

O-0417
ORGANIZE A SEARCH LINE

CONDITIONS

You are leading a team in the field, and are assigned to grid search an area. You have already planned how you will search the area.

OBJECTIVE

Organize the assigned team members into a search line and brief them on the search.

TRAINING AND EVALUATION

Training Outline

1. Before a team moves through the woods on a search, the team members must be organized into an effective unit rather than a bunch of individuals. The team leader must perform this organization and brief his people with the required knowledge to properly perform their jobs.
2. The team leader should perform the following actions:
 - a. Line team members up in the required search formation. Assign post numbers to each individual.
 - b. Assign team members to mark the search route. Usually one or both end members of the line (also usually the most experienced team members). Check to make sure marking materials are available, and instruct on what colors to use.
 - c. Assign team members to the roles of the base man (either compass bearer or terrain feature follower) and pace keeper (if required). Remember, the team leader is still responsible for determining the team's location. The compass and pace keepers are there as backups.
 - d. Assign a team member to be the communicator (if the team leader doesn't perform this function), and team members to carry first aid kits, rope, etc. Take into account the skills and carrying capacity of the team members.
 - e. Determine where the team leader will position himself. A team leader can be centered on and behind the team for maximum control, with the base man in order to direct the teams movement, or in front as a scout.
 - f. Brief the team on the following items:
 - 1) The chain of command for the team (who's in charge if the team leader is absent or injured).
 - 2) Search interval and pattern
 - 3) Turning and end points of travel
 - 4) Terrain hazards and panic azimuth
 - 5) Actions on clue find or target find.

- 6) Where the team leader will be located.
- 7) Specific clues to search for (remind the team what the target is).
- 8) Review signals to be used to control the line (commands, whistles, etc.).

Additional Information

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

Evaluation Preparation

Setup: Provide the team leader with a 5 to 7 people to act as a search team. Provide the team leader with a map of the area with the search area marked, including turning and stopping points.

Brief Team Leader: Brief the individual that he is the team's leader. Present him with or have him prepare a plan to search his assigned area. The team leader is to organize the people into a search formation and brief them on the assigned sortie.

Evaluation

Performance measures	Results
1. The team leader lines people up and assigns post numbers	P F
2. The team leader assigns tasks to team members	P F
3. The team leader briefs on end and turning points	P F
4. The team leader briefs on safety hazards and panic azimuth	P F
5. The team leader briefs on his location during the search	P F
6. The team leader briefs on the chain-of-command	P F
7. The team leader briefs on specific search clues	P F
8. Reviews signals used to control the line.	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.