

Gunner's Seat: Training Events; Change of Leadership

by CSM Alan Hummel

First and foremost, I would like to congratulate COL John Cushing, CSM Lawrence Andrews and the rest of 194th Armor Brigade team on the preparation and execution of this year's Sullivan Cup competition. The tremendous amount of effort and work that went into planning and coordinating the event is greatly appreciated. I would also like to extend my congratulations to 1LT John Dupree and his crew: SGT Curtis Bowen, SPC Brandon Sinor and PFC Phillip Hill. The 1st Battalion, 252nd Armor Regiment, 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, North Carolina Army National Guard, won this year's competition.

Shortly after completion of the Sullivan Cup, I went to Germany to observe the Strong Europe Tank Challenge 2016. This event was comprised of seven platoons from six countries conducting offensive and defensive tactical-gunnery scenarios – along with tactical-lane scenarios very similar to the events that take place during the Sullivan Cup but focused on platoon-level execution. It was a well-organized event that showcased the lethality of a tank platoon.

The senior-level leadership who attended either of these training events should walk away with a greater understanding of the capabilities Armor has and how to better implement them within their organizations. I further encourage leaders at all levels to attempt to attend any and all such training events and strive to take lessons-learned back to implement into their own formations.

I'd like to take this opportunity to personally thank MG Scott McKean for his contribution to the Armored Force during his tenure as the 49th Chief of Armor. MG McKean's profound insight and vast knowledge enabled him to effectively impact the future of the Armored Force and guide it through the difficult task of downsizing and forced realignment of our formations. MG McKean will continue to play a vital role within our ranks, as he was appointed as the Chief of the Office of Security Cooperation-Iraq.

I would like to conclude this Gunner's Seat by welcoming the 50th Chief of Armor, BG John Kolasheski, and his family. BG Kolasheski joins us after departing Fort Riley, KS, as the deputy commanding general (maneuver) for 1st Infantry Division. I look forward to working with BG Kolasheski in continuing to guide and develop the future leaders of the Armor Branch.

Forge the Thunderbolt!