

# Lightning Academy FRIES/SPIES Master Course Description and Joining Instructions

- 1. Description.** The Lightning Academy (LA) FRIES/SPIES Master Course (FRIES/SPIES) is endorsed by the United States Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) and is run by the FRIES/SPIES Cadre of the Lightning Academy, HHBN, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division IVO 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 who are 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 30 participants in each class. INDO-PACOM personnel from all branches have priority for this course. Other installations (incl. Reserve and National Guard) must contact 25<sup>th</sup> 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 ACFT or service equivalent within 12 months of course 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. This course will extend into period of darkness for two of the training days with class running from 0800-2100. Day one and day four will be from 0800-1700.
- 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 STP). 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. LA does not provide transportation or lodging for students.
- 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 strongly encouraged to pack civilian attire, as all Students are released each afternoon.
- c. All slots are reserved in ATRRS through G3 Schools, but wait status packets will be accepted prior to the enrollment suspense date after all ATRRS slots are filled. All seat allocations will be maintained through DIV G3 and IAW the USARHAW and 25<sup>th</sup> ID Schools SOP.
- 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, and 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 FY24 is as follows:

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

| <b>Class #</b> | <b>Start Date</b> | <b>Grad Date</b> |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 01-24          | 02 Oct 23         | 05 Oct 23        |
| 02-24          | 12 Dec 23         | 15 Dec 23        |
| 03-24          | 08 Jan 24         | 11 Jan 24        |
| 04-24          | 19 Mar 24         | 22 Mar 24        |
| 05-24          | 20 May 24         | 23 May 24        |
| 06-24          | 18 Jun 24         | 21 Jun 24        |
| 07-24          | 26 Aug 24         | 29 Aug 24        |