
Chapter 1

Introduction

Purpose

This manual outlines a system for selecting, training, and qualifying track combat vehicle drivers. The Army's inventory includes numerous track combat vehicles; some are weapons, while others carry men and materiel.

Scope

This manual contains the necessary steps for:

1. Selecting and training driver instructors and examiners.
2. Selecting, training, examining, and supervising drivers. (See the appendixes for suggested tests and checklists.)

Effect of Driving on Combat Efficiency

The contribution of the driver to combat efficiency is not always appreciated or recognized, even though his performance is a critical factor in keeping a vehicle in fighting condition. The best designed and constructed vehicles maintained by the best mechanics in the Army cannot compensate for poor driving practices; poor driving practices can cause any unit to fail to perform its mission.

Commanders too often blame their unit's failure to meet movement timetables on defective equipment, difficult terrain or excessive operational demands when poor driving and/or unsatisfactory operator or crew maintenance is a fault. They sacrifice mobility by failing to spot driver error as the source of trouble and neglect to make on-the-spot corrections because the effects of poor driving techniques are often subtle except when they result in accidents.

Proper maintenance and good equipment design may keep vehicles running despite poor driving practices, but unfortunately these bad practices result in vehicle abuse and increase maintenance requirements.

***Responsibilities in the Selection, Training,
and Supervision of Drivers***

In setting up a driver's training program:

1. Select instructors who are competent and well-trained. They should have been licensed at least one year on the equipment used in the training program.
2. Select *only* qualified personnel as drivers (see procedures for driver examination, para 4, AR 600-55).
3. Conduct centralized training at battalion or squadron level where the best instructors and required equipment are available.
4. Conduct refresher training courses on:
 - a. State, local and installation driving regulations.
 - b. Safe driving procedures.
 - c. Seasonal hazards.
 - d. Maintenance and other related matters.