



# FAQ: “How Can I Be Assigned Specifically to a Tank OR Scout Platoon?”



*Fort Benning, Home of the MCoE*

BLUF: In ABOLC you will submit a duty station “wish list”, where you will preference **duty locations**. Therefore, you should highly preference duty locations that have the BCT type and/or platform you are interested in.

ABCTs are the only units in the Army that have tanks. So, if you want to be a tank platoon leader, you should highly preference duty locations that have ABCTs.

Conversely, if you are more interested in conducting reconnaissance and security operations, you should consider highly preferencing SBCTs and/or IBCTs, since you will be assigned to the cavalry squadron.

Being assigned to an ABCT **WILL NOT** guarantee that you will be a tank platoon leader. However, ABCT cavalry squadrons are unique because they also have a tank company, and it is the only assignment in the Army that gives you an opportunity to be both a tank and scout platoon leader.

Being assigned to an SBCT or and IBCT **WILL** guarantee that you will be a scout platoon leader, since there are no tanks (yet) in these formations and you will be assigned to the cavalry squadron.



# FAQ: “How Can I Earn a Most Preferred Rating From Armor Branch?”



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1. **Submit True Branch Preferences** – If AR is your #1, it should be ranked as such in your submitted preferences. Cadet preference is heavily weighted in the final board.
  - a) NOTE: You will receive your branch ratings of Most Preferred, Preferred, or Least Preferred and have the opportunity to shift your preferences prior to the final board.
2. **PMS/APMS/Cadre Comments** – Comments should be specific to your #1 branch choice. Comments may include past/current performance, as well as aptitude or future ability to excel in an assignment.
  - a) For example, “Jake is a top 20% cadet at the Gopher BN and ideal candidate for the Armor Branch. He is ready to be a tank/scout platoon leader. He is the embodiment of the Armor talent priorities and exudes the traits necessary to lead the combat arm of decision. Must select for Armor Branch, send to ABOLC immediately.”
3. **Talk About Armor** – Literally... Just using the word “Armor” in your narrative and/or in the PMS comments will highlight your name utilizing conditional formatting. Tell a compelling story as to why Armor is your #1 and why you’re an excellent fit for the job and culture.
4. **Volunteer for a BRADSO**
  - a) Putting AR as Preference #1, and then AR w/BRADSO as #2, is the strongest signal to the board about your desire to branch Armor. In this case, if only BRADSO allocations are left in the branch....a cadet who is willing to BRADSO with a preference AR w/BRADSO, even with a “Preferred” rating, may be prioritized over a cadet who is unwilling to BRADSO but as a “Most Preferred” rating.
5. **Volunteer for Branch Detail.**



# FAQ: “Can You Explain Branch Detail Opportunities?”



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Branch detailed officers serve their first four years in a “recipient” combat arms branch as a Platoon Leader/Executive Officer. After those four years, they will then attend their secondary (donor) branch Captains Career Course and continue their career in this secondary branch, such as Military Intelligence, Signal Corps, Transportation, etc.

As a cadet, you need to engage with the donor branches and recipient combat arms branches in order to determine if you are personally interested in both, and if you would be considered a strong candidate from both branch’s perspective.

Volunteering for branch detail is a very positive characteristic for those seeking high volume “donor” branches (MI, AG, SC). In previous years, cadets indicating a desire to branch detail were more likely to get their donor branch of choice.

**Military Intelligence branch detailed to Armor is perhaps the best pairing in the Army...**



# FAQ: “What’s a Day Like as an Armor PL?”



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Well, it depends... But here are a few themes while in garrison.

## Daily Sync Meeting

0600

- Daily sync meeting to go over the priorities of work for the day/week.
- Audience: CO, 1SG, XO, PLs, PSGs, Supply/HQ/Mortar Section SGTs.

## PT

0630 – 0730/0800

- Platoon Leader will plan, prepare, execute, and assess all PT plans.

## Duty Day

0900/0930 – UTC (Until Complete)

- **Motor Pool Monday:** BN/SQDN formation in the motor pool prior to executing weekly PMCS (Preventative Maintenance, Check, and Services) and other maintenance priorities of work.
- **Individual Soldier Skills:** PLs plan and NCOs execute individual Soldier task training. Example: Marksmanship, Combat LifeSaver, Land NAV, Vehicle Identification.
- **Crew Tasks & Proficiency:** Gunnery skills training prior to gunnery skills test. Example: Platform simulator training, chair drills, additional maintenance.
- **Collective Task LPD:** CO/TRP or BN/SQDN led training on how to conduct collective tasks. Example: Conduct a Zone Reconnaissance, Establish a Hasty Defense, Dismount TM LFX
- **Pre-Deployment/Field Operations OR Post-Deployment/Field Recovery:** Example: More maintenance, wash rack, and generally cleaning
- **Various Administrative and Additional Duty Tasks** Example: Property inventories, 350-1 training, IO (Investigating Officer)



# FAQ: “What’s the Work-Life Balance Like in the Armor Branch OR Combat Arms?”



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Q1 (OCT-DEC)	Q2 (JAN-MAR)	Q3 (APR-JUN)	Q4 (JUL-SEP)
Weapon Qualification	Holiday Block Leave	Deployment OPS Execute CTC Rotation	Summer Block Leave
Gunnery Skills Training and Testing	CCTT Simulators		Equipment Inventories
Drivers Training	BDE STX		Pre-Deployment OPS
PLT/CO STX			
Gunnery	CO/TRP LFX & CALFEX	Redeployment OPS	Deployment Pack- out
	Recovery	Rail OPS	Rail OPS
	CTC Pre- Deployment OPS	Annual Services & Maintenance	DEPLOY
Recovery	CTC Pack-out		
Holiday Block Leave	Rail OPS	Summer Block Leave	

LEGEND	Garrison OPS	Home Station Field OPS	CTC/Deployment	Block Leave Period
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# FAQ: “What Skills are Transferrable to a Civilian Career After the Army?”



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**You will have the soft skills and leadership skills necessary to transition into civilian management roles in a variety of professions.**

- Ability to lead cross-functional teams.
- Achieves mission success in a time and resource constrained environment.
- Project – Time – People – Administrative management capabilities.
- Effective and assertive communication.
- Ability to perform under pressure.

**Earning an advanced degree during, or immediately following, your time in service is a good course of action.**

Advanced Civil Schooling	USMA Instructor	Post 9/11 GI Bill
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Post Command CPT</li><li>- Fully funded graduate degree as a full time student with ADSO upon graduation.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Post Command CPT</li><li>- Fully funded graduate degree as a full time student with assignment as USMA instructor upon graduation and ADSO.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- After release from active duty. Provides full tuition and BAH to state universities.</li></ul>