ideas are carried on in today's Armor force as the Army continues to stress the versatility and importance of increased armor protected mobility, firepower, and shock effect on the battlefield.

b. The tank has always been the symbol of Armor, but today's Armor force includes a vast array of ground and air vehicles. Tanks, mechanized infantry fighting vehicles, armored cavalry vehicles, self-propelled artillery pieces, and air cavalry helicopters are all part of the Combined Arms Team. Armor leaders must know how to place these forces on the ground, coordinate their efforts, and support them on a highly mobile, modern battlefield. Accordingly, Armor leaders must aspire to the highest standards of military professionalism and must have the same innovative, aggressive, and combative spirit as their illustrious predecessors.



Figure 1. Today's Armor Officer is Heir to the Daring of the Horse Cavalry



Figure 2. Armor at Work

2. ARMOR CAREER FIELD DESCRIBED

a. A career in Armor is one of the most demanding and most rewarding careers in the Army. It is the most varied field that one can find in the combat arms, for it embraces both combat and combat support elements that are dedicated to fighting and winning. The Armor force emphasizes combined arms and uses its prime characteristics – mobility, firepower, and shock effect – to win on the battlefield. In peacetime, Armor maintains a high level of readiness through training and stands ready to fight anywhere in the world.

b. An Armor officer's functions are to lead from the front of his force, to train his soldiers to fight on the modern battlefield, and to use his Armor forces in offensive land warfare. To perform these functions, he must be prepared:

- To fight his tank or cavalry vehicle, alone and in concert with others, just as the fighter pilot fights his plane. Boldness and innovation must be his hallmarks.
- To lead, command, and control armor or combined arms units from the front in mobile land combat.
- To provide expertise on the employment of Armor forces at all staff levels with emphasis on the planning and the conduct of land combat operations.
- To participate in the development of Armor doctrine, organization, and equipment design in support of the mission of United States Armor forces.

3. ARMOR SERVICE

Today's Armor officer perpetuates the fighting heritage and spirit of the United States Cavalry. While he goes into combat in an armored vehicle, the *elan*, and above all, the traditions of mounted warfare reside with the Armor officer, now and in the future.



Figure 3. Armor as a Weapon

4. PARTICIPATION

Upon entry to active service, officers commissioned in Armor receive the Armor career field designator 12. Male officers of other career fields who desire to be part of the Armor force should request transfer to Armor. Female officers are precluded from choosing Armor as a career field.

5. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

a. The Armor Officer will develop into a competent and professional combined arms leader capable of employing Armor, Cavalry, and other elements of the Combined Arms Team as effective fighting forces. His initial professional development will center on either Tank or Cavalry operations.

b. As he progresses in rank, the Armor Officer will develop skills encompassing the entire range of combined arms operations. His leadership skills and responsibilities will progress with his technical skills and responsibilities. As the officer's career continues, he will become an effective manager of both human and materiel resources far exceeding those of most of his civilian contemporaries. He will manage such diverse aspects of the Armor force as training, people, funds, events, vehicle fleets, equipment design, and maintenance systems. His responsibilities will encompass the multiplicity of affairs found in fair-sized cities or corporate organizations. Through varied assignments, the Armor Officer develops multiple and related skills in both leadership and management that he will use throughout his career.

c. During his career, the Armor officer can expect to serve in the following positions:

- Commander or staff officer in an armor or cavalry unit, or in a training center.
- Staff officer in military headquarters and activities requiring combined arms expertise.
- Armor instructor in service schools.
- Member of an advisory element assigned to Military Missions or Advisory Groups in foreign countries.
- Advisor in Army Reserve and National Guard units.

d. Armor officers may also expect to serve in other positions which contribute professionally to their career development but which may not be specifically related to their designated field. Such positions include commander or staff officer in Army Recruiting Regions, Instructor or Assistant Professor in the ROTC, Inspector General, Congressional Liaison Officer, and other executive positions. Selection for these positions is based on overall expertise, military and civilian education, and demonstrated potential for promotion.

e. In addition to Armor/Cavalry assignments, an Armor officer can expect professional development in a functional area which will be designated at approximately his seventh year of service. Earlier designation may be made as a result of the officer's assignments or his civilian education. Further details of this aspect of professional development can be found in Department of the Army Pamphlet 600-3, OFFICER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION.



Figure 4. The Tank Platoon are Capable of Operating Under Any Tactical Condition

6. ARMOR

a. The tank battalion is the most powerful maneuver element within the modern Army division. Equipped with main battle tanks, the battalion is configured to strike swift, decisive blows against the enemy and to penetrate deeply into his rear area to destroy his command and control elements, reserves, and logistics units.

b. Although today's main battle tank is designed, armed, and armored for open, fast-moving fighting on any battlefield, the tank and the tank platoon are capable of operating under any tactical condition, from the wide dispersion of the nuclear battlefield to the closed-in terrain of mountains and jungles. In no small part are these capabilities the result of innovative and aggressive leadership on the part of the Armor officers in command.

c. As an inherent part of the Combined Arms Team, the tank platoon is a versatile combat force. Leading such a platoon requires ingenuity, technical competence, cold courage, and positive military leadership.



Figure 5. The Divisional Cavalry Squadron is the Division Commander's Eyes and Ears on the Battlefield

7. ARMORED CAVALRY

a. Today's Armored Cavalry is the direct descendant of the Horse Cavalry of yesterday's Army and is imbued with the same spirit of aggressiveness and elan that once made the horsemen a feared adjunct of our land forces.

b. The Armored Cavalry Regiment operates for the Corps Commander and is designed to function on wide fronts against numerically-superior enemy forces. The squadrons of the regiment are equipped with the latest, most sophisticated weapons systems, and as such will mold the character and progress of the Corps battle as they open an engagement.

c. The Divisional Cavalry Squadron is the division commander's eyes and ears on the battlefield. Equipped with the

newest and best reconnaissance equipment, the Cavalry Platoons seek information about the enemy for the division and brigade commanders immediate use in developing the main battle.



Figure 6. Armored Cavalry on Flat Terrain



Figure 7. Armored Cavalry in a Forest



Figure 8. Advancing Firing Line of Armored Cavalry

9. THE ARMOR OFFICER BASIC COURSE

a. The initial step in the Armor Officer's professional development is the 15-to 16-week Armor Officer Basic Course at Fort Knox, Kentucky—the Home of Armor. The course prepares the lieutenant to train and lead a tank or a cavalry platoon.

b. The Basic Course begins with a core syllabus of common Tank/Cavalry subjects. This core curriculum is followed by training designed specifically for the type of unit to which the officer will be assigned upon graduation.

c. The course strongly emphasizes those basic tactical and managerial subjects that a lieutenant must master to become an effective platoon leader. His training will enable him to employ the weapons organic to his platoon and those of the other elements of the Combined Arms Team. He will master the tactical deployment of his platoon and the maintenance of his platoon's vehicles, weapons, and equipment.

d. When he enters the Tank/Cavalry portion of the Basic Course, the lieutenant will receive intensive training on the tactics and equipment of the first unit to which he will be assigned after the basic course. His field training is performance oriented and thoroughly prepares him to take charge of his first platoon.

e. In addition to being technically and tactically proficient, the new lieutenant must also develop those leadership and command attributes that will enable him to lead from the front and by example – the mark of his famous predecessors and of all effective Armor leaders. These qualities are instilled through formal instruction in leadership techniques, drill, physical conditioning, informal instruction, daily observation of effective leaders, and evaluation.

f. The Armor Officer Basic Course is a comprehensive course that prepares the new Armor officer for his first assignment. The graduates of the course have a solid foundation upon which they can build their Armor careers with confidence.

9. SCHOOLING

Selected officers will attend additional schooling to prepare them for specific aspects of their initial duty assignments. They include:

- Junior Officer Maintenance Course at Fort Knox, Kentucky
- Basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Georgia
- Ranger Course at Fort Benning, Georgia
- Infantry Mortar Platoon Course at Fort Benning, Georgia

10. FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY

a. Fort Knox has been the Home of Armor since the Armored Force was established in 1940. The post is located about 30 miles south of Louisville and about 18 miles north of Elizabethtown, Kentucky.

b. Fort Knox is internationally known as the site of the United States' Gold Depository, the "Bullion Building." The post is also home of the United States Army Armor Center and School, The United States Army Armor and Engineer Board, the 194th Armored Brigade (Separate), the Patton Museum of Cavalry and Armor, and Ireland Army Hospital.

c. With extensive firing ranges, maneuver training areas, and modern classroom buildings, the Armor Center and School have some of the most effective educational facilities available in the United States Army. These facilities, combined with knowledgeable and effective teaching techniques, serve to develop in the new Armor Officer the technical and tactical competence, the leadership ability, and the aggressive spirit so necessary for success on both the training ground and the modern battlefield, for it is here that Armor—The Combat Arm of Decision—truly comes to the front.



Figure 9. Fort Knox is Home to the Armor Center and School



Figure 10. Forge The Thunderbolt!

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