



SQUAD: FOUNDATION OF THE DECISIVE FORCE

6 - 10 August 2012
UPDATE



SFDF Involves All Dismounted Elements

SFDF Highlights

- **Leader Development:** *Advanced Leader Course (ALC) Program of Instruction (POI).*
- **Training:**
 - (U//FOUO) *USMC's Combat Hunter Training cited as leading to 19 x IED finds & only two strikes (Army variant is the Advanced Situational Awareness Training (ASAT) course)*
 - *National Guard and Reserves Peace Time Training*
- **USAIS CSM SFDF Video Teleconference**
- **Soldier Load/Lethality:** *Lightweight Small Arms Technologies (LSAT) Machine Gun*
- **Upcoming Events**

- **Leader Development**

- ✓ (U) ***Provided for your awareness is the current program of instruction (POI) from the Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCoE) Infantry Advanced Leader Course (ALC).*** The intent in providing the POI is to share what is currently being taught at ALC. A discussion board has been initiated on the SFDF homepage to obtain your feedback on the current ALC POI (Post-911) and the Pre-911 Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course (BNCOC). The pre-911 BNCOC POI is provided in the discussion board. ([Current ALC POI](#)) ([NCO Leader Development Discussion Board](#))

- **Training**

- ✓ (U//FOUO) ***United States Marine Corps (USMC) Combat Hunter Training cited as leading to 19 x Improvised Explosive Device (IED) finds:*** The US Army has the Advanced Situational Awareness Training (ASAT), a variant of the USMC's Combat Hunter. In a USMC report dated 7 AUG 2012, Combat Hunter was considered a creative way to teach observation skills and establish common terminology with regard to baseline observations and anomalies. The training received was pertinent to operations in theater, and it was cited as leading to 19 IED finds and only two strikes. Combat Hunter was not, however, universally praised. It was important but it was considered a skill that infantry Marines do anyway. [Marine Corps Center for Lessons Learned (MCCLL) note: The Training & Education Command (TECOM) post-deployment training survey analysis states that an adequate numbers of Marines received the training, though more Combat Hunter training was called for in the survey comments.] ([Report](#))
- ✓ (U) ***Training change for National Guardsmen and Reservists to take effect next year.*** The end of fighting in Iraq and the drawdown in Afghanistan will not mean a return to a peacetime schedule of drilling one weekend a month and two weeks a year for the citizen soldiers, according to the Army's top general. Instead, they will keep preparing for war, with training periods away from home each year, Gen. Ray Odierno, Army Chief of Staff. (30 July 2012, [Article](#))

Select National Guard and Reserve units would be part of a five-year cycle of training, available for deployment the last year of that period probably for no more than 30 to 45 days.

--- CSA

- (U) **SFDF Video Teleconference (VTC):** *United States Army Infantry School (USAIS) Command Sergeant Major held an SFDF VTC with the purpose of informing division and separate brigade leaders on the SFDF initiative:*

Our intent was to inform the leaders of: the purpose of the SFDF program; upcoming events that can have an impact on the blending of materiel, training & leader development solutions; highlighted that the Dismounted Soldier Training System (DSTS) was recently fielded at FT Bragg; highlighted Advanced Situational Awareness Training (ASAT) and receiving feedback from units who have received this training is critical; identified the link for the SFDF portal and that a weekly SFDF update is published and disseminated to a wide audience.

- ✓ (U) **Soldier Load, Lethality & the Logistician:** the MCoE Soldier Division briefed the Lightweight Small Arms Technology (LSAT) Machine Gun, a 48% weight reduction over the Squad Automatic Machine Gun (SAW), Squad Live Fire and After Action Review Comments. This system addresses soldier load, increased weapon reliability & reduced maintenance, increased lethality, potential for less barrel changes, versatility with selectable semi-auto mode. This system is still being matured.

LSAT Machine Gun Impacts

Soldier: 1000 rounds basic load 12.1 lb lighter...

Soldier: 20.4 lb weight reduction with MG...

Logistician: nearly 3 tons reduced weight for

IBCT...

- (U) **Future: Army Eyes Robot Rescue Copters for Wounded Troops.** Medical evacuation crews are some of the gutsiest people around. But to prevent the rescuers from becoming trapped alongside the wounded in the hottest battle zones the Pentagon sometimes grounds the medical evacuation copters under certain conditions. Now the Army has latched onto a possible solution: replace the human copter crews with Vertical Take Off and Landing (VTOL) drones. (2 August 2012, [Article](#))
- **Upcoming Events for the SFDF Team:**
 - ✓ (U) **On-going - Leader Development Review:** The SFDF Team initiated a review of the pre-911 Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course (BNCOC) and post-911 Advanced Leader Course (ALC) Periods of Instruction (POI).
 - ✓ (U) **13 Aug 2012 - Meet with ARDEC representatives:** participate in discussion on Measures of Effectiveness (MoE) with ARDEC and MoE representatives to see how we can complement one another.
 - ✓ (U) **14 Aug 2012 - Attend Advanced Situational Awareness Training (ASAT) Working Group.**
 - ✓ (U) **14 Aug 2012 – Meet with Accelerated Capabilities Division (ACD) representatives.** Discuss how ACD can potentially support SFDF.
 - ✓ (U) **14 – 15 Aug 2012 – Attend Lab Day.**
 - ✓ (U) **Training & Leader Development Working Group:** attend the Maneuver Battle Lab (MBL) working group to determine Measures of Effectiveness (MoE) for Training and Leader Development. **A change from last week's update is that the working group dates are now 11-13 Sep 2012**, the point of contact (POC) is [MAJ Le](#).

Squad Foundation of the Decisive Force (SFDF) Page

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