

Commander's Corner

RSLC Commander's Comments

The Global War on Terror has borne a chapter in maneuver warfare that has necessitated significant changes to force structure, war fighting doctrine, and updates in equipment to ensure success on the non-contiguous battlefield. With a program of instruction whose effectiveness and relevancy corresponds directly with the tactics, techniques, procedures, and equipment employed abroad, the RSLC continues to update and improve its program of instruction to include and accommodate the latest developments in combat applications overseas.

The effort to increase the number and depth of organic ground reconnaissance forces within Army Divisions is significant and currently underway. US Army dominance and success as the "finest finishing force in the world" has been well-established and is currently undisputed in regions throughout Southwest Asia. Improvement to our ability to "find" the enemy and eliminate him where he lives, plans, stages, and prepares for his operations remains an on-going initiative. The RSLC is committed to providing the army with the finest and most highly trained light, airborne, air assault, and special operations reconnaissance professionals as necessary to meet Army initiatives. The information that follows highlights some of the improvements that have been made to the course over the past fiscal year.

• Enduring Course Initiatives

Mobility. Organic mobility is critical to the effective function and ultimate success of reconnaissance units deployed abroad. Special operations forces and reconnaissance forces overseas currently employ a variety of mobility platforms during the conduct of their operations. HMMWV variants, Non-Standard Tactical Vehicles (NSTVs), and All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) enhance reconnaissance force capabilities significantly with:

- a. Improved force projection and greater sphere of influence in the operating environment
 - i. Distances are rarely too great to infiltrate/exfiltrate target area
 - ii. Mounted movement allows greater coverage over larger land expanses
 - iii. Existing or man-made obstacles pose little threat to movement
- b. Enhanced speed and firepower
 - i. Ability to move around on the battlefield quickly and quietly
 - ii. Rapid reaction capability for retrograde, reinforcement, or change in mission

- iii. Mobility platforms enable the use of larger weapon systems and increased ammunition loads for operations
- c. Self-sustained logistics support
 - i. Self-sustained ability to insert & extract from the target area
 - ii. Traditional dwell times on objective no longer determined by support load (Classes I,III,V); mission duration extended from 72-96 hours to 6-10 days
 - iii. On-hand power supply for radios and electronic equipment reduces reliance on alternate power sources
 - iv. Organic CASEVAC

Acquiring and training on the different mobility platforms that reconnaissance units are employing overseas has become the most significant endeavor the RSLC has undertaken to improve and update the course POI. We are working closely with the Infantry Center on proposals for permanent vehicle additions to reconnaissance unit MTOE. In keeping with the "all-knowing, all-weather, multi-dimensional collection asset" adage, reconnaissance units must be capable of performing their missions anywhere, anytime, in any conditions. Applying the "arms room concept" to unit vehicle fleets is imperative to maintaining this global versatility, and our equipment and force structure recommendations are focused around this concept. LMTVs, GMVs, and ATVs--at the company and team level respectively--are indispensable assets that are required to support effective steady-state operations abroad. We will continue to demonstrate to the Army the viability of these assets in the conduct of operations.

Increased Firepower. Complementing the need for organic mobility abroad is an equally-important need for increased firepower in reconnaissance units. While reconnaissance missions are intended to avoid contact whenever possible, the benefits of equipping and employing crew-served and precision fire weapon systems in reconnaissance units is indisputable. Units must be capable of defending themselves enroute to and from objectives and targets regardless of the unit's mission. Reconnaissance forces are no different. Employment of the M249, M240B, M2, and Mk19 weapon systems offers reconnaissance units not only protection, but the ability to engage and destroy larger, pursuing forces during evasion and recovery as well. Team internal precision-fire systems (again, METT-C dependent--arms room concept available) offer teams on the ground the ability to engage and destroy high value targets in lieu of assault forces, or in conjunction with assault forces.

The RSLC continues work with the Infantry Center to properly structure and equip reconnaissance forces for the situations that they may face. We are currently proposing heavy and medium machinegun employment at the company level and light machinegun employment at the team level. Future reconnaissance teams may become equipped with sniper-trained personnel and precision-fire weapon systems. Updates on all initiatives will be posted to this site and discussed during future reconnaissance conferences.

• **Recent Updates to the Course.** Changes to instruction and practical exercise in the following areas have been implemented into the RSLC curriculum. We will strive to remain relevant and current to the Army's transitioning modular force in the global war on terrorism.

- Multi-band communications training on systems including: AN/PRC-150 (HF), AN/PRC-148 (MBITR), CF18/19 (Toughbook/TACCHAT),

- Imagery collection and data transmission including use of the "TSE LRSD XVIII" surveillance kit
- Map reading test has been revised to a 25-question, one-hour exam
- The old "Vehicle ID" now includes vehicles, weapons, equipment, and additional handouts for identification of ammunition, uniforms, and language
- The "G2 Organization" class has been replaced with a class on "Military Intelligence Integration"
- Target acquisition, combat assessment, and call-for-fire training has been significantly enhanced through the use of the IFT system (Multi-purpose Joint Close Air Support Trainer). Similar to the old "Guard Fist," this computer-based program provides video-game quality training on CAS, CCA, naval gun fire, as well as all conventional fire support assets. Additionally, students will be exposed to and will conduct training on the Vector XXI targeting system.
- Recon Mobility and Vehicle-borne Surveillance
- Close Target Reconnaissance (CTR) in an urban environment

• **Surveillance Additional Skill Identifier.** The current ASI is "6B." Upon graduation, Soldiers will receive a memorandum stating that they are authorized the "6B" ASI. All previous graduates of the course (both LRSLC and RSLC) can obtain the ASI by submitting a 4187 with a copy of their Graduation Certificate through their unit S1. In the future the ASI will be used to track Soldiers, NCOs, and Officers with formal Surveillance, Reconnaissance, and Target Acquisition Training for assignments to coded positions within reconnaissance units. We will keep you posted as this develops.

Check out the new online Reconnaissance Operations and Commander Course.

[LRS Introduction \(ppt\)](#)

[Communications \(ppt\)](#)

[Command and Control \(ppt\)](#)

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