

Stryker Leaders Course Updates POI to Increase SBCT Readiness, Lethality

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After only two decades, a wide range of myths and legends have formed surrounding the Stryker Family of Vehicles. To Soldiers, the Stryker is thought of as anything from a tank with wheels to a wrecking ball intended to breach buildings during urban clearance operations. The Stryker Leaders Course (SLC) aims to increase Stryker brigade combat team (SBCT) lethality through the development of leaders. The course does this by instilling knowledge of the platform, basic skills, and introducing leaders to tactical considerations common to Stryker formations, enabling leaders to make an impact.

The Stryker Family of Vehicles provide extended operational reach and endurance on the battlefield. Strykers enable leaders to rapidly move across battlefields and transport dismount Soldiers closer to the objective than light infantry formations. Multiple Stryker variants also provide organic direct and indirect fire support, mobile communication-relay capabilities, and medical support before, during, and after missions without relying on command posts or logistics nodes. Additionally, the capabilities and modularity of Strykers enable leaders to disrupt enemy formations to enhance survivability in the defense or while consolidating and reorganizing on the objective.

SLC has recently updated its program of instruction (POI) to develop leaders in fundamental tasks from training and property accountability to the planning and execution of combat operations through the completion of three initiatives.

Initiative 1: Stryker Leaders Course instructor-writers have updated property accountability lessons to align with current Army regulations. Individual Weapons Training Strategy and Gunnery Skills Test classes and tests also



Strykers travel in a company-level movement formation in unrestricted terrain. (Photo by CPT Keenan McIntire)

provide leaders an introduction to planning and conducting crew training to improve unit readiness and lethality.

Initiative 2: Instructor-writers have developed a new operation order (OPORD) to bridge concepts provided during officer and NCO professional military education to the next level through the use of higher-level concepts. Students are required to incorporate SBCT organic enablers such as the Mobile Gun System, engineers, and scouts. The OPORD student-leaders plan and brief culminates with a tactical exercise without troops. Throughout the exercise, students walk the ground they have planned from the line of departure through consolidation on the objective, stopping at key junctions to discuss the tactics relevant to successful combat operations while considering the capabilities the Stryker platform brings to the fight.

Initiative 3: Student-leaders culminate their training with a familiarization firing range. Students use the skills they have learned throughout the course to identify and engage targets with mounted weapons systems. The firing range provides newly assigned leaders the opportunity to experience the capabilities of their platform in combat operations.

The SLC curriculum and expert instructors put graduates on a path to success in their future assignments. The question remains: Are you willing to come learn what it takes to win? As Chief of Staff of the Army GEN James C. McConville says, "Winning matters."

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Above, Stryker Leaders Course students engage targets using the Remote Weapon Station-controlled M2 .50 caliber machine gun. (Photo by SSG Tom Emmanuel)



At right, students plan Operation Battle Ready in preparation for their operation order brief.
(Photo by CPT Keenan McIntire)



A Stryker maneuvers during the course's tactical exercise without troops.
(Photo by CPT Keenan McIntire)