

# From the Screen Line: Your Reconnaissance and Security Courses

by LTC Jeffrey J. Barta

Greetings, fellow Cavalry troopers and combined-arms maneuver leaders. In this "From the Screen Line," I would like to report about some recent refocusing efforts within your reconnaissance and security (R&S) functional courses. Established at Observation Post (OP) Harmony Church on Fort Benning, GA, 3<sup>rd</sup> Squadron, 16<sup>th</sup> Cavalry (part of 316<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade), is your school for educating R&S leaders.

Recent reporting from Named Area of Interest (NAI) 0001 during last spring's Gainey Cup contained several indicators of the readiness of our R&S enterprise. As CPTs Patrick Zang and Josh Christian described in the Summer 2017 issue of *ARMOR* (<http://www.benning.army.mil/armor/eARMOR/content/issues/2017/Summer/pdf/3Zang-Albert17.pdf>), the areas needing improvement for our scouts are land navigation, vehicle identification, call for fire and actions on contact. These individual and small-unit collective tasks are arguably the most important things we need our scouts to perform to help fight for information to help commanders seize, retain and exploit the initiative. Our R&S formations performed admirably in an economy-of-force role during the past decade and half, but we have room for improvement on our fundamental R&S skills required in a decisive-action environment. Many units are adding increased emphasis on the basics, and your leader-enhancing functional courses in 3-16<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade are doing the same.

Shifting observation to NAI 0316, the focus of the three R&S courses – the Cavalry Leader's Course (CLC), Army Reconnaissance Course (ARC) and the Reconnaissance and Surveillance Leader's Course (RSLC) – was adjusted within the past two years. Organized under a common Department of Reconnaissance and Security, these courses have recently been refocused to train our R&S leaders at echelon, moving away from what many senior troopers remember as parochial branch-specific schools. (See illustration and information at the end of this article.)

CLC continues to educate officers, chief warrant officers and noncommissioned officers to execute the planning and execution of reconnaissance-collection and tactical-security tasks at the troop, squadron and brigade combat team (BCT) level.

ARC now primarily focuses on training scout-platoon leaders and platoon sergeants while developing advanced skills in R&S beyond those taught within primary military education.

RSLC traces its roots to the now-inactivated long-range surveillance companies. It builds on those fundamental skills and now focuses on training at the squad and team level, giving leaders the knowledge, skills and attributes (KSAs) to apply the fundamentals of reconnaissance at the small-unit level. This is now for squad and section leaders within all cavalry and R&S formations and is a best fit for dismounted squad leaders as 6x36 scout platoons grow to develop long-duration OP capabilities as well as infantry BCT (IBCT) task force scout platoons and IBCT Charlie Troop leaders.

These mutually supportive courses provide trained reconnaissance leaders to fill key positions in the operational force.

In addition to the revised leader-echelon concentration, these physically and mentally challenging courses drive students to expand on their existing knowledge and thrive in dispersed and uncertain situations. RSLC and ARC are increasing instruction on land navigation and vehicle and equipment identification while maintaining current outcomes. Notable topics of emphasis across the portfolio of R&S classes include:

- Application of the fundamentals of R&S while leading units at echelon from troop to squad and specialized teams;
- Understanding the link between maneuver commanders' decisions, priority intelligence requirements (PIR) and the creation and execution of commanders' R&S guidance;
- Analysis of the factors of intelligence preparation of the battlefield when planning for operations using the troop-leading procedures (TLPs) or the military decision-making process (MDMP);
- Evaluation of terrain by use of threat and friendly forces while applying advanced land-navigation techniques oriented on reconnaissance objectives in Global Positioning System-denied environments;

- Understanding and application of advanced communications techniques with high-frequency (HF) radios, valuable in electromagnetically contested areas.

As your premier combined-arms functional training brigade, 316<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade highly encourages Soldiers from Career Management Fields 11, 19, 35 and 74 – as well as combined-arms leaders from the Army, joint or international community – to attend these classes to improve the readiness of our operational R&S units. Interested troopers should apply through their unit schools representatives in the Army Training Requirements and Resources System and frequently check the official Website (<http://www.benning.army.mil/armor/316thCav/>) for the most up-to-date information. Students should also review Field Manual 3-98, **Reconnaissance and Security**, the course prerequisites and packing list prior to arrival. Upon graduation, students will return to their operational units prepared to execute R&S operations to shape the battlefield and improve the operational readiness of our Cavalry enterprise. Keep up the R&S fight on your screen line. Scouts out!

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## Acronym Quick-Scan

**ARC** – Army Reconnaissance Course  
**ASA** – Advanced Situational Awareness (course)  
**BCT** – brigade combat team  
**CLC** – Cavalry Leader's Course  
**HF** – high frequency  
**IBCT** – infantry brigade combat team  
**JMRC** – Joint Multinational Readiness Center  
**KSA** – knowledge, skills and attributes  
**LoA** – limit of advance  
**MDMP** – military decision-making process  
**NAI** – named area of interest  
**NTC** – National Training Center  
**O/C/T** – observer/coach/trainer  
**OP** – observation post  
**PIR** – priority intelligence requirement  
**PL** – phase line  
**R&S** – reconnaissance and security  
**RSLS** – Reconnaissance and Surveillance Leader's Course  
**SUAS-MT** – Small Unmanned Aerial Sensor master trainer  
**TLP** – troop-leading procedure

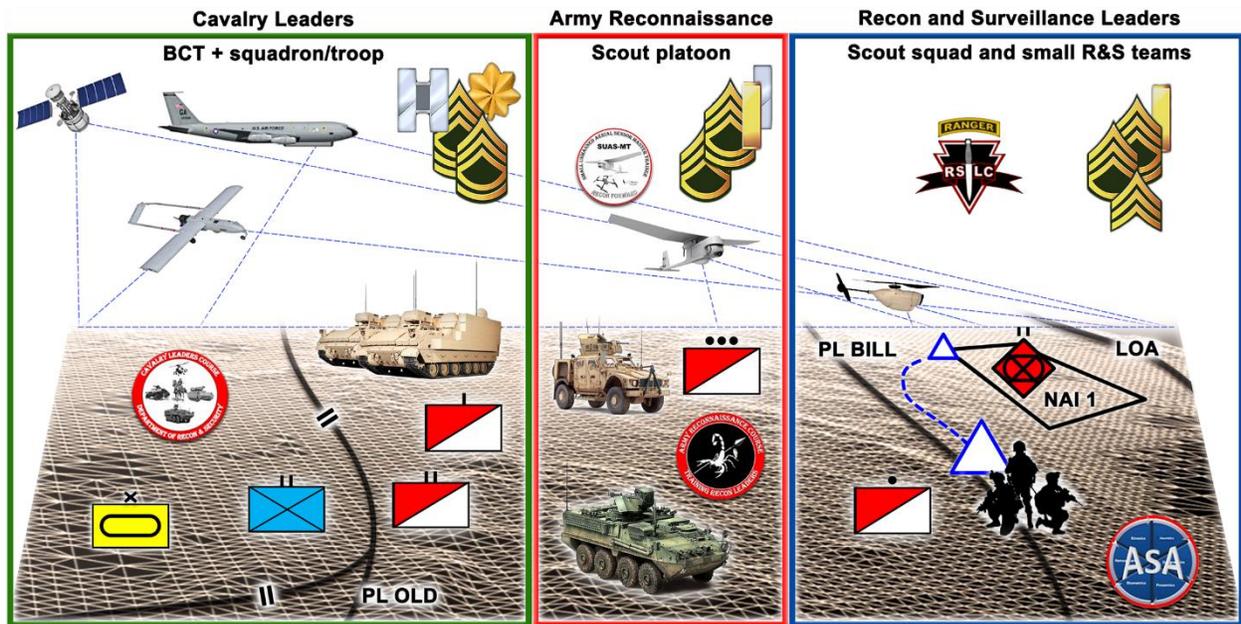


Figure 1. R&S course focus and nesting.

## R&S courses focus and nesting



**SUAS-MT (F7B):** Provides brigade-level master trainers the KSAs to train and conduct effective reconnaissance and information collection; develops proficiency in:

- Advising and assisting with the Aircrew Training Program (ATP);
- Tracking operator currency and proficiency;
- Developing unit-specific tasks based on their mission-essential task list;
- SUAS regulation and guidance.



**RSLC (6B):** Provides squad-level leaders across BCT types with the KSAs to conduct effective reconnaissance and information collection; develops proficiency in:

- Detailed understanding of TLPs;
- Long-duration and extended-distance area reconnaissance and surveillance;
- Mission command;
- Insertion and extraction techniques;
- Beyond-line-of-sight (BLOS) communications (HF, satellite communications (satcom));
- Target identification and acquisition;
- Covert PIR collection + imagery collection/reporting;
- Advanced navigation and route planning.



**CLC (C6):** Provides troop-and-above-level leaders across BCTs the KSAs to develop troop and squadron plans to conduct effective R&S ops; develops proficiency in:

- Planning R&S MDMP and rapid decision-making and synchronization process (RDSP) at the troop, squadron and brigade levels;
- Area and zone reconnaissance;
- Security ops: screen, guard, cover;
- Understanding and integrating enablers and intelligence assets;
- Problem-solving and decision-making in a competitive, time-constrained environment.



**ARC (R7):** Provides platoon-level leaders across BCT types with the KSAs to plan and conduct effective R&S ops; develops proficiency in:

- Planning R&S at the platoon level;
- Route, area and zone reconnaissance;
- Security ops: screen;
- Basic and advanced land navigation;
- Frequency modulation (FM) and HF communications;
- Problem-solving and decision-making in a competitive, time-constrained environment.



**ASA-A/B:** Provides squad- and team-level leaders across BCT types with the KSAs to conduct effective critical thinking, problem-solving and decision-making; develops proficiency in:

- Knowledge of the human sensory system;
- Knowledge of the human-behavior domain;
- Situational understanding.