

Chief of Armor Hatch

Armor School Ongoing Efforts

It's my honor to serve as the 52nd Chief of Armor here at Fort Benning, GA. Our vision at the U.S. Army Armor School is to be the premier institution for developing agile and adaptive armor/cavalry leaders and Soldiers who have mastered the fundamentals and are capable of operating in any environment. We want our leaders and Soldiers to be skilled in the art of mounted warfare and reconnaissance and security (R&S) missions in support of combined-arms operations at echelon and across all domains.

My top priority is ensuring that our armor and cavalry leaders are receiving the best institutional training available and we'll continue to revisit programs of instruction to ensure they're relevant for large-scale combat operations and keep pace as the force continues to modernize. We remain nested with the Maneuver Center of Excellence's mission to provide trained and combat-ready Soldiers and leaders and to develop the doctrine and capabilities of the maneuver force.

To highlight a few of the ongoing efforts in motion, we are 1) hardcoding 19A and 19Z billets inside all brigade-combat-team types to ensure that formations are led by armor/cavalry leaders that have the requisite skill sets to be effective on Day 1; 2) working doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel and facilities or DOTMLP-F, integration/modernization for future platforms; and 3) providing subject-matter expertise on echelons-above-brigade R&S formations.

This next year is going to be exciting for the armored force at large. In May 2020, the Armor School will host the fifth Sullivan Cup Best Tank Crew Competition. The event will physically and mentally test U.S. Army Soldiers, U.S. Marines and international partners in tank-crew maneuver, sustainment and gunnery skills. More importantly, it will determine which unit has produced the most lethal tank crew. I recommend that units start selecting their teams and building their eight-step training plan now. Also, I'm especially interested in Defender 2020, which is a Department of the Army- directed, U.S. Army Europe-led exercise designed to demonstrate the United States' ability to rapidly deploy a division to the European theater. The exercise will highlight our skills in a complex operating environment and will stress the Army's ability to mobilize, deploy and conduct combined operations.

Thanks to the previous Chief of Armor, BG Dave Lesperance, who in more than two years moved the Armor School forward in the right direction. It's my goal to build on that great foundation and continue developing lethal leaders who are experts in their craft. Over the coming weeks, I will continue to refine my sight picture on critical issues facing the Armor Branch and look forward to establishing an open dialogue with you to gain a better understanding of the current armor and cavalry troopers inside your formations.

Forge the Thunderbolt!

BG KEVIN D. ADMIRAL
Chief of Armor/Commandant
U.S. Army Armor School

Acronym Quick-Scan

R&S – reconnaissance and security