



## EIB XXI: NEW CHANGES IN STORE FOR EIB TESTING

### EIB TESTING SUPPORT OFFICE

The Expert Infantryman Badge (EIB) Testing Support Office (TSO) at Fort Benning, Ga., has announced that new changes are in store for EIB testing.

Dubbed EIB XXI, the new testing process will help commanders evaluate how well their Soldiers are being trained on basic skills.

EIB XXI training and testing will be rigorous, mission-focused and conducted under realistic conditions. A menu-based test enables units to develop unique scenarios that test an Infantryman's expertise in the fundamentals and his ability to solve problems under stressful conditions. For these reasons the EIB XXI is appropriate for the run stage of individual soldier task training in preparation for a unit's leader and collective task training.

To meet this intent EIB XXI has been designed to run in the same format as a squad situational training exercise (STX) lane. The lanes will all be run simultaneously to provide added noise and stress on the candidates. The lanes are also designed to be modular to help units meet their specific mission essential task list requirements.

The Testing Support Office supports Infantry units in conducting EIB testing. The TSO can:

- Validate a unit's test site.
- Research and develop new test standards.
- Develop and distribute related materials.
- Investigate/report test deviations.
- Maintain Army-wide statistics.
- Enforce the standards set forth in PAM 350-6.

Current EIB	EIB XXI
* Testing site would consist of 30 stations	* Testing site would consist of three lanes and test between 30-36 tasks
* Between train-up and testing, the process would take roughly a month	* Entire process will take 10 days
* Relies on graders to train candidates	* Relies on squad leader to train his Soldiers
* As of March 2009, need a minimum of 73 Soldiers to run EIB for a battalion	* EIB XXI for 400 candidates will need only about 35 personnel to run EIB testing

Figure 1 — Current EIB vs EIB XXI

### EIB XXI

EIB XXI has three lanes with 10 tasks run continuously through the lane. You have a five-day train up in a round robin format that can be held at the individual company area and then five days of testing. The testing lanes are not to be utilized for training; this will add an element of uncertainty for candidates during testing. For EIB XXI you will have three board members, a minimum of three personnel to run the EIB Ops Center, one MSG as NCOIC, two SFC for quality control, and one grader per 15 candidates.

Units are able to design their test lanes within the parameters of the task menu. The test could, potentially, improve with each successive test cycle. The Infantry Center will provide an outline for the test, allowing our NCO leadership the opportunity to be innovative and adaptive to their mission requirements and the test environment.

Our goal is to produce a test that complements the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) cycle and is relevant, realistic, and tough. We want a test that commanders want to execute because the tasks complement collective training and mission readiness. With the help of units providing feedback through AAR's, we can continue to improve the EIB for years to come.

The current Testing Support Staff is MSG Octavis Smiley and SSG Phillip Sanders. As the proponent for EIB, the Testing Support Office is continuously developing working relationships with units and assisting them with developing and planning of their EIB testing program. More information can be found through AKO Knowledge network at the following link: <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/602620>. At this site there is information on upcoming EIB tests and links to e-mails of the TSO staff, who can answer questions and provide more information.