



HELICOPTER SPECIAL OPERATIONS COURSE

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Helicopters are vital instruments in counterinsurgency and police operations. When employed effectively, helicopters may be decisive in the success of operations against insurgents and criminals. The TridentCMG Special Operations Helicopter Course consists of classroom instruction and field exercises that train and certify helicopter pilots, crew members, special operations forces, and law enforcement personnel for the tasks associated with using helicopters in air assault operations. Air assault is the movement of ground-based military and/or police forces by aircraft and helicopters into and out of an area of operations. Helicopters may be used as transport, close air support, medical evacuation and resupply missions. In the TridentCMG Helicopter Special Operations Course students will learn the skills necessary to pilot, perform crew chief/gunner duties, provide air support and to insert/extract forces from an operational area. At the end of this course pilots, crew chiefs, gunners and special operators/agents will be able to employ these skills across a range of high-risk operations. All training will be *performance-based-training* to ensure that the participants are absorbing the instructional material by evaluating their ability to successfully put theory into practice.



REQUIREMENTS:

TCMG Leadership:

Four (4) Instructors

Class Size:

Thirty (30) Students, maximum.

Prerequisites:

Candidates for this course must be qualified helicopter pilots, candidates for rope master and assault team personnel responsible for the insertion/extraction of forces in and out of high risk target locations. All should be experienced military or sworn police officers in good standing, or other official government agents recommended for the course by his government.

Training Facilities:

Classroom, gunnery range for aerial gunnery

Logistics:

Customer to provide all aircraft, weapons, logistics and accommodations

COURSE OF INSTRUCTION



The TridentCMG Helicopter Special Operations Course will be tailored to the unit, type of aircraft and mission of the agency. The course will teach the requisite skills-set for conducting tactical helicopter infiltration and exfiltration of personnel via air assault, fast rope, rappel, and air land operations. Graduates of this course will be qualified to plan, prepare, conduct, supervise, train personnel, and lead all facets of helicopter infiltration/exfiltration operations; and to conduct and supervise associated helicopter operations (rigging and door gunner). Host agencies may not have a requirement for all qualifications and will receive instruction and certification relative to their organizational requirements, capabilities, and resource.

COURSE CONTENT includes, but is not limited to the following:

- History of helicopter infiltration/exfiltration
- Roles and responsibilities of the Helicopter Infiltration/Exfiltration Master
- Development of organizational helicopter capabilities
- Helicopter characteristics and nomenclature
- Knot tying, rope management, equipment maintenance
- Tower training and protocol
- Helicopter air assault operations (air to ground)
- Helicopter tactical rappelling operations
- Helicopter Jacob's ladder operations
- Helicopter fast rope operations
- Aerial gunnery
- Rigging – tower and helicopter
- Descending with equipment and K9
- Night/low-light operations
- Briefing and debriefing aircrew and team members
- Instructor skills and teach-backs
- Mission planning, reconnaissance
- Situational Training Exercises (STXs)



Fast-roping is a high risk insertion technique useful for deploying special units from a helicopter into places where the helicopter is unable to land. Fast Roping is quicker than rappelling, although more dangerous if operators/agents are carrying heavy loads, because the rope is not attached to them with a descender. Helicopter rappelling allows operators/agents to insert in a controlled descent using rappel ropes, harnesses and other personal protective equipment. In the TridentCMG Helicopter Special Operations Course, students learn knots and rigging systems and upon mastery of these subjects, put the knowledge to use in static facilities prior to day and night helicopter exercises. The curriculum is comprised of ground school, rope procedures, written exam, tower exercises, and helicopter rope exercises/scenarios.



Aerial gunnery training will be customized to the agency's mission, types of "target of interests," and types of aircraft. The curriculum provides for day and night operations and stresses safety procedures. TridentCMG will also assist in developing SOPs and use of force doctrine.