



FACT SHEET

USAF Fact Sheet

Security Forces Defender Challenge 2002



Ten all-star security forces teams from U.S. Air Force major commands worldwide, the U.S. Department of Energy and the Royal Air Force Regiment will meet at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, Oct. 21-24, 2002, for the 20th annual Defender Challenge security forces competition.

Defender Challenge 2002 will pit “the best of the best” defenders in head-to-head team competition in the craft and tools of their trade – weapons employment and tactics. Additionally, this year’s competition will serve as a test-bed for new weapons and equipment, including the M4 rifle, which is replacing the legendary M16 rifle in the security forces arsenal, and as a proof-of-concept evaluation for the Close Precision Engagement day and night sighting system. The competition, which was first held as a marksmanship contest in 1952, was modified to an Olympics-style series of events in 1981.

Each major command selects the best of their best to produce a single command team, which then trains and prepares for the worldwide Defender Challenge competition. Due to the current operations tempo, the Air Force Special Operations Command, 11th Wing and Air Force Academy defenders will combine efforts and form one team. Teams consist of eight primary members and a team captain/alternate.

The Defender Challenge 2002 opening ceremony will be held at the Lackland AFB Bob Hope Theater on Sunday, Oct. 20, at 2 p.m. Competition events will be held Monday, Oct. 21 – Thursday, Oct. 24. This year, teams will compete in three events:

Pistol Competition, a fast-paced timed course of fire on a computer-driven firing range. The pistol competition features pop-up and steel plate targets representing friend/foe, hostage, no-shoot and interactive targets. This event will take place at Lackland's Medina Annex Monday, Oct. 21 – Wednesday, Oct. 23.

Combat Weapons, a combined nighttime fire team field exercise. In this event, two fire teams totaling seven M4 riflemen and one M249 Squad Automatic Weapon operator will engage targets up to 600 meters (about 2,200 ft) away while contending with rugged terrain and booby traps. The Combat Weapons competition will be held at Camp Bullis Monday, Oct. 21 – Wednesday, Oct. 23.

Sadler Cup, a tactical exercise considered the toughest test in Defender Challenge. The Sadler Cup event requires teams to plan and execute a challenging tactical operation on short notice. Detailed planning, tactical know-how and strong leadership are all necessary to successfully tackle this event. The event is named after Maj. Gen. Thomas M. Sadler, a pioneer Director of Security Forces. Sadler Cup competition takes place at Lackland's Medina Annex Monday, Oct. 21 – Thursday, Oct. 24.

The Defender Challenge 2002 closing ceremony will be held at the Lackland AFB Bob Hope Theater on Thursday, Oct. 24, at 4 p.m., followed by a banquet at 6 p.m.

Point of Contact

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