



Defender Challenge 2003

Frequently Asked Questions



QUESTION: May team members be able to carry a copy of the Airman's Manual for Warrior Challenge?

ANSWER: No.

QUESTION: Although it is annotated that teams should bring the appropriate foul weather gear (i.e. Gore-Tex jacket and pants) to each event, will this be evaluated regardless of weather? In other words, will they be required to have it on hand -- even if not worn -- during favorable weather conditions.

ANSWER: Team members must bring all gear to the Sadler Cup designated staging area. Once the gear has been checked, Squad Leaders will be given the opportunity to tailor the load. For the Warrior Challenge and Combat Weapons events, Team Captains can make the call on foul weather gear prior to reporting to the designated staging areas.

QUESTION: We've seen a version of the required equipment listing where under the notes section, it was annotated that patrol caps should be worn under the Kevlar helmet. Is this a requirement?

ANSWER: This was an oversight on our part. Patrol caps do not have to fit under the helmet nor be worn under the helmet.

QUESTION: Will teams be able to carry the M240B during the tactics event, or will M60s be used as a substitute?

ANSWER: The M240B will be used during all Defender Challenge 2003 events.

QUESTION: For the handgun competition, if we bring shooting glasses with us, will they be staged on the range or will they be required to be carried during the physical challenge event?

ANSWER: You must carry your shooting glasses with you through the physical challenge event if you want to use your own. Yes, they could get broken. If you arrive at the handgun range without your own shooting glasses, glasses / goggles will be available.

QUESTION: Chapter 5, section, 5-5 states required equipment for the Warrior Challenge. It does not state if you need M-16 ammo pouches. It only states 9mm pouches, holster canteens (or camelback) 9mm, gas mask. Is this correct?

ANSWER: For Warrior Challenge, all squad members will report to the designated staging area with an LBE or LBV, web belt, two M9 ammo pouches, M9 holster, gas mask (filter installed), patrol cap, canteens (full) and M9 handgun. Equipment will be inspected to ensure each member is properly equipped and prepared for the event. All other equipment, not mentioned, is optional. Devices or equipment that facilitate squad members' negotiation of obstacles or skills stations, which are contrary to the spirit and intent of the competition, are forbidden.

QUESTION: During the obstacle course portion, can any person in the squad carry any weapon... for example, can a team leader carry the 240B or does it have to be the person assigned in that position?

ANSWER: All weapons and equipment must be carried through the obstacle course. Squad members are not allowed to leave weapons or equipment on the ground while they negotiate an obstacle. Squad members must start and finish the Warrior Challenge with their own equipment and weapons. All squad resources can be utilized to ensure every member successfully negotiates each obstacle safely and correctly. Squad members may assist each other.

QUESTION: With the M203 Day Night Sight being sent to the MAJCOMs for training will we now be required to bring a M203 to DC?

ANSWER: No, do not bring M203s with you. M203s will be in place. The Day/Night Sight is being sent to your training camps for familiarization training. Prior to firing the M203 for score, each grenadier will get a quick briefing on the Day/Night Sight operations and have an opportunity to fire for zero and make sight adjustments.

QUESTION: Can we use our Army National Guard troops as trainers or coaches.

ANSWER: The Army National Guard augmentation is for Force Protection of our installations. They cannot be used in any other capacity.

QUESTION: I know we will be given M203s at the comp, will we also receive the vest or do we need to bring 3 with us?

ANSWER: 40mm Ammo Vests will be provided by the Competition Cadre. Teams are not required to bring their own.

QUESTION: The Brochure made reference to the U.S. Army Soldier's manual Common Task (Skill level one) book, which publication are they referring to? the latest one is AUG of 03, or are they referring to an older publication?

ANSWER: Please use the latest version of the Soldier's Manual of Common Tasks

QUESTION: The Interceptor vest will be used correct? Do we need additional plates in vest or are they doing the same as last year, with just the vest, groin protector and neck collar?

ANSWER: Yes, use the Interceptor Vest with the neck (collar) protection. This year, you are required to bring the Level III plates (front & back). The optional groin and throat protection is not required.

QUESTION: Are range finders authorized in the Combat weapons event? Also, are they authorized in the Sadler Cup?

ANSWER: Range Finders are not authorized this year. Because Defender Challenge has evolved into a mini laboratory for data gathering, we look hard at what technology we want Teams to have available. Because the VIPER II (the best range finder we have) is still not widely fielded, we made a conscious decision to prohibit it this year. We envision incorporating the M24 and VIPER II next year or the year after. Please refer to Attachment 2 of the Rules Brochure for authorized equipment.

QUESTION: What are the requirements for Team Captain? (I.e. Rank, position, status, number of competitions?)

ANSWER: The Team Captain is a position of responsibility... not rank. Team Captains are usually the most experienced person on the team. Team Captains can be the alternate.

QUESTION: If the Team Captain is the alternate and outranks the squad leader, and the alternate has to replace a member of the team (i.e. M240 Gunner), will the alternate be expected to take the squad leader position as the ranking person, or is it up to the team Captain whom to replace and retain the original squad leader?

ANSWER: The Alternate may be any rank (does not count against your team rank requirements). The alternate however, is held to the "individual" requirements for number of competitions. If the alternate does not replace anyone during the competition, this year does not count against them. The same applies to competitors who have been alternates in years past... being an alternate does not count as a year of competition unless they actually replace someone.

QUESTION: For coaches, does Para 1-6c. (5) apply this year?

ANSWER: Each team's "Head Coach" must adhere to the coaching limitations. Assistant coaches (fitness, weapons, etc.) are not held to the limitations.

QUESTION: If the ranking member, who is an alternate, must take the leadership position, will the rank be determined by TIG/TIS/TAFMSD or will we be able to designate the new leader from our available personnel of equal rank according to our determination of the individual's capabilities?

ANSWER: For your planning, the alternate should be qualified on all weapons systems. If the alternate must replace a team member, his/her rank is not an issue... the Squad Leader (the ranking primary competitor) remains in place.

QUESTION: Are Chemical Training Ensembles needed for any events? I know it is not listed on the equipment list, but I wanted to check for training purposes.

ANSWER: No Chemical gear needed except the gas mask (with filters).

QUESTION: Is it permissible to have more than one officer/SNCO compete on a team? Additionally, would it be permissible to have an officer/SNCO as an alternate?

ANSWER: Each team can have only one officer or one SNCO... not both (unless waived by request). The alternate competitor may replace a primary team member by notifying the Competition Control Officer (CCO) of an event before the start. The alternate, if any, may be any grade or length of service. Once replaced, the primary team member may not compete in any further events. If the alternate does not compete, their attendance does not constitute a year of participation. Once the alternate has replaced a primary team member, further losses of primary members will result in the team competing without replacements. Team alternates will receive medals for team events.

QUESTION: We're having trouble obtaining the PVS-18's. Are they needed for the upcoming competition? If so, can you point us to some sources?

ANSWER: All Defender Challenge events this year take place during daylight hours. Night vision equipment and laser aiming devices are not needed.... please don't bring them.

QUESTION: Can we wear the new MICH helmet this year?

ANSWER: Yes, the MICH helmet is authorized.

QUESTION: We have a DOD Police Officer here at the 11th WG who would like to participate in DC. Is he eligible to compete? If so, is there anything specific we have to do for him, i.e. a waiver?

ANSWER: DoD Civilians are allowed to compete without waiver. They are limited to competing 5 times in a career and coaching twice.

QUESTION: Do all defenders participate in Combat weapons and Handgun events?

ANSWER: Combat weapons will be a squad, live-fire event. All members will participate with their weapon of assignment from the Transformation Squad. The M203 gunners will fire the M203 on a separate range. All 10 Team members will fire the handgun during the handgun event.

QUESTION: Do all team members participate in the fitness event?

ANSWER: The fitness event is called the Warrior Challenge. All team members will complete the course. The Warrior Challenge will combine physical fitness and core skills (from AFMAN 10-100 and the CFETP).