

DOS (3077)

Oct 82

SUBJECT: PJ Issues

MEMO TO: DO

1. During the last two weeks I have become concerned with the stagnation of ARRS/CC initiatives by the DO staff. The specific initiatives are the Combat Operations Criteria for ARRS Para-rescue Personnel and the soft body armor/load bearing equipment test to be conducted by ASD. Each will be addressed separately.

2. The PJ combat rescue criteria that you submitted to ARRS/CV and CC is the first command approve operating parameters that contain definitive guidance and employment policy. To implement this policy it was drafted as a Chapter 9 change to our governing combat rescue regulation, ARRS 3-1. However, during the course of coordinating the draft change, questions have arisen as to the applicability and acceptability of the approved criteria (ref Atch 1 & 2 notes by DORJ). This vacillation in opinion after the criteria had been developed and approved is confusing and frustrating the PJ's in the various directorates that must develop the supportive training programs, equipment requirements and source document changes necessary to achieve the stated capability. I believe that we are experiencing stalling tactics since the ARRS staff is not accepting the unified position on the ARRS/CC PJ employment criteria. This is not a new experience, ARRS/CC has come on line with his desires (this time in detail) and the staff continues to inhibit the actions required to implement the policy. ARRS has been in limbo on the PJ employment issue since 1975. Now that we have marching orders, may I suggest we form up and move out. To attain the desired end capability will require a great deal of work, with the staff moving together. I believe we should get the sensitive and/or provocative points of the employment policy out in the open, resolved to your satisfaction and chart a course of action. These decisions should appropriately be made by you without the PJ's defending the present criteria. Once again, tell the staff what you desire, and as technicians, the PJ on the staff will submit the requirements to you to meet the end. As indicated earlier, work has been started on the PJ employment. This includes the following attached point papers and draft correspondence:

- a. Combat training source references - Atch 3.
- b. Combat equipment requirements - Atch 4.
- c. Combat training requirements - Atch 5.
- d. SOT course background - Atch 6.
- e. Combat skills point paper for SOT - Atch 7.
- f. Draft letter requesting SOT course quota - Atch 8.



3. Lastly, is the body armor/load bearing equipment issue. We are presently at a standstill with the discovery of previous ballistic data for Kevlar material. If, in fact, the data supports the ineffectiveness of the vest we should have a response to Gen Mall's letter. I find it difficult to understand how Maj Terrell can stop a requirement requested by ARRS/CC. This is not to suggest that we stumble on blindly, but at least we should consider briefing Gen Mall where the test/evaluation stands.

4. The bottom line of the PJ issue is that we are attempting to prepare the career field for combat. Many barriers are placed in front of us in our endeavor. From the headquarters we need to follow a course of action to reach the stated combat tasking without random deviation. The further loss of career field experience will be directly contributable to the lack of direction. Whatever the decision is on PJ deployment, we must unify the staff, wings and units behind the goal.

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