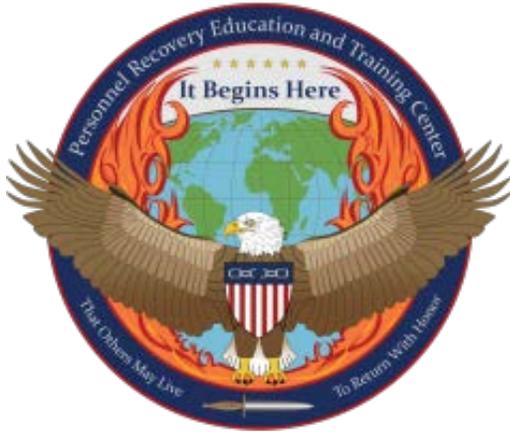




## The Joint Personnel Recovery Agency (JPRA)



## Personnel Recovery Education and Training Center (PRETC)

### Seal Description and Symbolism:

*The PRETC Seal is a derivation of the JPRA Seal. The eagle and broken chain are adapted to highlight the breadth and depth of our mission across our global commands, and the six stars indicate the enduring strength of the six articles of the Code of Conduct which guide our warriors. Fire represents the flame of knowledge; the knife represents strength of our message. "It begins here," defines the path of*

*knowledge undertaken by those who serve in the realm of Personnel Recovery (PR). "That Others May Live – To Return With Honor," is the foundation of our every effort and defines our reason for existing.*

### The PRETC Vision:

We strive to be: *The globally recognized US Department of Defense (DOD) PR experts leading through quality, relevance, agility and accountability to bring the right education, training and exercise support to the right audience, via the best methods available.*

### The PRETC Mission:

*PRETC provides continuous PR education, training, advice, assistance, and analysis to DOD and select other national and international professionals in order to enable commanders, forces, and individuals to identify and meet current and future PR challenges.*

### The PRETC Strategic Plan – three Goals:

**1. Exercises, Education, and Training (EET) have the required effect.** *PRETC will deliver responsive, adaptive and innovative products focused on the right EET using the most effective methods, technologies, and materials to seamlessly meet the operational support needs of the warfighter.*

**2. Engage the right audience at the right time.** *To ensure the success of DOD PR across the spectrum of civil and military operations, PRETC will identify, assess, prioritize, and engage those who are responsible for and affect PR from strategic to tactical levels.*

**3. We establish leadership through professionalism and expertise.** *PRETC will lead and strengthen DOD PR through expertise, professionalism, and proficiency. PRETC personnel will continuously seek opportunities for self-improvement and ways to stay at the cutting edge of PR. Our efforts will optimize the depth and breadth of our PR knowledge, and will ensure the agility needed to be innovative, adaptable, practiced, and recognized as current and relevant to our nation's warfighters today, and in the future.*

**Location and facilities:**

Lee's Hill Building #2, Suite 310  
10304 Spotsylvania Avenue,  
Fredericksburg, VA 22408  
(757) 664-5202

**Personnel assigned: (As of Dec 2013)**

With a joint training and education / operational support mission, PRETC currently employs 46 personnel, consisting of twenty-four Permanent Department of the Air Force civilians, two uniformed military, and twenty contractors. Of these:

- Forty-one served in the armed forces with an average of 22 years in uniform.
- Three are retired Special Agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- They average 35 years of combined military/civil servant/ contractor service, with 16 years of PR experience, and six years with JPRA.
- Twenty-seven are rated as fully qualified instructors, and six are rated as exercise lead planners.
- Across the organization there are 20 with bachelor's degrees, 5 with master's degrees, 8 are pursuing additional/advanced degrees, and 1 has a PHD. (an average of 1.9 degrees per person)

**PRETC Background:**

To address problems identified with the recovery of isolated personnel during Operation Desert Storm, the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), activated the Joint Services SERE Agency (JSSA) at Fort Belvoir, VA, on 15 November 1991, as a Field Operating Agency of the United States Air Force (USAF). Subsequently, the JCS also designated JSSA as Executive Agent for Code of Conduct, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape Training, and Operational Evasion and Escape matters. To address deficiencies in command and control of rescue forces, the JCS, in Memo 136-91, also specified that each combatant theater would maintain a standing Joint Rescue Coordination Center (JRCC) and directed JSSA to provide necessary training. Accordingly, JSSA developed a JRCC seminar which was presented at Fort Belvoir and Fairchild AFB, WA in 1998. That same year the seminar was formally designated class SV-99, and was conducted in the Fort Belvoir base theater. The instruction and administration of the class was consolidated within the Academics and Special Projects Division within the JSSA Director of Operations at Fort Belvoir. The demand for the classes grew, and the Academics and Special Projects Division was moved to a facility in Fredericksburg, VA, where SV-99 was re-designated as PR-101. This move provided increased space for larger classes, inclusion of supportive exercise play, and capability to create additional courses to meet the growing demand for PR education and training.

In 1999, JSSA was combined with the Joint Combat Rescue Agency, also under USAF control, and realigned as the Joint Personnel Recovery Agency (JPRA), which was placed under the unified command of the US Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM). The Special Projects Division was consolidated under the JPRA/J-3/5, and the Academics portion moved to the newly established JPRA/J-7. JPRA training further expanded to serve the "war fighters" needs, and began providing critical PR training to the operational theaters and deploying combat units. In 2004, JPRA Academics was formally renamed the Personnel

Recovery Education and Training Center, and began providing senior leader seminars and on-site exercise support. PRETC instructors also began to participate in mission rehearsal exercises in support of deploying forces for Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM. In 2004 PRETC began deploying Observer-Trainer personnel to participate in exercises world-wide, providing PR subject matter expertise to those assigned to PR control nodes. In 2005 PRETC split from the JPRA/J-7 and became a separate directorate. Soon after, PRETC responded to a JROC Directive and began training an additional 1,050 personnel for the combatant commands. Due to this increased demand across DOD, in 2006, PRETC gained more personnel, moved to its current location, in Fredericksburg, VA and continued to expand its operations in effort to meet demand from Interagency and multinational partners. PRETC now occupies four large classrooms and 10 smaller training rooms. All rooms are integrated with a multi-capable computer system which better facilitates student exercises reinforcing academic instruction. PRETC also absorbed the Academic Program Development branch providing the capability to standardize academic products. Likewise, PRETC began working with other governmental agencies to synchronize and coordinate PR education and training, and responded to NATO initiatives to develop combined courses, and facilitate standardized policy and doctrine. In continued partnership, PRETC hosted two Swedish Foreign Liaison Officers from 2007-2008, further influencing and expediting PR standards amongst partner nations.

In 2009, PRETC staffing further expanded when it absorbed the Exercise Branch from the JPRA/J-3. In 2011, JFCOM was inactivated and JPRA was realigned as a Chairman's Controlled Activity under the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and assigned under the JCS/J-7. PRETC activated an Analysis Branch with three personnel to advance research and production capabilities and help incorporate lessons learned from the evolving PR environment into its academic curriculum and operations. Additionally, with the absorption of the Exercise Branch PRETC instructors began to cross-train as exercise leader planners, further expanding the depth and breadth of their PR knowledge as well as PRETC capabilities and flexibility to provide support where needed. They also began to deploy and augment/support several contingency PR staffs. While providing this critical PR subject matter expertise these experts were able to glean current and relevant experience to buttress PRETC courses.

In 2013, PRETC activated a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility, further enabling in-depth research and analysis capabilities. Most recently, PRETC was assigned responsibility to maintain the JPRA Joint Lessons Learned Information System and develop a plan for JPRA to institutionalize a lessons learned program. PRETC is also hosting a JPRA special six-person team to capture historic and lessons learned related information on PR operations in Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. The challenges are on-going.

### **Results:**

- PRETC constantly works with all military services, the combatant commands, multinational, and inter-agency partners.
- PRETC subject matter experts personally engage with and message/train/advise Combatant Commander staffs. Influencing PR theater wide at the General Officer level.
- PRETC offers fourteen in-residence courses, some also available through mobile training teams or staff assistance visits, and two on-line courses. (1067 trained in 06' / 2663 trained in 12')
- PRETC curriculum provides "PME like" PR education to students at the Tactical, Operational, and Strategic level.

- PRETC facilitates on-going curriculum development and changes based upon lessons learned, student feedback, and operator's needs.
- PRETC provides PR Subject Matter Experts to support exercise control group and observer-trainer support teams. These teams supported forty major exercises in FY 2012 through 2014.
- PRETC conducts analysis of past PR training to assist in the identification of support needs, and event story-line development.
- PRETC has provided education, exercise support, and training to over 33,000 U.S. and allied personnel from 50 countries.

All of this we do that:

***Others may live – to return with honor.***