

## Leadership Reaction Course. FAC: 1799

CATCODE: 179922

OPR:

OCR:

Updated: 15 August 2025

**1.1. Description.** A leadership reaction course (LRC) is designed for developing leadership, teamwork, and confidence through a series of problem-solving obstacles. Each leadership reaction problem obstacle is designed to test Airmen and Guardians mentally and physically, stretching them beyond their comfort zones. The LRC develops thinking under pressure, leadership, and builds trust. Airmen and Guardians must demonstrate initiative, teamwork and common sense while negotiating difficult physical obstacles. Leadership potential is assessed, and Airmen and Guardians receive feedback on their leadership strengths, weaknesses, and techniques. LRCs are different from the confidence courses (**CatCode 179921**) and obstacle courses (**CatCode 179923**). Note, some Air Force training programs refer to an LRC as Project-X.

**1.2. Requirements Determination.** Not all installations require an LRC. Typically, installations that host training programs have a need for an LRC.

**1.3. Scope Determination.** Comprised of different problem obstacles, the LRC is more than an obstacle course. The outdoor leader and team building facility may consist of 10-20 or more structured “leadership challenges” that encourage Airmen and Guardians to think, react and work as a team to solve problems during a determined period. Leaders receive a mission brief; brainstorm and problem solve with their team using only the materials provided. Then execute their plan and re-adjust to compete in the LRC challenge. The problem obstacles present a challenging and unique learning environment that can only be overcome with leadership and teamwork. No automation is required for this facility. Operations and storage building, latrines, weather shelter, electrical service, running water, and parking are associated with the LRC. Count each complete course as one (1) each.

1.3.1. The primary users of LRCs are typically trainees and students attending formal training or education programs. The LRC is an outdoor laboratory which provides group members experience in functional leadership, effective followership, teamwork, and group and individual problem solving.

**1.4. Design Considerations.** See **Table 1.1** for a list of potential types of LRC obstacles. This is not a comprehensive list of possible obstacles. The obstacles listed are physically located at the Squadron Officer School (SOS), Maxwell AFB, Alabama. **Table 1.1** also includes potential support facilities and infrastructure.

1.4.1. The LRC shall be designed to meet construction and safety standards. Professional architect-engineer services should be considered to aid in the design and construction of an LRC. Consult the installation Civil Engineer for assistance.

1.4.2. The LRC complex is typically constructed from wood, metal, concrete and concrete masonry units on a grass, mulch, earth, gravel, or concrete surface. Fall zones around and under obstacles must be constructed of material that can absorb the impact of someone falling off the obstacle. Use sand, ground rubber, saw dust or water.

1.4.3. The LRC complex can be covered with a weather shelter to protect participants from the elements and enable LRC operations during inclement weather. The shelter should incorporate electrical lighting or skylights to ensure good visibility.

1.4.4. LRC water obstacle designs should include plumbing for the filling and draining of water.

1.4.5. Recommend referencing established design guidance, drawings and sketches when developing course problem obstacles and layout plan. Organizations can also site adapt existing designs from previous LRC projects. The SOS LRC is an excellent example to follow.

1.4.6. Safety equipment (nets, pads, ground covering, etc.) should be incorporated into the design. Consider the need for inspection, maintenance, and replacement of safety equipment during design process.

1.5. **Maintenance.** Only qualified personnel trained to perform structural maintenance will perform LRC maintenance. This maintenance may be performed by installation civil engineer, if qualified, or by a contractor qualified to perform such a task. Self-help maintenance of obstacles is authorized but, the obstacle will remain off-limits until certified by a qualified structural engineer.

**Table 1.1. LRC may include, but is not limited to, the following obstacle tasks. The obstacles listed are located at the SOS LRC site.**

<b>LRC Obstacle Description</b>	
1	Water obstacle with a ladder, planks, ropes, and a stretcher with dummy or one ammo box
2	Water obstacle with steppingstones and planks and one ammo box in a wheelbarrow
3	Water obstacle with large tubes, planks, ropes and two ammo boxes
4	Water obstacle surrounded by minefield. Task has pipes, logs, ropes and ladder
5	Water obstacle with curved tube and minefield. Task has plank, rope and one dummy
6	Water obstacle with ropes and one dummy
7	Water obstacle with steppingstones, pipes and four 5-gallon cans. Sides of task are mined.
8	Inclined walls, a plank and one 55-gallon PVC drum or dummy
9	Elevated horizontal supports, square beams, ropes and one ammo box
10	Minefield with ropes, two 55-gallon PVC drums or one dummy
11	Stumps in a minefield with square beams, logs, ropes, and one 55-gallon PVC drum
12	High walls flanking the minefield with pipe, ropes, and one ammo box
13	Minefield with cliff, wall, and platform. Task has ropes and one ammo box.
14	Minefield with ropes, plank, one stretcher with dummy or one ammo box
15	Minefield with pipes, rope and on 55-gallon metal drum
16	Water obstacle with planks, logs, ropes and one ammo box
17	Water obstacle with planks and one 55-gallon metal drum
18	Water obstacle with square beams, pipe, and ropes
19	Water obstacle with horizontal chains and surrounded by minefield. Task has plank, log, rope and one ammo box.
20	Water obstacle with platforms, rope and one ammo can
21	Water obstacle with plank, pipe, and ropes
22	Minefield with pipes, board and two ammo boxes
<b>Support Facilities and Infrastructure</b>	
Operations and Storage Building	User Justified
Men's and Women's Latrines	User Justified
Weather Shelter	User Justified
Electrical Service for Lighting	User Justified
Running Water	User Justified
Parking Lot	User Justified