

Lightning Academy FRIES/SPIES Master Course

Course Description and Joining Instructions

1. Description. The Lightning Academy (LA) FRIES/SPIES Master Course (FRIES/SPIES) is accredited by the United States Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) and is run by the FRIES/SPIES Cadre of the Lightning Academy, HHBN, 25th Infantry Division vicinity East Range Training Area, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. This course focuses on the techniques of Fast Rope Insertion and Extraction System (FRIES) and Special Patrol Insertion and Extraction System (SPIES). Students will receive formal instruction in the following areas: FRIES/SPIES Master duties and responsibilities, day and night tower training, FRIES/SPIES aircraft rigging procedures, and individual FRIES/SPIES rigging. It is designed to provide commanders certified FRIES/SPIES Masters, capable of executing these duties for their units, allowing increased insertion and extraction capabilities. Graduates will be proficient on tower training, FRIES/SPIES sustainment training, and rotary wing operations.

2. Who. The Lightning Academy FRIES/SPIES Master Course is open to all NCOs and Officers in the grade of E-4 (CPL only) to E-9 and O-1 to O-4. There is a maximum of 25 participants in each class. INDO-PACOM personnel from all branches have priority for this course. Other installations (incl. Reserve and National Guard) must contact 25th ID G3 Schools at (808) 655-8765 for availability and enrollment.

3. Prerequisites. Students must have a periodic health assessment within the last 12 months (IAW AR 40-501), have a minimum profile serial of 111121 (PULHES), meet Army height and weight standards IAW AR 600-9, and have passed the APFT (IAW FM 7-22 or service equivalent) prior to class start date. Applicants must have one year service remaining on active duty upon completion of the course.

4. When. FRIES/SPIES spans four total days, consisting of four active training days (Monday or Tuesday Day One is subject to change per class). The initial report day is Day One, on the first day of the course. Students will report NLT 0800 on Day One of training. Classes are held from 0800 to 1700 each day.

5. Where. FRIES/SPIES is located at the Lightning Academy Air Assault School Building (Building 8021, Lightning Academy, approx. 2491 California Ave, Wahiawa, HI 96857-5000). Enter into the parking lot by turning right off of California Ave through the chain link fence open gate. Students will see a sign for the "East Range Training Area" with the 25th ID logo. Note that it takes approximately seven minutes to walk from the parking area to the formation location.

6. Administrative.

a. In-processing. Report date and time is NLT 0800 on Day One of training in duty uniform at Building 8021. Students will report with all required items in the packing list and complete Student packet (LA 100 and ERB/ESB/ORB). Air Assault and other military schools are NOT prerequisites for the FRIES/SPIES Master Course.

Students residing on-island are responsible for their own billeting and transportation to and from the training area. Students from off-Island and their sponsors are required to coordinate with G3 Schools or G5 for all lodging and transportation for the duration of the course.

b. Equipment. Soldiers are required to supply all equipment IAW the most current packing list. Students will report to Day One with all items on the FRIES/SPIES packing list. Off-island Students are extremely encouraged to pack civilian attire, as all Students are released each afternoon.

c. All slots are reserved in ATRRS through G3 Schools, however wait status packets will be accepted prior to the enrollment suspense date after all ATRRS slots are filled. Walk-ons are accepted if all ATRRS slots are not filled. Walk-ons will be subsequently enrolled in ATRRS.

d. Privately-owned vehicles (POVs) are an authorized means of transportation IAW the training schedule.

e. Out-processing. The following must be completed before the Student is released from the course, regardless of the circumstances: all hand receipt items issued to the Student will be returned to LA; Students will fill out an end-of-course critique (EOCC) to provide honest, constructive feedback to the FRIES/SPIES Cadre.

f. The most up-to-date documents and resources can be found at the Lightning Academy website: <https://home.army.mil/hawaii/index.php/25thID/units/lightning-academy>

7. Class Schedule. The FRIES/SPIES Course class schedule for FY22 is as follows:

CLASS SCHEDULE

Class #	Start Date	Grad Date
01-22	12 Oct 21	15 Oct 21
02-22	10 Jan 22	13 Jan 22
03-22	14 Feb 22	17 Feb 22
04-22	19 Apr 22	22 Apr 22
05-22	18 Jul 22	21 Jul 22
06-22	19 Aug 22	01 Sep 22

*In the event of a discrepancy between this document and the published “Lightning Academy FY22 Course Schedule”, this class schedule should be considered inaccurate/outdated.