



# Special Forces Sniper Training and Employment

**UNITED STATES ARMY**

**DISTRIBUTION RESTRICTION:**

Distribution authorized to the DOD and DOD contractors only to protect technical or operational information from automatic dissemination under the International Exchange Program or by other means. This protection applies to publications required solely for official use and to those containing valuable technical or operational information.

**DESTRUCTION NOTICE::**

Destroy by any method that will prevent disclosure of contents or reconstruction of the document.

**2003**

**Copyright Notice:**

This E-Print © Clandestine Press, 2001 - 2008  
All rights reserved.



**FM 3-05.222 (TC 31-32)**

# **Special Forces Sniper Training and Employment**

**APRIL 2003**

**DISTRIBUTION RESTRICTION:**

Distribution authorized to U.S. Government agencies only to protect technical or operational information from automatic dissemination under the International Exchange Program or by other means. This determination was made on 3 February 2003. Other requests for this document must be referred to Commander, United States Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, ATTN: AOJK-DT-SFD, Fort Bragg, North Carolina 28310-5000.

**DESTRUCTION NOTICE:**

Destroy by any method that prevents disclosure of contents or reconstruction of the document.

**Headquarters, Department of the Army  
THIS E-PRINT (C) CLANDESTINE PRESS 2007**



**\*FM 3-05.222** (TC 31-32)

Field Manual  
No. 3-05.222

Headquarters  
Department of the Army  
Washington, DC, 25 APRIL 2003

# Special Forces Sniper Training and Employment

## Contents

	Page
<b>PREFACE</b> .....	iv
<b>Chapter 1 THE SPECIAL FORCES SNIPER</b> .....	1-1
Mission .....	1-1
Selection of Personnel .....	1-1
Qualifications of SOTIC Graduates .....	1-5
The Sniper Team .....	1-5
Sniper Team Organization .....	1-6
Sniper Training .....	1-6
<b>Chapter 2 EQUIPMENT</b> .....	2-1
Sniper Weapon System .....	2-1
Telescopic Sights .....	2-6
Leupold and Stevens M3A Telescope .....	2-7
Ammunition .....	2-10
Observation Devices .....	2-13
Sniper Team Equipment .....	2-29
Care and Cleaning of the Sniper Weapon System .....	2-33
Troubleshooting the Sniper Weapon System .....	2-41

**DISTRIBUTION RESTRICTION:** Distribution authorized to U.S. Government agencies only to protect technical or operational information from automatic dissemination under the International Exchange Program or by other means. This determination was made on 3 February 2003. Other requests for this document must be referred to Commander, United States Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, ATTN: AOJK-DT-SFD, Fort Bragg, North Carolina 28310-5000.

**DESTRUCTION NOTICE:** Destroy by any method that prevents disclosure of contents or reconstruction of the document.

\* This publication supersedes TC 31-32, 29 September 1997.

Page

**THIS E-PRINT (C) CLANDESTINE PRESS 2007**



	<b>Page</b>
<b>Chapter 3</b>	
<b>MARKSMANSHIP TRAINING</b> .....	3-1
Firing Positions .....	3-1
Team Firing Techniques .....	3-17
Sighting and Aiming .....	3-19
Breath Control .....	3-28
Trigger Control .....	3-29
The Integrated Act of Firing One Round .....	3-31
Detection and Correction of Errors .....	3-34
Application of Fire .....	3-37
Ballistics .....	3-40
Sniper Data Book .....	3-48
Zeroing the Rifle .....	3-51
Environmental Effects .....	3-59
Slope Firing .....	3-66
Hold-Off .....	3-69
Engagement of Moving Targets .....	3-72
Common Errors With Moving Targets .....	3-76
Engagement of Snap Targets .....	3-76
Firing Through Obstacles and Barriers .....	3-77
Cold Bore First-Shot Hit .....	3-78
Limited Visibility Firing .....	3-78
Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Firing .....	3-79
<b>Chapter 4</b>	
<b>FIELD SKILLS</b> .....	4-1
Camouflage .....	4-1
Cover and Concealment .....	4-10
Individual and Team Movement .....	4-12
Tracking and Countertracking .....	4-25
Observation and Target Detection .....	4-43
Range Estimation .....	4-57
Selection and Preparation of Hides .....	4-67
Sniper Range Card, Observation Log, and Military Sketch .....	4-80
KIM Games .....	4-91
<b>Chapter 5</b>	
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	5-1
Methods .....	5-1
Planning .....	5-2
Organization .....	5-5

**THIS E-PRINT (C) CLANDESTINE PRESS 2007**



	Page
Command and Control .....	5-7
Target Analysis .....	5-10
Mission Planning .....	5-14
Sniper Support in Special Operations Missions and Collateral Activities .....	5-18
Countersniper .....	5-30
Conventional Offensive Operations .....	5-32
Conventional Defensive Operations .....	5-35
Civil Disturbance Assistance .....	5-37
<b>Chapter 6 SNIPER OPERATIONS IN URBAN TERRAIN .....</b>	<b>6-1</b>
Urban Terrain .....	6-1
Sniper Support in Urban Operations .....	6-9
Urban Hides .....	6-14
Weapons Characteristics in Urban Terrain .....	6-23
Engagement Techniques .....	6-24
<b>Appendix A WEIGHTS, MEASURES, AND CONVERSION TABLES .....</b>	<b>A-1</b>
<b>Appendix B MISSION-ESSENTIAL TASKS LIST .....</b>	<b>B-1</b>
<b>Appendix C SUSTAINMENT PROGRAM .....</b>	<b>C-1</b>
<b>Appendix D MISSION PACKING LIST .....</b>	<b>D-1</b>
<b>Appendix E M82A1 CALIBER .50 SNIPER WEAPON SYSTEM .....</b>	<b>E-1</b>
<b>Appendix F FOREIGN/NONSTANDARD SNIPER WEAPON SYSTEMS DATA .....</b>	<b>F-1</b>
<b>Appendix G SNIPER RIFLE TELESCOPES .....</b>	<b>G-1</b>
<b>Appendix H BALLISTICS CHART .....</b>	<b>H-1</b>
<b>Appendix I SNIPER TRAINING EXERCISES .....</b>	<b>I-1</b>
<b>Appendix J RANGE ESTIMATION TABLE .....</b>	<b>J-1</b>
<b>Appendix K SNIPER'S LOGBOOK .....</b>	<b>K-1</b>
<b>Appendix L TRICKS OF THE TRADE .....</b>	<b>L-1</b>
<b>Appendix M SNIPER TEAM DEBRIEFING FORMAT .....</b>	<b>M-1</b>
<b>Appendix N SNIPER RANGE COMPLEX .....</b>	<b>N-1</b>
<b>Appendix O AERIAL PLATFORMS .....</b>	<b>O-1</b>
<b>GLOSSARY .....</b>	<b>Glossary-1</b>
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY .....</b>	<b>Bibliography-1</b>
<b>INDEX .....</b>	<b>Index-1</b>



## Preface

This field manual (FM) provides doctrinal guidance on the mission, personnel, organization, equipment, training, skills, and employment of the Special Forces (SF) sniper. It describes those segments of sniping that are unique to SF soldiers and those portions of conventional sniping that are necessary to train indigenous forces. It is intended for use by commanders, staffs, instructors, and soldiers at training posts, United States (U.S.) Army schools, and units.

FM 3-05.222 (formerly TC 31-32) addresses three distinct audiences:

- *Commanders.* It provides specific guidance on the nature, role, candidate selection, organization, and employment of sniper personnel.
- *Trainers.* It provides a reference for developing training programs.
- *Snipers.* It contains detailed information on the fundamental knowledge, skills, and employment methods of snipers throughout the entire operational continuum.

The most common measurements that the sniper uses are expressed throughout the text and in many cases are U.S. standard terms rather than metric. Appendix A consists of conversion tables that may be used when mission requirements or environments change.

The proponent of this manual is the United States Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School (USAJFKSWCS). Submit comments and recommended changes to Commander, USAJFKSWCS, ATTN: AOJK-DT-SFA, Fort Bragg, NC 28310-5000.

Unless this publication states otherwise, masculine nouns and pronouns do not refer exclusively to men.



## Chapter 1

# The Special Forces Sniper

The SF sniper is a selected volunteer specially trained in advanced marksmanship and fieldcraft skills. He can support special operations (SO) missions and is able to engage selected targets from concealed positions at ranges and under conditions that are not possible for the normal rifleman.

## MISSION

1-1. Specially organized, trained, and equipped military and paramilitary forces conduct SF missions. Their goal is to achieve military, political, economic, or psychological objectives by unconventional means in hostile, denied, or politically sensitive areas. SF conduct missions in peacetime operations and war, independently or in coordination with operations of conventional forces. Politico-military considerations frequently shape SF operations, requiring clandestine, covert or low-visibility techniques, and oversight at the national level. SF operations usually differ from conventional operations in their degree of risk, operational techniques, mode of employment, independence from friendly support, and dependence upon operational intelligence and indigenous assets. Figure 1-1, page 1-2, lists the SF principal missions and collateral activities and the support that a sniper provides. Appendix B contains the sniper mission-essential task list.

## SELECTION OF PERSONNEL

1-2. Commanders and assessors must carefully screen all candidates for sniper training. The rigorous training program and the great personal risk in combat require high motivation and the ability to learn a variety of skills. The proper mental conditioning cannot always be taught or instilled by training.

1-3. It is important for the commander to monitor evaluation and selection procedures, since each unit may have a different mission. There are no absolutes for selecting SF snipers. However, there are diagnostic tests, organizational indicators, and trends that help the commander identify potential snipers.

1-4. There are also several concrete prerequisites that should be met by the candidates before being accepted into the sniper program. Figure 1-2, page 1-2, lists the administrative prerequisites that the sniper candidate must meet.

1-5. The commander can determine personal qualities through background checks, interviews, records review, and counseling sessions. Recommended personal qualities should include, but are not limited to, those shown in Figure 1-3, page 1-3.



<p><b>Principal Missions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unconventional Warfare (UW)</li> <li>Foreign Internal Defense (FID)</li> <li>Information Operations (IO)</li> <li>Direct Action (DA)</li> <li>Special Reconnaissance (SR)</li> <li>Combatting Terrorism (CBT)</li> <li>Counterproliferation (CP)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Collateral Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coalition Support</li> <li>Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR)</li> <li>Counterdrug (CD) Activities</li> <li>Humanitarian Demining (HD) Activities</li> <li>Countermine (CM) Activities</li> <li>Foreign Humanitarian Assistance</li> <li>Security Assistance</li> <li>Special Activities</li> </ul>
<p><b>The SF sniper supports the above functions by—</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaging long-range targets with precision fire.</li> <li>• Obtaining and reporting enemy intelligence information.</li> <li>• Providing training.</li> </ul>	

**Figure 1-1. Special Forces Functions and How the Sniper Supports Them**

- Be a member of a special operations forces (SOF) unit having a validated sniper mission.
- Meet service physical fitness requirements (height and weight should be IAW AR 600-9).
- Have scored expert with the M4/M16A2 rifles in accordance with (IAW) FM 23-9. (Preferably, the candidate repeatedly scores expert during his biannual qualification.)
- Have no record of drug or alcohol abuse.
- Have no record of punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice during the current enlistment.
- Have a GT score of 110 or above and a CO score of 110 or above, or an SC score of 110 or above.
- Be in the pay grade of E4 or above and have a SECRET clearance.
- Have 20/20 vision or be correctable IAW AR 40-501. (Glasses are a liability unless the individual is otherwise highly qualified.)
- Have a psychological evaluation conducted under the direction of, and approved by, a qualified medical expert. (This examination includes, as a minimum, the Minnesota Multi-Phasic Personality Inventory [MMPI]-2 and a psychiatric history mental status examination.)
- Have at least 12 months of service remaining on active duty after completion of the course.
- Must not have been convicted of a domestic violence crime that would preclude him being issued a weapon IAW the Lautenberg Amendment.

**Figure 1-2. Administrative Prerequisites**

**NOTE:** Most of the prerequisites listed in Figure 1-2 are required to enter the Special Operations Target Interdiction Course (SOTIC) conducted at the USAJFKSWCS, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.





- Experience as a hunter or woodsman.
- Experience as a competitive marksman.
- Interest in weapons.
- Ability to make rapid, accurate assessments and mental calculations.
- Ability to maintain an emotionally stable personal life.
- Ability to function effectively under stress.
- Possession of character traits of patience, attention to detail, perseverance, and physical endurance.
- Ability to focus completely.
- Ability to endure solitude.
- Objectivity to the extent that one can stand outside oneself to evaluate a situation.
- Ability to work closely with another individual in confined spaces and under stress.
- Freedom from certain detrimental personal habits such as the use of tobacco products and alcohol. (Use of these is a liability unless the candidate is otherwise highly qualified. These traits, however, should not be the sole disqualifier.)
- First-class APFT scores with a high degree of stamina and, preferably, solid athletic skills and abilities.

**Figure 1-3. Personal Qualities**

1-6. The first three personal qualities are particularly important when it comes to sustaining sniper skills, because the sniper with these characteristics will have a greater desire to practice these tasks as they are part of his avocation.

1-7. Commanders may implement diagnostic and aptitude testing. Certain testing procedures may be lengthy and tedious and are therefore subject to limitations of time, equipment, and facilities. It is recommended that the psychological evaluation of a candidate be at least partially determined through the use of the MMPI-2. This test, if properly administered, gives the commander a personality profile of the candidate. It helps him decide whether the candidate can function in confined spaces, work independently, and has the potential to be a sniper.

1-8. The tests are more than simple mental analyses. Psychological screening establishes a profile of characteristics that indicate if an individual would be a successful sniper. Testing eliminates candidates who would not perform well in combat. Psychological screening can identify individuals who have problems.

1-9. To select the best candidate, the commander talks to a qualified psychologist and explains what characteristics he is looking for. That way, once a candidate is tested, the psychologist can sit down with the commander and give him the best recommendation based on the candidate's psychological profile.