

# **3RD RANGER BATTALION**

## **FORCE IMPROVEMENT GROUP**



### **INFANTRY FIELD MANUAL**

# **RANGER RECONNAISSANCE**

## **MANUAL**

**DISTRIBUTION RESTRICTON:** Distribution authorized to 3<sup>rd</sup> Ranger Battalion. Senior Leadership and Instructors to protect operational information that is of use.

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## INTRODUCTION

The 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment Ranger Reconnaissance Qualification Manual's purpose is to implement the Reconnaissance Doctrine. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment classify reconnaissance missions as "close" or "short range"; "distant" or "medium range"; and "deep" or "long-range".

This manual takes into consideration that the Ranger Assessment and Selection Program, Radio Telephone Operator Training and Warrior Leader Course has been graduated and refers to content within those manuals in exercises portrayed.

## 1. RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS

Reconnaissance Missions, within the scope of the battlespace, are characterized by the depth of penetration required, risk coordination, and support requirements. Information is gathered by Leaders at all echelons and is used to prevent surprise, permit the timely maneuver of ground forces, and to facilitate the prompt and effective use of supporting arms.

### 1.1 RECONNAISSANCE STRUCTURE

Reconnaissance Elements run a specific specialized order of battle (ORBAT) to maximize effectiveness in the field. Recon Elements run in 4-man teams where all soldiers serve a specific purpose.

## 2. RECONNAISSANCE QUALIFICATION

The Reconnaissance Qualification is a Field Training Exercise held over 4 total days over a period of 14 days (e.g. 2 times a week over 2 weeks) and qualifies but does not guarantee for a billet in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiments Reconnaissance Element.

## 2.1 QUALIFICATION INTRODUCTION - Phase 1

During Phase 1 (Day 1) is primarily an equipment and element familiarization Phase. Soldiers present will learn the deployment of the AN-PRC 152 / SATCOM Radio Procedures (R. RTO Manual), CTAB Procedures and verbal and technical SALUTE (Size, Activity, Location, Uniform, Time, Equipment) Reports.

### EQUIPMENT FAMILIARIZATION

**CTAB** – Commander’s Tablet, often referred to as “CTAB” is the primary BLUFORCE Tracker Tool available in elements. It’s primarily issued to Squad Leaders and above, however all Reconnaissance Personnel are issued one as well. It’s used to track, target and follow BLUFOR and OPFOR units.



*The Commander’s Tablet as portrayed on Figure 2-1 comes with many abilities and allows the soldier holding the ability to track other connected Commander’s Tablet. As this is issued to all Squad Leaders and above, the soldier holding it can track all other friendly units in the Area of Operations. The CTAB comes with a refresh rate of 60 seconds.*

*Figure 2-1. Ctab*

**AN-PRC 152 / SATCOM** – The AN-PRC 152 is the Standard Issued 4 clicks (4 kilometers) radio. The SATCOM is a 10 click (10 kilometer) extension which is used by stationary elements and used for far-distance communication. Due to potentially large distance between the Main Effort and the Reconnaissance team this is issued.

**AeroVironment RQ-11 Raven** – Is a small hand-launched remote controlled unmanned aerial vehicle (SUAV). This is a non-General Issued piece of equipment for Reconnaissance Elements that is used for Light/Heavy Recon Missions.

## 2.2 LAND NAVIGATION & SPOTREP – Phase 2

Phase 2 (Day 2) is Primarily Learning Advanced Land Navigation. Where the soldier learns how to navigate across the most difficult terrain without advanced GPS systems, nor BLUFOR tracking devices.

The soldiers will also receive training on SALUTE procedures which are called to higher echelons. SALUTE Reports is a SPOTREP which is used to call out OPFOR or INDEP forces.

## 2.3 FIELD TRAINING EXCERSISE – Phase 3

In Phase 3 the soldiers will be taught the procedures of Long-Range Surveillance in a Field Training Exercise. (See Section 4) where Candidates will establish LZ's, pre-set CAS targets and recommended Infantry Paths

Why do we set up pre-set CAS Targets?

*Close Air Support (Abbreviated to CAS) is a process that requires a 9-liner, however with targets being pre-set the process of calling in a 9-liner is rather shorter, as the JTAC of TACP representatives in the field does not have to gather information over communications.*

Pre-Set CAS Targets are marked and referred to the Main Effort Leader and the Main Effort TACP/JTAC over communications.

Phase 3 is also the last phase with interactive Instructors, meaning that all possible questions should be asked to the Instructors during this time. In Phase 4 the Instructors are primarily observers and leaders and will give a certain tasking to the candidates without providing **any form of support**.

## 2.4 SELECTION AND GRADUATION – Phase 4

Phase 4 of RRQC has certain rules which are as follows:

- An Instructor may not be asked questions regarding the exercise or the course at all from the period STARTEX to ENDEX.
- Equipment can only be what is given by the Instructors prior to STARTEX, it may not be changed until ENDEX.

Phase 4 consists of various obstacles created by the Force Improvement Instructors and overseen by them and the existing Reconnaissance Team.

Conditions for Phase 4 ENDEX.

- Pre-Checklist must be accurate as well as effective.
- Insertion must be completed without the mission being compromised.
- Main Effort Area of Interests must be evaluated and correct CTAB markings will be an absolute requirement. Main Effort paths must be checked; threats, concerns and remarks must be noted.
- Engagements must be conducted with absolute care and should only be conducted if it is mission critical.
- Exfil should occur in a smooth and effective manner not compromising and/or changing OPFOR maneuvers.

RRQC is as much a Team Qualification as an Individual Qualification. The Candidates attitude, self-discipline and leading capabilities will be valued as much as a candidate's team contribution. Should the candidate graduate the course he will warrant the Recon Patch available in the unit as well with the option to apply for the Reconnaissance Element. It's important to note that Qualifying for the element does not guarantee a position there. Regardless it does warrant proof that the candidate has a high degree of professionalism, qualification and expertise in fields required all over the unit.

*"Infantry is the Queen of Battle, it's Recons job to make sure that she doesn't get fucked"*

#### 2.4.1 SALUTE REPORT

Ser	Details Required	Actual Details
1.	<b>S – Size</b> (Size of element)	
2.	<b>A – Activity</b> (Activity of unit, such as moving, stationary, attacking)	
3.	<b>L – Location</b> (minimum 6-digit grid and description)	
4.	<b>U – Uniform</b>	

	(Positive Identification of units IF known)	
5.	<b>T – Time</b> (Local Time)	
6.	<b>E – Equipment</b> (Equipment such Weaponry, Special Equipment and vehicles)	

### 3. INTELLIGENCE GATHERING

As Assault Squads and Weapons Squads serve a specific purpose, so do Reconnaissance Teams. They hold the primarily responsibility of securing and gathering intelligence in AOIs (Area of Interests) across the AO (Area of Operations).

It's the Reconnaissance Objective to locate AOI's and forward them to the relevant element (e.g. Command Element). It's important that the correct amount of resources (Refer to C2 + WLC manual) get put into areas which may be of interest due to tactical advantage or intelligence gathering.

#### 3.1 LOCATING AN AREA OF INTEREST

Prior to locating an Area of Interest, the Reconnaissance Group needs to, together with the Commander, establish the Area of Influence. The Area of Influence is a geographical area wherein a commander is directly capable of influencing operations by maneuver or fire support system normally under the commander's command or control. Usually this is a part of the Area of Operations.

Example: Area of Operations are assigned to the Joint Group between Alpha Company and the 160<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Aviation Regiment Squadron attached. Where Alpha Company No-go Zones and 160<sup>th</sup> SOAR Weapon Free zones are established. The Area of Influence will then become all zones available within Alpha Company's Radius of Maneuverability; however will not extend to flight paths.

An area of Interest is the area of concern to the commander, including the area of influence, areas adjacent thereto, and extending into enemy territory. This area also includes that which is occupied by enemy forces that could jeopardize the accomplishment of the mission.

Example: Stationary Anti-Air (AA) Position located on a specific hill when the Warning Order and Operation Order states an Air Insertion. If the stationary Anti-Air is posing a threat towards the LZ and the 160<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Aviation Regiment, it will then be an Area of Interest for both the 160<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Aviation Regiment

(Potential SEAD (Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses) and for the Main Effort Infantry Element.

However, it's not limited to threats and remarks. Areas which holds little to no tactical advantage, yet being fortified is often areas holding intelligence critical to the success of the mission and should also be marked as AOs.

#### 4. TYPES OF MISSIONS CONDUCTED BY RANGER RECON ELEMENT

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment will deploy the Reconnaissance Element on two primary taskings during combat deployments.

**Long Range Surveillance Missions** – Reconnaissance Elements will operate behind enemy lines, deep within enemy territory and forward of the Main Effort in their assigned Area of Interest. The duration of an LRS-M depends on equipment and supplies the team must carry, movement distance to the objective area, and resupply availability.

**Special Reconnaissance** – Are well armed, since they may have to defend themselves if they are detected as their exfiltration support requires time to get to them. While there is obvious risk of doing so, some SR missions include advanced helicopter insertions, HAHO and HALO insertion and advanced parachute insertions. SR missions have more organic support capabilities, including long-range communications and equipment (SATCOM) and usually more medical equipment to do more than basic first aid.

Since reconnaissance is a basic military skill which all Ranger Elements are trained in, often referred to as "Light Reconnaissance" or "Basic Reconnaissance". "Special Reconnaissance" refers to the means operating in the desired area, and the nature of the mission. In US Army Doctrine, there are four basic factors:

1. **Physical Distances:** The area of operations may be well beyond the forward line of troops and requires special skills to reach the area. Such as knowledge of the terrain and advanced LANDNAV.
2. **Political considerations:** Clandestine insertion (Insertion which goes unrecognized by the local population, government and possible OPFOR forces) also may be a requirement. If there is a requirement to work with local personnel, language skills and political awareness may be critical.
3. **Lack of required special skills and expertise:** The most basic requirement for SR is to be able to remain unobserved, which may take special skills and equipment. If there is a requirement to collect intelligence, skills anywhere from advanced photography to remote sensor operation may be required.
4. **Threat capabilities:** This usually relates to the need to stay clandestine, potentially against an opposing force with sophisticated intelligence capabilities. Such capabilities may be organic to a force or be available from a sponsoring third country.

## OFFENSIVE MISSIONS

Reconnaissance Units can engage targets of opportunity, but current doctrine emphasizes avoiding direct engagement, concentrating instead on directing air (e.g. CAS), artillery, and other heavy fire support onto targets.

Reconnaissance units are trained in target analysis which combines both engineer reconnaissance and special forces assessment to identify targets for subsequent attack by fire support, conventional units, or special operations (i.e., direct action or unconventional warfare behind enemy lines). They evaluate targets using the "CARVER" Procedure:

- **Criticality:** How important, in a strategic context, is the target? What effect will its destruction have on other elements of the target system? Is it more important to have real-time surveillance of the target (e.g., a road junction) than its physical destruction?
- **Accessibility:** Can a Recon team reach or sense the target, keep it under surveillance for the appropriate time, and then exfiltrate after the target is struck?
- **Recoverability:** When the target is destroyed by fire support or direct action, in the case of DA missions, can the enemy repair, replace, or bypass it quickly using minimum resources? If so, it may not be a viable target.
- **Vulnerability:** do Recon (including Main Effort) and supporting units have the capability to destroy the target?
- **Effect:** Beyond pure military effect what are the political, economic, legal, and psychological effects of destroying the target? How would the attack affect local civilians?
- **Recognizability:** Can the target be recognized clearly, by Recon and attack forces, under the prevailing weather, light, and in its terrain? If there are critical points within the target, they also must be recognizable by the means of destruction used.