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23 October 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 9 October 2014 requesting the following information:

*A new policy on Army training with the reference DTrg(A)/ITrgPolPlans/25/1 (27 March 2013), and
A new Operational Law Training Video for MATT 7, with the reference C5242/13.*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found enclosed.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

DTrg(A)/ITrgPolPlans/25/1

27 Mar 13

See Distribution

MILITARY ANNUAL TRAINING TESTS (MATTs) - POLICY UPDATE

References:

- A. CLF Directive 2013/14.
- B. PJHQ IPDT Directive Issue 4 dated 31 Jul 12.
- C. ODR Adoption Order Army HQ/DTrg(A)/06_04 dated 16 Aug 12.
- D. Op HERRICK Land Mounting Order Version 6.2 dated 01 Nov 12.

ISSUE

1. MATTs Issue 5 includes significant updates and amendments. The training material is contained in a set of DVDs and will be published and distributed by the British Defence Film Library (BDFL) in Apr 13. It will also be available via the DTrg(A) site on the Defence Intranet¹, but with reduced quality media clips.

BACKGROUND

2. MATTs are an integral part of the output standard for Phase 1 training and are the minimum requirement for mandatory Individual Foundation Training, to be achieved annually. Completion is also the start state for Op HERRICK Mission Specific Training (MST), Rest of the World (RoW) Individual Pre-Deployment Training (IPDT) and Collective Foundation Training.

3. This training should **not** be viewed as a 'box ticking' exercise. The MATTs training objectives should be used to underpin a progressive training programme. Successful completion of the MATTs package is absolutely fundamental to maintaining a consistent level of preparedness across the Army.

AIM

4. The aim of this paper is to update MATTs policy.

TIMINGS

5. This policy update coincides with the publication of MATTs Issue 5 as at 1 Apr 13.

KEY CONTENT UPDATES

6. **MATT 4 (CBRN).** The MATT has been re-written to include the General Service Respirator (GSR). Issue 5 still includes the S10 training material for units that have yet to convert.

7. **MATT 5 (Navigation).** MATT 5 has been completely re-written to provide a more focussed approach and also includes an enhanced training package to be used for anyone who fails to meet the required standard.

8. **MATT 7 (Operational Law).** Content of the Op Law package has been extensively re-worked and new video clips included in order to reinforce key learning points. The training requirement has also been amended to include delivery of all material at all levels, although there is no increase in the testing requirement.

¹ [DTrg\(A\) Intranet Site Link](#)

9. **MATT 8 (Survive, Evade, Resist, Extract (SERE)).** A new video has been produced which covers the full training requirement.
10. **MATT 9 (C-IED).** The CIED package has been re-worked to reduce the training burden. It remains Afghan-centric, but is subject to an ongoing Training Needs Analysis (TNA) that should deliver training better suited to contingency in the future.

POLICY DIRECTION

11. **Implementation.** MATTs Issue 5 is to be implemented with effect from 1 Apr 13 for the Training Year 13/14. All previous issues and Amendments of MATTs are then out of date and discs should be destroyed.
12. **Aim of MATTs.** The aim of MATTs is to maintain the minimum standard of individual military skills and attitudes required of a competent soldier.
13. **Pan-Defence Requirement.** It is mandatory for all Army personnel to undertake MATTs annually, irrespective of where they are serving across Defence.
14. **Chain of Command Responsibility.** The discipline of preparing personnel for operations is to be brought back into the contingency era and areas that have been neglected, due the nature of the current operation (e.g. CBRN) are to be re-energised. MATTs are not a discretionary activity; their completion is mandatory on an annual basis. Overseeing MATTs completion, the recording of data, the verification of statistical data and maintaining an audit trail of this process is the 'governance and assurance' responsibility of the chain of command.
15. **Chain of Command Waivers.** The requirement for granting a waiver for varying the completion of MATTs has been reduced from 2* to 1* formation commanders. Waivers may be granted where there is evidence that the standard of training has progressed to a level beyond the intent that underpins MATTs. If a waiver is granted, then this risk must be recorded by the formation headquarters and against each individual as an 'exemption' on the Operational Deployability Record (ODR).
16. **Phase 1 and 2 Training.** A successful pass at MATT Level 1 is one of the outputs of Phase 1 and 2 Training (less endorsed amendments) and the standards articulated in MATTs are included in the Operational Performance Statement (OPS) for recruits; this requirement remains extant.
17. **CBRN.** The emphasis on individual CBRN skills has declined due to Op ENTIRETY, however, future threats will almost certainly require a higher baseline standard across the Army as part of a formal progressive return to core competence. The CBRN Instructor requirement is outlined in DIN 2012DIN07-109: Mandated Course Trained Personnel within an Army Unit and is to be adhered to
18. **TA Bounty.** The completion of MATTs is a qualifying criterion for the award of TA Bounty and there is a direct relationship between MATTs and TA remuneration; this requirement remains extant.
19. **Individual Professional or Course Qualified Waivers.** Army Competent Advisors and Inspectorates (ACA&Is), via DTrg(A), are authorised to grant individual waivers for those personnel who are professionally or course qualified to a higher level than the MATT; the current endorsed list is at Annex B. Individuals are to comply with the validity criteria and the details are to be recorded as an 'exemption' on ODR.

20. **Operational Requirement.** There is no change to the ECAB-endorsed policy² baseline for MATTs or the HQ LF policy³ that dictates that 'all individuals are to attain the highest standard prior to commencing MST; MATTs must be passed at Level 1 before individuals commence MST'. This applies equally to IPDT and preparation for undertaking a period at Very / High Readiness. It is considered acceptable for personnel to deploy on operations, provided that MATTs have been passed at Level 1 within 12 calendar months prior to deployment with the exception of: MATT 1 (Weapon Handling Tests (WHT) and Annual Combat Marksmanship Test (ACMT)), MATT 2 (Personal Fitness Assessment (PFA) and Annual Fitness Test (AFT)) and MATT 3 (Battlefield Casualty Drills (BCD)) - these 3 tests are to have been completed within the previous 6 calendar months. Where personnel fail to achieve the standard of MATT Level 1 prior to deployment it remains necessary for the chain of command to seek dispensation for individuals to be deployed at risk. This will normally only be granted in extenuating circumstances. Applications should be made up the CoC to PJHQ.

a. **Rationale.** The requirement to complete certain MATTs within 6 calendar months exists in order to ensure that individuals and Force Elements (FE) that have not completed an extensive and progressive MST or V / HR training pipeline (eg IRs, BCRs and non-DCC sub-units) are current and competent in these core skills before deploying.

b. **Exemptions.** The Op HERRICK MST and Very / High Readiness training progression is such that the majority of FEs deploy at a standard beyond that required by MATTs, hence there is no need to re-shoot the ACMT or re-take the AFT. Likewise, those soldiers who qualify as Team Medics are beyond the required MATT 3 (BCD) standard. In such cases a chain of command waiver must be applied for in line with the guidance at para 15.

21. **Joint Training Requirements (JTRs).** In accordance with the Op HERRICK Land Mounting Order, Deployment Categories 1-3 are required to attain 'full compliance' in the Op HERRICK JTRs 1-9. These are synonymous with MATTs 1-9. It must be noted however, that JTRs are operation specific and it should not be assumed that MATTs will be equivalent in all cases. Direction on JTRs for other operations should be sought from Joint Force Command / Joint Warfare, via DTrg(A).

22. **Post Op HERRICK Currency.** Individuals that return from an Op HERRICK tour during the period 1 Oct-31 Mar (the latter half of the TY) are deemed to be MATTs current until 1 Apr (the start of the next TY); individual details are to be recorded on ODR.

23. **Recording of MATTs Data.** All MATTs results are to be recorded using ODR. In addition, MATT 2 is to be recorded on FISS. A link is being worked on that will enable ODR to draw the results directly from FISS, but until that is successfully established, double recording of MATT 2 is required. By strict adherence to this policy (rather than using unit created spreadsheets) unnecessary repetition of training will be avoided. Reserve units are to continue to record results in BLENHEIM.

DTrg(A)

Annexes:

- A. MATTs Training Summary as at 1 Apr 13.
- B. MATTs Exemption Qualification Table as at 1 Apr 13.

Distribution:

Army HQ Lists 4-8, 10

² GS/7/5/4/6 (ACGS) dated 24 Jun 06 Maintaining Common Military Skills.

³ LE/DTrg(A)/Trg/11/4/3/MATTs Currency for Operations - Change to Policy Amdt 1 dated 1 Aug 09.

Military Annual Training Tests (MATTs) – Training Summary (As at 1 Apr 13)

Trg Level	MATT 1 Personal Weapon Training	MATT 2 Fitness	MATT 3 Battlefield Casualty Drills (BCD)	MATT 4 Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear (CBRN)	MATT 5 Navigation	MATT 6 Values and Standards	MATT 7 Operational Law	MATT 8 Survive Evade Resist Extract (SERE)	MATT 9 Counter Improvised Explosive Device (C-IED)
1	2 x WHTs Annual Combat Marksmanship Test (ACMT)	2 x PFA Annual Fitness Test (AFT) – 8 miles	BCD L.1	TO 4.1 TO 4.2	Navigation	All	All	All	All
2	1 x WHT Live Fire 3 (25m shoot)	1 x PFA AFT(TA) – 6 miles	BCD L.2	TO 4.2	Map Reading	All	All Test LOAC only	Nil	C-IED L.2
3	1 x WHT	2 x PFA	BCD L.3	Nil	Nil	All	All Test LOAC only	Nil	Nil

Level 1: Personnel in regular deployable units. Personnel deployed on enduring operations. NATO RF and deployable NATO HQ staff (including HQ ARRC). Instructors at ARTD / Defence Training Schools. Individuals with a post with a deployable role or shadow role. TA units and personnel warned for operations and TA personnel serving with Regular units.

Level 2: TA personnel not warned for operations and regular soldiers on the strength of TA units.

Level 3: Individuals in non-deployable HQ posts. Individuals in non-deployable units.

MATTs EXEMPTION QUALIFICATION TABLE – As at 1 Apr 13

MATT	Description	Course/Professional Exemption Qualification	Period of Validity	Remarks/Caveat
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
1	Personal Weapon Training	Nil		
2	Fitness	Nil		
3	Battlefield Casualty Drills	MATT 3 Instrs RMOs CMTs at Regimental Duty RNOs (Regt Nursing Offrs) Accredited Paramedics	Whilst in role ¹ Whilst in role Whilst in role Whilst in role Whilst registered	BCDT Course no longer taught and qualification ceases to exist after Mar 13 – see 2012DIN07-042 for further detail. CMTs in secondary care must complete MATT3.
4	CBRN	Nil		
5	Navigation	MAPRIC Unit Nav SME	Until release of new Unit Nav SME Cse.	Only those with the new qualification (Unit Nav SME) or the old MAPRIC and a Hand Held GPS qualification.
6	Substance Misuse only	RNOs (Regt Nursing Offrs)	Whilst in role	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)

¹The term 'Whilst in role' is relative to your medical professional's employment. Previous terminology was 'on-call' or 'on-duty'. This should be determined by A&S. Do not allow 'on-duty' to be used in the job specification or induction medical professional requirements. For example a doctor working on a SMO site would be exempt but that same doctor would not be exempt when employed in another role and if supervisor does not require their medical professional competence in that role then they are not required to provide it.

7	Op Law	Nil	
8	SERE	SERE Level C Unit SERE (Level B) Instr	5 years 5 years
9	C-IED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced EOD Operator High Threat EOD Operator Defence EOD Operator JS IEDD Operator Bomb Disposal Operator Royal Engineer Search Advisor Herrick Search Advisor All Arms CIED Instructor All Arms CIED Assistant Instructor Patrol Search Awareness Instructor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unless currently employed in role: 6 years 6 years 6 years 6 years 6 years 6 years 6 years 3 years 3 years 3 years
			From Apr 13 only due to change of trg DVD.