

**O-0404**  
**MOVE AS PART OF A SEARCH LINE**

**CONDITIONS**

You are a member of a ground team moving through the woods on a line search.

**OBJECTIVES**

Maintain the specified interval, direction, and speed, expanding and contracting on the base man as needed, while remaining alert for both the search target and commands from the team leader.

**TRAINING AND EVALUATION**

**Training Outline**

1. When moving in a line search it is extremely important to maintain the proper interval, direction and speed. As a team member, you must maintain this direction and your interval while moving through varying terrain in order to ensure an efficient search.

a. The interval between members is specified by the team leader to insure a certain level of coverage. Team interval is defined as the number of team members to your left and right you must keep in sight. For a very spread out search, the team leader will specify that you only need to see one person on your left and right. For a very concentrated search, you might be told to keep two or three people on each side within your sight.

b. The search line also has a direction of movement. This is determined by guiding on something such as a compass azimuth, a terrain feature like a road, or a marked line left by the team's last sweep through the area. One team member will normally be designated as the *base* team member. He or she is responsible for maintaining direction. This will normally be the person at one end of the search line, following a terrain feature or marked route. It could be someone in the middle, though, if the team is following an azimuth or a terrain feature in the middle of the search line. In very spread out searches (with an interval of one person on either side in sight), it is probable that all members of the team might be given the compass azimuth to follow.

c. Search lines move as fast as the slowest searcher. Some parts of the search area might be harder to search or more difficult to travel through. The team should always slow down for the slowest searcher, not make that person speed up and possibly miss a clue.

d. Search lines do not have to be silent. Feel free to talk to the team members on your left and right in order to maintain proper interval, direction and speed. Don't confuse this for idle chit-chat being acceptable. Remember to stay focused on your job.

2. To move as part of a search line:

a. Know the appropriate interval, direction and location of the base team member (to your left or right).

b. As you move, space yourself so you can barely see the number of team members on either side specified by the interval.

c. If the terrain changes and you cannot see the required number of team members, move towards the base. If you cannot see the persons farther away from the base than you, then advise them to move in as well.

- d. Maintain proper direction either with your own compass (if specified) or by observing the team members closer to the base member than you.
- e. You do not have to keep an absolutely straight line as you walk. You can move about in order to effectively search all the terrain, as long as you maintain the appropriate general direction.
- f. Try to stay on-line with other members. If they stop, you stop.
- g. Do not rush to catch up. If it is taking longer to search the area you are in, have the other team members slow down.
- h. Any team member may halt the line for safety or possible clue/find, but only the leader can forward the line.

### Additional Information

More detailed information on this topic is available in Chapter 7 of the Ground Team Member & Leader Reference Text.

### Evaluation Preparation

**Setup:** Place the individual on a search line of at least five people. Choose an area of restricted visibility terrain, such as woods, to move through.

**Brief Student:** Inform the team that you will act as the team leader. Provide the team with a direction, designate a base student, and specify an interval of 2 individuals. Forward the team and observe. At some point during the movement, change the interval to 3 individuals.

### Evaluation

<u>Performance measures</u>		<u>Results</u>	
1. Maintains correct interval	P	F	
2. Maintains correct direction	P	F	
3. Maintains proper speed.	P	F	
4. Communicates with other members to maintain interval, direction and speed.	P	F	
5. Adequately searches assigned area.	P	F	
6. Remains alert to team leader commands.	P	F	
7. Correctly adjusts interval as directed.	P	F	

Student must receive a pass on all performance measures to qualify in this task. If the individual fails any measure, show what was done wrong and how to do it correctly.