

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Ridge Runner (RR) Irregular Warfare training.

1. **Purpose.** Summary of RR background and training capabilities.

2. **Facts.**

a. RR was previously used as Joint Personnel Recovery Agencies (JPRA) evasion exercise encompassing a three state area; Pennsylvania, Maryland, and West Virginia. The naming convention was used as a legacy term and in 2012, RR began to shift focus to support Irregular Warfare training. The evasion lanes were expanded and various communities and interagency partnerships were formed to create a complex, dynamic-scenario based training “laboratory” using the population as the center of gravity to offer the most realistic training opportunities for SOF.

b. Currently RR has over 500,000 acres of training area throughout the state. The interagency/intergovernmental partnerships established provide use of operating infrastructure to incorporate into the user’s needs. Several communities participate in exercise support activities. When Key Leader Engagement (KLE) is needed, real community or government leaders are used to add realism to the scenario. Local and state law enforcement are used to support scenario activities and always coordinated ahead of time with control measures/observer-controllers to ensure all safety measures are followed. Turnpike toll booths are used as passport control points to cross into another notional country. This is accomplished through partnerships with Dept of Highways with pre coordination to ensure the proper language speaking passport agent is in place to enhance realism in the scenario.

c. In 2013, a BETA was conducted to test the viability of the program. The 92nd Civil Affairs Battalion conducted an exercise driven toward challenges perceived in their deployment to Europe. Afterwards, 2/19 SFG(A) conducted a UW exercise to test three ODAs, an ODB, and a slice of the BN Headquarters. Albeit two distinct missions, RR was able to provide challenging scenarios spread throughout the state. Several communities participated and provided realistic KLE’s to challenge the most experienced operator.

d. In 2014, RR continued to support SOF activities by hosting the 92nd Civil Affairs BN a second time, elements of 10th SFG(A) conducted UW training and in July, RR provided training to Lithuania SOF elements to support SOCEUR objectives. The West Virginia National Guard was able to involve the Pennsylvania National Guard due to their State Partnership relationship with Lithuania and provide Soldiers from both states to imbed joint training and ultimately culminate the exercise with a direct action target interdiction training mission in Pennsylvania.

e. RR incorporates land access, interagency/intergovernmental relationships, and cyber programs to offer unique IW venues from rural to urban environments. RR can facilitate tactical dirt airstrips that are C130 capable and municipal asphalt airstrips for infil/exfil training. West Virginia also has a variety of CDS capable drop zones to incorporate into any training scenario. The rural land areas provide a variety of challenging terrain to support a Robin Sage event or long overland movement. The urban areas provide opportunities to conduct advance skills training. Our access to infrastructure facilities offers targeting opportunities as well as conditional infiltration/entry training. RR utilizes cyber programs such as second life to provide advanced skills training overlaid with physical application within the training mission.

f. RR was established to enhance the SOF ability to train in the most realistic environment possible. Every exercise is custom designed to meet the user's training requirements and objectives. This program is designed to enhance, not replace other training centers and missions.

3. Pictures of RR.





Develop and execute an Irregular Warfare training environment to enhance the knowledge and skills required to successfully conduct Irregular Warfare activities in support of the Combatant Commander.



WVNG RIDGE RUNNER

Concept (DoD 3000.07, ARSOF 2022 Pt I & II)

Develop and execute Special Warfare and Surgical Strike training scenarios to enhance the knowledge and skills required to conduct Special Operations in support of the Combatant Commander

WVNG personnel and resources providing timely, cost effective, world class IW training scenarios

Usage (SOCEUR, 10th SFG(A), 19th SFG(A), 92nd CA)

Customizable scenarios to meet CDR's requirements

500,000 acres of training area providing geographically diverse scenarios

Enduring civil/military relations

State and local government officials, business owners, and citizens readily volunteer support to Ridge Runner initiatives

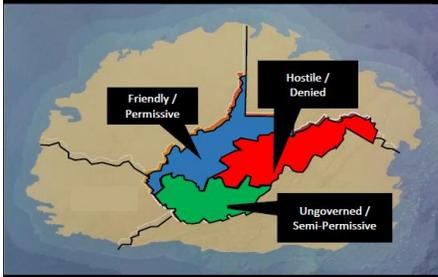
Potentiality (NDU, JIIM)

USASOC's premier training activity for UW, FID, CMO, CT, CP, DA and Recovery Operations

Access to Institutional Knowledge

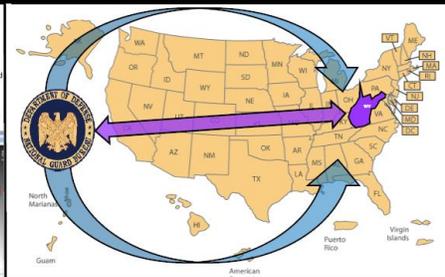
Exercise SOF Operational Design Flow

Enables Campaign of Learning



Cyber Activities

- Appia Island Observer
 - Website for scenario media injects
- Secnet file
 - non-standard communications, training, and rehearsal capabilities
- Unity (future development)
 - I.W Marshall University enhanced graphics



“Service Members Training Service Members”