

Training...

Smooth Operator



SO, WHADAYA THINK OF MY *FIRST TIME* BEHIND THE WHEEL?



I THINK THE INSTRUCTOR GAVE YOU MY KEYS *TOO SOON!*

Dear Half-Mast,
 Is there a prescribed length of time that an operator should spend behind the wheel before he or she is licensed on a piece of equipment?
 Also, is there a set time frame for classroom training before the operator goes out on the road? How much time should be spent in the classroom and how much should be hands-on training?

Mr. M.C.

Because learning curves vary, all operator training should be outcome-based and follow the standards prescribed in the specific training circular (TC) for each vehicle. Outcome-based training accommodates the unique learning pace and needs of each individual, rather than the general pace of a class or group.

Training circulars provide standardized training and testing for operators following AR 600-55, The Army Driver and Operator Standardization Program (Selection, Training, Testing, and Licensing).

The emphasis is on hands-on training with minimal classroom instruction. (Note: TCs do not include any theater-unique requirements.)

Training techniques are generally aimed at novices (inexperienced operators of tactical wheeled vehicles) or apprentice operators, who have driven military vehicles for at least one year. It seems logical that operator skills might be easily transferred from one vehicle to another, but experienced master driver trainers know that is sometimes not the case. It's possible that an apprentice may need more training than a novice to safely operate an unfamiliar vehicle.

Noncommissioned officers responsible for training Soldiers on unit vehicles must ensure those Soldiers test to the same standards contained in the applicable TCs. Soldiers licensed through unit training programs should be supervised until they gain the experience to operate vehicles safely and correctly in their unique operating environments.

New operators should not be placed in situations beyond their skill levels. Supervisors should occasionally ride with all of their operators to see if procedures are followed and to assess the need for additional, refresher, or remedial training.

For further information, visit the Army Driver Standardization Office's website:

http://www.transchool.eustis.army.mil/adso/ADSO_index.htm

Or email:

eustis.AMVTCentral@conus.army.mil

Half-Mast



MISTER M.C., I HAVE YOUR ANSWERS RIGHT HERE!