

Elbert County
JROTC Raider Challenge
Letter of Instruction
17 October 2026

1. Purpose: This LOI announces the Annual Elbert County Raider Challenge to be held at Elbert County Comprehensive High School, 600 Abernathy Circle Elberton GA 30635 on 17 October 2026.
2. Scope: The Elbert Raider Challenge Competition is designed to:
 - a. Offer cadets a physically demanding competition
 - b. Promote a competitive spirit among the participants
 - c. Provide a physical Fitness Challenge
 - d. Develop respect and self-esteem among cadets
3. Specifies: There will be a total of five (5) events with a Female/Male/Mixed team of fourteen-persons (14) total competing. You may substitute the extra team members as you see fit. Only ten (10) members will perform the event and the same ten that start must finish. Mixed Teams must have a minimum of 4 Females competing in each event.
 - a. 5k Team Run: Each team will line up in a designated order. One team will start every 30 seconds (unless otherwise stated) until all teams have begun. All coaches will record their time, and turn it in to the designated volunteers. Uniform will be team shirt, ACU/OCF pants, and Running shoes. (Annex A)
 - b. One Rope Bridge: Each team must construct a One-Rope Bridge across a span of approx. forty-five feet. You need to bring your own swiss seats, rope and snap links. A kernmantle or standard Army issue nylon laid 120ft rope may be used. 10 Minute time limit on construction of Rope Bridge. (Annex B)
 - c. Cross Country Rescue (CCR): The team will carry a simulated injured person (weighted box) on a litter, and 6 or 4 rucks (depending on classification) through a designated course. This course will have several obstacles to negotiate. (Annex C)
 - d. Obstacle Course: Navigate 10 obstacles and get bands. 100 bands max, most bands wins. If there is a tie with the bands, fastest finish time wins. (Annex D)
 - e. Tire Flip: Male/Mixed Five members will flip the tire for 50 meters. The remaining 5 Raiders will then swap out and flip the tire back past the start line. For the Female Team, Four members will go down and then swap out, and the remaining four will flip back to the start line. (Annex E)

READ all special instructions for the conduct of each event.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. The competition will be held at Elbert County High School located approximately 36 Miles northeast of Athens, Georgia.
2. Trophies will be awarded for the top 3 Male, Mix, and Female Teams overall. Medallions will be awarded for individual events.
3. Graders will be from the Army National Guard and Army Recruiting personnel if possible, otherwise team coaches will serve as graders.
4. Each Male/Female/Mixed team will consist of (14) fourteen members. These 14 members will be identified before the competition starts in the morning. 10 Cadets will compete in each event. A member may be substituted for events using the designated fourteen. No substitutions are authorized once the team has started an event. Injuries will be reported and checked prior to a substitution. Schools may enter a Male, Mixed, or Female Team, or all three.
5. ACU/OCP uniform with boots will be worn for all events. 5k mile run uniform is ACU/OCP pants with running shoes.
6. Teams will perform the 5k run first. They will assemble for the run NLT 0750. The run will begin shortly after the coaches meeting, which will be at 0730. The run will be on a paved road and utilize a cross country course this year (see map). The course will be closed, and have police, fire trucks, and road guards placed at intersections. It is imperative that teams make the start time. Teams that fail to report by the designated time will be disqualified. We only have emergency services for a designated period of time.
7. The teams will rotate through the events in the most efficient way possible: Team Run, Tire Flip, CCR, Obstacle, and Rope Bridge. If a back log exists move to another event with less wait time.
8. The entrance fee for each FIRST team will be \$100.00 per team. A fee of \$35.00 will be charged for additional teams, limit 3 teams per school. The cutoff date for registration and refunds is on 09 October 2026. (Annex F)
9. Each team should have a release from liability form for each cadet participating in the competition. This form can be from your school system or the one provided in Annex G.
10. National Guard Members and Recruiting personnel will grade the events if available. They will score all events except the Rope Bridge competition (unless they are trained in rope bridge), normally selected experienced personnel or volunteer coaches will score this event.
11. Schools may set up tents in the main parking lot or by the gym. Please do not park buses on the circle as it is part of the 5k run course.
12. Coaches/Team Captains meeting will begin at 0730 and the competition (Team Run) will start at approximately 0800.

13. If you have any questions. Contact LTC James D. (JD) Collie by e-mail at jd.collie@elbert.k12.ga.us, or call the JROTC Department, Elbert County High School (706) 213-4100, ask for ext. 4159 or 4136, or Mobile 770-597-7812.

ANNEX A

5k RUN

1. Ten (10) Male, Female, and Mixed Teams will line up behind the start line and on the command "GO" the team will begin. The Raiders must finish as a team (All raiders must be in the designated box before any Raider crosses the line). Time does not stop until the last raider passes the finish line. Males will go first, followed by Mixed Teams, then Females. Instructors will be the time keepers.
2. There are no substitutions once the team has started.
3. Uniform will be ACU/OCP pants with t-shirt, and sneakers.
4. This approximate 3.1 course is on a closed road.. The course contains multiple hills, and also goes cross country through woods and fields, then back onto a paved road.
5. This event is the first event for all teams.
6. The 30 second interval (or other designated time based on situation) is used to encourage competition. Be ready when called to start.
7. A 1-minute penalty will be assessed for unsportsmanlike conduct (ie. Cussing, blocking teams, etc). A 5 minute penalty will be assessed for any team that finishes with less than 10 Raiders. A team that finishes with less than 9 Raiders will be disqualified.



ANNEX B ONE ROPE BRIDGE (One Attempt)

1. One Rope Bridge

- a. Each ten-member Male/Mixed/Female Team must construct a one-rope bridge spanning a forty-five-foot distance between poles. Teams will only get one attempt. We will not use a first attempt as a training session. Rope Bridge will be built **IAW TC 3-97.61 (FM 3-97.61) Military Mountaineering (AUG 2012)**.
- b. Teams may use either a Nylon laid 120-foot rope or Kernmantle rope to construct the bridge. No bag is required for this event.
- c. Far side Raider may clip rope into snap link or throw rope over the shoulder, but rope must be on-belayed on the nearside.

2. The rope bridge will be graded in the following manner.

- a. Each team will start at a designated rope bridge point with their rope in a coil at the base of the near side anchor point (bag or no bag is authorized). On the command "Go" the team will build the rope bridge. Time will stop when the team has crossed the bridge and the near side person has crossed the dead zone and all knots are out of the rope, and the team captain states "Time." Swiss seats do not need to be taken off before time is called. The seats will be checked on the near side for accuracy of knots and may be tied prior to reporting to the site. (TC 21-24 5-50, pg. 5-20 (2). Penalties will not be assessed for seats not properly tied, Raiders will be afforded time to make corrections. The 120-foot rope does not need to be recoiled on the far side.
- b. The first and last cadet may wear sling ropes properly tied around the waist, minimum two wraps around the waist secured with square knot and tied off with an overhand knot or half hitches on each side of the square knot. The far side person may tie an end of line bowline or figure eight on a loop hooked in the snap link or over the shoulder when crossing the dead zone to the far side.
- c. The rope does not have to be coiled in any special manner after torn down, but will be free of any knots at the finish line.
- d. The time will start and finish at the Rope Bridge Site.

3. Penalties will be assessed according to the rope bridge score sheet. (Annex H).

4. Uniform will be ACU/OCPs with boots and T-shirts. Any equipment dropped in the dead zone will result in a 30 second penalty. Stepping into the dead zone will also be a 30 second penalty.
5. All teams will use the same poles at this competition. There are two sets of poles and are approximately 10 inches in diameter, 45 feet apart, and are pressure treated. There is a penalty box at the base of each pole. The dead zone area is approximately 35 feet in length.
6. A rope that fails or falls will result in that team being disqualified.

ANNEX C

Cross Country Rescue

I. Cross County Rescue

- a. Male/Mixed/Female Teams will run the course with 10 cadets. The course includes obstacles for the team to negotiate over. The course will go through woods and has rough areas to pass through.
- b. There will be obstacles to negotiate on the course. No coaches will be allowed on the course while their teams are running it.
- c. Each Male/Mixed team will carry a litter with a simulated injured person (weighted box approx. 100lbs), and 6 rucks weighing approximately 30lbs. Female Teams will carry an 80lb litter and 4 rucks weighing no more than 30lbs. The teams can organize themselves any manner they want to negotiate the course but only the “dummy” may be carried on the litter. No ropes or belts etc. will be used to carry equipment only muscle.
- d. **All equipment must be passed over the high obstacles and taken under the low Obstacles, they cannot be dropped or thrown.**
- e. The team will negotiate a 10 foot wall during the event. The litter will be passed around the wall. Teams will approach the wall set the Litter on the ground and they will go over the wall, the rucks must go over the wall. They will then pick up the litters and continue to the finish line. A briefing will be given at the start point on the route.
- f. Uniform will be ACU/OCP trouser, T-shirt and boots.
- g. Scoring will be based on total time to negotiate the course by the team. All equipment must cross the finish line for the time to stop. Equipment cannot be thrown or dropped. If the litter is dropped a 30 second penalty will be assessed. If a ruck is dropped from the wall a 30 second penalty will be assessed. If the litter is damaged due to rough handling, the team may be disqualified. Team members may come to the finish line and set equipment down on the **course side** of the finish line and go back and help other members. They cannot set equipment down over the finish line and go back.

ANNEX D

Obstacle Course (One Attempt per Obstacle, Time Limit per Team)

1. Each ten-person Male/Mixed/Female team will navigate a course designed to test agility, team work, and endurance.
2. (NEW) There will be a 12 minute time limit for males, 14 minute time limit for Mixed and Female teams to complete the course. You may only attempt an obstacle one time, but must complete the course in your allotted time or be DQ'd.
3. The course will consist of slant wall, weaver/under-over, rope crossing over water (hands or feet must be in contact with the rope at all times, touching the water is not a DQ if you are still on the rope), parallel bars, up and overs, 10' wall, monkey bars, belly buster, tire jump through, pipe tunnels, run back to start line. Members will receive a rubber band for every obstacle successfully completed. 100 bands possible. If there is a tie on bands, fastest finish time wins.
4. 10 Male/Mixed/Female Cadets compete at a time.
5. Team with the most rubber bands wins, in the event of a tie, best time will win.
6. Uniform is ACU/OCP pants, T-shirt and boots.

7. Inverted Wall (First Obstacle)



8. Weaver



9. Static Rope Bridge over water



10. Parallel Bars



11. Vaults



12. 10ft Wall



13. Monkey Bars



14. Belly Buster



15. Tire Dive (Cannot use cables for help)



16. High Crawl



ANNEX E

Tire Flip

1. Each 10-member Male/Mixed/Female Raider Teams will flip a large tractor tire a distance of 50 meters, across a mid-point line and flip the same tire 50 meters back to the start/finish line. The tire will be a team flip. Time begins at the command of "Begin" and stops when the whole tire is completely across the start / finish line.
2. The lane judge will walk along with the teams as they traverse the approximately 50 meter course to observe and maintain a safe event execution. The tire cannot be allowed to excessively twist or roll while being flipped. If it does twist it cannot be touched. A penalty will be assessed if tire is lifted while twisting. The tire must remain completely within the lane at all times while being flipped. If any portion of the tire comes in contact with the boundary line the team has committed a lane violation.
3. SAFETY: Team members cannot stand or move in front of the tire as it is being flipped.
4. PENALTIES: a. Lane violation: 30 seconds
b. Intentional safety violation: Team is disqualified. No penalties for wobbling, unless it is a safety issue.

***If you have a signed release that your school requires, that satisfies this requirement for the Cadet's info. Like JCLC, you need to have your Cadets insurance info if they have to go to the hospital.**

ANNEX G

RELEASE FROM LIABILITY
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ELBERT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL
600 ABERNATHY CIRCLE
ELBERTON, GA 30635

GENERAL RELEASE AND MEDICAL CARE AUTHORIZATION

I/We, the undersigned, hereby grant permission for _____
a legal dependent, to participate in the below listed activity of the Elbert County JROTC department.

Type of Activity: Raider Challenge Meet to be conducted October 19, 2024 at the campus of Elbert County High School, Elberton, Ga.

I/We do hereby agree to release, and otherwise hold harmless, all US Army retiree officers and noncommissioned officer instructors, advisors, US Army, school administrative officials, and the Elbert County Department of Education from any liability for personal injury, property or other type of loss which occurs as a result of the afore mentioned activity, to me or any of the undersigned. I/We understand and agree that my signature here under constitutes a waiver of rights by myself or my estate to sue, for any personal injuries, death or property damage caused by, or a result of the activity of, the here in above named parties, and I/We freely assume all risks, hazards, or losses which may result from said activity.

JROTC instructors, school, and Elbert County officials will make every reasonable effort to properly supervise, control, and render safe all training and activities related to this competition. This day of,

Emergency Phone: _____

(Student signature) _____ (Parents signature) _____

INSURANCE INFORMATION

This is to certify _____ that is covered by insurance providing coverage for hospital and medical treatment.

Name of Insurance Company: Policy/Certificate Number: _____

Name of Parent/Guardian _____ Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Annex F

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ELBERT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL
BLUE DEVIL BATTALION
ELBERTON, GA 30635

c

From (School)

POC (Please Print)

SCHOOL ADDRESS:

Number of Teams:(Three team limit) _____

Name of Teams: Team 1 (\$100.00) _____

Team 2 (\$35.00) _____

Team3 (\$35.00) _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ (Make checks payable to: Elbert County JROTC)

Signature of POC: _____

**** No refunds will be returned after 10 October 2025.

Mail checks and forms to: Elbert County High School
Attn: JROTC Department
600 Abernathy Circle
Elberton, Ga. 30635-1999