



From the Desk of the Field Artillery CSM

Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) 13J Conversion

By now, every Redleg has heard that the MOS 13D and MOS 13P will merge into MOS 13J. What isn't clear, based on questions I'm asked when I engage units is how this is going to work. Folks have concerns and I hear the 'we're assuming risk' statement too often. Let me calm the fears and shine some light on the way forward.

First off, let's put the 'assuming risk' to bed. The basis for this mistaken fear seems to lie in the fact that rockets and cannons are different. Well, I'm glad that was pointed out for me, I might not have gotten there on my own. Back in the day (probably before most who are raising this issue could even spell Army), there were significant differences in equipment and processes that required two separate MOSs. However, emerging technologies and efficiency gains have narrowed operational gaps and technical differences between these two specialties. Simply put, the requirements for maintaining these two specialties do not exist today as they did in the past. So much of the angst exhibited revolves around 'what they don't know'. Regardless of where the Soldier or NCO comes from, I'd bet you there may be some gaps. That's where leaders get involved – assess and train you'll close those gaps. You may also discover during assessment that there's other skills they bring to the table. Just one example is 13Ps tend to work with multiple commo systems not prevalent in cannon units, there's an advantage you can capitalize on.

So what's the real fear? It's change. Yep, some leaders may have to step out of their comfort zone and do things a little different. Soldiers may have to do something a little different to adjust. Neither is gonna kill anyone. Heck, if the Army didn't force us to change every once in a while, we'd still be wearing pointy hats and firing muskets. Change is ok, embrace it – own it – the ability to do so is what keeps us ahead

of our adversaries. Besides, training one bubba to potentially go to two different formations ain't new – we been doing it with Lieutenants forever, we do it with 13Bs – and they seem to turn out alright, because they get to a unit and the leaders there keep on training them, and they validate their training and the cycle repeats. Ain't no different with your Soldiers, get over it. Assess them when they arrive, start training them and keep training them to make them the best at what they do, train them to take your job one day.

So now that we've settled that, let's discuss how this is going to work. There isn't going to be some flip of the switch come FY18 that magically transforms everybody to 13J. There's a process, and it's already been going on for some time now. There's some parallel efforts so I'll try to keep it as much in order as I can starting with the training strategy. All Soldiers awarded MOS 13P prior to 1 OCT 15 will be assigned a transitional Additional Skill Identifier (ASI) Y2. ASI Y2 will expire 31 MAR 18 (at the end of 2nd QTR FY18). NCOs that have completed their respective NCOPDS courses by 1 OCT 17, will not be required to attend 13J NCOPDS. However all skill levels must have successful completion of training required to delete ASI Y2; requirements consist of the completion of 3 blackboard based modules (Fires Modernization Theory and Concepts, Profiler, and Centaur). Completion of required training will consist of a culmination exam requiring a minimum score of 80% (training requirements for personnel with ASI Y2 @ <https://elc.learn.army.mil>). Once training requirements have been met, Soldiers must submit a DA form 4187, signed by the first LTC in the chain of command thru unit Personnel Servicing Centers to CDR, HRC. Soldiers failing to complete qualification training by 31 MAR 18 will be reclassified to support the needs of the Army.

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Yep, don't procrastinate, you have a shelf life.

We're leaning forward at the schoolhouse, all 13D and 13P AIT students in training now are getting the training necessary to change their MOS to 13J. The reclassification of personnel for establishment of MOS 13J may be accomplished during the 1-30 September 2017 Reclassification Management of Change window. Effective date of establishment of MOS 13J would be 1 October 2017. The start of FY18 also brings position recoding to reflect 13J, changes to TOE and TDA, to include duty titles, grades and identifiers. Finally, 13J AIT and NCOPDS (ALC, SLC) courses start on/after 1 OCT 17, so graduates after 1 OCT 17 will be trained 13J.

Hopefully this provides the background and de-

tails to generate shared understanding and appropriate action across the team. Additional information is available in the Notification of Future Change to DA PAM 611-21 memo (NOFC E-1510-09_Memo 13DPJ.doc), which I've hung in the files section on the CMF13 Community page on ACT (<https://actnow.army.mil/communities/community/enlisted-cmf13>). Talk to your Soldiers and your peers, let them know the real deal. Embrace the change and get after it, decisive action and lethality are in your hands.

King of Battle!
Redleg 7

CSM Berk Parsons



MOA, bilateral relations with German Army Joint Fire Support Training Division

The Commandants of the United States Army Field Artillery School and the German Army Joint Fire Support Training Division recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in an effort to continue to strengthen and expand the bilateral relations between their institutions.

By signing the MOA, both Commandants agreed to improve shared understanding and promote the exchange of information in the fields of Interoperability, Joint Fires Observer (JFO) Training, and Field Artillery Training.

"In the last few years, the role of the JFO has increased in importance, especially when considering employing Joint Fires," said COL Stephen J. Maranian, the USAFAS Commandant. "We here at USAFAS want to make sure our German allies have access to all our JFO training as well as other professional military education presented here at the United States Army Field Artillery School."



U.S. Army photo released

The MOA also outlined the need to meet regularly at senior leadership levels to define a mutually agreeable "topic of the year" to serve as the basis for continued professional engagements and sustained exchanges of information. 