
MMT Serves as Unit SME for Individual, Crew-Served Weapons

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A marksmanship master trainer's (MMT's) duty is to plan, prepare, execute, and assess a unit's direct-fire training and serve as the subject matter expert (SME) for all individual and crew-served weapons and systems within the unit. The MMT advises the commander on all aspects of direct-fire training, capabilities, tactics, and employment. The Army institutionally certifies MMTs for commanders that can serve at any echelon within the division to improve lethality.

The Marksmanship Master Trainer Course (MMTC) is a five-week course at Fort Benning, GA, that provides sergeants through sergeants first class with the E1 identifier. NCOs will master the Integrated Weapons Training Strategy (IWTS) for the rifle/carbine, pistol, M249 machine gun, Squad Designated Marksman Rifle (SDMR), and sniper weapon systems.

Training begins in the classroom where trainees are doctrinally trained on unit training plans, maintenance, preliminary marksmanship instruction, drills and positions, and execution of the Engagement Skills Trainer (EST) for the rifle/carbine and the M249. From the classroom, the trainees move onto live-fire ranges completing Tables IV, V, and VI of the IWTS culminating in the Army's record fire and night-assisted fire with the PEQ-15. During this time, trainees work daily to master being a coach and become certified on building assistant instructors back at home station through drills and positions instruction assessments.

After successful completion of the IWTS, the trainees are instructed on the employment of the Army's pistol, the M17. They again work through the IWTS on the pistol, certify on the Army's pistol qualification, and then move on to the 25-meter range for common and complex engagements in urban rifle marksmanship. Trainees perform multiple drills and critical task evaluations with the rifle/carbine and pistol. Practical exercises on coaching another Soldier through the shot process and target analysis are also conducted.

Trainees then move into complex engagements with the rifle/carbine. Group, zero, and data collection with the rifle combat optic (RCO) and PAS-13 thermal optic from 100-600 meters, day and night, is conducted. Familiarization of the SDMR and Sig Tango 6 reticle is also conducted. Trainees gain confidence in the equipment, shot process, and employability, truly gaining an understanding of overmatch. Trainees are also tested on coaching a shooter, performing target analysis, and running a range.

The MMTC culminates with trainees pitching a unit training plan that they create to captains from the Maneuver Captains Career Course. NCOs must brief their plan in detail. Sniper weapon systems are also included in the unit training plan brief. Upon graduation, these NCOs are ready to go back to their company, battalion, brigade, or division and build training plans and certify other NCOs and Soldiers in marksmanship on all weapons platforms organic to a squad. MMTC graduates will also benefit from attending the Heavy Weapons Leader Course (HWLC) in order to gain mastery on all crew-served weapon platforms.

The MMT is an incredible asset to commanders. An MMT gives them true data on lethality within the formation, provides them with an SME that can improve performance, and an ability to ensure resources are not wasted. Outsourcing weapons training to contracting companies, civilian entities, or other units is no longer necessary. Commanders can build a bench of true professionals within their organization that can create and execute doctrinally based training and prepare for the next battle.

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Photo by SGT Timothy Hamlin

A Soldier engages targets during the Marksmanship Master Trainer Course at Vilseck, Germany, on 1 August 2019.