



## UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

ADVANCED INFANTRY TRAINING BATTALION  
SCHOOL OF INFANTRY (EAST)  
PSC BOX 20161  
CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA 28542-0161

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
3502  
AITB  
15 May 12

From: Operations Officer  
To: Operations Officer, Requesting Unit

Subj: LETTER OF INSTRUCTION (LOI) FOR GROUND COMBAT ELEMENT (GCE) COMBAT HUNTER (CH) COURSE

Ref: (a) NAVMC 3500.44 Infantry Training and Readiness (T&R) Manual  
(b) Base Order 3570.1B Range Regulations  
(c) GCE Combat Hunter (CH) Program of Instruction (POI) Course Identification Number M10KZ1M

Encl: (1) Student/Role Player Gear List  
(2) Requesting Unit's Logistical Requirements  
(3) Student Training Schedule  
(4) Role Player Training Schedule  
(5) Period of Instruction Task List  
(6) Student/Role Player Roster Template  
(7) SOI-E Guest Unit Policy Letter

SITUATION. The Combat Hunter Course is designed to foster and develop a hunter mindset through the integration of enhanced observation, combat profiling, and combat tracking skills. A Marine receives training in day, night, and thermal optics, observation theories, combat profiling, combat tracking and combat policing techniques. Upon completion of this course a Marine will possess a basic understanding and a working knowledge in the areas of observation, combat tracking, combat profiling and combat policing.

1. MISSION. Conduct the Combat Hunter Program of Instruction (POI) in order to produce more ethically minded, tactically cunning, and lethal Marines who are better prepared to succeed across the range of military operations.

2. EXECUTION.

a. Commander's Intent. My desired end state is to ensure the Marines attending the course have mastered the basic skills needed to increase their situational awareness and assist in identification of a concealed enemy. My training end state is to validate each Marine's ability to observe, orient, decide, and act faster to a given situation based off of indicators, warnings and environmental factors.

b. Concept of Operations. The Combat Hunter program takes place in four phases; preparation, observation and combat profiling, combat tracking, and retrograde over a period of ten training days.

(1) Phase I Preparation:

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(a) During this period the Combat Hunter staff will coordinate the appropriate training areas. The Combat Hunter staff tailors relevant portions of the POI to the stated training needs of the training unit. During this period, the training unit is responsible for assigning the appropriate students and role players to the course. The training unit will ensure that students possess all necessary items listed in enclosure (1), and all logistics in enclosure (2) are scheduled.

(b) This phase will end with the Final Planning Conference (FPC). The FPC will be conducted by the Combat Hunter OIC and SNCOIC, and will be coordinated via Commanding Officer, ITC, with the training unit Operations Officer. The purpose of the FPC is to familiarize the command and staff of the training unit with the Combat Hunter program and the effects the training will have on the operational capabilities of the unit. Attendance is requested of the training unit's OIC, SNCOIC, S-6 representative, and S-4 representative at a minimum.

(2) Phase II Observation, Combat Policing and Combat Profiling.

(a) This phase begins on Training Day-1 with classroom instruction and practical application in day, night and thermal observation devices. During this phase of the course students will receive instruction, practical application, and evaluation in combat policing and combat profiling.

(b) Students. On TD-2 through TD-5, the students will receive classroom instruction and practical application on Combat Profiling, Building and Maintaining Relationships, Criminal Insurgent Networks, and Tactical Questioning. On TD-4 and TD-5 the students will conduct the practical application and performance examination for combat profiling.

(c) Role Players. (Per the Role Player training schedule) TD-1 will consist of classroom instruction for the role players. TD-2 and TD-3 will consist of scenario rehearsal at the designated training area. TD-4 and TD-5 will consist of scenario rehearsal and execution at the designated training area.

(d) Training unit. The training unit OIC/SNCOIC is responsible for the Command Operations Center (COC) during this phase. Phase II and III training provides a significant amount of information flow into the intelligence cycle. Part of the intent of Phase II training is to refine this information flow. It is highly recommended that the training unit provides a COC in order to become familiar with the quantity and quality of information provided.

(e) The training tempo of this phase will be based on the students' grasp of the course material and not necessarily the hourly timelines associated with a traditional training schedule. The Combat Hunter staff will be available at the end of each training day for additional instruction and remediation. This phase is considered complete once the students have been evaluated on their ability to conduct combat profiling and have demonstrated a thorough understanding of the course material (No later than 1800 on TD-5).

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(3) Phase III Combat Tracking.

(a) On TD-6 the students will conduct practical application on Tactical Questioning in the designated training facility. On TD-7 through TD-10, students will receive instruction, practical application, and evaluation in combat tracking to provide them with the knowledge and skills required to conduct individual and team tracking. A Marine receives education and training in the basics of tracking, dynamics of a footprint, action indicators, tracking exploitation and employment of a tracking team.

(b) Training unit. The training unit OIC/SNCOIC is responsible for the Command Operations Center (COC) during this phase. Phase III training provides a significant amount of information flow into the intelligence cycle. Part of the intent of Phase III training is to refine this information flow. It is highly recommended that the training unit provides a COC in order to become familiar with the quantity and quality of information provided.

(b) The training tempo of this phase will be based on the students' grasp of the course material and not necessarily the hourly timelines associated with a traditional training schedule. The Combat Hunter staff will be available at the end of each training day for additional instruction and remediation. This phase is considered complete once the students have been evaluated on their ability to conduct combat tracking and have demonstrated a thorough understanding of the course material (No later than 1700 on TD-10).

(4) Phase IV Retrograde.

(a) This phase will begin upon completion of training on TD-10 at the designated training area. During this period the Combat Hunter staff will collect all issued gear and verify all students have mastered/completed all examinations. The training unit will be responsible for ensuring the range cleanup has been conducted. All personnel and equipment will be accounted for by both the training unit and the Combat Hunter staff.

(b) Once all equipment and personnel are accounted for, the students will move to the classroom IOT conduct the End of Course Critiques (ECCs). This phase is considered complete once the students have completed the ECCs (No later than 1800 on TD-10).

c. Tasks:

(1) Combat Hunter staff.

(a) The Combat Hunter staff will provide the training unit with a student training schedule per enclosure (3) no later than D-60 and the role player training roster per enclosure (4).

(b) The Combat Hunter staff will provide certified instructors / Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) per the Concept of Operations of this LOI.

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(c) The Combat Hunter staff will provide the students with hand-outs, performance evaluation checklists, and any applicable Marine Corps reference material.

(d) The Combat Hunter staff will provide a formal End of Course Critique (ECC) within (10) working days of the completion of the course to the AITB Commanding Officer via AITB Operations Officer.

(e) The Combat Hunter staff will be available to meet with the training unit Operations Officer and operations section on an enduring basis.

(f) The Combat Hunter staff will develop an Operational Risk Assessment (ORA)/Operational Risk Management (ORM) for the field exercises and maintain on file. A copy of the ORA/ORM will be present on the range or training area.

(g) Combat Hunter staff will submit required logistical requests and training schedule to the Executive Officer, ITC, NLT 45 days prior to the course start date.

(h) The Combat Hunter staff will confirm the logistical readiness and coordinate with the applicable sections in the training unit.

(i) The Combat Hunter Staff will coordinate directly with the operations section of the training unit. The Combat Hunter staff will meet with the training unit operations section after the publication of the LOI to discuss any issues and conduct further coordination as necessary prior to TD-1.

(j) A final course specific training schedule will be provided to the requesting unit NLT one week prior to the Final Planning Conference.

(k) The Combat Hunter staff will conduct the Final Planning Conference with training unit NLT 10 days prior to TD-1.

(l) The Combat Hunter staff will provide the training unit with optics that are currently being fielded in theatre if they are not in the training unit's Table of Equipment (T/E).

(m) The Combat Hunter staff will provide the training unit with a Period of Instruction Task List as per enclosure (6).

(n) The Combat Hunter staff will assign an ROIC and RSO, safety vehicle, safety vehicle driver and a safety corpsman during the profiling (TD-4 and TD-5) tracking (TD-8 through TD-10) field events. The Course Chief will ensure that the ROIC and RSO have a valid MCB CL RSO card and are familiar with all responsibilities listed in ref (c). The ROIC will be required to sign for the designated training area NLT 1200 on TD-1.

(o) The ROIC/RSO will be responsible for coordinating with Range Control (or MOUT facility) for the range inspection, and conducting the range inspection.

(2) Training Unit.

(a) The training unit will assign (40) Marines as students and

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(20) Marines as role players to the course and submit the roster to the CH SNCOIC via enclosure (8) NLT close of business one week prior to TD-1.

(b) The training unit will ensure that all students and role players have been issued the appropriate equipment as per enclosure (1).

(c) The training unit will provide all internal communication per the references and the training unit SOP.

(e) The training unit will provide transportation for all students, equipment, and role players to TC-1143 aboard Camp Geiger.

(f) The training unit will designate an OIC/SNCOIC who will be responsible for the attendance and any administrative issues that may arise. The training unit's OIC/SNCOIC will also ensure participation and coordination of all classroom periods of instruction. This member will not participate in the course, and will serve as the connecting file between the Combat Hunter staff and the training unit Operations Section. All issues regarding the course will be directed towards this individual for both students and role players. The OIC/SNCOIC will be responsible for conducting a thorough police call, as well as weapons and gear accountability.

(g) The training unit will provide chow for students and role players during all field evolutions.

(h) The training unit will be prepared to provide additional logistical support as needed per requirements listed in enclosure (2).

(i) The training unit will provide a COC in support of the POI on TD-3 through TD-5 and TD-8 through TD-10.

The minimum staffing requirement is:

1 (1) Watch Officer (Training Unit OIC/SNCOIC may fill this role)

2 (1) Radio watch

The recommended staffing requirement is:

1 (1) Watch Officer

2 (1) Watch Chief

3 (1) Intelligence Representative

4 (2) Radio Watches

d. Coordinating Instructions.

(1) Failure to adhere to the below timeline may result in degraded training.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>
D-60	Training Areas Scheduled	Combat Hunter Staff

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D-45	Training Schedule submitted to XO, ITC	Combat Hunter staff
D-30	Dissemination of LOI and Enclosures	Training Unit/Combat Hunter staff
D-10	Final Planning Conference	Training Unit/Combat Hunter staff
TD-1	Execution of POI	Training Unit/Combat Hunter staff
TD-1	Withdraw optics from SOI armory	Combat Hunter staff
TD-10	Return optics to SOI armory	Combat Hunter Staff

(2) Class size is no more than (40) Marines. The target audience is Lance Corporal to Sergeant serving in the billet of fire team or squad leader. All students must be physically and mentally capable of completing training. **A Marine must not have any personal, legal, or medical issues that would interfere with his ability to complete the course. Marines on medical hold and those who have scheduled appointments during the POI are not recommended to attend.** Note: The combat tracking portion of the POI is physically demanding.

(3) The role player population requires (20) Marines for TD-1 through TD-5. Failure to provide the prescribed amount of role players will degrade training and may result in cancelling the course. Due to the nature of the various roles that must be rehearsed and memorized for each scenario, it is critical that each role player be present for the entire week of training. **Marines on medical hold and those who have scheduled appointments during the POI are not recommended to attend.** The assignment of (3) or (4) female role players to the course is highly encouraged, and will provide invaluable training for the students by providing additional atmospherics allowing the students to observe proxemic pushes and pulls as it applies to gender.

(4) All students will be assigned gear and weapons as per enclosure (2). Any gear provided by the School of Infantry East will be secured to the individual student or role player via 550 cord.

(5) All students will be in the uniform of the day. Role players will be in appropriate civilian attire during TD-2 through TD-5. The onus of this requirement lies ultimately on the training unit.

(6) All students must participate in all classroom and field exercises. Failure to participate in all training evolutions will result in non-certification.

(7) During the combat tracking field exercises, the training unit will be responsible for battle-tracking the positions of the tracking teams throughout the training area.

(8) At the completion of each training phase, the students will be responsible for the police call of the training facility/area.

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3. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS.

a. Administration. The Combat Hunter staff and the training unit OIC/SNCOIC will be responsible for generating and tracking all personnel status reports per their parent unit's SOP.

(1) Range Scheduling. The Combat Hunter staff will be responsible for scheduling ranges in support of the training.

(2) Student Drop/Course Cancellation:

(a) Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Accountability of the students and role players is the responsibility of the OIC/SNCOIC. Any students who will be absent from any class must receive approval from their operations section. The Combat Hunter staff will not have the authority to excuse students from class. All efforts should be made by the parent command to excuse students from other administrative events during the course.

(b) Due to the progressive nature of the curriculum, if a student misses more than half of a day of training, the student will not meet the standards to graduate the course. The OIC may recommend to the Commanding Officer, AITB-E that the student be retained without certification but it is ultimately at the discretion of the Commanding Officer, AITB-E, whether the student will be dropped from the course or allowed to continue training.

(c) The training unit's OIC/SNCOIC will immediately notify the SNCOIC if the training unit is late for training. It is at the discretion of the Commanding Officer, AITB-E, whether the training will be delayed or cancelled.

(d) If less than 75% of the assigned students and role players are present in the class it is at the discretion of the Commanding Officer, AITB-E, whether the training will be cancelled.

b. Safety. All safety procedures will be conducted in accordance with ref (c).

(1) In the event of missing personnel or should an injury occur, no matter the severity; Range Control, AITB S-3, SOI S-3, the training unit XO and S-3 will be notified immediately. Each unit is responsible for reporting the incident to their respective chains of command. At the point of injury, the ROIC/RSO will take control of the situation and work the Medical Evacuation (if required). The responsibility for determining the necessity for, and method of, medical evacuation from the field shall be made by the ROIC/RSO based upon advice of medical personnel present.

(2) In the event of a life-threatening casualty, Range Control will be notified and the Marine will be evacuated by ground or air (as available) to the Camp Lejeune Naval Hospital (CLNH) or Onslow Memorial Hospital. Should an air evacuation be required, coordination will be made through Range Control, and the aircraft will be directed to the nearest authorized LZ.

(3) For non-life-threatening injuries, the on-site emergency vehicle

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will be dispatched to transport the casualty to the nearest hospital after the senior corpsman assesses the severity of the injury.

(4) Should a Marine be evacuated, a representative from the training unit and the Combat Hunter staff will accompany the injured Marine to the hospital and provide updates to their respective commands on the injured Marine's condition.

(5) The ROIC/RSO will have ultimate authority to determine if the training unit will continue with the training evolution.

(6) The SNCOIC will make necessary recommendations to cease or continue training. The SNCOIC is accountable to the Commanding Officer, AITB-E who has ultimate authority whether the Combat Hunter staff will further execute the Program of Instruction (POI).

5. COMMAND AND SIGNAL.

a. Signal. The ROIC/RSO will maintain radio communication with Range Control and SOI at all times. The ROIC/RSO will be responsible for the constant positive communication with Range Control. The Combat Hunter staff will use an internal communication network to coordinate the movement of students on the range and an external capability IOT to contact AITB-E as needed and/or directed. Verbal command will initiate an immediate stand-down and all training will cease. Medical Evacuation communications are as per safety paragraph.

b. Command During Training.

Combat Hunter OIC  
Combat Hunter SNCOIC  
Combat Hunter Staff  
Training Unit OIC/SNCOIC

c. Points of Contact.

- (1) Combat Hunter SNCOIC, GySgt Jess J. Murphy: 449-0488.
- (2) Combat Hunter OIC, Capt Alex S. Metcalf: 449-0471.
- (3) ITC CO, Capt Brandon H. Turner: 449-0528.
- (4) AITB-E Operations Officer, Capt Joseph Burke: 449-0302.
- (5) AITB-E Operations Chief, MSgt John K. Grimsley: 449-0065.

J. Burke