

Aviation Center of Excellence



**Flight School
Graduation
Ceremony**



**AH-64
APACHE**

**UH-60
BLACK HAWK**



**CH-47
CHINOOK**

**C-12
HURON**



Flight School Class 26-015

May 28, 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 Matthew R. Stockton

Commander

1st Battalion

145th Aviation Regiment

Fort Rucker, Alabama

Address.....CW5 Lucas K. Abeln

Flight Training Branch Chief

Directorate of Training and Doctrine

Fort Rucker, Alabama

Announcement of Graduates.....Master of Ceremony

Presentation of Wings.....LTC Stockton

** **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

CW5 LUCAS K. ABELN
FLIGHT TRAINING BRANCH CHIEF
DIRECTORATE OF TRAINING AND DOCTRINE

CW5 Lucas Abeln is a native of Tucson, Arizona, and attended Pima Community College and then the University of Arizona before joining the Army. Motivated by the events of September 11th, he applied for Army Warrant Officer Flight Training and was selected, beginning his aviation career in 2004.

After Flight School, he was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, Assault Helicopter Battalion at Fort Hood, Texas. He spent the next five years alternating between Texas and deployments to Iraq, serving as Pilot in Command, Air Mission Commander, and Air Assault Flight Lead. He credits his early mentors and colleagues for shaping his professional development.

His next assignment sent him to Fort Rucker, Alabama, as an Instructor Pilot, Section Leader, Platoon Leader, and Executive Officer of Flight School XXI. Following this, he served as Platoon Instructor Pilot and Company Standardization Pilot with the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Battalion, 214th Aviation Regiment in Wiesbaden, Germany, and with the 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment in Katterbach, Germany.

Returning stateside to Fort Bliss, Texas, he deployed back to Europe with the 1st Armored Division's 3-501 Assault Helicopter Battalion, working with the Land Component Command Headquarters General Staff G-3 Aviation. He was subsequently selected as Battalion Senior Pilot and Senior Warrant Officer for the 1-214th General Support Aviation Battalion, a role he found both rewarding and challenging.

CW5 Abeln currently serves as the Directorate of Training and Doctrine Flight Training Branch Chief at Fort Rucker. With more than two decades of aviation experience, he has logged more than 4,000 flight hours, including 1,165 combat hours and 1,220 night-vision goggle hours.

Aviation Commissioned Officers

1LT Bautista, Alvaro L.

1LT Doshi, Nathan R.

1LT Gorodynsky, Daniel M.

1LT Hawkins, Abigail K.

2LT Lack, Tanner B.

2LT Lassahn, Owen J.

1LT Leggett, James P.

1LT Phillips, Garrett D.

CPT Powers, Lilian K.

1LT Roddy, Michael C.

1LT Visser, Eli J.

Class 26-015: Aviation Basic Officer Leader Course



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

Aviation Warrant Officers

WO1 Bailet, Benjamin C.
WO1 Baldwin, Jacob D.
WO1 Bell, Isaac C.
WO1 Carver, Talus A.
WO1 Cuevas, Manuel A.
WO1 Deas, Mason J.
WO1 Gordon, Joseph S.
WO1 Hansen, Timothy D.
WO1 Lents, William C.
WO1 Lewis, Henry A.
WO1 Looye, Matthew W.
WO1 Majors, Holden G.
WO1 McIlveen, Kasey P.
WO1 Parish, Nicholas T.
WO1 Paul, Christopher D.
WO1 Plotnikov, Nikita
WO1 Schumacher, Andrew N.
WO1 Stanley, Ethan D.
WO1 Thomason, Kyle R.
WO1 Weaver, Seth E.
WO1 Weeks, Jarad M.
WO1 Williams, Connor M.

Class 26-015: 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