

CHAPTER 1

RIVERINE TRAINING CENTER

General Information	
Riverine Training Center (RTC) Mission	2
Riverine Training Center History	3
Programs & Policies	
General	4
Available Courses	4
Military & Academic Standards for Courses	4
General Guidance to Commands, Units and Students	
Course Scheduling Process	6
Requesting Courses & Quotas	6
Requesting a Mobile Training Team (MTT)	8
Administrative Instructions	8
General Information for Students & Training Units	
The Training Letter of Instruction (TLOI)	9
General Standards	9
Reporting Procedures	9
Uniforms & Equipment	10
Billeting & Messing	10
Local Services	10
Mailing Address	10
Location of the RTC	10

CHAPTER 1

THE RIVERINE TRAINING CENTER

**“Wisdom begins at the point of understanding that there is nothing shameful about ignorance; it is shameful only when a man would rather remain in that state than cultivate other men’s knowledge.”
—Brigadier General S.L.A. Marshall**

GENERAL INFORMATION.

Mission of the Riverine Training Center (RTC).

“To train units and individuals in the execution of conventional riverine operations and amphibious raids in the riverine/littoral environment.

To provide academic instruction, training facilities and limited logistical support to Marine forces and Joint/Combined forces as required.

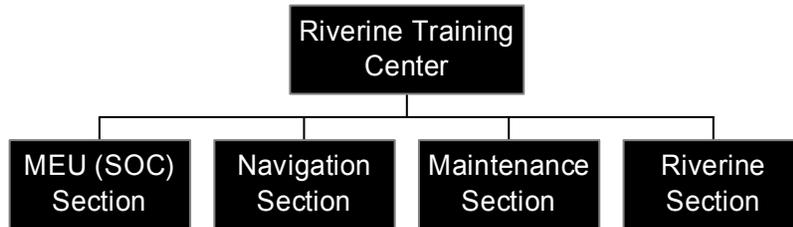
To provide facilities and personnel for the testing and evaluation of clothing and equipment, platforms, human performance and riverine/littoral war fighting doctrine.”



History of the Riverine Center of Excellence and the Riverine Training Center.

The Marine Corps’ Riverine Center of Excellence was activated on 6 January 1997 with the mission of providing a complete training and education program in support of CINC war fighting requirements for Joint Riverine Training Teams (JRTTs), MEU (SOC) amphibious raid companies and conventional Mobile Riverine Forces (MRF).

The RCE was established in order to consolidate riverine and small craft training, manpower, and equipment support at Camp Lejeune. The RCE exists not as a physical entity but as a concept that encompasses the whole Camp Lejeune training environment and MARFORLANT’s major subordinate commands. The operational training arm for the RCE is the RTC (currently established and functioning within II MEF’s Special Operations Training Group (SOTG)). In April of 1997, the Amphibious Raid Branch at Expeditionary Warfare Training Group, Atlantic (EWTGLANT) was absorbed by the Amphibious Raid Branch of the SOTG. Subsequently, SOTG was re-designated as ‘SOTG & RTC’. The completion of this action made April of 1997 the official standup date for the Riverine Training Center.



The RTC’s focus is on training conventional forces in a riverine environment. As such, Camp Lejeune was a natural choice for locating the Riverine Center of Excellence. This is primarily due to the abundance of rivers, creeks, estuaries, swamps and open water access to include surf zone, sheltered bays, sounds and waterways. This location and littoral access promotes training to include craft and equipment maintenance and live fire opportunities from craft to shore in a variety of climatic and littoral conditions. The Riverine Training Center graduated its first class in July 1997.

As an evolving, multi-phase project, the Riverine Training Center continues its growth towards the ultimate objective of being the core of a world class Riverine Center of Excellence based aboard Camp Lejeune:

Phase I	Establish a “Riverine Center of Excellence” at Camp Lejeune	Complete
Phase II	Establish a Joint Services Conventional Riverine Force Capability	Working
Phase III	Integrate USN-USMC Mobile Riverine Force capability into Combatant CINC contingency planning.	Planning

For two weeks Puller had commanded the rear of the First Marine Division, cut off in the Chosin Reservoir region by hundreds of thousands of Chinese Communist troops. The Colonel was visiting a hospital tent where a priest was administering last rites to a wounded Marine when a messenger came:
“Sir, do you know they’ve cut us off? We’re entirely surrounded. ‘Those poor bastards’, said Puller, ‘They’ve got us right where we want ‘em. We can shoot in every direction now.’”
—Lieutenant General Louis B. “Chesty” Puller

PROGRAMS AND POLICIES.

General.

Instruction presented by the RTC varies in scope from teaching individual students how to perform technical military tasks to training units to function as a team in conducting tactical evolutions. A military atmosphere in the daily routine is a vital part of all training. Formations, military courtesy and compliance with uniform regulations are stressed. This promotes good order and discipline and maintains the leadership and professional skills of the students.

Available Courses.

The courses offered by the RTC are designed to provide individual or unit training for the MEU (SOC) Pre-deployment Training Program (PTP), Small Craft Company (SCC), units assigned contingency missions and/or as directed by CG, II MEF.

The RTC provides both resident and non-resident instruction with the latter being conducted by Mobile Training Teams (MTTs). A variety of individual and unit resident courses are scheduled. All courses have an established Program of Instruction (POI). Available courses are listed with general course descriptions in Chapters 2 through 3.

Individual training is that type of training that provides each student with the knowledge and skills required to successfully perform specific duties and tasks related to an assigned military occupational field (MOS) or billet description. Emphasis is placed on evaluating the progress of all students in order to aid them in the mastery of the learning objectives.

Unit courses are those conducted to provide collective training designed to prepare two or more individuals to accomplish missions and tasks required of the group acting as a unit. Instruction is oriented toward training members of the unit to function as a team. Evaluation is based on the performance of the unit as a whole in accomplishing training objectives. Unit integrity is maintained for administrative and control purposes.

Training by MTTs is considered to be a supplement, not a substitute, for unit training when unit expertise is not available. MTTs can be scheduled for those commands whose situation does not permit taking advantage of resident instruction. Commands requesting MTT support should be aware that instructor availability and unit support capabilities will be key factors in scheduling a MTT. MTTs are normally tailored to meet specific requirements identified by supported units. All TAD and operational costs for the MTT must be provided by the requesting command.

Military and Academic Standards for Courses.

Individuals attending resident courses will be in a temporary duty for instruction (TEMINS) status and units are Operationally Controlled (OPCON) for training. Students and units undergoing training are governed by the orders and regulations issued by the Officer in Charge (OIC), SOTG, II MEF.

Individuals and members of units undergoing training are expected to maintain the highest standards of professional conduct and to exercise the authority and leadership responsibilities of their grade. Students are expected to adhere to the spirit and letter of grooming and uniform regulations established by this command and their parent service.



Academic performance is evaluated according to the mastery concept. Students may be dropped from a course for safety, academic or administrative reasons. Upon such action, SOTG will notify the student's parent command and return the student as soon as possible. Academic failure occurs when a student does not master course requirements as specified in a POI. Administrative action will occur when a student demonstrates poor professional performance or attitude; is frequently late for or UA (Unauthorized Absence will result in an automatic drop) from class; fails to meet course prerequisites; lacks the required security clearance; and/or, requires medical or emergency leave that results in a prolonged absence. [Usually missing more than two days will require a student to be dropped from a course.] Students dropped administratively from any course will be returned to their parent command consistent with the following:

Personnel dropped from a course will be returned to their parent command for appropriate disciplinary action.

Each student who successfully masters an individual course will receive a certificate of completion. Units completing a course will receive a certificate of completion presented to the unit commander (the parent command is responsible for reproducing copies of this certificate for presentation to individual members of the unit).

MOS designating courses require the parent command to make the necessary unit diary entries upon successful course completion.

“In no other profession are the penalties for employing untrained personnel so appalling or so irrevocable as in the military.”—General Douglas MacArthur

GENERAL GUIDANCE TO COMMANDS, UNITS AND STUDENTS.

Course Scheduling Process.

Courses are open to personnel that are participants in the MEU (SOC) program, members of Small Craft Company, members of a contingency unit and as may be approved and directed by the CG, II MEF.

Annual course schedules for each fiscal year are developed by SOTG. An annual training plan is published reflecting all known requirements for the fiscal year. Quarterly updates will be provided by message four to six weeks prior to the quarter concerned. Recognizing that unforeseen training requirements will arise, commands should submit requests for training as early as possible.

Requesting Courses and Quotas.

The MEU PTP schedule as determined during the MEU planning conference will dictate some of the course scheduling for RTC courses.

Commands should submit requests for a resident course or special course (one tailored to meet specific training objectives) a minimum of 120 days in advance of the desired start date for training. Requests to support an unforeseen training requirement should be submitted as soon as possible (preferably no later than 60 days in advance of the desired start date).

For information regarding the scheduling and coordination of RTC courses please contact the SOTG Operations office at DSN # 750-2982/2985; Commercial # (910) 450-2982/2985. *Any telephone request must be immediately followed with a formal request by message or letter.*

Address message requests to CG II MEF//SOTG//. Include appropriate commanders in the requesting unit’s chain of command as information addressees.

Address requests submitted by letter via the appropriate chain of command to the Officer in Charge, Special Operations Training Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force, PSC Box 20085, Camp Lejeune, NC 28542-0085.



All correspondence must contain a point of contact name and telephone number. Include the course required (or the objectives to be accomplished if a special course is desired) and the following information:

- Inclusive course dates.
- Number of students by grade.
- Billeting required.
- Messing required.
- Transportation arrangements.
- Points of contact for planning and coordination.
- Contact phone numbers and e-mail address.
- A notation that “course prerequisites are acknowledged and all students will meet those course prerequisites”.
- Additional information as deemed appropriate.

Except where otherwise noted, SOTG administers its resident course quota control. Commands must submit requests for quotas controlled by the OIC, SOTG, as prescribed above. For quotas controlled by other headquarters, address correspondences to the command indicated in the course description and include the Officer in Charge, SOTG as an information addressee.

When requesting quotas include the following minimum information for each quota desired:

Grade; last name; first name; middle initial; SSN; MOS; security clearance, effective date and basis of that clearance; unit RUC; and, request for billeting as required.



Requesting Mobile Training Teams (MTTs).

RTC is capable of providing MTTs in support of several of its POIs. These MTTs are designed to supplement, not substitute for, unit training.

RTC can tailor courses to meet specific requirements or provide basic instruction in subject areas considered deficient by the host unit. When requesting a tailored MTT, commands should be as specific as possible about the areas of required instruction.

Once a MTT is approved, it is incumbent on the host command to coordinate in detail with RTC to insure adequate classrooms, equipment, material and facilities are available locally to support the desired training.

Course lengths will vary, but it is recommended that MTT evolutions be five days or less in length. All TAD costs (to include expendable items) will be funded by the host command.

MTTs are scheduled based on instructor availability.

Requests for MTTs to support unforeseen requirements should be submitted as soon as possible, preferably a minimum of 60 days in advance of the course start date.

Commands desiring a MTT should submit requests via message addressed to CG II MEF//SOTG// with the following information:

Course of instruction required; number of personnel to participate; general description of participants' skill and experience level; general breakdown in rank/grade; proposed primary and alternate course dates; POC names and contact phone numbers and e-mail addresses; and, location of training.

Administrative Instructions.

Authorization for attendance at a RTC course is usually via non-reporting, TEMINS orders.

As applicable for resident courses, orders must be prepared with the statement that off base accommodations are authorized if government billeting is not available.

Orders must indicate the security clearance of the student, the effective date and the source of that clearance.

Order text must contain the statement that the student meets health, academic, physical fitness and all other prerequisites as outlined in the course description and/or the course TLOI.

Orders must cite the authority granting the quota and list the title of the course.

Students must have the original and six copies of their orders in their possession when reporting.

Units must provide their arrival information to the RTC OIC two weeks prior to the course start date. They must also be prepared to send an advance party two working days prior to the arrival of the main body (or as agreed to through direct liaison and written correspondence with the appropriate RTC course representative). The advance party should consist of personnel capable of preparing for and coordinating the check-in and billeting of their unit.

All pay issues to include advances, per diem and/or regular pay must be planned, coordinated, executed and resolved by parent commands. Students with medical, fitness, personal and/or pay problems that will impact their course participation and/or performance should not be assigned to a course.

“One of the biggest reasons for failure in the field of battle is not knowing what to do next and, in most cases, this is the result of not having been trained thoroughly in what to expect on the battlefield.”—General Orlando Ward

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND TRAINING UNITS.

The Training Letter of Instruction (TLOI).

A Training Letter of Instruction (TLOI) will be provided to individuals and units participating in any RTC instructed resident or non-resident course. Specifics referencing curriculum, course schedules, uniform and equipment, billeting, messing, material, training sites, academic/medical/fitness standards, performance evaluation, etc., not delineated by this catalog will be provided in the TLOI. *Administrative and/or training exceptions to the course catalog content and/or the TLOI should be communicated and confirmed via written correspondence from the supported unit.*

General Standards.

It is expected that all students scheduled to attend any RTC course understand and will abide by all applicable Marine Corps appearance and conduct standards.

It is further understood and expected that any student attending a RTC course will be medically qualified, physically fit and academically capable to complete the Program of Instruction.

Personal weapons and ammunition *are not authorized* for any RTC courses.

Students *will* muster with all of the required uniforms and equipment per this course catalog and/or the TLOI. Equipment shortfalls must be identified in writing a minimum of 30 days prior to the course start date.



General reporting procedures for individuals and units.

Individuals and OIC's for units attending a resident RTC course should contact the SOTG Operations office or the OIC, RTC, between 0730 and 1630 the working day prior to the class convening date for final verification of course participation.

Individuals and units attending a course will be expected to report to the OIC of the RTC (Bldg. # BB-12, Courthouse Bay) by 0700 the morning of the course convening date (unless otherwise agreed and confirmed via written correspondence). The utility uniform or its service equivalent is the reporting uniform for all RTC courses.

Students attending engineering courses will report to the Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Engineer School (MCES), Bldg. #BB-11 (MCES auditorium), Courthouse Bay, Camp Lejeune, no later than 0730 the morning of their class convening date. The utility uniform (or its service equivalent) is the reporting uniform for Engineering courses. The Point of Contact (POC) for MCES is the Operations office—DSN # 750-7520/7360; Commercial # (910) 450-7520/7360.

As may be required, contact the SOTG Operations office to confirm a reporting location and time for any particular class/course.

Uniforms and Equipment.

A standardized list of individual uniform and equipment requirements is published as Appendix E of this catalog. Additionally, course specific uniform and equipment requirements are published within the applicable course synopsis. Once scheduled for a RTC course, the individual and/or unit will receive a TLOI specific to that course. *Where there is conflict between the standardized list (Appendix E), the stated course specific requirements (course catalog synopsis) and the TLOI, the specified TLOI requirements will take precedence.*

Billeting and Messing.

Individuals and units from commands within II MEF will be billeted by their parent commands.

Individuals and units from outside II MEF must make separate arrangements for billeting. Orders for all grades should be written as ‘Government quarters not directed’. Orders written otherwise may require a statement of non-availability in the event that adequate quarters are not available.

There is limited billeting available for short duration stays at the RTC compound. These facilities are open squad bays intended to provide occasional overnight quarters as may be required by training.

As needed, messing is available at the Courthouse Bay messing facility for all enlisted personnel and officers.

Specific messing information will be contained in the course TLOI.

Local Services.

As home of the Riverine Training Center, Courthouse Bay offers service amenities that include mess hall, barbershop, 7-day store, sandwich shop & game room, laundry facilities, dry cleaner, gymnasium, recreation/weight rooms and chapel services.

Students mailing address.

As required, students may have mail sent to the following SOTG address:

Grade, Name, SSN
Course Title
II MEF (SOTG)
PSC BOX 20085
Camp Lejeune, NC 28542-0085

Location of the Riverine Training Center.

Please see Appendix B for a detailed description of the route(s) to the Riverine Training Center.

“There is a tendency in peacetime to conduct training by use of stereotyped situations which are solved by stereotyped solutions. In war, however, we cannot say, ‘This situation is so and so according to the rules which I have learned, I must attack or defend.’ The situations that confront one in war are generally obscure, highly complicated and never conform to type. They must be met by an alert mind, untrammelled by set forms and fixed ideas. In our peacetime tactical training we should use difficult, highly imaginative situations and require clear, concise and simple orders. The more difficult the situations, the more simple the order must be. Above all let us kill everything stereotyped; otherwise it will kill us.”—Captain Adolf von Schell