

**Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCoE) Libraries  
MCoE HQ Donovan Research Library  
Fort Benning, Georgia**

**Report date:** October 1944

**Title:** Pathfinders – Organization and Training

**Author:** U.S. Army Air Forces, IX Troop Carrier Command, Pathfinder Group (Provisional)

**Abstract:** The following are: 12 October 1944 – Training of Pathfinder teams; 15 October 1944 – Organization and training of Pathfinders; 21 October 1944 – Staff and training, Pathfinders; 26 October 1944 – Map distribution for Pathfinders; and 24 October 1944 – Pathfinder training.

**Number of pages:** 15 p.

**Notes:** From the MCoE HQ Donovan Research Library, Fort Benning, GA. Documents collection. Call #: D809.15 .U509-B.

**Classification:** Unclassified; Approved for public release

D 809.15 Pathfinders- Orgn & Training  
.U 509-B (1944)

D 809.15  
.U 509-B  
du

HEADQUARTERS  
IX TCC PATHFINDER GROUP (PROV)

APO 133 U.S. ARMY  
12 Oct 1944

SUBJECT: Training of Pathfinder Teams  
TO : Commanding General, XVIII Corps (Airborne)

Following recommendations relative to organization and Training of Pathfinder Teams are hereby submitted in accordance with verbal instructions received from Chief of Staff, XVIII Corps 11 Oct 1944.

1. All initial training of Pathfinder Team members will be conducted at IX TCC Pathfinder Group Headquarters inasmuch as equipment needed for such training as well as aircraft for training flights and jumps are available at this station.

2. Pathfinder Teams will remain at the Pathfinder School during a four week training period. After graduation all members will return to their units.

3. It shall be the responsibility of each Division to insure that one Pathfinder Team is available from each Parachute Infantry Battalion at all times.

4. Training of individuals of initial teams shall be such that each individual is qualified to fill any position in a Pathfinder Team.

5. Pathfinders shall be trained to serve as instructors for Infra-Red Assembly Lights and the Deryn Adapted Radio and it shall be their duty to conduct such training in use of the above aids as is necessary to make their units proficient in the use of same.

6. Pathfinder Teams for employment in an operation will report to the Corps Pathfinder Officer at the designated airdrome at least seventy two hours prior to an operation. Inasmuch as time for preparation and briefing is important, the Pathfinders should report as soon as possible prior to a contemplated operation.

7. All equipment used for marking LZ or DZ's will be supplied by the Pathfinder Group Radar Section and it shall be the responsibility of the Corps Pathfinder Officer to insure that such equipment is placed in the hands of the Division Pathfinder Officer prior to an operation.

8. Map Distribution shall be the responsibility of the Corps Pathfinder Officer.

9. It shall be the responsibility of the Corps Pathfinder Officer to prepare a Training Memorandum covering in detail all equipment and the operation thereof used by Airborne Pathfinders. Changes and annexes to be distributed as progress is made. Above Memorandum to be distributed to include each Battalion Headquarters in each Airborne Unit.

10. Designs for bags, webbing, etc., used for jumping Pathfinder equipment to be drawn up and distributed to Parachute Maintenance Sections within the Corps, each Division to fabricate an equal amount of equipment, such equipment will then be delivered to the S-4, IX TCC Pathfinder Group for issue to Pathfinder Teams as required. Maintenance and replacement of such equipment will be arranged for by the Corps Pathfinder Officer.

11. All repair work on Pathfinder Equipment will be preformed by the Radar Section, IX TCC Pathfinder Group. Under no circumstances will unauthorized personnel tamper with or attempt to make adjustments to technical aids. Defects or suspected defects will be reported and the equipment turned in for replacement.

12. Personnel within each Battalion shall be trained to operate the Beacons and Infra-Red Light equipment so that two complete sets may be put into operation. One such to be jumped with the Battalion Commander and the other with the Battalion Executive Officer. Men normally assigned to the Battalion Communications Section could most easily be trained to perform this duty. It is not deemed advisable for the Pathfinder Team whose initial mission is to mark the DZ to be charged with this function. Normally the equipment carried by the Battalion Commanders' stick would be set up. In the event his ship was lost or his stick neutralized the Battalion Executive Officer would cause the equipment jumped in his stick to be set into operation.

13. Troops from Airborne Units within the Corps, when on duty with IX TCC Pathfinder Group for training, may be used to assist with experimental operations carried on by the Corps or by TCC in addition to their normal duties as students.

14. Provisions for obtaining equipment and materiel for experimental work done by this headquarters should be made by Corps, subject to approval of the project concerned by the C.G., XVIII Corps.

15. Personnel to be used as instructors shall be drawn from units within the Divisions. Qualified members of Pathfinder Teams with two or more combat Pathfinder jumps are available. Division Pathfinder Officers may serve in this capacity in addition to their other duties. The number of Airborne troops kept on duty with IX TCC Pathfinder Group will be kept to an absolute minimum at all times.

16. It shall be the privilege of any unit commander to request that arrangements be made for equipment and aircraft for employment of his Pathfinders on a test drop and exercise at any time. Such requests to be made through the Pathfinder Officer of the unit concerned. Conversely, it shall be the privilege of the Corps Pathfinder Officer to request that a team from any unit

16. (cont'd)

in the Corps report to this base with seventy two hours prior notice to participate in a test drop in order to insure that trained Pathfinder teams are available at all times. Reports on such tests to be forwarded, through channels to the unit concerned.

17. Request that copies of any memoranda, reports of operations, etc., concerning Pathfinder work now in the hands of Division or lower headquarters be furnished the undersigned so that a standardized procedure may be adopted.

*Frank L. Brown*

FRANK L. BROWN  
Capt, 501st Prcht. Inf.

HEADQUARTERS  
IX TCC PATHFINDER GROUP (PROV)

APO 133 U.S. ARMY  
15 Oct 44

SUBJECT: Organization and Training of Pathfinders.  
TO : Commanding General, XVIII Corps (Airborne)

Pursuant to verbal orders from the Chief of Staff, XVIII Corps Headquarters, the following recommendations as to organization and training of Pathfinders is hereby submitted:

1. Organization

a. Inasmuch as an Airborne Division is the smallest self-sustaining unit in the Corps it is deemed advisable to have a Pathfinder Company as an integral part of each such division.

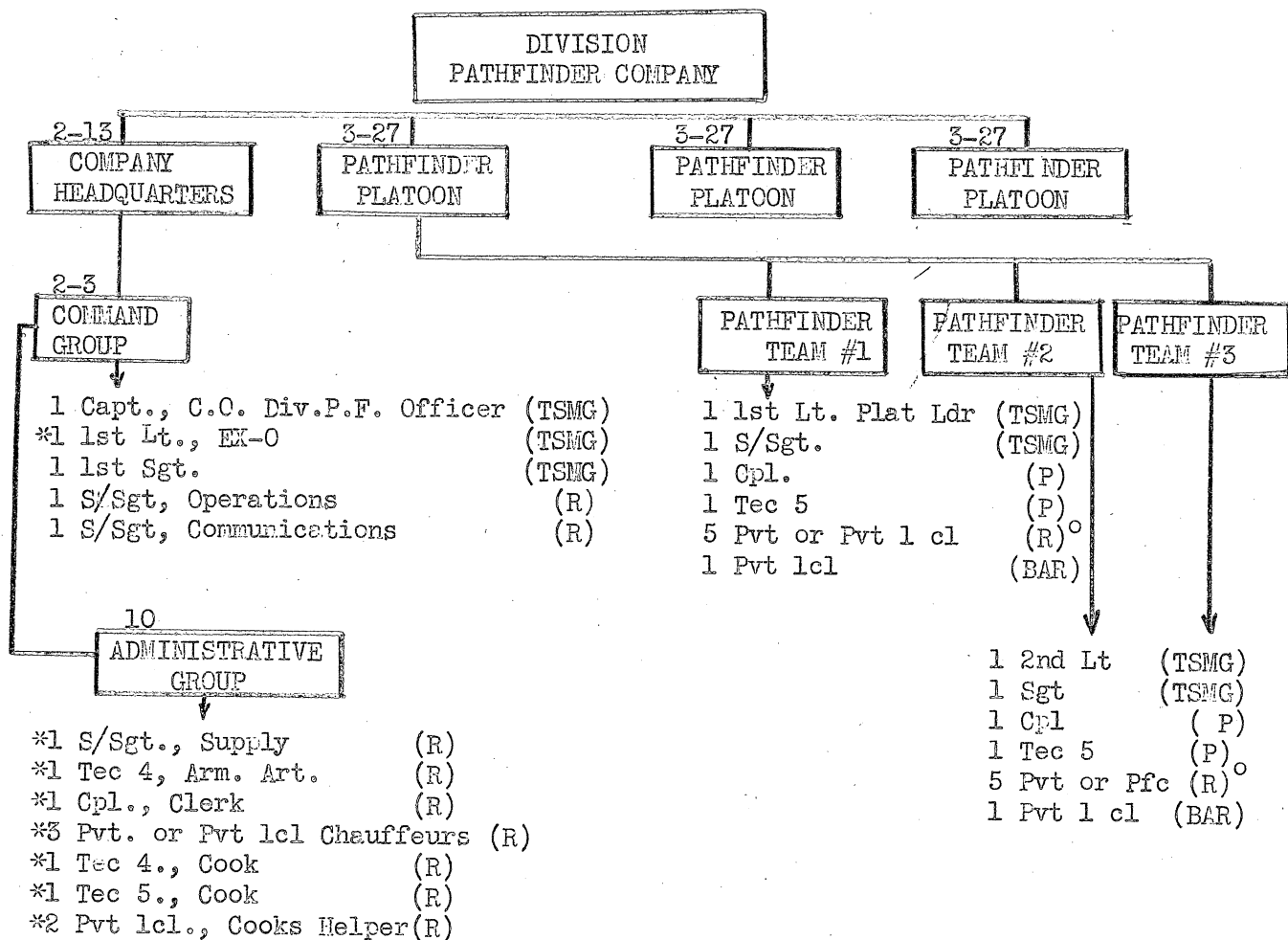
b. In the event a Division should be detached from Corps for a separate mission or to be moved to a different Theater of Operations the Pathfinder Company (as a part of such Division) would accompany same, whereas, if Pathfinders are organized on a Corps basis it would be necessary to either detach a Pathfinder detail from the Corps Unit or to train Pathfinders within the Division.

c. The strength of the Division Pathfinder Company would be in direct accordance with the number of Parachute Battalions in the Division, i.e., one Pathfinder Team consisting of one officer and nine enlisted men, for each Parachute Battalion. Basis for this statement is the fact that the number of Parachute Infantry Regiments vary in different Divisions which ultimately leads to the employment of more or less Drop Zones to be marked for a combat operation.

(see following page)

d Proposed organization of Division Pathfinder Company is shown below:

11-94



#### PERSONNEL

1 Captain  
4 1st Lieutenants  
6 2nd Lieutenants  
1 1st Sgt.  
5 S/Sgts.  
7 Sergeants  
2 Tec 4th Gr.  
10 Corporals  
10 Tec 5th Gr.  
57 Pvts. or Pvt lcl.

#### SUMMARY WEAPONS

21 TSMG  
18 Pistols, Cal. 45  
9 BAR  
57 Rifles, MI  
36 Launchers, Grenade M8

#### COMMUNICATION

11 ea SCR 536 Radio  
(1 ea Team Ldr, 1 c. o.,  
1 Ex-o)

#### TRANSPORTATION

2 Trucks, 2½ Ton  
1 Truck, ¼ Ton  
2 Trailers, 1 Ton  
1 Trailer (for ¼ Ton Truck)  
95 Parachutes

#### LEGEND

\* Remains with Div. Rear Echelon  
(TSMG) Thompson Submachine Gun  
(R) Rifle, MI  
(R)° Rifle, MI, w/Grenade Launcher, M8  
BAR Browning Automatic Rifle

e. The TO above is based on an Airborne Division containing three Parachute Infantry Regiments. The strength is based on the number of Pathfinders used in the Normandy and Holland operations.

f. It will be noted that one First Lieutenant and two Second Lieutenants are assigned to each Pathfinder Platoon, likewise only one Staff Sergeant is assigned and Duty Sergeants are assigned as Assistant Team Leaders in Teams #2 and #3. The First Lieutenant in Team #1 of each platoon would serve as Platoon Leader, the Staff Sergeant in Team #1 would be Platoon Sergeant.

## 2. Training

a. To be conducted at IX TCC Pathfinder Group. Students to return to units upon graduation for further training in secondary missions.

## 3. Employment of Pathfinders

### a. Daylight Drop.

(1) It is recommended that two teams, a total of two officers and eighteen men, each team flying in a separate aircraft, be dropped by IX TCC Pathfinder Group on each DZ a maximum of twenty minutes prior to arrival of the main serials. Teams #1 and #2 are to perform this mission.

(2) Team #3, flying in an aircraft from IX TCC Pathfinder Group would lead the first formation of planes to the assigned DZ and in the event Teams #1 and #2 had been neutralized would mark the DZ in the normal manner after displaying colored smoke first for the planes in their own formation. Smoke grenades may be discharged while the jumper is still in the air.

### b. Night Drop.

(1) Here the same procedure is used as in 3 a. except Drop Time for Pathfinders should be a maximum of thirty minutes prior to Drop Time for main serials to allow time for assembly of Pathfinders at night. Lights are to be used instead of smoke and panels.

### c. Subsequent Landings, Parachute and Glider.

(1) Each member of a Pathfinder Platoon committed to a DZ must know exactly what landings are scheduled for his DZ after the initial Drop. The senior officer or man in the Pathfinder Platoon committed to a DZ will be responsible for marking the DZ or LZ for such landings.

### d. Resupply.

(1) Normally resupply missions will be scheduled in the same manner as Drops and Landings. The platoon originally committed to a DZ will be briefed to mark for scheduled resupply on their DZ. The platoon will be prepared to move to and mark any DZ for an emergency resupply upon receipt of orders from the Senior Commander under whom they are operating.

(2) Due to the nature of Airborne operations, i.e., the likelihood of being cut off from supporting troops, a Battalion or Regimental Commander foreseeing such a possibility should request Pathfinder personnel and equipment be attached to his unit and remain therewith until such danger is no longer evident.

(3) At least one platoon of Pathfinders should remain with the Division Forward CP and one with the Division Rear CP in order to fulfill any emergency resupply, landing of reserves, reinforcements, etc..

### e. Final Disposition of Pathfinder Troops.

(1) It is contemplated that the Division Pathfinder Officer (C.O. of Division Pathfinder Company) and the Company Command Group drop with Team #1 and #2 on the DZ marked for Division Headquarters. His duty during the operation being to coordinate the work of the Pathfinder Platoons of his company.



(2) Pathfinder Troops, having fulfilled all missions as such will revert to Division or Corps control.

(3) Inasmuch as P.O.W. form a definite problem to Airborne troops (In Holland one Regiment captured approximately one thousand Germans in three days, part of which time this unit was completely cut off from the rear echelon of the Division. Three hundred such prisoners were evacuated at dusk through the German lines by a Pathfinder Team led by a Lt. Col.) it is suggested that men assigned as Pathfinders be used to guard and escort P.O.W. Due to the size of the Military Police Platoon of a Division Headquarters and to the traffic and police problems, the assistance given by Pathfinders should prove welcome.

(4) Under normal conditions detached Pathfinder Platoons or Teams may be given local security missions, they should be employed as Teams or Platoons under their own officers. Reason for above statement is that casualty rates of Pathfinder units are extremely high and inasmuch as the men are actually trained technicians it is advisable to save as many as possible for future operations. Following examples drawn from person experience in Normandy and Holland are quoted.

(a.) In Normandy: Twenty seven men and three officers belonging to Division Pathfinder Company (Prov.) dropped on DZ "C" at 0044 6 June 44 with results as follows:

|            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| KIA OR MIA | 18 EM     |
| SWIA       | 1 0       |
| SWIA       | 2 EM      |
| POW        | 1 0       |
| TOTAL LOSS | 22 0 & EM |

(b.) In Holland: Eighteen men and two officers departed for DZ "A " with Drop time set at 1245:

|            |      |
|------------|------|
| KIA        | 8 EM |
| POW        | 1 EM |
| TOTAL LOSS | 9 EM |

In both cases Pathfinders established aids for the incoming serials.

(5) Attention is invited to Operation Memo. "o. 12 SHEAF dated 13 March 44 and ammendment No. 1, therto, dated 8 June '44, Par 2. a. states that Pathfinders shall precede the main column by not less than thirty minutes. This time was successfully cut to sixteen minutes by the Pathfinders on DZ "A" in Holland. As stated in Par 3.a.(1) this letter, twenty minutes maximum time for a daylight drop is sufficient for the mission and is more in accordance with security measures.

(6) Division Pathfinder Companies will, when the Division is a part of XVIII Corps, operate under the Corps Pathfinder Officer who shall be responsible for coordination with IX TCC Pathfinder Group re orders, missions, equipment and aircraft assignments for all operations.

*Frank L. Brown*

FRANK L. BROWN  
Captain, Infantry

EQUIPMENT OF PATHFINDER TEAM FOR COMBAT JUMP  
(LESS AMMUNITION)

|                         | TEAM LEADER | ASS'T TEAM LEADER | EUREKA OPERATOR | ASS'T EUREKA OPR. | LIGHT & PANEL OPR. | LIGHT & PANEL OPR. | LIGHT & PANEL OPR. | LIGHT & PANEL OPR. | LIGHT & PANEL OPR. | LIGHT & PANEL OPR. | TOTAL |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Binoculars              | 1           | 1                 |                 |                   |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | 2     |
| Compass, Lensatic       | 1           | 1                 | 1               | 1                 | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 10    |
| Radio, SCR 536          | 1           |                   |                 |                   |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | 1     |
| Knife, M-3              | 1           | 1                 | 1               | 1                 | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 10    |
| Scabbard M-6            | 1           | 1                 | 1               | 1                 | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 10    |
| Pistol, Cal 45          |             |                   | 1               | 1                 |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | 2     |
| Rifle, M-1              |             |                   |                 |                   |                    | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 5     |
| Launcher M-8            |             |                   |                 |                   |                    | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 5     |
| TSMG                    | 1           | 1                 |                 |                   |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | 2     |
| Wa tch, Wrist           | 1           | 1                 | 1               | 1                 |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | 4     |
| Carrier, Shovel         | 1           | 1                 | 1               | 1                 | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 10    |
| Shovel, Ent.            | 1           | 1                 | 1               | 1                 | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 10    |
| Ca rrier, Wirecutter    |             | 1                 |                 |                   |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | 1     |
| Cutters, Wire           |             | 1                 |                 |                   |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | 2     |
| TE-33                   |             |                   | 1               | 1                 |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | 2     |
| Bag, Leg                | 1           |                   |                 |                   |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | 1     |
| Carrier, H. Light       |             | 1                 |                 |                   | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 7     |
| Whistle                 | 1           | 1                 |                 |                   |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | 2     |
| Cooker, Squad           |             | 1                 |                 |                   |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | 1     |
| Light, Haliphane        |             | 1                 |                 |                   | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  | 7     |
| Panels, AP-30-D         |             | 2                 |                 |                   | 2                  | 2                  | 2                  | 2                  | 2                  | 2                  | 14    |
| Bag, A mm. (TSMG)       | 1           | 1                 |                 |                   |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | 2     |
| CRN-4                   | 1           |                   |                 |                   |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | 1     |
| Eureka                  |             |                   | 1               | 1                 |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | 2     |
| Grenade, Smoke          | 52*         | 2                 | 2               | 2                 | 2                  | 2                  | 2                  | 2                  | 2                  | 2                  | 72    |
| Mag, Box.45, 30 Rd.     | 6           | 6                 |                 |                   |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | 12    |
| Grenade, Frag           | 2           | 2                 | 2               | 2                 | 2                  | 2                  | 2                  | 2                  | 2                  | 2                  | 20    |
| BAR                     |             |                   |                 |                   | 1                  |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | 1     |
| Grenade, Rifle, A .T.   |             |                   |                 |                   |                    | 2                  | 2                  | 2                  | 2                  | 2                  | 10    |
| Mag, Cal 45 Pistol      |             |                   | 3               | 3                 |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | 6     |
| Holster, Pistol, Cal 45 |             |                   | 1               | 1                 |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | 2     |

\* Two Boxes, Nailed Together, Door Bundle Pushed Out By Team C. O.

HEADQUARTERS  
IX TCC PATHFINDER GROUP (PROV)  
Officer of the Corps Pathfinder Officer

APO 133 U.S. ARMY  
21 October 44

SUBJECT: Staff and Training, Pathfinders.

TO : Commanding General, XVIII Corps.

1. Request that following Officer and enlisted men be transferred to Headquarters XVIII Corps (Airborne) to serve as assistants to Corps Pathfinder Officer:

1st Lt. CHARLES M. FAITH 01295854 501st Parachute Infantry

S/Sgt Thomas C. Walton 32071903 502nd Parachute Infantry

Sgt John P. O'Shaughnessy Jr. 15374795 501st Parachute Infantry

2. If the above request is approved all personnel concerned would be based at IX TCC Pathfinder Group Airdrome to serve as instructors of Airborne troops attending school.

a. In addition to serving as Assistant Corps Pathfinder Officer, Lt. Faith will be charged with maintenance of all parachutes and allied gear used to jump Pathfinder equipment. Lt. Faith is a qualified Parachute Rigger.

b. He will act as Custodial and Billeting Officer for Airborne troops based at this airdrome for training or while preparing for a combat mission.

c. He will act as Assistant to S-4 IX TCC Pathfinder Group insofar as equipment (smoke, panels, lights, jump cases, etc.,) for a practice or combat jump is concerned.

d. He will assist with any experimental work being carried on at this base.

e. Sgt. Walton will serve as Communications Instructor to Airborne Students.

f. He will serve as Supply Sergeant to Airborne troops at this base.

g. Sergeant O'Shaughnessy will serve as Operations Sergeant for Pathfinder Activities.

h. He will be charged with keeping of records of all students grades.

i. He will serve as a clerk for the Corps Pathfinder Officer.

3. The above personnel are now on DS from 101st Airborne Division and are serving in the above capacities. All concerned desire to transfer and are qualified for the positions; each of the above have made two combat jumps as Pathfinders.

4. Pursuant to verbal orders from G-3, XVIII Corps, the period of training for Pathfinder Students has been shortened so as to require only two weeks.

(4. cont'd)

at this base. Subjects and hours allotted thereto are shown below:

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Eureka                | 8 hrs         |
| CRM-4                 | 8 hrs         |
| Code                  | 24 hrs        |
| Haliphane Lights      | 2 hrs         |
| Combined Panel System | 6 hrs         |
| DADF                  | 7 hrs         |
| Smoke, Pyrotechnics   | 1 hr          |
| Infra Red Lights      | 8 hrs         |
| Field Marking         | <u>12 hrs</u> |
| Total                 | 76 Hrs        |

5. In addition to above each student will made three training jumps, one in daylight, one at dusk, and one at night.

6. Further training of Pathfinders in Map and Aerial Photo Reading, Scouting and Patrolling must be done by the units to which they return from this base.

7. It is requested that each Airborne Division furnish this Headquarters with an estimate as to number of Pathfinder personnel to be trained and approximate date that personnel will be available for such training so that necessary arrangements may be made to accomodate same.

8. It is further requested that all Radar and similar Navigational Aids, now in the hands of troops of the XVIII Corp but not in actual use, be returned to Group Radar Officer, IX TCC Pathfinder Group for maintenance check and storage. Upon notification of location of such equipment this Headquarters is prepared to dispatch aircraft with officer courier to secure same. This does not apply to equipment in actual use or in a "stand-by" state.

*Frank L. Brown*  
FRANK L. BROWN  
Captain, Infantry  
Corps Pathfinder Officer

2452-57

## Definitions and Training

Training of the Pathfinder Company (Prov.) shall be the responsibility of the Division Pathfinder Officer. A Team shall consist of nine men and one officer. A Platoon shall consist of three such teams. The senior Team leader may also serve as Platoon Leader. Normally an entire Platoon is assigned the mission of marking a single DZ or LZ. When a mission is assigned the three Teams are designated as follows:

Base Team: Commanded by senior officer. This stick will mark the DZ. The other two teams furnish security.

Primary Team: Acts as security and marks DZ in the event of neutralization of Base Team.

Alternate Team: Acts as security and marks DZ in event both Base and Primary Teams are neutralized. Drops from lead plane of main serial.

Combat experience has shown that such heavy enemy resistance may be encountered that only fragments of each Team are left operative. In such case the senior man present will take charge and put in installations with the following priority, governed by the situation encountered: First the Eureka, second the CRN-4, third, lights or Panels and smoke depending on whether a day or night jump is involved. On a day drop it is recommended that all Pathfinder personnel use white parachutes to further mark the DZ. If white T-5 main assemblies are not available the white reserve may be released and spread on the ground as an aid to pilots trying to locate the drop zone.

Training of a Pathfinder Team is most easily accomplished by allowing the members of the team to devote their full time to training for a period of approximately four weeks. Training time will be governed by the amount of time available before Pathfinders are to be employed on a combat mission. A list of subjects with time allotted to each subject is given below:

| SUBJECT                 | HOURS |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Eureka                  | 8     |
| CRN-4                   | 8     |
| Code Practice           | 24    |
| Haliphane Lights        | 2     |
| Combined Panel System   | 6     |
| Air Photo & Map Reading | 12    |
| Scouting and Patrolling | 14    |
| Physical Training       | 24    |
| Derey Adapted Radio     | 7     |
| Smoke & Pyrotechnics    | 1     |
| Infra-Red Lights        | 8     |
| Field Marking           | 12    |
| Total                   | 126   |

## Definitions and Training (cont'd)

Approximately fifty hours free time is left. This time should be utilized to plan and make six jumps, three day problems and three night problems. Teams should be rotated during the courses of the jumps so that each Team is designated as Base Team for one day jump and one night jump.

Common sense should be used in planning each consecutive weeks' training so that repetition of instruction with which the men have become thoroughly familiar is avoided.

Arrangements with Radar Officers to allow men to see the Radar and CRN-4 installations in operation in C-47 type airplanes during flight will add interest and aid understanding.

SECURITY- Attention is invited to the fact that all equipment and methods used during instruction and operations are SECRET. Men should be warned against discussing operations and equipment with unauthorized persons.

## Personnel

Each officer and man selected for training as a Pathfinder must be intelligent, courageous and have a high degree of initiative. He must be thoroughly trained in map reading, use of individual weapons, and scouting and patrolling. Knowledge of communications is highly desirable. Preference should be given to qualified men who volunteer for such training. In no case should an officer or man be placed on duty as a Pathfinder because he is a misfit elsewhere. The fact that the team has only a small amount of work to do on each combat mission should not detract from the importance of the mission.

Use of Pathfinders after the landing of the main body is in accordance with the wishes of the Senior Commander. If resupply by air is contemplated, Pathfinders will be needed to mark DZ for same. Pathfinders during the Invasion of France and Holland were used as replacements in Battalion Headquarters Communications, Intelligence and Operations Sections in many cases. Due to previous training these men performed excellently as such replacements.

## Personnel of Pathfinder Team

a Team Leader- An officer, inasmuch as the job carries a great amount of responsibility. This officer may serve as a Battalion Staff Officer after a combat mission. He should be readily available at all times in the event he is needed to mark a DZ or LZ for subsequent landings or resupply missions. A knowledge of communications is desirable. Jumps CRN-4.

b Ass't Team Leader- A non-commissioned officer, preferably a Staff Sgt. or Sgt. He must be aggressive, courageous, possess a high degree of initiative and be prepared and qualified to assume command in the event the Team Leader becomes a casualty. He must be thoroughly trained in the use of the Haliphane Zone Indicator Lights, panels and pyrotechnics as used for marking DZ and LZ's. He is in charge of the light and panel team and is responsible for the funct

## Personnel (Con'd)

ioning of same. He must have a working knowledge of Morse code but a high code speed is not necessary. This man should have a knowledge of communications. Dependent on the type of marking to be done, this man will carry either a Haliphane Light or Panel Set on the jump.

c Eureka Operator- A non-commissioned officer of the grade of Cpl. Jumps Eureka, sets up and operates same. Must have some communications training and must know the Morse code although a code speed of more than five words per minute is not necessary. He must be thoroughly trained in the operation of the CRN-4 and the Eureka.

d Assistant Eureka Operator- Same qualifications necessary as for Eureka Operator except he may be a Tec 5 or Private First Class. Jumps Eureka.

e Light Men- Must have thorough knowledge of use of Haliphane Lights, Panels and pyrotechnics as used for marking of DZ or LZ. Usually a Private of a Private First Class. Six light men are required in each Team in addition to the Ass't Team Leader who acts in a double capacity initially. These six men jump one Haliphane Light each or a panel set as the conditions warrant. Seven lights or panel sets make up the light team which includes the Ass't. Team Leader.

f Security Detail- A security detail may be attached to each Pathfinder Team if the Commanding Officer deems it advisable. It may consist of an Officer and any number of enlisted men up to seven. The sole mission of the security detail is to protect the Pathfinder Team during the installation and operation of the Pathfinder equipment. Immediately after the arrival of the main serials, the mission of the security detail having been accomplished, they report to their own organization unless they have received other instructions from their organization or unit commander prior to take-off. This detail may be varied as to weapons carried by the individuals, depending on intelligence reports furnished prior to an operation. If it is expected that armor will be encountered a rocket launcher team plus riflemen may be added.

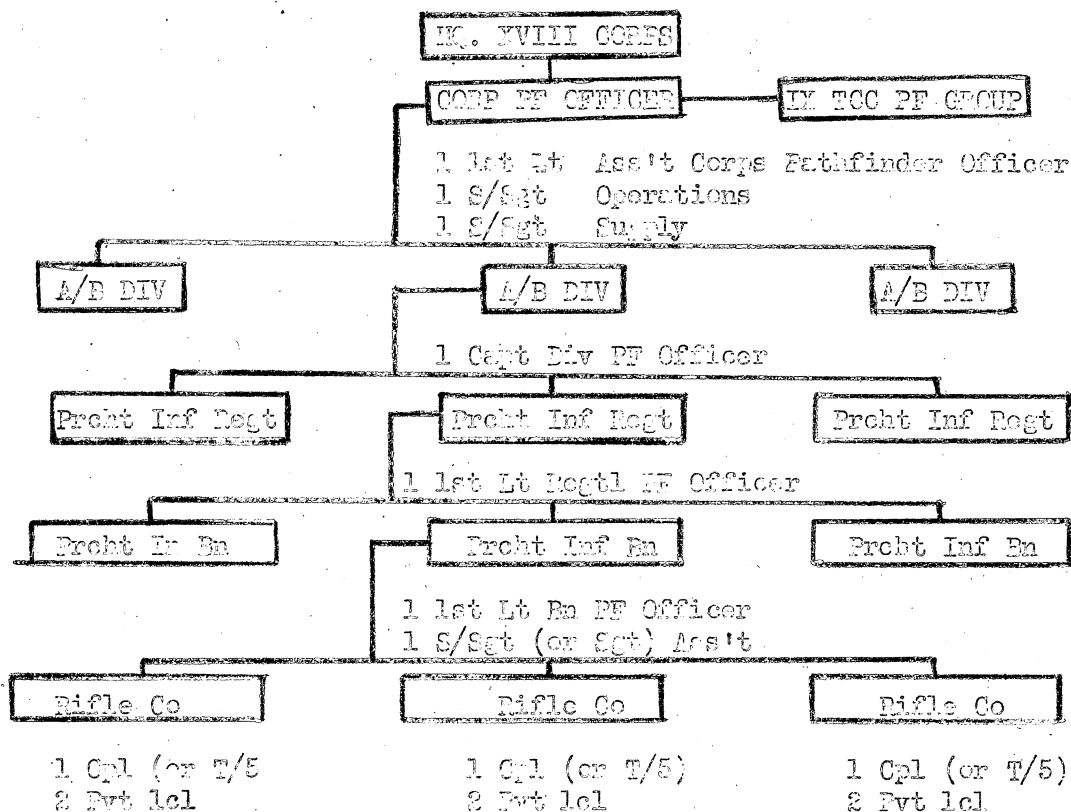
HEADQUARTERS  
IX TCG PATHFINDER GROUP (PROV)  
Officer of the Corps Pathfinder Officer

APO 133 U.S. /FMV  
24 October 44

SUBJECT: Pathfinder Training.

TO : C.G. XVIII Corps (Airborne)

1. Inasmuch as it has been found impractical to organize a Provisional Pathfinder Company the following plan for organization of Pathfinder troops is hereby submitted:



2. Personnel not having previous training as Pathfinders to receive two weeks specialized training with IX TCG Pathfinder Group, and upon completion, to return to their respective units.

3. For economy's sake the Regimental Pathfinder Officer may be Team Leader of a Battalion Team.

4. Attention is invited to the fact that ten men and one officer from each battalion would receive training and be assigned to the Battalion Pathfinder Team from each Parachute Infantry Battalion, this allows one replacement to cover training casualties, promotions, etc., within each battalion.

5. The Pathfinder units within each Regiment and Battalion should be included in all training problems, i.e., where a problem begins with and actual or simulated drop Pathfinders should make field at the beginning of



SECRET

(5. cont'd)

the exercise. Resupply problems requiring employment of Pathfinders should be written into all Regimental and Battalion Field exercises.

6. Attention is invited to the fact that no administrative problems exist if above plan is followed. Each man would be rationed, quartered, supplied, etc., by his own company except for the two weeks training at IX TCC Pathfinder School.

7. Provisions for equipment for Pathfinder troops should be made by G-4 each Airborne Division and issued, through channels to troops inasmuch as no TF for such personnel is provided.

8. Supervision of training and preparation of training schedules for Pathfinders shall be the responsibility of the Division Pathfinder Officer once initial training at IX TCC Pathfinder School is completed.

*Special*  
*Pathfinder*  
*Frank L. Brown*  
FRANK L. BROWN.  
Captain, Infantry  
Corps Pathfinder Officer

HEADQUARTERS  
IX TCC PATHFINDER GROUP (PROV)  
Office of the Corps Pathfinder Officer

File w/ PF  
SSC  
APO 133 U.S. ARMY  
26 October 44

SUBJECT: Map Distribution for Pathfinders.

TO : G-2, Headquarters XVIII Corps Airborne.

1. Request following map distribution be prepared for Pathfinders for any practice or actual combat operation.

a. For each DZ to be marked by Pathfinders:

- (1) Thirty six (36) copies 1/25000 of DZ area.
- (2) Thirty six (36) copies 1/100000 of Operations area to cover DZ and friendly front lines inclusive.
- (3) Thirty six (36) half-tone reprints of actual DZ.

2. Above should be broken down according to DZ and clearly labeled according to DZ.

3. They should be made available to the undersigned as soon as possible prior to an operation in order to facilitate briefing.

FRANK L. BROWN  
Captain, Infantry  
Corps Pathfinder Officer

*Get maps on division level.*

*Recommendation of Col Jack,*