



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY INFANTRY CENTER
FORT BENNING, GEORGIA 31905-5000

ATSH-OTT (350)

13 April 2026

SUBJECT: Individual Student Assessment Plan, Pathfinder (MTT) Course, 071-2E-SI5Q/011-ASIF7(MT)

1. **Purpose.** Provide Commanders with technical expertise in planning and executing air movement, air assault, airborne, and air re-supply operations for rotary or fixed wing aircraft; interfaces between Army Aviation / USAF units and supported commander; prepares air mission brief and air movement annex; provides technical advice, inspects and supervises the execution of sling-load operations; provides trained personnel to assist with the mission of USAF combat control team; selects, marks, and controls helicopter day and night landing and pick-up zones; selects, marks, and controls fixed- wing day and night drop zones for airborne personnel and equipment; provides air traffic control and navigational assistance to aircraft within an operational site control zone; provides USAF aircraft terminal guidance for deployment of the airborne force; conducts Drop Zone Survey operations; certify in the use of Ground Marked Release System (GMRS), Computed Air Release Point (CARP), and Verbally Initiated Release System (VIRS) for rotary and fixed-wing aircraft airdrop operations.
2. **Course Structure.** The US Army Pathfinder Course is a 15-day course culminating in the completion of a field training exercise (FTX).
3. **Course Outcome.** Upon graduation Pathfinder Students will be able to:
 - A. Apply fundamental knowledge of external rotary wing load preparation into the inspection process. Integrate knowledge of certified sling-load preparation into the preparation of unique sling-loads.
 - B. Demonstrate fundamental skills in the establishment and operation of multi-ship helicopter landing and pickup zones.
 - C. Facilitate the integration of rotary and fixed wing aircraft during joint operations.
 - D. Demonstrate fundamental skills in the selection, establishment, and operation of drop zones.

4. **Pathfinder Course Entrance Requirements.** Students must meet the following minimum requirements to be accepted for training:

- A. All applicants must have a current PHA within 12 months of the course graduation and be medically ready in all categories of the IMR, have a minimum profile serial of 111211, have no speech impediment, and have passed the AFT within the last six months of attending the course. Applicants must meet Service height and weight standards IAW specific Service standards. US Army soldiers will participate in height and weight during in-processing. Soldiers that are not in compliance will not be admitted into the course. Soldiers with a valid AFT within 30 days showing 80+ pts in each event and an overall score of 465 may bypass the height and weight station. All soldiers are subject to being administered height and weight at the commander's discretion. Army applicants must have one-year military service remaining upon completion of the course IAW AR 614-200, Chapter 4.
- B. **US Army Officers:** Officers in the grades of O-1 through O-3 in the following Control Branches are authorized to attend: IN (AOC 11A), AR (AOC 19A), MI (AOC 35D, 35E, 35F or 35G), QM (AOC 92A only), EN (AOC 12A) and Logistics (90A). All other grades and branches require a waiver.
- C. **US Army Enlisted:** Soldiers in the grades of E-3 through E-7 in the following MOS are authorized to attend: 11B, 11C, 15Q, 19D, 88M, 92R (skill levels 3 and 4 only), and 92Y (skill levels 1 through 3). All other grades and MOSs require a waiver. Enlisted applicants must have a GT score of 110 or above.
- D. **US Marine Corps:** USMC Officers in the grades of O-1 thru O-3 and USMC enlisted personnel in the grades of E-4 thru E-7 in logistics and combat arms may attend.
- E. **US Air Force:** Enlisted personnel serving as combat control team/forward air controllers in the grades of E-5 thru E-7 may attend.
- F. **Foreign Students:** This course is releasable to military students from foreign countries on a case-by-case basis. Foreign countries desiring to place students in this course must meet one or more of the following criteria:
 - a. Have a signed Letter of Intent (LOI).
 - b. Have approved waiver from HQDA.
 - c. Have USG release for training.
 - d. Units sponsoring Foreign Students must ensure they meet all course prerequisites prior to reporting for Pathfinder Training.

5. **Lesson Synopsis.** The following overview will provide you with an orientation to the training you will receive while attending the Pathfinder Course:

- A. **071-FAFQA002 Pathfinder Orientation.** Conduct an overview of the Pathfinder Course and required training.

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- B. **071-FAFQB003 Sling Load Operations.** Pathfinder Students will establish and operate a sling-load point. Demonstrate proper hand-and-arm signals for controlling rotary wing aircraft and preparing and inspecting sling loads for external movement.
 - C. **071-FAFQB004 Unique Sling Load Procedures.** Pathfinder Students will prepare, inspect, and certify unique sling-loads for external movement.
 - D. **071-FAFQC006 Airspace Management.** Define the qualities and missions of the air traffic controller and identify specified and implied tasks.
 - E. **071-FAFQC008 Ground-to-Air Map Marking.** Pathfinder Students must correctly build map Ground-To-Air and Internal Net Recorder positions, utilizing map marking techniques taught during the course, with proper symbols/locations. Emplace the correct degrees in the eight cardinal directions using the proper size.
 - F. **071-FAFQC010 Helicopter Landing Zone Operations.** Evaluate Pathfinder Student's ability to conduct helicopter pickup zone and landing zone operations.
 - G. **071-FAFQC012 Air Assault and Pathfinder Techniques.** Evaluate Pathfinder Student's ability to conduct air assault planning and pathfinder employment.
 - H. **071-FAFQD014 Drop Zone Operations.** Demonstrate to the Pathfinder Student: The definition of a drop zone and the 8 selection factors for advising the ground unit commander on suitability of a drop zone. Identify the duties and responsibilities of the DZSTL/DZSO and establish/mark DZ's (CARP, GMRS, and VIRS) for day and night operations.
 - I. **071-FAFQE016 Field Training Exercise.** Evaluate Students on conducting missions based on all periods of instruction.
6. **Graduation Requirements and Assessment Standards.** The following standards are requirements Pathfinder Students must meet in order to graduate from the US Army Pathfinder Course.
- A. **Administrative Points:** Students will initially begin the course with 100 administrative points. Examples of administrative points are found in enclosure 1, page 1.
 - B. **071-FAFQB005 Sling Load Operations Assessments:** Demonstrate the abilities to:
 - Inspect each of the 4 common loads within 5 minutes passing each station with achieving a minimum score of 70% or greater using proper nomenclature and correctly filling out the DA form 7382.
 - Conduct the nomenclature written assessment achieving a minimum score of 70%.
 - Conduct the Sling Load Operations written assessment achieving a minimum score of 70%.
 - C. **071-FAFQC007 Airspace Management Assessment:** Demonstrate an

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understanding of speed and accuracy as an Air Traffic Controller/Airspace Manager by achieving a minimum score of 70% on the Airspace Management written assessment.

- D. **071-FAFQC009 Ground-to-Air Map Marking Assessment:** Demonstrate an understanding of ground-to-air map marking by completing the written assessment by achieving a minimum score of 70%.
- E. **071-FAFQC0011 Helicopter Landing Zone Operations Assessment:** Demonstrate an understanding of Helicopter Landing Zone Operations by achieving a minimum score of 70% on a written assessment.
- F. **071-FAFQC013 Air Assault and Pathfinder Techniques Assessment:** Demonstrate an understanding of Air Assault and Pathfinder Planning Techniques by achieving a minimum score of 70% on a written assessment.
- G. **071-FAFQD015 Drop Zone Operations Assessment:** Demonstrate an understanding of the procedures to organize and operate CARP, VIRS, and GMRS Drop Zones by achieving a minimum score of 70% on the written assessment.
- H. **VIRS Transmissions:** This is a verbal test that tests your ability to identify and direct a rotary-wing aircraft to the drop zone. You will be graded on your ability to successfully execute a door bundle dropped from a rotary-wing aircraft.
- I. **FTX:** This is a comprehensive examination of all skills learned during the course. Students will be tested on the planning and execution phases of Pathfinder operations. Students will also execute a sling-load operation during the day. Students will be graded in one of four leadership positions in the field. These positions will be the team leader, assistant team leader position, GTA, and INR. The Team Leader and Assistant Team Leader will be graded on the planning and execution portion of the FTX. The GTA and INR positions will be graded on conducting transmissions with aviation support.

7. **Retraining Procedures.** Students will be retrained as necessary and are afforded one re-test in each event. Students may be retested one time per assessment; maximum score attainable on a retest is 70%.

8. **Drop From Training.** Students are required to meet the minimum POI standards in order to graduate. A 70% or higher must be maintained in all ten areas. The maximum score attainable for the course is 100 points. A Student cannot miss more than 2 hours of instruction throughout the course. Any unexcused absences are grounds for immediate release from the course. Profiles that limit an individual in any way from completing the physical activities required throughout the course will be grounds for dismissal (PULHES 111211). The USAIS Honor System operates on the principal that integrity is an essential attribute of any military person; therefore, any Student found guilty of a breach of integrity may be released from the course, as well as

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face possible disciplinary action. The honor code accepted at the Infantry School, while broad in application, is precise in its meaning: "**Every Student's work is to be his/her own.**"

9. **Student Conduct.** Students attending the Pathfinder Course must conduct themselves in an appropriate and disciplined manner, on-duty, and off-duty. Pathfinder students are not authorized to consume alcoholic beverages within 24- hours prior to a training day. Students who violate provisions of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) will be quickly disciplined and may be permanently dropped from training with subsequent assignment as a non-graduate.

10. **Student Appeals.** A Student has the right to appeal any grade that he/she receives if they feel that they have been unfairly graded or can present extenuating or mitigating circumstances that may warrant consideration for a higher grade. Appeal procedures are as follows:

- A. All appeals will be initiated by the student at the time of the test in question.
- B. The respective Phase Chief will hear the appeal and either approve or disapprove the appeal. If disapproved the student can resubmit the appeal to the NCOIC.
- C. The NCOIC will hear the appeal from the student then either approve or disapprove the appeal. The NCOIC is the final decision for all appeals.

11. **Student Recognition.** All Students who meet course completion criteria will receive a diploma and the Pathfinder badge. The following will be recognized:

- A. Honor Graduate. The student with the highest academic score, who has not been a re-test in any area may be selected as the Honor Graduate

12. **End-of-Course Critique.** Students will complete an end-of-course critique.

13. **Conclusion.** The Pathfinder (MTT) Course Cadre strives to make training as professional and rewarding as possible. It is up to the student to give 100% to achieve the goal of becoming a Pathfinder.

Students must complete and sign the acknowledgement. Complete acknowledgements are separated from the ISAP and filed in Students' academic folder. Students retain the remainder of the ISAP for reference. The Signature Page of the ISAP will be turned in during in processing.

Enclosure I

ADMINISTRATIVE GRADING SYSTEM

1. REPORTING LATE	-16 EACH TIME
2. SLEEPING	-15 EACH TIME
3. NOT HAVING ID CARD AND ID TAGS	-10 EACH TIME
4. IMPROPER UNIFORM	-5 EACH TIME
5. CELL PHONE IN CLASS	-16 EACH TIME
6. FAILURE TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS	-10 EACH TIME
7. CREATE AN UNSAFE ACT	RELEASED FROM THE COURSE
8. LATE FOR MOVEMENT	RELEASED FROM THE COURSE
9. NOT PRESENT / LATE FOR TEST	FIRST TEST GRADE 0%
10. NOT PRESENT / LATE FOR RE-TEST	RELEASED FROM THE COURSE
11. SERIOUS OFFENSE (DUI, ARREST, ETC)	RELEASED FROM THE COURSE
12. DISRESPECT TOWARDS AN INSTRUCTOR	RELEASED FROM THE COURSE

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SIGNATURE PAGE

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Individual Student Assessment Plan (ISAP). I have read the criteria and I understand the requirements for graduation from the US Army Pathfinder Course.

Signature _____

Printed Name _____

Date _____