

## JRTC UMT

# FAQs

**Q.** I've heard horror stories about UMT Observer Controllers (O/C) at Combat Training Centers. What are the O/C like at JRTC?

**A.** *We are not out to get any one! It is our philosophy to do everything in our power (short of doing your job for you) to help you have a successful positive rotation. We recognize that we all are partners in the ministry and therefore it is our desire to help each UMT achieve its maximum military ministry efficiency.*

**Q.** What paperwork do I need to send to the UMT O/Cs prior to my rotation?

**A.** *At least 30 days prior to your rotation, we will send a JRTC success packet to the Brigade Chaplain. The packet includes our focus areas as well as some other simple questioners and forms. The information you provide us in advance will help us to tailor training opportunities to your needs. One of the forms in the packet deals with individual goals during the rotation. It is essential that each UMT member only send in two goals. It is also highly helpful if the goals are very specific in nature. Remember all paperwork sent to us should come through your BDE UMT.*

**Q.** When will we first meet our UMT O/C?

**A.** *We will first meet the Brigade UMT at the Leader's Training Program (LTP) at D+ 90. We will meet all of the UMTs in Chapel 10 a few days prior to the deployment into the box. Plan on spending two hours going over information and questions.*

**Q.** What is meant by the box?

**A.** *The box refers to the training area on Fort Polk and Peason Ridge which is approximately 35 miles north of Fort Polk.*

**Q.** How do we get into the box?

**A.** *Unless you parachute into the box, you will fly into Alexandria, LA airport where you might stay at the Initial Staging Base (ISB) or you might stay in the cantonment area on*

*North Fort until you are ready to be inserted into the box. Regardless of where you stay on D-Day you will either convoy or air assault into the box at Fort Polk or Peason Ridge.*

**Q.** Are we required to attend the final UMT AAR?

**A.** **YES!!!** *The final UMT AAR is mandatory for all UMT members. It is typically held one to two days after ENDEX. While we encouraged you to attend any of your units other AARs, they are not mandatory for you to attend. Please inform your commander or XO that the final UMT AAR is a mandatory event for **ALL** UMT members.*

**Q.** How do I get to the AAR?

**A.** *The final AAR is held in Chapel 10 on North Fort. Your O/C will give you a strip map, time and date of the final AAR while you are in the box.*

**Q.** What is the AAR?

**A.** *The AAR is a professional discussion focused upon your UMTs training objectives and is related to specific events and standards. The JRTC UMT AAR lasts for two hours. There are no breaks or intermissions. Those who must use the restroom are asked to quietly excuse themselves and use the facilities located in the front of the chapel. Food, tobacco products and drinks are not allowed in Chapel 10. Arrange for a guard to be left with any sensitive items you may have while the AAR is in session.*

**Q.** We will not be bringing a Catholic or Islamic chaplain. Can you help us obtain one locally?

**A.** *No. You are responsible to bring whatever religious support your unit requires for the time that they will be here. UMT O/Cs and the IUMT do not provide religious support to visiting soldiers while they are training in the box. Please plan ahead.*

**Q.** I am bringing EMEs to JRTC, but no Catholic Chaplain. Where can I obtain communion hosts to give them?

**A.** *You must make arrangements to obtain communion hosts from the Catholic chaplain at your installation.*

**Q.** Can I send my soldiers to Catholic or Lutheran services on main post?

**A.** *Prior to D-4 and after the rotation ENDEX soldiers are welcome to attend services at any one of the chapels located on main post. However, your UMT must arrange for their transportation to and from your unit's location. Please do it before arriving at Fort Polk.*

**Q.** What do we do if there is a "real world" emergency.

**A.** *While you are at the JRTC all emergencies are considered "real world." You are required to staff and work all MASCALs, Red Cross messages, deaths and any other serious event through your chain of command in accordance with your UMT and unit SOP/TACSOP.*

**Q.** What happens if one of my soldiers is MEDVACed from the box?

**A.** *In the event that a soldier is injured to the extent that they must be extracted from the box, they are typically flown to the CSH where they are given preliminary treatment. If the CSH determines that the treatment requires more extensive facilities they are sent to Bayne-Jones Army community hospital on Fort Polk (BJACH). Sometimes the commander wants the unit chaplain to visit the soldier. If this is the case, the chaplain cannot simply go to BJACH. Instead, the commander must request permission from the Commander of Group (COG) for the chaplain to be released from the box to visit the soldier. Once the COG grants permission, the chaplain must notify the UMT O/Cs to inform them that permission has been granted to leave the box. It is up to the responding chaplain to make arrangements for transportation to and from the hospital through their unit. UMT O/Cs do not provide transportation.*

**Q.** What if I must leave the box for an emergency situation or other event?

**A.** *UMT members may only leave the box if granted express permission by the COG. Requests for permission must be sent through the UMT's chain of command. Without the COG's permission, leaving the box for any reason is considered an EXROE violation.*

**Q.** What does it mean to be "white hated"?

**A.** *The term refers to a condition where the O/C takes control of the situation because the training UMT is unable to handle the circumstances. This condition is highly unusual. Typically the O/Cs never "white hat" any event unless the UMT tells them that they are unable to accomplish their mission unless the O/C takes charge.*

**Q.** How do I reach a UMT O/C while I am in the field?

**A.** *You may approach any O/C and ask them to call us on their radio. They will ask what our call sign is and what net we monitor.*

*We monitor the CSS Command Net.*

**Q.** Is there a chapel that we can sign for?

**A.** *If you wish to utilize Chapel 10 at North Fort please coordinate with the Installation UMT, (337) 531-4628. You must comply with their rules and SOPs for the use and maintenance of their building. The building has minimum ecclesial provisions. The IUMT does not supply sound systems, overhead screens, projectors or public address systems. There are photos of Chapel 10 on the Fort Polk website.*

**Q.** How does my UMT travel around the box?

**A.** *You must travel in IAW the unit TSOP and JRTC EXROE. Typically that means you cannot travel alone but must travel in a convoy.*

**Q.** Can I conduct services during the PAUSEX or Change of Mission?

**A.** *Yes, but you must remain in the FOB you were at when the PAUSEX or COM was called. You may not move around the box or from unit to unit to conduct your services.*

**Q.** What happens to me in the event that I am "killed"?

**A.** *In the event that you "die" during the rotation, you will be sent to the Personnel Holding Area (PHA) where you will remain for approximately 24 hours, or until your unit is able to send a request for your replacement.*

**Q.** Who provides religious support to our soldiers who come to Fort Polk with the advanced party or stay with the trail party?

**A.** *Your brigade UMT is responsible to write a plan to provide or perform religious support to these soldiers. Typically this means that one of the brigade's UMTs must fly out with the advanced party and another of the brigade's UMT must stay until the trail party leaves.*

**Q.** Who provides religious support to soldiers who are taken out of the rotation due to medical or personal actions?

**A.** *Normally the brigade chaplain makes arrangements with the CSB or CSH chaplain to pay them a visit at the North Fort holding barracks or Force Provider. Under unusual circumstances, the Fort Polk duty chaplain will be asked to visit the soldier.*

**Q.** If I am captured can I conduct services or counseling for the enemy? (OPFOR)

**A.** *You can and should conduct religious support for any of your soldiers who were capture with you. If you wish to extend those worship opportunities to the enemy soldiers you may do so, but you risk losing your credibility with your own troops who will surely feel that your actions provided comfort to the enemy and thereby aided and abetted them. Besides, the enemy here at Fort Polk have their own chaplain and chaplain assistant to take care of their spiritual needs.*

**Q.** My division chaplain would like to visit my UMT while we are in the box. What do I say?

**A.** *VIPs may visit your UMT while in the box in one of two ways. 1. As a member of BLUFOR. In which case they are inserted into the box by the unit with MILES and full "battle rattle". They remain "players subject to the rules of EXROE until they are extracted by the unit. 2. They may request one eight hour visit by calling FORSCOM central tasking (DSN 367-6597). Their request will flow through channels to JRTC Protocol to the JRTC S-3 to the Commander of Group who either approves or denies. If approved, arrangements are made for the VIP to right-seat-ride with a UMT O/C.*

**Q.** While at JRTC I would like to visit with an old UMT friend who is stationed at Fort Polk. Can I do that?

**A.** *Personal visits are encouraged prior to D-4 and after ENDEX.*

**Q.** What is the religious denomination of my O/C?

**A.** *Please do not ask. The denomination of the O/C has no bearing upon the professional relationship we establish here at JRTC.*