



**NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU**  
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD WARRIOR TRAINING CENTER  
6901 ROSELL ROAD, BLDG 4159  
FORT BENNING, GEORGIA 31905-4500

ARNG-TRW

03 October 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR Pathfinder Course (PFDR) Students

SUBJECT: Army National Guard (ARNG) PFDR Student Memorandum of Instruction (MOI)

1. References:

- a. AR 40-501, Standards of Medical Fitness, 14 June 2017.
- b. ATRRS (Army Training Requirements and Resources System) course catalog, established by AR 350-10 under the direction of the HQDA, DCS, G-1.
- c. DA PAM 351-4, U.S. Army Formal Schools Catalog, 31 October 1995.
- d. Pathfinder Program of Instruction (POI), Headquarters USAIC, G3/Directorate of Operations and Training: ATSH-OTI, 09 August 2017.

2. Purpose:

- a. To provide Pathfinder students and sponsoring commands information about the ARNG Warrior Training Center Pathfinder Course. This MOI includes: student prerequisites, enrollment procedures, course overview, and lists the required documentation for in-processing. The packing list is located in Annex A.
- b. The purpose of the ARNG Pathfinder Course is to provide students the skills and knowledge required to be competent in the conduct of Pathfinder Operations. Upon successful completion of the course, students are awarded the Pathfinder Torch and Additional Skill Identifier (ASI) F7 or 5Q.

3. General:

- a. The ARNG Warrior Training Center Battalion Commander is the course convening authority.
- b. During the Pathfinder Course all Soldiers in attendance are considered students and will be referred to as students throughout this MOI and the conduct of the course.

4. Course Prerequisites / Enrollment:

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a. Commanders should consult the above listed references in 1a. and 1b. to determine if a Soldier is eligible. Additionally, given the rigorous and academically challenging nature of this course, commanders are encouraged to select only highly qualified Soldiers to attend the Pathfinder Course.

b. Officers: Active Army, Reserve, or National Guard Officers (2LT-CPT) in the following Control Branches: IN, EN, AR (Cavalry only), MI, QM (AOC 90A only), or LG.

c. Warrant Officers: Not authorized to attend the course.

d. Enlisted MOS: 11B, 11C, 15Q, 19D, 88M, 92R (Skill Level 3 and 4 only), 92Y (Skill level 1, 2 and 3 only). Enlisted applicants must have a GT Score of 110 or above (If GT Score is below 110 a GT Waiver must be requested through USAIS).

e. Other Services: Active and Reserve Marine Corps Officers (2LT-CPT) and enlisted personnel (CPL-GNSGT) in logistics and combat arms may attend. Active and Reserve Air Force enlisted personnel serving as combat control team/forward air controllers (SGT-MSGT) may attend.

f. All applicants must have passed a valid physical examination within five (5) years, have a minimum profile serial of 111121, have no speech impediment, and have passed the APFT within the last six months of attending the course. Applicants must meet Service height and weight standards IAW specific Service standards. Army applicants must have one year military service remaining upon completion of the course IAW AR 614-200, Chapter 4. Army applicants must bring a copy of Officer Record Brief (ORB) or Enlisted Record Brief (ERB) to validate GT Score and MOS/Branch.

g. Special Information: Course Waiver (Student/Program of Instruction)

(1) The Infantry Commandant is the waiver approval authority for this course. Students requesting course/phase prerequisite waivers (e.g. AOC/MOS, Rank/Grade, Medical/Physical Standards, etc.) will submit their request through the first LTC Commander in their chain of command to: Commandant, U.S. Army Infantry School, ATTN: ATSH-IP, 1 Karker St., Suite 6107, Ft. Benning, GA 31905. Waivers (minus Medical/Physical) must be submitted NLT 75 days prior to the class start date. Waivers for Medical/Physical requirements must be submitted NLT 90 days prior to class start date. Waivers should be submitted to [usarmy.benning.mcoe.mbx.usais-training-waivers@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.benning.mcoe.mbx.usais-training-waivers@mail.mil)

h. Unit commanders must use the Army Training Requirements and Resources System (ATRRS) when scheduling a Soldier to attend the Pathfinder Course. The

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school code for the Pathfinder Course is 964A, course number 071-2E-SI5Q/011-ASIF7(MC), school year FY 22, and course title Pathfinder MTT.

(1) Commanders must screen prospective students for the following medical considerations:

(a) Students over 40 must be medically screened IAW AR 40-501, Standards for Medical Fitness.

(b) Students must not have a temporary or permanent profile except for shaving or corrected hearing.

(c) Students may not wear corrective lenses of any type while attending the Pathfinder Course. Only standard military or appropriate civilian type glasses with a black (no logo) elastic retainer band are authorized.

5. Pathfinder Course Overview. The Pathfinder Course is sixteen days in duration consisting of an in-processing day, fourteen days of instruction, and a graduation day. The scope of the Pathfinder Course is to train students with the ability to provide Commanders technical expertise in the planning and execution of air movement, air assault, airborne, and air-resupply operations for rotary and fixed wing aircraft; interface between Army Aviation / USAF units and supported commander; prepare Air Mission Briefs and air movement annexes; provide technical advice, inspect and supervise the execution of sling load operations; provide trained personnel to assist with the mission of USAF combat control teams; select, mark, and control helicopter day and night landing and pick-up zones; select, mark, and control fixed-wing day and night drop zones for airborne personnel and equipment; provide air traffic control and navigational assistance to aircraft within an operational site control group; provide USAF aircraft terminal guidance for deployment of the airborne force; conduct 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.

a. In-Processing Day. Students are required to bring the following documentation with them on in-processing day in order to enroll/attend the ARNG Warrior Training Center Pathfinder Course:

(1) WTC Form 100

(2) Valid proof of medical qualification such as the IMR (Individual Medical Record). This will show the Soldier's medical history. Soldiers must verify that they have a valid PHA within one year of attending the course. A medical screening review will be

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conducted during in- processing.

(3) Three (3) copies of student orders.

(4) Valid copy of the Soldier's ERB/ORB.

b. Graduation Requirements. Students must meet the following requirements to successfully complete the ARNG Warrior Training Center Pathfinder Course.

(1) Sling Load Nomenclature: This is a general knowledge exam that tests you in all areas of sling load nomenclature. It is a 25 question test. You may be re-tested one time; maximum score attainable on the re-test is 70%.

(2) Sling Load Hands-On: This is a hands-on inspection exam. You will have four loads to inspect. Each station is graded separately. You must properly fill out the DA 7382. Nomenclature is required to identify rigging deficiencies. You will receive five minutes at each station for inspecting the loads. You may be re-tested one time; maximum score attainable on the re-test is 70%.

(3) Sling Load Written: This is a general knowledge exam that tests you in all areas of sling load instruction. It is a 25 question test. You may be re-tested one time; maximum score attainable on the re-test is 70%.

(4) HLZ/Air Assault Planning: This is a general knowledge exam that tests you in all areas of helicopter landing zone and air assault planning instruction. It is a 50 question test. You may be re-tested one time; maximum score attainable on the re-test is 70%.

(5) Drop Zones: This is a general knowledge exam that tests you in all areas of Computed Air Release Point (CARP), Ground Marked Release System (GMRS), and Verbally Initiated Release System (VIRS), Formulas, Selection Factors, and Drop Zone Survey AF 3823. It is a 50 question test given in 5 sections with a survey. You must pass each section. You may be re-tested one time; maximum score attainable on the re-test is 70%.

(6) VIRS Transmission: This is a verbal test which tests your ability to identify and direct a rotary wing aircraft to the drop zone. You will also be graded on your ability

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to successfully exit door bundles over the release point on a VIRS drop zone. You may be re-tested one time; maximum score attainable on the re-test is 70%.

(7) Field Training Exercise: This is a comprehensive examination of all skills learned during the course. You will be tested on the planning and execution phases of Pathfinder Operations. You will also execute a sling load operation during the day or night. Your graded positions in the field will be the team leader and assistant team leader position. The GTA and INR positions will also be used to grade the student.

c. Standards of Conduct.

(1) Students will be required to perform in various roles as part of the student chain of command. Military customs and courtesies, physical fitness, military appearance and bearing are stressed and reinforced throughout the course.

(2) All students will meet Army appearance and inspection standards. Hair will be maintained IAW AR 670-1. Females will not use metal, plastic pins, or barrettes to secure their hair. Only soft securing devices or a hairnet will be used. Male students will adhere to the standards of AR 670-1 regarding facial hair. Females will not wear cosmetics in the training area during duty hours. Students will ensure that fingernails will be trim and not exceeding the fingertips. The Pathfinder Course NCOIC will determine whether any items, haircuts, or other devices are faddish.

(3) The Bravo Company Commander may release Soldiers for the following reasons:

(a) Failing a re-test in any portion of the course.

(b) Lack of motivation. (Students who request to not complete the Pathfinder Course).

(c) Medical drop. Students injured and receive an LOD or are evacuated to a treatment facility for an injury requiring an absence from training in excess of one hour.

(d) Missing one hour of training.

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(e) Serious Observation Report (SOR). Students who commit an integrity violation, are disrespectful, disregard cadre, or commit a major safety violation.

6. The point of contact for this memorandum is the Pathfinder NCOIC at (706) 573-2659.

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Commanding