

A Blackhawk commonly used during the MX adventures



MILSIM



PETE CARR, AUTHOR

Pete Carr is editor of *Sporting Rifle* magazine. A former professional hunting outfitter turned freelance journalist, he has worked on and alongside the international security circuit in Africa on anti-poaching initiatives and has earned his living with the rifle, camera and latterly the pen for the past 20 years writing/compiling five books and numerous articles for mainstream publications and television.

An elite group of ex-Special Forces soldiers has created the ultimate five-day special ops experience in Jordan that may well tempt airsofters with the necessary wherewithal.

Pete Carr brings us the lowdown...

It has to be every airsofter's ultimate fantasy: five days in the Middle East at the world's most advanced counter-terrorism and special operations training centre, living alongside soldiers from the SAS, Delta Force, US Navy SEALs and other legendary Special Forces units, tackling a series of demanding operational challenges.

An impossible dream? No, it's really possible. You don't even need any previous military or firearms experience. You just need to be reasonably fit. Oh, and have a spare 12 and a half grand to spend. Still, in return you'll have memories to last you a lifetime and, hell, what do you get for £12,500 these days? Do they take wives/girlfriends on eBay? Just asking...

The men behind this unique opportunity are Harry Taylor, ex British SAS, and Charles 'CK' Redlinger, a former US Marine. With a group of former international Special Forces soldiers, the pair recently launched Mission X, offering an authentic special operations experience as the ultimate fantasy vacation and character-building exercise.

"The Mission X team shares your passion for travel, adventure and calculated risk-taking," enthuses their website. "If the thought of trekking the Amazon, climbing Everest and HALO (high altitude, low opening) jumping from 30,000 feet doesn't faze you, you might just be ready for the Mission X experience."

Sound good? The standard five-day tactical Special Operations Adventure Experience

(SOAE) throws you head-first into a series of missions and scenarios described as so intense and extreme that the lines between reality and fantasy become blurred.

You become a member of a six- to eight-man elite unit activated to deploy. You link up with your team at a FOB (Forward Operating Base) in a classified location within a semi-permissive environment. You receive detailed OPORDs (Operational Orders) and gather intelligence on several mission profiles. And that's when the fun really begins.

Your mission is to severely disrupt and destroy an enemy operating cell that has been discovered planning and executing operations in the region. From your FOB, you will conduct training to hone your skill sets before and between missions. Upon receiving authority to execute your missions, you will move/insert by vehicle, foot or helicopter to the target, and then conduct actions on the objective using speed, surprise and violence of action.

A typical five-day schedule includes weapons familiarisation covering .50 cal, .308 and .338, an MOE (method of entry) demo, VIP protection and evasive driving, rappelling, and UH-60 Blackhawk familiarisation. All participants will be provided with full tactical

gear: cammies, boots, shades, and more, by First Spear – a package worth £1,500. You'll carry out operations in urban and wooded areas, the CQB house and even a Roman amphitheatre.

These are highly-charged, realistic war-game scenarios offering all the excitement and adrenalin of real military operations, but with the highly-experienced members of Team MX ensuring that you enjoy the experience and return home in one piece. The team are keen to make it clear that this is not military training. "Participants receive sufficient instruction to make the adventure real and extreme," they say. "However, you do not receive formal military training or information on any special operations tactics that may put real Special Forces operatives or operations at risk."

Team MX takes full advantage of its unique connection with KASOTC, the King Abdullah II Special Operations Training Centre located in Amman, Jordan. The centre was the vision of His Majesty, King Abdullah II of Jordan. As monarch of a country with one of the most capable Special Forces units in the world, and with a background in special operations, King Abdullah II wanted to create a centre of excellence for special operations training and he certainly achieved it at KASOTC.

Set in 1,200 acres, the purpose-built facility specialises in counter-terrorism, special operations and irregular warfare. Currently, KASOTC is the only training centre of its kind in the world. It incorporates integrated advanced technology throughout, with numerous ranges, a mock city, special

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MX co-founder Harry Taylor climbs the 8 story commando tower at KASOTC



HARRY TAYLOR

Harry Taylor co-founded Mission X with Charles 'CK' Redlinger. Harry served with 45 CDO Royal Marines and 22 SAS operating worldwide. He has vast experience in the commercial security world and has undertaken operational anti-poaching in Africa, KnR, PSD and instructional roles in a wide range of disciplines.

He is qualified as a high alpine mountain guide through the International Federation of Mountain Guides Association (IFMGA) and continues to lead regular mountain adventures. He summited Everest without supplementary oxygen in 1993. He was the first Briton to paraglide from Denali and Cho Oyo and is an active skydiver and BASE jumper.

His work as a technical advisor includes stunt double and safety work on more than 15 films and documentaries including *Touching the Void*, *Alive* series for Discovery and *Aliens vs. Predator* for 20th Century Fox. As an instructor at the King Abdullah II Special Operations Training Center (KASOTC) Harry has trained counter-terrorism and special operations forces.



battlefield effects, and a fibre optic network system connecting hundreds of cameras, microphones, target systems and simulators. Several members of Team MX were involved in the design and development of KASOTC in its early years.

"We have conducted many training scenarios at KASOTC," says 'CK' Redlinger. "It was a natural progression to offer affordable tactical adventures, corporate leadership and development training programmes, and consulting to the film and television industry."

Upon arrival at KASOTC the action begins immediately. Participants spend five days living and working as operatives alongside Special Forces soldiers from the world's most recognised special operations units. These guys are the real deal: soldiers from elite units in the United States, Great Britain, New Zealand and Denmark. They have all proven themselves in the field and, in addition to their military expertise, they are accomplished authors, world-record holders in extreme sport, world-class athletes, leadership coaches, stuntmen and shooting champions.

Participants receive a high quality limited edition plaque and certificate of completion,



MX co-founder CK Redlinger opens the 4th Annual Warrior Competition at KASOTC while giving a speech to the King of Jordan and 32 international counter-terrorism teams

as well as a complementary two-day stay at the five-star Moevenpick Resort Petra, and guided visit of the ancient city of Petra, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, famous for its rock-cut architecture and water conduit system.

I had exclusive access to much of the training facility, and engaged with a number of the Mission X instructors, and to say I was impressed would be an understatement of massive proportions. This facility is the best there is, and with SAS and Delta Force legends such as Johnny 'Two Combs' Howard, Harry Taylor, Daryl Holland, and John McPhee, you will be in experienced hands that guarantee to take you to the edge and back.

In addition to the adventure experience, Mission X offers a leadership and development training programme like no other. Structured around military situations and operations, the corporate combat adventure is designed to bring out the best in managers and their teams and lead to more effective planning.

The company also provides services to film and television, drawing on the expertise of its international team of ex-Special Forces operators with real-life experience of special operations in the field. Their previous work includes documentaries filmed in the world's most extreme environments and Hollywood movies filmed on location and in the studio.

If you're already eyeing up the family silver, car, wife, and wondering how to raise that 12 and a half grand, there are a few things you should know. Participation is not guaranteed. Applicants are assessed to ensure they are eligible. A criminal record will disqualify you instantly. You will also need to be reasonably fit. Participants are required to carry a combat



An example of the advanced battlefield effects at KASOTC used during adventures

load of equipment similar to loads carried by real soldiers. While carrying the combat load, you will have to run, jump, climb, crawl, rappel from high structures, enter and exit aircraft and complete other activities associated with military actions.

You will not, however, need any previous military training or experience, and there is no requirement for prior experience with firearms. The adventure includes sufficient weapons familiarisation for you to engage successfully in the adventures and individual missions.

The price does not include your flights to and from Amman, but once you are there just about everything is paid for, including transfer to the FOB, accommodation in military-style

quarters, three buffet-style meals a day, plus use of all personal and team equipment, vehicles, weapons and ammunition, tactical aircraft and all training areas and other tactical consumables used during the missions.

Naturally you'll need to pay for any personal extras such as drinks, telephone calls and the like, plus any meals you chose to take outside the facility. You'll also need to arrange your own personal medical and travel insurance and bring whatever spending money you might need.

Want to find out more? Check the website www.missionx.com for full details of the adventures currently on offer in Jordan with the World's elite Special Forces instructors. ■



CHARLES 'CK' REDLINGER

Co-founder of Mission X CK served in the US Marine Corps as an assault team leader, assault breacher and a close quarters battle instructor. Later, he joined the DeKalb County Police Department (Atlanta) and served as a patrol officer in the streets of south-east Atlanta, a detective in the Robbery-Homicide Unit, a sniper team leader on the SWAT Team and as commander in the Vice and Permits Unit. CK earned over 20 commendations for actions in the line of duty. CK worked on a close protection detail for the regional US Ambassador in Basra and as General David Petraeus' Security Manager at the Multi-National Security Transition Command — Iraq in Baghdad. He was selected to assist in opening the world's premier Counter Terrorism Training Center (King Abdullah II Special Operations Training Center) in Jordan. He developed the Business and Operations sections and ultimately held the position of Deputy Director (Acting). Over the course of three years, CK was instrumental in building the center's reputation as a center of excellence and establishing an international network of clients for the 200 million dollar facility. CK organised the Annual Warrior Competition for its first four years. This competition brings together international counter-terrorism and Special Operations units to compete in challenging live-fire exercises.



MX Special Operations Adventure in Jordan

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