

North East Independent School District
Army JROTC Department
8961 Tesoro Drive, Suite 402.03, San Antonio, Texas 78217
Phone (210) 407-0351 or 0352, Fax (210) 805-5350

17 – 18 January 2014

**2014 UNITED STATES OPEN JROTC RAIDER CHALLENGE
CHAMPIONSHIPS LETTER OF INSTRUCTION (LOI)**

1) GENERAL

- a. This Letter of Instruction (LOI) outlines the rules, regulations and general requirements for the United States Open JROTC Raider Challenge competition to be held on Friday and Saturday, 17 and 18 January 2013 at Camp Bullis, Texas. Arrival of teams and early registration will begin at 1000 (10:00 am) until 1200 (12:00 noon) on Friday, 17 January 2014 at the **Raider Headquarters Building 889**. The competition will begin with a Instructor/Team Captain Meeting at 1230 in the **Post Chapel, Building 5904** and rotation of events will begin at 1400 (2:00 pm). All events and the closing awards ceremony will end on Saturday afternoon shortly after the conclusion of the last event in the Post Theater. Teams must be present to receive awards.
- b. The "US Open JROTC Raider Challenge Competition" will be open to all JROTC units in good standing regardless of service affiliation. The competition is physically challenging and is not recommended for the un-fit or un-healthy. To ensure uniformity in rules, all events will be held under the guidelines of Army manuals referenced herein. These manuals can all be reviewed and downloaded from the official Army Publications website.
- c. The North East Independent School District JROTC Department will provide planning, organization and execution support for the competition. Constructive comments and suggestions for program improvements are encouraged and solicited to make the event better in the years to come.
- d. Overnight billeting will be available at Camp Bullis, on a limited basis and must be coordinated thru the organizing committee. Schools are also permitted/encouraged to stay at local area hotels should they desire.
- e. Overnight on post billeting is highly encouraged as hotels are quite a distance away and cadets may need to change uniforms before and after individual event competitions. The costs for overnight accommodations will be **\$10.00 per person, per night**. Teams are encouraged to bring extra cold weather and wet weather clothing in case of inclement weather. All Camp Bullis overnight assignments will be coordinated via the Organizing Committee in advance of the event. Accommodations will be reserved and utilized on a first come/first serve basis.
- f. Camp Bullis, Texas is a United States Government facility and requires appropriate individual identification and vehicle registration to allow access at the installation gate. All appropriate parking rules and traffic laws will be enforced by the Military Police Force.
- g. Portable restrooms will be available for use during the event competitions and located in close proximity of the start/finish lines for the designated event venues.
- h. Concessions and souvenirs of the Raider competition will be available and all participants and spectators are encouraged to visit the vendor sites for refreshments and event items. The event will have a limited number of souvenir event T-shirts at the special price of \$15.00. When the shirts are gone, they are gone! There will be no re-prints and a very limited supply will be on-hand as every competitor is already receiving a 2014 U.S. Open JROTC Raider shirt.

2) **SPECIFIC INFORMATION**

a.Competition Team Rules: Competition will be held in two categories: MALE and FEMALE and two divisions: MASTERS and EXPLORERS. Each Masters (experienced cadets in top physical condition) team will consist of ten (10) members but only eight (8) participate in every event. The Explorer teams (novice/beginner teams) consist of eight (8) members with six (6) participating in every event. ALL TEN or EIGHT MEMBERS, respectively, will be registered on the entry form and event SCORE SHEETS BUT ONLY the eight or six designated MEMBERS WILL COMPETE. The two extra cadets are part of the team and will be used by the instructor/sponsor to substitute as they designate. There are NO mixed teams in this competition.

b.CADETS WILL SUBSTITUTE ONLY WITHIN THE TEAM THEY ARE REGISTERED and ASSIGNED. Substitutions can only be made prior to an event discipline and for any reason. You do not have to go through a medic to substitute, nor does it have to be a medical need - they may just be better performer in that event. You have two (2) team members to form your best Raiders in any event discipline.

c.TEAM UNIFORMS will be the same in style, design and color. BDU's or ACU's are acceptable with matching colored school shirts. Under garments worn in the event of cold weather and are outwardly visible will be of same style, color and design. Physical Fitness uniforms may be worn on the 3.2 mile team run and on the team confidence course but are not recommended. Trousers and long sleeve jackets (shirts) are recommended for all competition venues. Teams will have and carry a Team Guidon/Flag, with the school designation to each event venue and will be displayed in front of your team picture. Team members must provide their own canteen(s), camel back or refillable water bottles and web belts for the competition events. Due to the physically demanding nature of this competition and the rough terrain of the competition venues it is recommended that all cadets wear appropriate over the ankle boots laced to support the ankle.

3) **COMPETITION EVENTS**

a.The U.S. Open JROTC Raider Challenge competition events are all physically demanding and is not advisable for the un-fit or un-healthy. All teams should conduct a walk through of the confidence course for familiarization .

b.“MASTERS” COMPETITION EVENTS:

1). Team Confidence Course: 8 TEAM MEMBERS; The Confidence Course will consist 11 approved and authorized regulation obstacles used for testing basic motor skills and physical conditioning following Army Field Manual (FM) 21-20. All non-Army schools are urged to review this document carefully to ensure your cadets are fully prepared for the requirements of this event. All teams including all participants must perform a walk through familiarization of the course prior to the actual competition to ensure each team member understands the obstacle requirements and safety procedures for the course. (Annex II-A and accompanying PDF)

2). Rope Bridge: (Annex II-B, Rope Bridge): 8 TEAM MEMBERS: Standard one rope bridge according to this LOI and “NEW” Training Circular 3-97.61, dated 26 July 2012 (Military Mountaineering). Rope length must be at least 120 feet; low stretch ropes (Kermantle) may be used (NOTE: 120 foot ropes will be made available for those units who may not currently own these ropes).

3). Cross Country Rescue: (Annex II-C, Cross Country Rescue): 8 TEAM MEMBERS: The event will be cross country with the raiders carrying four military style back packs each containing a 35 pound sand bag and one litter/stretchers maintaining an attached 95 pound mannequin.

4). Raider Gauntlet: (Annex II-D, Raider Gauntlet): 8 TEAM MEMBERS: Team runs together carrying 4 rucksacks weighing approximately 35 pounds each over a designated rough terrain course, using a map, compass and team work, through the woods, up and down hills. When all equipment and team members cross the finish line, the time will stop.

5). 3.2 Mile/5K Cross Country Team Run: (Annex II-E, 3.2 Mile/5K Team Run): 8 TEAM MEMBERS. Teams are not allowed to run on the hard stand or gravel shoulder of Military Highway or on Military Highway. Stay off of the main roadway of Military Highway. The terrain is over rough rock road, paved roads and over grass/vegetation covered fields.

NOTE: Transportation to and from event venues and in and around Camp Bullis during the competition is the responsibility of the school Instructor/Sponsor/Chaperone. Schools entering male and female teams will have to provide adequate transportation for teams participating at different venues at the same time. Schedules will not be changed because of transportation issues. Coaches/Sponsors must plan accordingly

The actual start times and rotation of events will be determined after all schools have registered. The schedule will be distributed via email one week prior to the competition and only last minute changes will be made at the instructor/team captains meeting.

c. “EXPLORERS” COMPETITION EVENTS:

- 1) Team Confidence Course: 6 TEAM MEMBERS; The Confidence Course will consist of 11 approved and authorized regulation obstacles used for conditioning and confidence in physical fitness training following Army Field Manual (FM) 21-20. All non-Army schools are urged to review this document carefully to ensure your cadets are fully prepared for the requirements of this event. All teams including all participants must perform a walk through familiarization of the course prior to the actual competition to ensure each team member understands the obstacle requirements and safety procedures for the course. (Annex II-A and accompanying PDF)
- 2) Rope Bridge: (Annex II-B, Rope Bridge): 6 TEAM MEMBERS: Standard one rope bridge according to this LOI and “NEW” Training Circular 3-97.61, dated 26 July 2012 (Military Mountaineering). Rope length must be at least 120 feet; low stretch ropes (Kermantle) may be used (NOTE: 120 foot ropes will be made available for those units who may not currently own these ropes).
- 3) 3.2 Mile/5 K Cross Country Team Run: (Annex II-E, 3.2 Mile Team Run): 6 TEAM MEMBERS. Teams are not allowed to run on the hard stand or gravel shoulder of Military Highway or on Military Highway. Stay off of the main roadway. The terrain is over rough rock road, paved roads and over grass covered fields.

NOTE: Transportation to and from event venues and in and around Camp Bullis during the competition is the responsibility of the school Instructor/Sponsor/Chaperone. Schools entering male and female teams will have to provide adequate transportation and equipment for teams participating at different venues at the same time. Schedules will not be changed because of transportation issues. Coaches/Sponsors/Chaperones must plan accordingly.

The actual start times and rotation of events will be determined after all schools have registered. The competition schedule will be distributed via the event website one week prior to the competition and only last minute changes will be made at the instructor/team captains meeting.

4. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: Times subject to change based upon number of entries

- a. Friday, 17 January 2014, 1000 - 1200: School check-in/registration at U.S. Open Headquarters, Building #889, Camp Bullis
- b. Friday, 17 January 2014, 1230: Final school check-in and Instructor/Team Captain Meeting, Building # 5904, Post Chapel. Team Confidence Course Familiarization briefing included
- c. Friday, 17 January 2014, 1400: Competition Begins, Rotation of team events at the designated event sites.
- d. Saturday, 18 January 2014, 0800: Resume Rotation of all Team Events will begin.
- e. Saturday, 18 January 2014, TBA: Awards ceremony will begin shortly after last event ends.

5. COMPETITION OVERVIEW:

- a. The "U.S. Open" is designed to showcase the finest all-around JROTC raider physical talent in the nation and to provide all cadets with an opportunity to compete against the best teams in the nation representing all branches of the military service.
- b. Although discipline problems are not expected at a meet of this caliber, addressing problem situations now is the best way to prevent any future unpleasant situations. While all attendees are obviously on their best behavior at the JROTC U.S. Open Raider Challenge Competition, there are a few key points that bear repeating. The North East Independent School District JROTC Department is the Competition Director for the event and reserves the right to remove any individual, group or competition unit from any event or facility for destructive or profane conduct, cheating, or any other actions unbecoming JROTC cadets, sponsors or support personnel for conduct detrimental to the competition. This includes conduct in or around the competition site or any other related facilities used for this U.S. Open competition.
- c. Every cadet eligible to compete will attend the event through a Team Package Plan. Team members will receive a custom event t-shirt (ordered to size), and the Team will receive a Raider team photo. The cost of the package will be **\$10 per cadet and each team will pay a Registration Fee of \$50 per team.** Any school wishing to utilize overnight billeting on-site at Camp Bullis will also pay **\$10.00 per person, per night billeting fee.** These costs and payment deadlines are clearly outlined on the entry forms that each school will download, complete and submit the registration/entry forms to attend the competition. Teams and individuals must provide their own pillows, linens, blankets and towels. Billets will accommodate 12 gender specific individuals per building. All fees will be paid to the NEISD JROTC Department. All checks will be made payable to the NEISD JROTC Department.

6. EVENT REQUIREMENTS:

- a. Once you have read this LOI and agree to all of its terms and conditions, please sign and return all of the required forms to NEISD-JROTC Raider Organizing Committee. While all forms are required, the Waiver of Liability Form is the most important of these documents. As the form indicates, please return it to NEISD-JROTC Raider Organizing Committee by the date on the form. No school or individual may compete in any facet of the U.S. Open Raider event without the proper submission of this form, no exceptions!
- b. All competitors, instructors, and supporters are subject to comply with all of the rules & procedures of this LOI. Any items not specifically covered by the service manual(s) or by NEISD regulations are at the sole discretion and determination of the Judging Director.
- c. If you have a question regarding any facet of the JROTC U.S. Open Raider Challenge competition you are requested to review the LOI and the NEISD-JROTC website to answer your question, in most cases, the answer is found in print. If you do not find the answer or need a clarification, please feel free to call or e-mail NEISD-JROTC Department at the numbers listed herein. Please DO NOT wait to ask your questions on site at the event as time is critical.
- d. Schools may enter as many complete raider teams as desired into each of the two different divisions (Masters or Explorers) and gender competition categories (Male or Female) of the U.S. Open competition. **No individual cadet is allowed to compete on more than one team!** Teams found to have an individual competing on more than one team is subject to disqualifying their entire school from the U.S. Open Raider event and or the event competition.
- e. As the Event Director for the JROTC U.S. Open Raider Challenge, the North East Independent School District JROTC Department maintains sole judgment pertaining to the actual raider competition. All decisions made by the NEISD-JROTC Department regarding rules, procedures or other matters necessary to the running of the raider competition are final and no protests will be entertained.

7. COMPETITION EVENTS & AWARDS

- a. The following events are counted towards a team's Overall Championship point totals: for the Masters Division:
 - (1) The Masters Division Events – (1) Team Confidence Course Competition; (2) Rope Bridge; (3) Cross Country Rescue; (4) Raider Gauntlet; and (5) 3.2 Mile/5K Cross Country Team Run. TEAMS MUST ENTER AND OBTAIN A SCORE IN ALL FIVE EVENTS IN THEIR DIVISION to be eligible for the overall title.
 - (2) The Explorers Division Events – (1) Team Confidence Course Competition; (2) Rope Bridge and (3) 3.2 Mile/5K Cross Country Team Run. TEAMS MUST ENTER AND OBTAIN A SCORE IN ALL THREE EVENTS IN THEIR DIVISION to be eligible for the overall title.
- b. All teams are eligible to win team trophies within each specific event entered, regardless of how many total events the team enters. First through third place team trophies are awarded in each event listed above and three (3) team trophies in the Overall Raider Team Competition + medals to the team members of the top three teams
- c. In order to accommodate and designate the respective military service champions (Army, Marine, Navy and Air Force) in each JROTC military service. A Championship trophy will be presented to the respective JROTC service winners in the Masters Division only.
- d. The variety and difficulty of the events involved in the United States Open JROTC Raider Challenge Competition will make capturing the overall title a true test of the overall JROTC cadet physical fitness and conditioning excellence! Again, the competition is physically intense and is not advisable for the un-fit or un-healthy.

8. EVENT SCORING & TIMING

- a. An official time keeper will keep the official performance time at every event. All event timing will begin when the starter says "GO". The time will not end until the last competing cadet AND ALL REQUIRED EQUIPMENT crosses the finish line. Scoring for placement will be determined by total elapsed time for any one of the competition events. Time penalties for failure to successfully negotiate any element or portion of a element will be accesses to the teams overall elapsed time for that event.
- b. The overall team finish (for the purpose of determining the Overall Champions) within each category of the Masters Division each event is judged and awarded a point value earned through placement within each team event. A team's placement points in all required events will produce an overall placement point total. The lowest point value earned will be considered the highest finisher. Example: a team earns: 1st place finish in Team Confidence Course; 7th place in Rope Bridge; 4th place Cross Country Rescue; and a 6th place Raider Gauntlet; and 3rd place 3.2 Mile/5K Cross Country Team Run. The aggregate value for this team would be computed as: $1+7+4+6+3=21$. Therefore, "21" would be the aggregate score regarding overall placements. Teams not successfully completing each event in the respective division and category will not be considered for the "Overall Championship"
- c. Should the Overall Championship placement points end in a tie the fastest finishing team on the 3.2Mile/5K Cross Country Team Run will be used to break the tie. The respective team events will stand on their total elapsed time, including any penalty time added and recorded at the finish line.

9. SCORE SHEETS & SCORE TABULATION

- a. A complete scoring package maintaining all of the time/score sheets, your official team photo, as well as team placement information will be available immediately following the Awards Ceremony (if time permits to prepare them for distribution) or they will be mailed to your school immediately following the event.
- b. It should be noted that every score sheet will be double-checked by the scoring committee personnel, as well as entered & totaled on a computer program designed for the U.S. Open JROTC Raider Challenge Competition.
- c. Each team will be judged by the SAME JUDGES within each event. All judges' scoring & decisions are final. As a matter of proper conduct, discussion with judges during the competition ABOUT ANY ASPECT OF COMPETITION IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN. Judges are considered off-limits much like a jurist during a trial. Any questions from parents, cadets, or instructors regarding any portion of this competition should be directed to the Competition Director of the U.S. Open JROTC Raider Challenge Competition at the Event HQ Building 889.

10. GENERAL EVENT DETAILS

- a. Hotel billets are available to parents and other spectators at commercial facilities along Interstate Highway 10, Loop 1604 near Military Highway and Camp Bullis for those parents and other spectators needing such accommodations.
- b. Snacks, drinks and event t-shirts for parents and other spectators will be available for purchase on-site throughout the event. This will allow parents to remain on Camp Bullis throughout the day without the need to leave as the nearest fast-food facility is several miles from Camp Bullis.
- c. Substitution of cadets by alternates may only take place BEFORE any event begins (i.e., no mid-event-competition substitutions are allowed).
- d. Cadets/Adult/Chaperones and Instructors may eat in the Post Dining Facility and be charged the standard government meal rate of \$2.80 for breakfast and \$4.50 for the Lunch and Dinner meal respectively.

11. COMPETITION-RELATED EVENT DETAILS

- a. The general U.S. Open JROTC Raider Challenge Competition directions and specific event venue locations will be available to the Instructor and Team Captain prior to the beginning of event competition.
- b. While the weather for January in South Texas is unpredictable it will most likely be gorgeous, nothing but lightning or icy outdoor weather conditions will delay or cancel this event. Teams must prepare for every type weather condition to succeed at the U.S. Open JROTC Raider Challenge Competition.
- c. All timed racing events will require a clean start. If a team jumps the start early, a minimum 3-minute "false start penalty" will be assessed to those teams. No re-start will occur.

- d. While military medics or Medical First Responders will be on-site, it is HIGHLY recommended that all units maintain a basic first-aid kit to attend to minor injuries sustained while performing, practicing or other times when not competing. The Organizing Committee will have minimal first-aid supplies available at the Raider Headquarters, Bldg # 889 (Band-Aids, cold-packs, etc.). Should you require immediate medical assistance, please go to the event venue Judge or the Raider HQ Building # 889.
- e. PARENTS, INSTRUCTORS AND/OR SPECTATORS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO RUN WITH THE TEAM ON A COURSE. The team may be disqualified if this violation occurs. On-lookers shouting instructions to the team will cause the team to be disqualified. Ensure your spectators/parents understand this important rule! Remember, they are not part of the team. Cheering is not providing instructions. There are plenty of sites for observing your team along the event route. Parents, coaches and other spectators should place themselves near the course of travel or by the teams in a stationary fashion to observe the event away from the travel area of the competitors. Spectators/Coaches/Instructors cannot follow along side the team at any point in the competition.
- f. INSTRUCTORS WILL NOT RECON ANY COMPETITION SITE. "Exception" - The Team Confidence Course which will require a mandatory familiarization walk through prior to the teams competition performance.
- g. No participant may leave any assigned racing area or "take a short cut" outside the established racing area. Any cadet/team doing so and found to have gained an advantage by these actions will cause the team to receive a subjective penalty. If the shortcut was determined to be completely accidental, the penalty will be the estimated amount of minutes or seconds saved by going "off-course." If the short cut was determined to be intentional the team will be disqualified. "Course Monitors" and "Check Points" will be along the courses of travel to ensure all team members meet event requirements and carry all required equipment.
- h. All schools should ensure they do not run late to a competition venue/area. Any team arriving at an event venue late will be penalized the same amount of time as that equal to the late time and/or removed from that segment of the competition (disqualified) at the discretion of the Competition Director.
- i. Any cadet who curses or utilizes other unsportsmanlike acts will be subject to a minimum 5 minute penalty added to the event total time. Acting in this manner is unbecoming a JROTC cadet and all teams should ensure this penalty is not affixed to any cadets on their team.
- j. All Raider teams are expected to compete with honor befitting military JROTC cadets. Teams are expected to proactively come forward to admit guilt on any known rules violations they may incur. Teams are expected to tell the head official any cadet shortages or other known rule issues BEFORE competing in their assigned event.
- k. Any school and/or team found violating rules which could be construed as "cheating" (illegal cadet swapping, taking short cuts, etc.) will be facing multi-year bans from this competition at the discretion of the Competition Director, NEISD JROTC Department. Do not teach your cadets that breaking the rules is OK if you don't get caught – This is UNACCEPTABLE!

12. GENERAL INFORMATION:

- a. The JROTC U.S. Open Raider Challenge Competition is one of the Army JROTC integrated-curricular events hosted annually by the North East Independent School District JROTC Department. The hard work of the organizing committee and the individual event hosts along with the cooperation of the Camp Bullis Training Management Staff will make this event a world class activity for all participating JROTC cadets in 2014.
- b. Each school is required to submit not later than the closing date all registration forms and team entry fees as required in order to compete. There is no exception to this requirement. This competition will be conducted come rain, shine, or cold, it is Raider tough! Be prepared with extra clothing, gloves, ponchos, field jackets, cold weather gear and extra foot wear. Please, plan your entry forms and fees accordingly.
- c. All schools will have to pass quarters cleanup inspection prior to departure if you utilize Camp Bullis over night billeting and latrines.
- d. If you have any questions, please contact the individuals listed below:

COMPETITION OR OTHER RELATED QUESTIONS

Colonel Robert Henson: Office: (210) 407-0352 or Cell: (210) 316-4363

Sergeant Major Ramon Lara: Office: (210) 407-0351 or Cell: 445-5099

13. COMPETITION EVENT DETAILS SPECIFICS – The following annex of specific details, procedures and guidelines are provided for Raider team use and participation:

Annex A: Team Confidence Course

Annex B: Rope Bridge

Annex C: Cross Country Rescue

Annex D: Raider Gauntlet

Annex E: 3.2 Mile/5K Cross Country Team Run

Annex F: Liability Waiver Form

Annex G: Team Registration & Billeting Request Form

Annex H. Raider Team Entry Form – One required for each team

ANNEX A – Team Confidence Course

1) General Scenario:

- a. The Team Confidence Course is conducted to test the balance, endurance, speed, agility and strength of each Raider team member. The team score (time) is a cumulative time of all the team members (collectively together – not separately combined) totaled for the team score.
- b. Individual team members will start thru the course **as they are ready at the Tarzan (Balancing logs to the Overhead Horizontal Ladder)**. Course monitors will be stationed throughout the confidence course to ensure all obstacles are successfully negotiated and assign penalty minutes for failing to complete an obstacle successfully. Any attempt to go around, cut through or avoiding an obstacle will be disqualifying for the individual and the team.
- c. 8 members of the “Masters” team must compete in the Team Confidence Course and 6 members of the “Explorers” team must compete in the Team Confidence Course
- d. Instructors will be on-hand but moved away from the team with all other spectators during this competition. . Cheering is not providing instructions.
- e. IMMEDIATELY AFTER the team completes the Team Confidence Course, they will move out directly to the next designated event on their competition schedule. Teams must not be late for their next competition event. Coaches/Instructors/Sponsors must plan accordingly.
- f. Team members are allowed to assist other members of their team as needed from the front side of the three (3) designated elements (team members cannot go over the element and come back around the side to assist another team member. The specific elements team members are allowed to assist each other are: # (4) The Wall; # (8) Belly Buster and #(11) Incline Wall. All other elements in the course must be negotiated individually by each team member.

2) Specific Details:

- a. All score sheets will be completed, times recorded and totaled with the event judge signature prior to turn-in.
- b. The course elements and description are found at the accompanying PDF document. All elements must be negotiated in sequence: (1) Tarzan (Balancing logs to the Overhead Horizontal Ladder), (2) Rope Climb (Ring the Bell) climb back down. – Members are not allowed to drop off the rope. (3) The Island Hopper, (4) The Wall, (5) Easy Balance, (6) Six Vaults, (7) Tough Nut, (8) Belly Buster, (9) High Step Over, (10) Balancing Logs, (11) Incline Wall and run to the finish line.
- c. A Two (2) minute penalty per person, per element will be assessed for each failure to successfully negotiate any element of the course or violating the safety rules for the course. **The team will be assessed the 2 minute penalty for each team members failure to successfully negotiate a specific obstacle within the allotted 2 minute attempt.** The event judge will move the team **or individual** on to the next element to ensure the course is not backed up.
- d. Uniform (Same design, same color, same markings, hats, watch caps and gloves) athletic attire may be worn for this event but not recommended.
- e. Strategically teams may consider starting their slower or weaker members thru the course first while their faster stronger members catch up and assist other team members negotiate the three specific elements designated above.

b. ANNEX B - ROPE BRIDGE

1) General Information:

- a. Rope bridges will be constructed in accordance with the spirit and intent of a real rope bridge situation. The basic premise must be that it be done as seriously and accurately as if a gorge or a river were actually being crossed. SAFETY NOTE: When teaching cadets, we should remind them of the difference when crossing a river versus a ravine or a gorge. When crossing a river, a bowline is over the shoulder and not snapped in a harness. Refer to Training Circular 3-97.61, dated 26 July 2012 (Military Mountaineering), Chapter 7. We will be crossing a portion of a creek (could be knee deep) at the U.S. Open JROTC Raider Challenge.
- b. Two rope bridge sites will be used: Male Category will use one, Female Category will use the other.
- c. The team must complete the bridge construction and crossing with the required number of members or be disqualified. A two (2) minute penalty will be added to the finish time for any or each team member(s) who do not successfully cross the rope bridge without touching the ground or falling in the water.
- d. The uniform recommended for this event: ACU/BDU pants, t-shirt & boots. Jacket may be worn if the weather is cold.
- e. All teams should provide ALL of their own rope bridge equipment. Teams may use any kind of rope they choose – The rope used in competition MUST BE 120 feet minimum!

2) Specific Details:

- a. No loops, bights, **daisy roll/weave** and or pre-tied knots will be allowed on the rope. The judge will assist in back coiling the rope inside a backpack, duffle bag, or ruck sack for the teams prior to starting the event. Nylon rappel waist seats will be provided in order to insure the safety of each competitor and avoid the safety inspection of hand tied swiss seats. Cadet tied swiss seats will not be used in this competition. Refer to the “NEW” Training Circular 3-97.61, dated 26 July 2012 (Military Mountaineering). Figure 7-17, page 7-19 Rappel seat method.
- b. Rappel waist seats will be fitted prior to reporting to the rope bridge Judge. All participants will wear a rappel seat. The first and last team members can wear sling ropes properly tied around the waist (minimum two wraps around the waist secured with square knot and tied off with an overhand knot on each side of the square knot.
- c. Upon arrival at the Start Point, the team will have their rope "back coiled" inside a backpack, duffle bag, or ruck sack. Only the end of the rope may be outside the bag at the start line. There cannot be any knots of any kind pre-tied in the rope prior to the start of the event. This will cause the team to be disqualified if the team is found to have pre-tied knots. When the team is ready, the event judge will then command "Ready GO!" . On the command GO, the team will run to the near side anchor point, and immediately build a **one (1)** rope bridge. The clock will start on the command "GO". Time will continue to run until:

- (1) The entire team and all equipment is across the "creek" (to include the rope)

- (2) All knots are out of the rope. NOTE: A two (2) minute penalty will be added if “TIME” is called and all knots are not out of the rope and or equipment is not across the creek.
- (3) The team has announced, "TIME!"
- d. Spectators/Coaches/Instructors should carefully review the prohibition on "coaching" the team and/or running with the team while they compete to avoid severely penalizing your program. Cheering is always strongly encouraged!
- e. The team with fastest time to include any penalty time added will be the winner.
- f. **The “ONLY” Knots to be used in the one rope bridge are:**
 - (1) **On the near side the ONLY knots allowed on the near side will be:**
 - a. **Anchor Point Knot must be ONE round Turn and two half-hitches (half-hitches must be over all ropes next to the anchor point)**
 - b. **Wireman’s Knot or Figure 8 Slip knot (no hybrid knots are allowed, refer to the Field Manual for correct tying techniques)**
 - (2) **The ONLY knots allowed on the far side anchor point will be the following:**
 - a. **A round turn and TWO half-hitches.**
 - b. **Tension Anchor (A minimum of FOUR wraps on the anchor)**
 - (3) **A quick release knot for the second half hitch is recommended on both sides but not required..**
- g. A rope bridge that fails will not be counted or scored and will disqualify that team from that event of the competition.
- h. In the event of a tie, the 3.2-mile/5K cross country team run score will be used as the tie breaker.
- i. There is no limit on the number of snap links used in the transport knot.
- j. All team members that cross the rope bridge must be hooked onto the rope and pull themselves across the obstacle **using the Rappel Seat Method, Chapter 7, Army TC 3-97.61 (2012). If any part of a team members body including legs, feet, arms or hands touches the ground, creating a violation, between the START and FINISH lines a 2 minute time penalty will be accessed to the team for each violation.**

c. ANNEX C - CROSS COUNTRY RESCUE

1) General Scenario:

- a. Each team is given instructions to rescue a casualty. This is a grueling one-quarter mile cross country route over rough terrain including six (6) specific litter obstacles. This event as all other events in the U.S. Open JROTC Raider Challenge competition events are physically demanding and is not advisable for the un-fit or un-healthy.
- b. At the assembly area, a team will be given a litter with a pre-tied container weighing approximately 95-pounds to simulate the casualty with 4 rucksacks (35 pounds each). The team will carry the litter and the equipment to the start line where the team will state they are ready. The judge will then command, "Set... GO!" The GO command will start the clock. At that point, the team will follow the course route WHICH WILL BE OVER ROUGH TERRAIN and through specific litter obstacles. It is likely you WILL get dirty, wet or muddy. The team must successfully negotiate each obstacle in sequence.
- c. At the finish line, all equipment and the litter must be over the line before time is stopped.
- d. Uniform: Recommend ACU/BDU pants, t-shirt and boots. Caps, jackets and gloves are not required but recommended. Jackets will be optional for team members in cold weather conditions. STRONGLY SUGGEST YOU BRING EXTRA UNIFORM ITEMS.

2) Specific Details:

- a. EQUIPMENT WILL NOT BE DRAGGED OR THROWN. THE RUCKSACKS WILL NOT BE CARRIED OR ATTACHED TO THE LITTER IN ANY MANNER. VIOLATORS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED. The team can organize themselves in any manner to carry the litter and equipment. Equipment and litter can be exchanged along the route during the movement phase. You can have two, three, or four people carrying the litter. Distribution of equipment and number of raiders on the litter is up to the team. The objective will be to negotiate the course and the six (6) obstacles with the simulated casualty strapped to the litter. If the simulated casualty is dumped, falls off or turned upside down at anytime in the rescue the team will receive a five (5) minute time penalty per occurrence.
- b. Failure to start the event when called by the meet official will cause the team to be disqualified from the event. Failure to bring all equipment across the finish line will disqualify the team.
- c. Once a cadet raider crosses the finish line, that cadet raider cannot go back and help team members or pickup any remaining equipment - their event is completed at that point. Violation of this rule will be a two (2) minute penalty PER OCCURANCE. Raiders can drop their equipment near the finish line but not over the finish line before crossing it and may return to help other team members. Team members can pickup equipment near the line to cross finish line without penalty. However, once any team member crosses the finish line they cannot go back onto the course.
- d. Spectators/Coaches/Instructors should carefully review the prohibition on "coaching" the team and/or run with the team while they compete to avoid severely penalizing your program. Cheering your program while they are competing is always encouraged.

3) Litter obstacles in sequence and specifics requirements:

- a. Obstacle # 1. Narrow Bridge - All team members, equipment and litter must be carried over the narrow (40 inches wide, 40 inches rail height and 25 feet long) bridge. Any attempt by the team or individual team members to go around the obstacle will result in a disqualification from the event.
- b. Obstacle # 2. High Wall – (Concrete construction, 12” wide, 68” tall and 10’ in length) Team must traverse the wall with all equipment and the litter.
- c. Obstacle # 3. Pit or Low Crawl – Sand Pit with barbed wire cover (13’ wide X 19’ long, 35” clearance from wire to ground) Team must crawl, scoot or drag themselves, equipment and litter under the wire cover. Hats or helmets are recommended but not required for this element. Helmets will be available at the assembly point.
- d. Obstacle # 4. Low Wall – (Concrete construction, 12” wide, 39” tall, 10” in length) Team and all equipment must go over the wall.
- e. Obstacle # 5. Up and Down – Up a ramp and down steps (Concrete construction 26’ in total length, slope up with 25 degree rise, 8’ feet wide, 4’ feet high, top platform is 8’ X 10’, 6 steps down)
- f. Obstacle # 6. Trench or Gully - (82’ in total length, concrete construction, 60 “ high, 60” wide at the top of trench and 40” wide at bottom with a 45 degree turn at mid point) Gloves strongly recommended for this element.

NOTE: Teams will be traveling over rugged uneven terrain from the starting line, between the six required obstacles and from the last obstacle to the finish line.

d. ANNEX D - RAIDER GAUNTLET

1) General Scenario:

- a. Raider Gauntlet is a team event of three miles or more over rough terrain, up and down hills (up to 45degree grades) and then return to the start line. The team will be carrying, 4 rucksacks (35 pounds each). The gauntlet is a physically demanding course emphasizing speed, team work and skills it is not recommended for the unfit or unhealthy
- b. The time will stop when all team members cross the finish line with all equipment.
- c. Uniform: Recommend ACU/BDU UNIFORM with boots. Jackets optional. Dress appropriately for the weather condition. Uniforms must be identical for all competing team members. Two water filled canteens carried on a web belt are recommended for each member of the team.
- d. Teams are required to have a compass, whistle and watch.

2) Specific Details:

- a. The course will be well marked with chalk lines, cones and or engineer tape. Additionally, Course monitors will be positioned along the route to ensure all teams are heading in the correct direction and following the rules.
- b. Team members can assist each other in any manner, however they MAY NOT interfere with another team.
- c. Spectators should carefully review the prohibition on "coaching" the team and/or running with the team while they compete to avoid severely penalizing your program. Cheering for your program while they are competing is always strongly encouraged!
- d. The team captain will be issued and must wear a Sportident "Finger Stick" and must record/stick the course control points along the course path during the competition. The "Finger Stick" will record the total elapsed time and split times for the event. "Finger Stick" will be turned in at the finish line along with all other event equipment.
- e. Penalties:
 1. 15-minute penalty will be assessed for any individual failing to successfully complete the event and cross the finish line.
 2. 5-minute penalty for any rucksack failing to successfully be carried through the event and cross the finish line.

e. ANNEX E – 3.2 MILE/5K CROSS COUNTRY TEAM RUN

1) General Scenario:

- a. Teams will run as a team for 3.2 miles on a variety of road routes. No equipment is utilized or carried by the team - this is a straight cross-country team run. Recommend teams carry two water filled canteens on web belts or camel back canteens for this event.
- b. The time will stop when the last team member crosses the finish line.
- c. Runners must wear identical appropriate athletic attire or identical uniforms of same style, color, design etc., this is left to the discretion of the team however, no bare midriffs are allowed and shirts are required to be worn at all times. If a team wears hats they must be identical in style, color and design. Athletic attire will be matching and personalized to ensure your team is identifiable, even from a distance. This may be accomplished through personalized shirts, shorts, etc. Running shoes or boots (recommended) are required footgear for the team run. (NOTE: Shoes and shirts MUST be worn at ALL TIMES during the Team Run).

Specific Details:

- a. Each team with its required number of cadets MUST cross the finish line with the first and last team member within a 10-yard zone with all other raiders in-between. The zone will be marked with white field chalk or cone/marker. Teams failing to finish with all team members within this 10-yard zone will receive a five (5) minute penalty per person.
- b. Team members can assist each other in any manner to include dragging, carrying, etc., however they MAY NOT interfere with another team. The team must not interfere with the event judge or timer. Teams completing the run must clear out of the finish line area so as not to interfere with other teams finishing. Instructors will not interfere with judges at the finish line. Any violation of this rule may cause the team to be disqualified from the competition.
- c. Spectators/Coaches/Instructors should carefully review the prohibition on "coaching" the team and/or running with the team while they compete to avoid severely penalizing your program. Cheering for your program while they are competing is always encouraged.
- d. Penalties:
 1. 15-minute penalty will be assessed for any individual failing to successfully complete the event and cross the finish line.
 2. 5-minute penalty for each team member finishing outside the 10 yard zone.

U.S. Open JROTC Raider Challenge Championship

Liability Release Form

(Must be completed for each participant, signed by parent(s) and turned in the day of the event)

_____ has my permission to participate in the

(PRINT – Cadets Last Name, First, MI)

Raider Challenge competition, hosted by the JROTC Department, North East Independent School District on January 17-18, 2014.

The undersigned Parent/Guardian (hereinafter, "I") understands that one or more TEACHERS/INSTRUCTORS/CHAPERONES WILL ACCOMPANY THE STUDENTS TO THE RAIDER CHALLENGE COMPETITION, AND that normal precautions will be taken in their interest for safety and well-being of each participant. I understand Raider events are physically challenging and are not recommended for the unfit or unhealthy JROTC Cadet.

School districts are immune from liability except when property damage, personal injury or death is caused by a district employee's negligent operation of a motor vehicle while performing district duties. As a result, and as a general rule, the District cannot pay for medical treatment for injuries resulting from activities not directly caused by a district employee's use of a motor vehicle. In case of emergency, I give my approval and authorization for first-aid treatment and any medical treatment of the student named above (the "Student") by local physicians and/or hospitals, including surgical procedures. I agree to accept responsibility for payment of all charges incurred during medical treatment.

I hereby agree to release North East Independent School District and its trustees, employees, volunteers, sponsors, The United States Army Cadet Command and the United States Army (collectively, the "Indemnities"), and to indemnify and hold the indemnities harmless from, all claims, liabilities, and expenses, (including (a) claims made by the student named above after reaching the age of majority, and (b) claims for damages caused in whole or in part by the negligence of the indemnities) relating in any way to the student's participation in the Raider Challenge competition identified herein.

This form must be signed and returned to the sponsor, teacher or administrator in charge of the group not later than January 17, 2014. No cadet will be permitted to participate in the Raider Challenge competition who has not returned this form, signed by parent(s) to the proper school personnel or who has altered the form in any way.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian

Date

In case of emergency school district staff should contact:

Name

Relationship to Student

Phone Number

Name

Relationship to Student

Phone Number

School Name & Phone number: _____

ANNEX F. Waiver of Liability Form

2014 U.S. OPEN JROTC RAIDER CHALLENGE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Friday-Saturday, 17-18 January 2014
TEAM REGISTRATION FORM and Camp Bullis Billeting request form

(Completed Form and Team Registration Fee is due Friday, December 13, 2013)

Make all checks payable to the NEISD JROTC Department

SCHOOL _____ TELEPHONE _____
ADDRESS _____ FAX: _____
_____ EMAIL _____

PRINT ALL INFORMATION LEGIBLY

JROTC Service Affiliation: ARMY MARINE NAVY AIR FORCE
(Circle appropriate service)

Division of competition: MASTERS (Circle appropriate one) EXPLORERS

Category of Competition: MALE (Circle appropriate one) FEMALE

The above JROTC team is requesting registration to the 2014 JROTC U.S. Open Raider Challenge Championships. The \$50.00 "per team" registration fee and \$10.00 "per participant entry fee" is attached with this completed form. This completed form and team & participant registration fee(s) are due in NEISD JROTC Office Not Later than Friday, December 13, 2013.

I have read, understand and agree to abide by the rules and regulations set forth in the Raider Challenge Competitions guidelines and will ensure all military instructors, coaches, chaperones and parents from my school are knowledgeable, understand and will follow all competition rules.

(Print name of JROTC Instructor)

(Signature of JROTC Instructor)

****Request Camp Bullis billeting for #_____ of male cadets and #_____Female cadets @ \$10.00 per night per individual cadet.**

#_____ total cadets X \$10.00 per = \$_____ X #_____ nights = \$_____

Make checks payable to the NEISD JROTC Department, mail to JROTC Dept. 8961 Tesoro, Drive, Suite 402.03, San Antonio, Texas 78217. Entry Fees due NLT 13 December 2013

ANNEX G. Team Registration & Billeting Request Form

2014 U.S. OPEN JROTC RAIDER CHALLENGE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Friday-Saturday 17-18 January 2014

RAIDER TEAM ENTRY FORM

(Completed Form and Entry Fee is due Friday, December 13, 2013)

TEAM/SCHOOL Name _____

INSTRUCTOR/COACH/SPONSOR/CHAPERONE _____

Each team must have its own entry form

Category of Competition
MALE FEMALE
Circle appropriate category

Division of Competition
MASTERS EXPLORERS
10 Team members & 8 team members &
8 participate 6 participate
Circle appropriate division

<u>TEAM MEMBERS</u>	<u>"T"</u> Shirt Size	<u>Team</u> <u>Confidence</u> <u>Course</u>	<u>Rope</u> <u>Bridge</u>	<u>Raider</u> <u>Gauntlet</u>	<u>C.C</u> <u>Rescue</u>	<u>3.2 Mile/5K</u> <u>Team</u> <u>Run</u>
1. _____	(____)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	(____)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	(____)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	(____)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. _____	(____)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. _____	(____)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
7. _____	(____)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
8. _____	(____)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
9. _____	(____)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
10. _____	(____)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Team must have and bring a Guidon or Flag with School Name displayed
Completed Form and Entry Fee is due Friday, December 13, 2013

Each team must have its own entry form

ANNEX H. Team Entry Form