

## Trip Report

### Part One: Discussion

Between September 16<sup>th</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016, myself and Sgt Graham were attached to the 151<sup>st</sup> Royal Logistics Corps in London, to observe and participate in their version of our Basic Leadership Course called the PNCO Carter. The course was held at Wretham Camp in Thetford, England a couple hours north of where they drill. For this exercise we did some basic weapons familiarization, Physical Fitness regiments and tests, radio communications review, and captured personnel instructions as well as some basic field set-up and hygiene review. Our objective in this course was to learn from our allies what leadership is to them. The course is designed to teach them how to be effective leaders and therefore train their subordinates for future promotional opportunities.

### Part Two: Observations

During this exchange we were able to observe a variety of the basic soldier skills their future leaders are expected to know and be able to pass on. We were able to witness these basic warrior skills in the areas of fitness, communications, drill and ceremony, weapons functions and field protocol. During their drill and ceremony I noticed not only a clear difference in marching and commands, but the fact that their movements are all exaggerated compared to ours. I noticed also that while their PT standards are higher as part of their course, their actual physical training is quite informal compared to ours. They have similar planning to ours including daily staff meetings that equate to our After Action Reviews as well. Some of their training is nearly identical to ours as well, for example, weapons handling, even though the weapon itself is quite different, and captured personnel care.

### Part Three: Lessons Learned

Some of the lessons I have learned from attending this course have been in the simplicity that our leadership schools are incredibly similar. We may use different lingo and acronyms for equipment and functions, but we have the same basic objectives. Our captured personnel procedures for example, are almost identical and we share the same escalation of force rules. However, when it comes to shooting they do not have the ability to shoot with either hand like we do. Their SA80 would put brass right into their eye if they shot left handed. For someone like myself who is left eye dominant and has always shot left handed, something as basic as learning to shoot another weapon with the other hand, was quite the task.

We learned some of these things by getting to participate in parts of this course with them. Since it was a promotional course, we didn't participate with the students each time because we didn't want to interfere, or mess up their training to confuse them in any way. However, when it came to captured personnel training, we got to assist them in the hands on portion of the class. We also got to work with them side by side when we were dealing with radios and communication. When it came to weapons handling and marching though, we were taught on the sideline with an available staff member so as to learn more without taking away from the students' knowledge. We even got to repay the favor

and teach them a bit of our drill and ceremony procedures and go through the differences with the M16 in comparison to the SA80.

#### Part Four: Recommendations

My personal recommendations would include maintaining attendance of the PNCO course, even if only for some of it. I thought it was a great foundation to learn their basic skills alongside them and get the feel of how their training is conducted. I would also like to recommend keeping some of the cultural visits in place. Getting to learn more about the other British forces such as the Navy were just as important to learn about as their Army.

A second recommendation would be to have the chance to be a leader in their exercise. I think, towards the end of the training period, that it would be interesting to be in one of their leadership roles to show what we've learned from them. Aside from learning what they've taught us, it would be interesting to see what they pick up from our personal leadership styles and see if they notice differences we haven't picked up on. An AAR could be conducted with their Soldiers and leaders and each party could have the chance to learn something new.

I would also highly recommend future applicants and participants to really review their history and learn about their rank structure and insignia before departing. I know it's something I wish I would have done more of before I attended. We are there to learn, and no, they never expected us to know all of their history and rank structures, but it shows that much more dedication to the program and respect knowing that we did our research.