

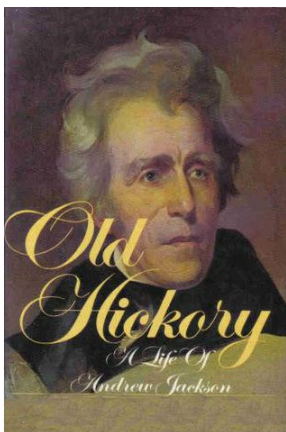
## CHAPTER 2

### New World Order Explodes on the Scene

At the time of his discharge no one expected the events of 11 September 2001 – but after that life as we all knew it changed. Neil started thinking about going back into government service at some capacity and interviewed first with the FBI. It was not the best of his interviews but shortly thereafter, he had a strong interview with the Secret Service. They wanted Neil and it felt like a much better fit than opportunities at the FBI but his age was working against him. He was rapidly approaching the 36 year age cut off for the Secret Service so before they could make an offer he joined the North Carolina Army National Guard and subsequently enrolled in Officer Candidate School (OCS). It was after all, war time and the age limits for OCS were increasing to stimulate recruitment numbers. Two days after he swore back into the military and three days before the age cut off, Neil heard back from the Secret Service with a class date. Too late! His mind was made up and he was committed to return to military service and become an officer in the Army. He had missed the Army very much and loved being a Soldier.

**Officer Candidate School** - In December of 2003 he started his journey into the Army Officer Corps. The Officer Candidate School of the United States Army is a 12 week long program held at Fort Benning, Georgia for both prior service and non-prior service candidates. There are also National Guard Officer Candidate Schools that allow a National Guard soldier to train without deviating from the "one weekend a month, two weeks a year" training program; this is called 'Traditional', as it is the original method for the National Guard, and takes 18 months to complete. In addition, National Guard soldiers do have the option to attend the Federal course (if offered), or to attend an accelerated eight-week program which happens in conjunction with other states. Both Federal and state programs are accredited by the U.S. Army Infantry School. Upon completion of either OCS programs, graduates are commissioned as Second Lieutenants (2LT) and then attend the rest of their Basic Officer Leadership courses.

As a soldier in the National Guard Neil followed the traditional 18-month program and branched into intelligence, spending a brief time with the A Co, 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team as a



platoon leader for a Military Intelligence Company. The 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team ("Old Hickory") is a modular heavy brigade of the United States Army National Guard. The unit is composed of units from North Carolina and West Virginia. It was formed from the remains of the downsized 30th Infantry Division of World War II fame. It was nicknamed the "Old Hickory" brigade, in honor of Andrew Jackson, due to the original division being composed of National Guard units from areas where he lived.



OCS was a thorough beat down with lots of hazing and again a 60% attrition rate. True to form however, 2ndLt Neil Edgar graduated 1st in his class in leadership and 2nd in academics. He was good at this Army thing which is often the case when it is something you truly love. Given his former service he had a good

## CHAPTER 2

sense of what he was capable of and was never afraid to take on a challenge. He thought he could be a good officer because he knew what it was like to be an enlisted soldier. Instantly, Neil was able to grab the respect of his men as a result.

After commissioning on 20 August 2005, Neil was ready for another challenge. He considered going back into Special Forces Training as an officer but at 38 he knew their operational tempo would be too high resulting in many back-to-back deployments. It was a fact he would deploy sooner or later anyway, but he wanted better balance with his civilian life/career. So, he volunteered for a highly specialized Long Range Surveillance Airborne Infantry Unit.

**Long Range Surveillanc (LRS)** (pronounced "lurse") - These soldiers are elite, specially-trained surveillance units of the United States Army employed for clandestine military operations by the Military Intelligence for gathering direct human intelligence information deep within enemy territory. Classic LRS employment is to infiltrate deep into enemy territory, construct, hide and surveillance sites, and provide continuous surveillance/special reconnaissance of an intelligence target of key interest. LRS teams allow 24-hour surveillance and analysis coverage unlike Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), manned aircraft, and most satellites. Assuming there is no mission compromise, these teams typically remain in position for up to 30 days, as determined by the availability of food and water.

Both Officers and Enlisted had to pass a screening test to be selected for the LRS unit. It was no surprise that Neil passed.

The name of the unit was F Company 425th Infantry (Airborne) (Long Range Surveillance) and they were



based in Michigan. Neil had to travel to Michigan once a month to drill and train with the unit but he also had civilian work there at the time and it worked to his advantage. This unit came into being in the mid-1960s when the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 225th Infantry was reflagged as Companies E and F (Ranger), 425th Infantry and organized



as ranger companies. During this period such companies were assigned to division and higher level commands to perform long range reconnaissance patrol missions, as opposed to the ranger companies of today which comprise the battalions of the 75th Ranger Regiment. According to the United States Army Center of Military History, it was reorganized and redesignated as the 425th Infantry Detachment (LRS) effective 1 September 2008.

Insignia - Company F (LRS), 425th Infantry wore the distinctive airborne tab above the griffin patch of the Michigan Army National Guard, distinguishing it as an airborne unit. Previously the unit had worn the airborne tab above the shoulder patch of the 201st Military Intelligence Brigade. Before being reflagged as a long-range surveillance company, members of Company F wore a scroll with "RANGER AIRBORNE" in lieu of an airborne tab above the griffin patch and the black beret with distinctive flash which formerly identified them as Rangers. As members of an LRS unit, soldiers of Company F wore the maroon beret, the distinguishing feature of members of an airborne unit.



CHAPTER 2





## CHAPTER 2



Modern LRS units are part of the Ranger lineage and are derived from the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrols (LRRPs - pronounced "Lurps") of Vietnam. Their job is dangerous.... heavily armed 6 man teams going where they are not supposed to be, deep in enemy territory to gather intelligence. They must rely on stealth, their survival skills and each other. A LRS company is a Corps level intelligence gathering asset and they have similar insertion/extraction capabilities as Special Operations Forces. Their level of training is much higher than that of line infantry units.

Neil had the option to go to **Jumpmaster School** (3 weeks), **Pathfinder School** (3 weeks), **Sniper Leader's Course** (1 week), and the **Reconnaissance and Surveillance Leader's Course** (5 weeks) taught by the 4th Ranger Training Brigade. Seats in these schools were always hard to come by because Airborne and Special Mission units had priority. The schools and courses were extremely

stressful, some mentally, some physically, some both. Attrition rates were high, again typically 50-70%. Nonetheless, he pursued, entered and graduated from all four.

**Jumpmaster:** The United States Army Jumpmaster School trains personnel in the skills necessary to

jumpmaster a combat-equipped jump and the proper attaching, jumping, and releasing of combat and individual equipment while participating in an actual jump that is proficient in the duties and responsibilities of the Jumpmaster and Safety

master procedures for rigging individual equipment containers and door bundles

identify personnel parachute components by their specific nomenclature and characteristics

execute procedures and standards required to conduct a Jumpmaster personnel inspection (JMPI)

fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the Drop Zone Safety Officer

deliver the presentation of the Jumpmaster briefing and sustained airborne training (SAT)

execute the duties of a Jumpmaster and Safety from a USAF aircraft during a day/night combat equipment jump.

## CHAPTER 2

In order to obtain the coveted Jumpmaster rating, an individual must complete a series of requirements. Since 1950, only those in the ranks of Sergeant and above may perform any Jumpmaster duties. The individual must be a graduate of The United States Army Advanced Airborne School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, The United States Army Jumpmaster School at Fort Benning, Georgia or the USASOC Mobile Training Teams Jumpmaster School. In order to enter these elite military schools, the individual must meet the following standards:

Active Army and Reserve Component Officer and Enlisted Personnel (E-5 or above).

Must be qualified as a parachutist and have a minimum of 12 static line parachute jumps from a high-performance aircraft (C-130, C-141, C-17 or C-5 only).

Must have been on jump status for a minimum of 12 months. These months do not have to be consecutive.

An Airborne physical current within 5 years.

Must be recommended by Battalion Commander or officer in the grade of Lieutenant colonel.

Must have a static line jump within the past 180 days.





**Pathfinder** - The mission of the United States Army Pathfinder School is to train personnel in the U.S. Army and its sister services in a three week course, during which the candidate pathfinder learns how to navigate dismounted, establish and operate a day / night helicopter landing zone, establish and operate day / night parachute drop zones (DZs), including computed air release system (CARP) DZs, ground marked release system (GMRS) DZs and Army verbally initiated release system (VIRS) DZs, conduct sling load operations, provide air traffic control (ATC) and navigational assistance to rotary wing (RW) and fixed wing (FW) airborne operations.

**WEEK 1:**

in-processed and receive pathfinder orientation

fundamentals of air traffic control (ATC), including ground to air map marking

proper MEDEVAC procedures and be capable of calling in a 9-line MEDEVAC request

proper application of close air support (CAS) and learn how to implement it in the ground unit commander's tactical plan

fundamentals of sling load operations and be certified to rig and inspect sling loads

how to plan and establish helicopter landing zones (HLZ) for day and nighttime operations

**WEEK 2:**

how to establish and operate HLZ/PZs

how to establish day/night DZs (CARP, GMRP, and VIRS) for the insertion of personnel and equipment

understand the 8 selection factors for selecting a drop zone and the duties and responsibilities of the drop zone support team leader (DZSTL)

complete the Basic Airborne Refresher

how to perform the duties of the GTA during a VIRS drop

## CHAPTER 2

### WEEK 3:

gain technical competence on the static load/unload procedures for a UH-60 helicopter

perform the duties in every position of the sling load hook-up team.

demonstrate the knowledge they have been taught during the course during the field training exercises, during which they are evaluated as a team leader/assistant team leader and ground to air/internal net recorder.

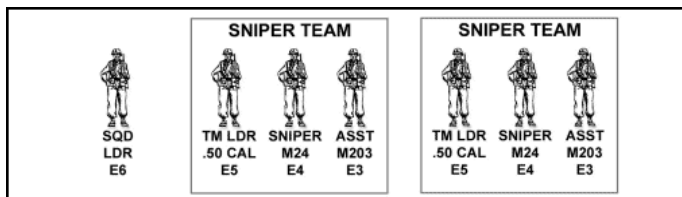
demonstrate proficiency in all areas of pathfinder operations and meet all graduation requirements.

U.S. Graduation: Graduates from the US Army Pathfinder School are awarded the Pathfinder Badge. It is important to note that in addition to all the requirements for completing the course, there is an additional requirement to be awarded the Pathfinder Badge: the candidate Pathfinder must view “a suspended object falling from the sky” (i.e. a door bundle, jumper, heavy equipment, etc.).



### Sniper Employment Leaders Course:

**SNIPER TEAMS** - The battalion sniper squad is a modular organization consisting of a squad leader and two similarly equipped three-man sniper teams. Each team, consisting of the team leader, one sniper, and one observer, is capable of providing the battalion with a full range of sniper support. The team is equipped with both the M24 7.62-mm sniper rifle (providing antipersonnel fires out to 800 meters) and the .50-caliber XM107 sniper rifle (providing antipersonnel and anti-equipment fires beyond 800 meters). The third member of the sniper team is equipped with an M203 rifle system to provide protection and security for the sniper and his spotter as well as a means to break contact if the team is compromised. Sniper teams avoid contact until they have identified their targets. Involvement in sustained close combat is not the optimal employment of sniper teams.



The commander or designated sniper employment officer controls sniper teams from a central location. Once deployed, snipers generally operate independently. They must understand the commander's intent, his concept of the operation, and the purpose for their assigned tasks which might include specific targets like enemy leaders, command and



## CHAPTER 2

control operators, ATGM gunners, armored vehicle commanders, weapons crews and enemy snipers or to simply slow defensive preparations of the enemy by selecting targets at their discretion. This understanding allows the teams to exercise initiative within the framework of the commander's intent and to support the commander's concept and accomplishment of the unit's mission. Snipers are effective only in areas that offer good fields of fire and observation. They must have the freedom of action to choose their own positions once on the ground. The number of sniper teams participating in an operation depends on their availability, the expected duration of the mission, and the enemy's strength.

The sniper's primary mission is to support combat operations by delivering precise rifle fire from concealed positions. The mission assigned to a sniper team for a particular operation consists of the task(s) the commander wants the sniper team to accomplish and the reason (purpose) for it. The commander must decide how he wants his sniper team to affect the battlefield. Then he must assign missions to achieve this effect.

Snipers are generally positioned to observe or control one or more avenues of approach into the defensive position. Due to the types of weapons systems available, snipers may be used against secondary avenues of approach. Sniper employment can increase all-round security and allow the commander to concentrate his combat power against the most likely enemy avenue of approach. Snipers may support the SBCT infantry battalion by providing extra optics for target acquisition and precise long-range fires to complement those of the M249, M240B, and M2 machine guns. This arrangement seeks to maximize the effectiveness of all the unit's weapons systems. Snipers in an economy-of-force role may cover dismounted enemy avenues of approach into defensive positions.

**Reconnaissance and Surveillance Leader's Course** - The Reconnaissance and Surveillance Leaders Course is a 33-day course conducted by Delta Company, 4th Ranger Training Battalion at Fort Benning, GA. The purpose of the course is to teach reconnaissance, surveillance, and target acquisition fundamentals to Soldiers, NCOs, and officers who are currently or may one day find themselves serving in reconnaissance units. What sets RSLC apart from other reconnaissance courses is the focus on those who actually execute reconnaissance and surveillance tasks. RSLC teaches the skill or the "science" of gathering and reporting intelligence. In recent years, RSLC has not only trained conventional and special operations Army units, but has also trained Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force service members. As word has spread about the RSLC, inter-agency partners in law enforcement have sought instruction on the technical aspects of collection reporting and communications.

WEEK 1: RSLC is a physically and mentally demanding course where one block of instruction builds upon the next, resulting in a multi-day, graded, field training exercise where students will execute skills learned in both urban and wooded environments. They will:

execute a seven hour land navigation course in which they will move cross-country during day and limited visibility covering approximately 15 kilometers.

receive instruction on the fundamentals of reconnaissance and surveillance and are taught how to use equipment in the Army inventory such as thermals, range finders and commercial-off-the-shelf (COT) equipment such as single-lens reflex (SLR) cameras to capture intelligence.



## CHAPTER 2

camouflage themselves and equipment, stalking, and selection, occupation, and concealment of surveillance sites

The first week culminates in an airborne operation, exposing airborne qualified Soldiers to the considerations needed for a static line parachute insertion. Another factor that makes RSLC unique is that the course is designed to accommodate Military Freefall (MFF) teams that attend. Select cadre members are MFF and MFF Jumpmaster qualified, allowing those teams the opportunity to learn planning considerations of MFF operations as they pertain to reconnaissance and surveillance missions.

WEEK 2: This week begins with a two-day communications class. During this block of instruction, students learn how to:

send messages across the frequency spectrum, using high frequency (HF), very high frequency (VHF), and ultra high frequency (UHF) radios

to send messages using High Performance Waveform (HPW) which allows reconnaissance Soldiers to send written reports and pictures on Microsoft Outlook using the PRC-150 and PRC-117F radios. This skill gives commanders the ability to receive timely, accurate intelligence.

Building on the ability to send intelligence via radio, students conduct area and zone reconnaissance as well as static and active surveillance throughout the week in both urban and wooded terrain, perfecting their reporting formats and field craft.

Students continue their exposure to insertion and extraction techniques by conducting fast rope insertion/extraction



system (FRIES) and special patrol insertion/extraction system (SPIES) training.

WEEK 3 & 4: The final week and a half are spent with students learning how to plan an operation using the troop leading procedures (TLPs) and incorporating air movement, fires, and evasion and recovery planning. Following the orders process students conduct a 48-hour non-graded situational training exercise (STX) where they will execute the mission they just planned under the watchful eye of RSLC instructors, allowing the

students to ask questions and receive assistance along the way. Once this mission is complete and after-action reviews (AARs) are conducted, the students go into isolation planning for their graded culminating field training exercises (FTX). Throughout the FTX, students will execute and be graded on all the skills they learned from planning, reconnaissance and surveillance operations, intelligence reporting techniques, communications, fires, evasion and recovery, and small unit tactics to name a few. The end result is a graduate with the skill to plan and conduct a myriad of reconnaissance and surveillance operations, enhancing the ability of any brigade combat team.



**Combat Lifesaver Training:**

A Combat Lifesaver (CLS) is non-medical soldier with moderate emergency medical training to provide care at the point of wounding. Combat Lifesaver skills are intended for use in combat; however, the skills may be applied to soldiers in non-combat situations. The Combat Lifesaver is instructed in various techniques to treat and stabilize injuries related to combat. To include, but not limited to, blast injury, amputation, severe bleeding, penetrating chest injuries, simple airway management, and evacuation techniques. The Combat Lifesaver doctrine was developed as an effort to increase survivability in combat environments where the combat medic may not be readily available. The Combat Lifesaver is a bridge between self aid or buddy aid, and the Combat Medic (68W). The Combat Lifesaver can augment the Combat Medic, as needed. The 68W trains the Combat Lifesaver. It is a requirement that all IET (Initial Entry Training) soldiers complete the CLS (Combat Lifesaver) course, and pass the CLS exam during BCT (Basic Combat Training). Those IET Soldiers who fail to complete the course, or pass the exam are recycled to another Troop that is beginning the CLS Course.



---

**Unit Movement Officer Course (UMO):**

Unit Movement Responsibilities - A unit movement operation is the movement of unit equipment, personnel, and accompanying supplies from one location to another. Unit movement operations are conducted during training exercises, mobilization, and deployment. Unit movement operations are planned, coordinated, and executed by four principal modes: rail, motor, air, and sea. The mode of movement determines tactics, techniques and procedures for preparation, planning, coordination and execution of unit movements.



Every movement is unique. These operations seldom begin with a clear idea of the entire package or purpose. Often, they develop by bits and pieces, with a few false starts and subsequent large adjustments. They follow a general sequence, although the stages often overlap in space and time, and can happen simultaneously.

The process is flexible and can be abbreviated and adjusted as required. However, the fundamental processes of moving units do not change to support a deployment. They become more complex because of the need to coordinate on a broad scale with other Services and organizations (outside the US Army).

## CHAPTER 2

The selection and training of UMOs is one of the most critical factors affecting a unit's deployment process. However, traditionally the additional duty of UMO most often is assigned to the lieutenant with the most time left to serve in the company; that usually means the one with the least amount of experience. This is a recipe for disaster because of the lieutenant's lack of knowledge and background.

Another problem with giving the UMO job to the new lieutenant is that he probably will leave the company after a year. A better alternative would be to select a smart staff sergeant or sergeant first class to be the UMO. That noncommissioned officer (NCO) will have the knowledge and experience to understand the deployment process and will be in the company for 2 or 3 years, which means that the commander will not be fighting constantly to keep a trained person in the UMO position.

Whoever is chosen to be the UMO must be detail-oriented and willing to dedicate the time needed to do the job right. The person selected to be the Transportation Coordinators' Automated Information for Movement System (TC-AIMS) operator needs to be computer literate and, like the UMO, detail oriented. It is possible for the UMO to also serve as the TC-AIMS operator, but it is not recommended because the UMO will be busy enough coordinating transportation, performing crisis management, and executing many other tasks. Adding the chore of updating TC-AIMS data could be too much for a UMO.

Possibly the biggest challenge encountered is a lack of operators with experience in using TC-AIMS. Most of our operators had been to TC-AIMS training, but their skills were perishable because they lacked post-training experience.

One way of resolving this is by incorporating UMO and TC-AIMS tasks into training courses.

---

With multiple levels of sophisticated training and development behind him, Neil was now a finely honed sword and as a leader had the rapport and total respect of his men.



CHAPTER 2

