

Aviation Center of Excellence



**Flight School
Graduation
Ceremony**



AH-64
APACHE

UH-60
BLACK HAWK



CH-47
CHINOOK

C-12
HURON



Flight School Class 26-023

September 17, 2026



UNITED STATES ARMY
AVIATION CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
FORT RUCKER, ALABAMA

Order of Ceremony

Welcome..... Master of Ceremony

*** Invocation.....** Chaplain

*** *National Anthem*.....** Ceremonial Support Services

Music by John Stafford Smith, 1780

Lyrics by Francis Scott Key, 1814

Adopted as the National Anthem of the United States, 1931

Introduction of Guest Speaker..... LTC Brian E. Alexander

Commander

1st Battalion

11th Aviation Regiment

Fort Rucker, Alabama

Address..... CW5 John M. Griger

Chief of Standardization

1st Battalion

223rd Aviation Regiment

Fort Rucker, Alabama

Announcement of Graduates..... Master of Ceremony

Presentation of Wings.....LTC Alexander

**** Above The Best, Aviation Branch Song**

Music and lyrics by Jo Johnston 1987

**** The Army Goes Rolling Along, The Army Song**

Music by John Phillip Sousa, 1917

Lyrics by Harold W. Arberg, 1956

Conclusion..... Master of Ceremony

** Please stand. Gentlemen, remove your headdress for the National Anthem.*

*** Lyrics on back cover.*

Guest Speaker

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER FIVE JOHN M. GRIGER

CHIEF OF STANDARDIZATION, 1-223RD AVIATION REGIMENT

Chief Warrant Officer Five John M. Griger is a native of Cleveland, Ohio. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Aviation Technology from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in May 2002, before entering the United States Army under the Warrant Officer Flight Training program in October of 2003. He attended Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and then immediately attended the Warrant Officer Candidate School at Fort Rucker, Alabama.

CW5 Griger's early assignments included 2nd Battalion, 3rd General Support Aviation Regiment at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Georgia, and 3rd Battalion, 10th General Support Aviation Regiment at Fort Drum, New York, as a CH-47 Chinook helicopter instructor and standardization pilot.

In 2015, CW5 Griger was selected for assignment as an exchange officer with the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) as part of the 450 Tactical Helicopter Squadron at Canadian Forces Base Petawawa in Ontario, Canada. While with the 450th, he established the RCAF flight school for the CH-147F Chinook helicopter and aided the unit in reaching initial and full-operational capability for the Squadron. He currently serves as the Chief of Standardization with the 1st Battalion, 223rd Aviation Regiment at Fort Rucker.

CW5 Griger has multiple deployments in support of the Global War on Terror and other contingency operations. His military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Legion of Merit (with three Oak Leaf Clusters), the Air Medal (with Numeral 8 device), Army Commendation Medal (two OLC), and the Master Army Aviator Badge.

He is married to Kimberly Griger from Bristol, Vermont. They have three children: Audrey, John, and Katie.

Aviation Commissioned Officers

Class 26-023: Aviation Basic Officer Leader Course

1LT Bent, Matthew L.

2LT Meyers, Reagann R.

1LT Cao, Jordan T.

1LT Nalley, Mitchell R.

2LT Cook, Mary E.

2LT Newman, Nathan T.

2LT Diaz-Perez, Marco A.

2LT Rehnberg, Luke B.

2LT Kramer, Levi G.

1LT Reid, Jake D.

2LT Krieger, Jalynn R.

1LT Rodriquez, Aiden G.

1LT Lopez, Elijah S.

2LT Salo, Aaron

1LT Martinez, Giancarlo E.

1LT Scheu, Mackenzie L.

1LT Matthews, Caitlin L.

2LT Soberon, Alvaro M.



*The engraved Sterling Silver Wings presented to the
Distinguished Graduates are provided by the
Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA).*

Aviation Warrant Officers

WO1 Barbosa Viana, Luciano

WO1 Lee, Chanho

WO1 Bilbro, Nolan J.

WO1 Lee, Stephanie L.

WO1 Blette, Tucker E.

WO1 Miller, Charles S.

WO1 Burgess, Michael A.

WO1 Moore, Devin R.

WO1 Butler, James C.

WO1 Murphy, Keegan E.

WO1 Cortes, Jesse J.

WO1 Nevarez, Nicholas M.

WO1 Decker, Zackary M.

WO1 Nguyen, Alan T.

WO1 Ducut, Justin J.

WO1 Ramos, Anthony X.

WO1 Garcia, Pammela

WO1 Rentschler, Nathan R.

WO1 Gilbertson, Cooper T.

WO1 Rogers, Tyler R.

WO1 Hayes, Kalei J.

WO1 St Germain, Savanna P.

WO1 Hopkins, Morgan H.

WO1 Tuttle, Joshua E.

WO1 Karustis, Julian M.

WO1 Worthington, Mitchell L.

WO1 Kennon, Sean

WO1 Wyatt, Hunter R.

Class 26-023: Aviation Warrant Officer Basic Course

AVIATION BRANCH SONG ABOVE THE BEST

High above the best. High above the best.
We are Army Aviation USA.
Proud and strong.
We meet the test.
Skies filled with thunder.
Wearing silver wings upon our chest.
We meet the needs of Ground Command
As we aid the Nation's quest.
Army Aviation, flying high above the best!

Lyrics and Music by Jo Johnston, 1987
Adopted as the official song of Army Aviation, 1987

THE ARMY SONG THE ARMY GOES ROLLING ALONG

March along, sing our song, with the Army of the free.
Count the brave, count the true, who have fought to victory.
We're the Army and proud of our name!
We're the Army and proudly proclaim:
First to fight for the right,
And to build the Nation's might,
And The Army Goes Rolling Along.
Proud of all we have done,
Fighting till the battle's won,
And The Army Goes Rolling Along.
Then it's hi hi hey, the Army's on its way
Count off the cadence loud and strong
For where'er we go, you will always know
That The Army Goes Rolling Along.

Music by John Philip Sousa, 1917
Lyrics by Harold W. Arberg, 1956
Adopted as the official song of the Army, 1956