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# Predeployment Training for OCONUS Security Assistance Teams

By

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Within the U.S. Army, the Security Assistance Training Team Orientation Course (SATTOC), provides training required for security assistance teams deploying to locations outside the continental United States (OCONUS) in either a permanent change of station (PCS) or temporary duty (TDY) status from continental United States (CONUS) based organizations. Basically it is predeployment training designed to prepare security assistance team (SAT) members to serve overseas as official representatives of the United States Government and the U.S. Army.

The organizational activity within the U.S. Army that is charged with the responsibility for conducting the SATTOC is the Security Assistance Training Management Office (SATMO). SATMO, a U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) activity located at the U.S. John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School (USAJFKSWCS), Ft. Bragg, NC., has the responsibility to form, process, conduct predeployment training, deploy, and provide limited logistical support to security assistance teams deploying to friendly and allied nations around the world. [See "What in the World is a SATMO?" *The DISAM Journal*, Vol. 10, No. 3, Spring 88.] The SATTOC is the essential vehicle by which PCS and TDY teams are prepared to carry out their important assignments.

## THE AUTHORITY

The basis for the SATTOC training is found in Army Regulations (AR) 12-7 and 12-15. These regulations require that Department of the Army (DA)/Commanding General (CG), TRADOC provide predeployment training. AR 12-7 establishes policies and assigned responsibilities for Technical Assistance Field Teams (TAFT) and Technical Assistance Teams (TAT), while AR 12-15, the Joint Security Assistance Training Regulation (JSAT), does the same for Mobile Training Teams (MTTs) and Extended Training Service Specialists (ETSSs). These regulations require that the CG, TRADOC, "develop, in coordination with MILPERCEN, the predeployment training and orientation . . ." of deploying personnel. [Note. MILPERCEN has been redesignated U.S. Army Personnel Command.] The AR goes on to say that this team orientation will take place prior to departure for the overseas location at a location designated by SATMO to:

- (1) Confirm that personnel selected are capable of performing the mission.
- (2) Familiarize the team with the mission.
- (3) Permit team members to become acquainted with each other and to form a cohesive training unit.
- (4) Obtain orientation on history and culture of the country and organization and capabilities of the host country personnel.
- (5) Collect and prepare required technical reference materials.

Additionally, when SATMO was established in 1974, the CG, TRADOC designated the Commandant, U.S. Army Institute of Military Assistance (USAIMA), later to become USAJFKSWCS, the authority to act in his behalf in matters pertaining to OCONUS foreign military training from CONUS based resources. Most recently, AR 12-1 was amended to state that SATMO will serve as the TRADOC implementing agency for the OCONUS portion of TRADOC's

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security assistance mission. Inherent within this requirement is the coordination and management of the formation, preparation, deployment, and return of OCONUS training teams.

## THE COURSE

A major consideration in locating SATMO at Ft. Bragg was that the expertise required to teach the SATTOC classes was readily available at the JFK Center. Within the Center, a TRADOC school, are departments that routinely conduct instruction in all subject areas included in the SATTOC program of instruction (POI). While all TRADOC installations have medical, legal, and public affairs offices, the Special Warfare Center is unique in having departments specifically designed to provide instruction in foreign area orientation, survival, evasion, resistance, and escape (SERE) and anti-terrorist training.

Recently the SATTOC POI was reviewed and revised to bring it into line with current needs and eliminate those areas, which, while nice to have, could not be justified due to either cost, time, or instructor limitations. This revision reduced both the course length and cost by over one half. The course length dropped from seven to three days. Cost per person for SATTOC was reduced from \$1,002 to \$509 for full Foreign Military Sales (FMS) funded cases; \$751 to \$413 for NATO FMS; \$197 to \$87 for incremental FMS; and \$62 to \$23 for International Military Education and Training (IMET) and Military Assistance Program (MAP) cases. During FY88 SATMO deployed 137 teams composed of 390 personnel. Assuming that future deployments will maintain this level, the course revision will save the U.S. and foreign governments over \$75,000.

## THE TRAINING

The SATTOC is taught at two threat levels: one for deployments to countries considered to have a normal level of risk, and the other for those with a high risk, e.g., Lebanon, El Salvador, and Colombia. Determination of the level taught is left to the SAT manager. Based on U.S. State Department guidance, the status of current terrorist/threat activity within the country, the mission objectives, and the location within the country in which the team will operate, the SAT manager tailors the POI for each individual and team.

Almost without exception the courses are conducted at Ft. Bragg; an exception is made when the urgency of the deployment does not allow three to five days for training. In these exceptional cases, the SAT manager will meet the team at its home station, or at a central location if the team members are from different installations, and provide an abbreviated version of the SATTOC.

The POI is divided into five general areas: general subjects, SERE, anti-terrorism, weapons training, and administration. The course content and length of each POI option, high or normal risk, is shown in Figure 1. Each POI option contains the same basic subjects. The high-risk option adds additional emphasis on SERE and anti-terrorist training, and if the mission involves the use of weapons, will also require familiarization on U.S. and foreign weapons, to include live firing. In cases where the team is deploying to an area with an extremely high level of threat, the members will attend the Individual Terrorist Awareness Course (INTAC)--a one week course in counter-terrorism taught at the JFK center.

SATTOCs are conducted almost every week at the JFK Center. A typical itinerary begins with the student arriving at Fort Bragg on Monday. Teams that are deploying on PCS assignment to countries within the CENTCOM or USFORCARIB area of operations process through the XVIII Airborne Corps where their personnel and finance records will be maintained. Teams with PCS assignments to other Unified Commands maintain their records at those Unified Commands' respective headquarters.

**FIGURE 1**  
**Security Assistance Training Team Orientation Course**

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Hours</u>		<u>Instructors</u>
	<u>HI-RISK</u>	<u>NORMAL RISK</u>	
Country Briefing, Host Country	2.0	2.0	Foreign Area Officer Dept Threat Branch, Dept of Combat Developments
Intelligence Briefing, Host Country	1.0	1.0	
Medical Briefing, Host Country	0.5	0.5	Surgeon
Legal Briefing	0.5	0.5	Staff Judge Advocate
Anti-Terrorism	8.0	4.0	SERE/Terrorism/Counter Action Department
Survival, Escape, Resistance, Evasion	4.0	2.5	SERE/Terrorism/Counter Action Department
Weapons Orientation, Range Firing	4.0	0.0	Special Forces Department
Admin/Team Briefing/Team Prep	7.0	7.0	SATMO
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27.0</b>	<b>17.5</b>	

On Tuesday morning the teams meet at SATMO. If team members are from different installations this may be their first meeting. During this time the SAT manager will brief team members on the SATTOC and their mission, and will do any required administrative processing.

Special relationships have been developed over the years by SATMO to assist teams in their processing. Ticketing to places that most travel offices have never heard of have become routine for the Fort Bragg office. The same applies to visa applications and immunizations. On PCS deployments, the team members quite often will arrive at Fort Bragg accompanied by their families. Special efforts are made to insure that these dependents are also properly prepared.

**FIGURE 2**  
**Anti-Terrorism Training**

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Hours</u>	
	<u>HI RISK</u>	<u>NORMAL RISK</u>
Intro to Terrorism	1	1
Individual Protective Measures	3	3
Terrorist Operation	2	0
Hostage Survival	2	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>

For the next several days, depending on the threat level, the team members attend classes and briefings. On Tuesday all students receive a country orientation, an intelligence/threat briefing, and legal and medical briefings. On Wednesday the high-threat option students have an all day anti-terrorism class. In the normal-risk option, students attend the first four hours of the anti-terrorism class and then have a SERE class oriented toward the type of environment the teams will be operating in: desert, tropical, or cold weather. High-risk teams receive an expanded SERE class

on Thursday. Most teams usually depart on Thursday afternoon after final processing is completed. High-risk teams that require weapons firing will deploy on Friday.

**FIGURE 3**  
**Survival, Evasion, Resistance & Escape (SERE) Training**

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Hours</u>	
	<u>HIRISK</u>	<u>NORMAL RISK</u>
Intro to Code of Conduct	1.0	0.5
Desert Evasion Planning	1.0*	1.0*
Tropical Evasion Planning	1.0*	1.0*
Cold Weather Evasion Planning	1.0*	1.0*
Evasion Types/Planning	1.0	0.0
Cross Cultural Communications	<u>1.0</u>	<u>1.0</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>2.5</b>

\*Only one of these three topics will be taught

**SUMMARY**

In this time of reduced funding every effort must be made to ensure that we provide well prepared, highly trained and motivated personnel for OCONUS security assistance missions as cost effectively as possible. The revised SATTOC is a SATMO initiative to improve the preparation of team members and at the same time reduce the cost of deployments.

The SATTOC is the final step in preparing U.S. soldiers to represent our government and the Army on OCONUS security assistance missions. The end result of these missions goes further than just the technical training the team accomplishes. The impression our team personnel makes on host country officials has a great effect on future relations between our countries. Special emphasis must continue to be given to the selection and training processes for these team members. We can only afford to send the best.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

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