

# INFANTRY CAREER NOTES



## RECONNAISSANCE TRAINING FOR SCOUTS, SPECIAL FORCES, RANGERS, AND LONG RANGE SURVEILLANCE UNITS

One of the most difficult tasks facing reconnaissance units is the train-up and sustainment training of personnel. Operational tempo, personnel turbulence, doctrinal and equipment changes, and varied geographic areas of interest all contribute to this challenge.

To meet this need, the Long Range Surveillance Leaders Course (LRSLC) provides the Army's premier training resources and environment for reconnaissance personnel. The course focuses on the four main METL tasks common to reconnaissance units: reconnaissance, surveillance, target acquisition, and battle damage assessment (BDA). The LRSLC is a challenging course designed to produce highly skilled reconnaissance leaders and to provide field commanders with a credible reconnaissance force.

Located within the Ranger Training Brigade at Fort Benning, the LRSLC develops the technical, tactical, and leadership skills of selected officer, noncommissioned officer, and enlisted personnel assigned to scout, Special Forces, Ranger, LRS, and other military reconnaissance units.

A student in the course performs as a team member in a realistic tactical environment under mental and physical stress approaching that of actual combat. It gives the student an opportunity to refine his leadership and tactical skills to a high degree of proficiency so that he may then return to his unit and train his subordinates.

The LRSLC is 33 days in length with an average of 16 hours of training each day, 7 days a week. It is divided into major instructional blocks consisting of communications, intelligence, vehicle

recognition, survival, and operational techniques.

The communications training is primarily conducted using the HF, VHF, and FM frequency spectrums with emphasis on communications procedures, wave propagation, antenna theory and construction, and the construction and use of field expedient antennas.

During vehicle recognition, students learn to identify 139 pieces of key signature equipment, including tanks, fighting vehicles, personnel carriers, scout and reconnaissance vehicles, artillery, air defense systems, and associated radar.

Intelligence training includes instruction on enemy rear area operations, photo imagery, reconnaissance in stability and support operations, opposing force order of battle, tactics, and capabilities, and a heavy emphasis on the intelligence preparation of the battlefield.

Instruction in the operational techniques phase addresses core skills with an emphasis on planning, evasion, and recovery, hide/surveillance, field craft, and patrolling skills. This phase also provides in-depth training on insertion and extraction techniques to include airborne, airmobile, FRIES, SPIES, and water operations.

Students participate in nongraded and graded field training exercises (FTXs) culminating in a tactical insertion into Eglin AFB, in Florida. During the deployment and graded FTXs, students apply the tactical skills learned in the course by conducting reconnaissance and surveillance operations on various named areas of interest. Additionally, the students must demonstrate their

proficiency in communications by reporting their observations back to the company operations base at Fort Benning using long-range radio transmissions.

Physical training is emphasized throughout the course. PT is conducted every duty day and includes such events as 5-mile and 8-mile runs, ruck marches, land navigation with combat load, casualty evacuation runs, interval training, circuit training, and muscular strength and endurance training.

LRSLC allocations are managed at Department of the Army through the Army Training Requirements Resource System (ATTRS). Ranger and Special Forces qualified officers and noncommissioned officers may apply by submitting a DA Form 4187 through their parent units. Non-Ranger/Special Forces qualified personnel (officer, noncommissioned officer), as well as enlisted applicants (E1-E4) require waivers signed by the first lieutenant colonel in the unit chain of command. Approved waivers must accompany application for quotas to LRSLC.

Additional information on the Long Range Surveillance Leaders Course is available on the web at: <http://www.benning.army.mil/RTB/RTBWEB/LRSLC.htm>. Points of contact at LRSLC are as follows:

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