



Fort Polk Combat Advisor Training: "Train Like You Fight"



Recently, an HTS team participated in the Combat Advisor Training course offered at Fort Polk's state-of-the art Joint Readiness Training Center in Louisiana in order to more fully prepare them to support the Soldier while working in a combat zone down-range. In the Combat Advisor Training Course, the human terrain team members experienced first-hand the importance of integrating with the military framework before deploying to the theater.

HTS Deputy Director, COL Mark Bartholf said, "The participation in the 162nd INF BDE's instruction allowed us to standardize our pre-deployment training and evaluate Fort Polk's ability as a deployment platform. The training was outstanding and will provide substantial efficiencies along with training our teams to integrate with the supported military unit when they get downrange."



HTS Team Leader trains w/ 162nd INF BDE

The trainees were evaluated individually and collectively based on a series of hands-on and written exercises. The Fort Polk HTT team included: Lee Jackson, James Dorough, Tarique Ayoobkhan, Ken Feiereisen, Joseph Stringer and Salem Bashi. The group was accompanied by CW3 Clinton Atwell who was the LNO responsible for logistical and coordination issues. Chief Atwell said, "This is definitely not a 'gentleman's course.' The hours are long, and the expectation is that students will attend and participate 100%. "

The six DA Civilian HTS trainees lived in the barracks and participated in training that included Combat Life Saver, Drivers Training including night time tactical driving w/night vision goggles, Small Arms Qualification on both the M4/M9 in a live night fire range, and Mounted Combat Patrol in a field environment. They participated in classes on UCMJ, Law of Land Warfare, Legal Preparation for Deployment (SSCRA, Wills, etc.), Combat Stress, Suicide Prevention, EO, POSH,

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<http://www.ausa.org/publications/armymagazine/archive/2009/9/Documents/Fort%20Polk.pdf>

SAEDA, In-Theater Medical Education and Traffic Safety. In addition, students were fitted for and issued OCIE and RFI.

During the course, the team participated in exercises that brought together all of their classroom preparation into realistic scenarios. The team members were able to successfully integrate into the patrol training and gain confidence that an un-armed HTT member could serve as a valuable asset in emergency situations. Students were taught how to program each radio system with both single channel and frequency-hopping encryption for secure voice transmission on VHF (FM) and UHF (SATCOM) radio bands. Equipment in training included the AN/PRC-148 (MBITR), AN/PRC-150, and the AN/PRC-152 as well as the DAGR GPS device, the ANCD and SKL encryption devices and Blue-Force Tracker systems.

The Combat Life Saver (CLS) course was rated especially high by the HTS trainees at Fort Polk for its relevance. Tarique Ayoobkhan, an HTT Reseach Managers called it “absolutely awesome.” Students in the CLS course were introduced to the principles and practices of combat medical care, application of tourniquets and pressure dressings, litter carries, drags and full-body carries, nasal pharyngeal intubation, treatment of pneumothorax injuries, chest decompression, administering IV saline locks, treatment of hot weather, cold weather and altitude injuries and treatment documentation. The class was split into teams in order to engage in a mass-casualty scenario with live role-players replete with false amputations that simulated arterial bleeding. The training products and self-development literature were assessed for compliance with current Army/TRADOC policy and TRADOC Technical Media Standards. Ayoobkhan singled out the Fort Polk slogan “Train like you Fight” as an ethic that gave him and other students a better grasp of the seriousness that awaits them once they are deployed in theatre.

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