

## **So training was brought up by Justin:**

1) First once you decide on how you plan to approach on team break downs, now lets look at individual training, most of this is introduced by the Army and Marine Corps during basic training. In the Air Force it is only taught to those in specialized training for those that support Air Force special operations fields (i.e. Combat Control, Pararescue, Combat Weather, Intell, etc.).

1. **Infantry Movement:** Low Crawl, High Crawl, Fire and Maneuver and Bounding.
2. **Hand Signals:** A must for all; this ensures no speaking, but allowing broad communication to be conducted during engagement; at a minimum, the following should be practiced, but is not all inclusive: Ready signal, understand versus don't understand, cease fire, move out, stop, freeze, get up and get down, danger area, prepare for action, enemy in sight, on-line formation, column file formation, wedge formation, patrol leader forward, decrease and increase intervals, rally on me, rally point, pass up the pace count, pass up head count, double time, quick time, and numbers. Can't think of anymore, but I am sure I missed some, but these are the basic ones.
3. **Map Reading** (Orienteering, Compass use, back azimuth, the use of GPS)...etc, you get the idea, basically what we all should be perfecting, mind you, I believe in the old compass first and shooting azimuth/back azimuth, if you don't know how to do this, get a good ole Boy Scout Manual or if your near the Boy Scout Office, pick up their Orienteering Merit Badge book). My dad was really good at teaching me this from his military experience, but the first thing he used was my Boy Scout manual and my merit badge book, and yes, both my brother and I are earned our merit badge, 50 miler award both by canoe and hiking and were "Order of the Arrow". So if your not trained, contact your local Boy Scout office, they will have a list of qualified scout leaders who are proficient in this important skill. You'll find that it a lost art in the military because of too much use of the PLGR (GPS), unless your training for your CBI or EFMB. Oh and forgot to mention just not excel at during the day, but love the night!
4. **Communications:** See all the past posts about what everyone uses...I'm just not going to discuss it in this post. However, what is not

mentioned in most threads is the use of a code book which is formally known as Counter Encrypting Operations and Intelligence (CEO&I), sure they have changed the acronym since I retired with all the new space age crap being used by our military forces. However, it is a simple encryption code book that you write, make copies for all your team members to use on the radio and yes makes sure each radio operator has it easily accessible, I wear mine in a military I.D. holder that has the elastic arm band on, another option is to purchase from a sporting good place (where high school football coaches purchase their equipment and get one of those play wrist bands, it has clear plastic that you can place your CEO&I and protect it from the elements. If your not sure, what I mean, I can send you something via email.

At a minimum, the CEO&I should address your team members call signs, SITREP codes, Order and Resources that are encrypted and have an authentication table. Lastly, this is the most important, A challenge and password. You should also include a running password. The other discussion, is how often do you change the challenge, in training, just use the same words, practice makes perfect, my feeling unless your password has been compromised (example: one of your team member is captured), I'd keep the changes to a minimum to minimize friendly fire incident or blue on blue as we call it.

All your members should know the phonetic alphabet and I'd recommend using the military radio use of calling numbers. The use of common phrases like Wilco, Roger, etc...most know what I am talking about, so I am not going to write them out...not sure, ask,

5. Leadership is key in a modern battlefield, it takes years to hone the skills of leadership and I am the first to admit, I still have more to learn, you could spend years thumbing through after-action reports, history books, you name it, and still never be an expert and if you find one that claims he is...then question it. Like I said, I kept this thread open for those to add more or comment.

I've been trained by many services...but I must admit my best time was with the Marines...no offense to my service or the others I've been with, but I guess they have a very realistic attitude that 1) every member in the Marine Corps is a Marine Rifleman first. No offense but the Army is specialized, not that they are not warfighters, we've all learned the hard

way from Afghanistan and Iraq that there is no rear, as so many posted in Justin's thread, 360...can't say it enough with the IED's that have taken our very best...and yes cowardly way. Additionally, I've gone through my Air Force leadership schools, NCO prep, NCO Leadership at Zaragoza, Spain and Lackland, Texas, SNCO at Gunter, but my best leadership school was Marine BNCO, the course is more than management courses that AF teaches, the Marine course teaches true art of battlefield leadership and I for one enjoyed my experience. Amen to my Gunny! So here is how I would approach it if SHTF and we are at the BOL or if the lid is about to burst on the world, these are just simple thoughts.

We break training down into some simple processes. Receive the mission, Issue a Warning Order, Start a provisional plan, movement, Recon, Finish Plan, Issue Op Order and in this case because it is training or a drill, rehearse, rehearse, rehearse until your team members feel they have it down, In the process, there should be one or two who supervise (to ensure training meets objectives and for safety)...you should always have a range safety officer).

So let me break it down for you:

6. **Receive the Mission:** Where is the mission, how will we get there, how much time, what support, what is the direction of movement, who am I coordinating with (is there other groups involved, I know a military thing when you're talking multi-service engagements, but you can apply this to neighbors, people who are in your town, you fill in the rest, I don't know your situation). Example: Jim Le, he might have some friends he has known in East Texas for years, he has worked with them, knows them like his family, maybe these are his back-up, well this might be a coordination thing. Sorry Jim, couldn't resist in bringing my buddy into the thread...gets boring trying to think of everything I learned years ago and I haven't posted on what you should do in a NBC environment...that will be a real yawner!

7. **Issue a Warning Order:** Issue it immediately, three simple things: The mission, the time and place. Simple in training, your only going to do one, but in a real mission, things change, so you might revise your Warning Order based on the dictation of the event or it might not pan out. Here is an example: I get a call from my boss, Bob, get out to the hangar now, we have an op. For me, that was my warning

order. Called my wife, she's been through the drill, bag was sitting at home because I was at the base exchange with my daughter and it was a Saturday. She brought the bag at the hangar, we exchanged kisses and the daughter...right you all hard cores, your thinking the daughter is going on an op...right, sick humor there! Wife knows the drill don't ask, bigger kiss and a look of be careful, silent nod from me. I get into the building, boss is waiting, we get the mission brief, and then begin the provisional plan...I'm told take some veterinary supplies to drop pet animals to sleep. We get told where the mission is going to be at, use of several birds, this is a milk run with SOF support to secure the field and move civilians...also this is a multinational event...so be on our best behavior...play nice, nice. We are into the movement phase now...drawing weapons, etc. do I need to discuss this?

In training, your possibly moving to your training site...via pickup or SUV. can't see any of you using a chopper, but who knows maybe your married to some rich woman or your a pilot.

Your tentative plan should at least discuss information pertinent to the mission (maps, weather reports, intelligence data) and what we call METT-T(C): Mission, Enemy, Time, Terrain, and Troops (civilians = the C). Another question is the info current, when was the report given? Is it minutes, hours or days old?, this drives if you need to invest more toward recon. Even the simplest things that are overlooked, but for a guy or gal who works well on a full stomach...how bout food (MRE's? or is someone making it?). You laugh, but now that I am retired, I don't do well with an MRE. In your plan that will be released in your OP PLAN: When does the training begin and finish?, what equipment will be used and when will it be inspected? When do you move to the Friendly Fire Line, when do you link up with your guide, when do you depart? When do you pass the release point, when do you have to be in position (note, important if your the attacking force or the blocking force). See I believe in the hammer and anvil approach which is the one of the oldest tactics, but most difficult to pull off even with modern communications.

You now start movement and if your conducting reconnaissance or are the reconnaissance force, you need to be FLEXIBLE...change is a constant in any event, you think those guys are going to play by your rules...if you do...then let me know when that happen. I've got a kid at home, even the simplest things are a challenge.

When training, complete the plan, issue the order and yes training, train by using your plan and throw a few things to make your leaders react and adapt. Again, do you really think they are going to react the way you devised it.

As for supervision: If your the supervisor or exercise evaluator, SAFETY, in fact, because your not playing with blanks or adapted paint balls, all range supervisors should inspect all weapons, clear and pull, in fact, our team is required only to use semi-auto rifles in training without a magazine, even then all weapons are checked and placed on safety. Saves us filling out paperwork and a bad day for all.

Only time, the team does get to practice, is when we head to the big city and play paintball games...we then practice with our tactics.

8. **Oporder:** The overall leader is he one who crafts the Oporder. Everyone should understand, the rule is simple KISS plan (do I have to interpet, hope not). Make sure everyone has the Oporder understood and should repeat it back. This does two things, ensure mission success if leader is unable to lead and carry out mission and also if member is separated from team, member can continue with mission or knows where rally point, etc step are to be done.

Simply, use this...**Service Men Eat Shit Constantly** (sorry if I offend anyone here), but it means **Situation, Mission, Execution, Service and Support, Command.**

**Situation:** Means what is happening, this includes terrain, weather, friendly forces already engaged, strength and weakness of opposing forces (OPFOR), known or expected route of OPFOR, and their intent/activity. Where are the locations of friendly forces, will they be engaged, what is their situation, what are their resources, are we the ambush force or blocking force?, tons of questions and with the weather, I use an APP on my Iphone, its paid dividend in training and real world for me each day. I have radar weather with a few key strokes, not to mention my app has me plugged in the spot via built in GPS.

**Mission:** Well whatever you are planning to do. Be specific, don't say "we are going to neutralize target, give a landmark objective and if possible how

will the mission ensure your BOL or families survival. In other words is the mission worth the exposure and price that will be paid if you engage and lose a member or worse give up your position.

**Concept of Ops** is part of execution: If possible start a time table, it is going to change because of varying events, weather, terrain, transportation, change of OPFORs direction, what they are doing, but a time table ensures success. Coordinating Instructions: how will the route of march be conducted, who is responsible for the movement, placement of each member on the route of march. Do you have any special teams tasked with other objectives or missions within the mission. Example, assault, support, recon, search teams, demolition...etc. The more specific each task and how each member are trained will ensure success in the real event.

**Service and Support:** Okay not everyone is going...simple, who is protecting the BOL? Let me mention that briefly, I'd make sure you have a one of your fire teams available and possibly another team if you have that many to support your BOL. Why, because what if you miss the people you are engaging, you got it, they are walking into BOL without any opposition. The other part is who stays behind to prepare for recovery of teams, medical, supply, transport...these are just as important as the assaulting or react teams, they are critical to the overall mission and don't get enough credit until someone out front is really in trouble, then they are the Angel of Mercy or the late resupply that tips the scale of battle. If you have a large caliber gun, you take the basic load, but what happens when your down to the last few rounds...now that guy back at the BOL or Start point is really important.

**Command:** Well this is critical and everyone is responsible to know who is in charge and please folks don't argue with the man...your in the field, he is piecing everything that your relaying on comm, but you don't have the whole picture...so don't question it.

**Frag order is an amendment to the Op order.**

9. **MOST IMPORTANT IS THE AFTER-ACTION REPORT**, its critical be hard one another, feeling may get bruised here, but its going to save lives and ensure team integrity and mission completion in a real environment. Military pilots have a simple rule: Plan the mission, Fly

the mission! Despite that stuff you see on movies, planning saves lives. Think like a prepper, your planning right now, buying things, saving, trainings...its the same thing. Rule of progression for all.

I could list a hundred scenarios and things to look for and maybe that's for another thread, but even addressing how you will handle frost bite or heat exhaustion as a simple training exercise is something to learn from.

10. So now, your ready to martial the troops or teams...

#### **Do a Pre-Combat check...**

Communications: Check for extra batteries, antenana, mic and basic communication equipment is in working order, check to see if the radio is on the right channel, this is very important, can't stress that enough and it happens all the time where your on the wrong net. Check to ensure everyone is issued a CEO&I, someone is going to forget, so have an extra copy that is laminated. Enter the network and do a freq check with the command net.

**Weapons check...**well I've got into my discussion how we do training, in the real event, inspect for serviceable and clean, if you have one of those fancy infra-red, green laser, is it working, flashlight working, is the scope serviceable or fogged up? Do you have a spare or spare batteries...remember those lithiums only last a few hours if you have your hyped up scope running on!. Iron sight baby...old school for me, not that I don't have the rest of it, but I made sure all my weapons still have the iron sight. Ammunition is it dry, serviceable and proper amount available...I am so impressed with some guys who say they carry about 2000 rounds in their BOB...so impressed, your the first to start dropping lead out of that pack if your hoofing it. Last time I checked we are in the U.S. If you need all those rounds, consider caching some in a tree hole, you can vacuum pack it, protect it...but really carrying all that. Do you have a clearing instrument, I have a simple thin flathead screwdriver, I've got all my fingers to show it too. Yes and are your magazines in working order? I have training ones and the real ones are separate for the real world, these are checked and rechecked every month.

- As for each member. Inspect their feet, foot powder, are boots broken in or are they factory fresh? Everyone wearing the right uniform and cold weather gear if you live in snow...I've had a Korean lady make us some white coveralls using heavy thread white sheets

bought at Walmart. Everyone have a water canteen or mule? First Aid Kit (individual), if you wearing body armor or plate carriers, most of this stuff can be Molle items. Do your people have an ID tag, get them, you can buy them online, simple, name, allergies, blood type. One in the boot too. LBE or 3 day pack.

- All troops brief back to the leader the warning order and anything additional to the mission. Make sure troops know where the rally point, exfil route (never take the same route, your opening yourself up for a ambush).
- Leaders and deputy should have map , compass, etc.

11. Okay, I know this is long, so this part is short, if people like this thread, maybe I will try and go into detail about Battle drills a bit more.

Traveling: Simply patrol is kept together, each member is 5 to 8 meters apart. This allows for quick movement into the area, but I would only use this if you know no threat is in the area. Obviously, my concerns are ambush or sniper.

Traveling Overwatch is pretty simple: Team is separated into two or more groups, the groups are separated by 5-8 meters like traveling , but their is an interval of 20 meters between the two groups. This allows the team to quickly move, but allows the ability to disperse or counter a ambush.

Bounding Overwatch: This is the best team movement skill, but is time consuming and delay your approach to your Forward Edge of Battle (FEBA). It is used where enemy contact is imminent, two or more teams are separated. The forward team will halt and observe, this is the overwatch position.

## 12. **Attack Formation:**

- a. Colum File: is single line of troops, the advantage of using this formation is for ease of movement and communication. There are few breaks in movement and allows the leader to move into the another battle formation quickly, disadvantage is that you are vulnerable to ambush at the flanks, also only the front and rear man can react/fire. Typically, point is in front, Drag man to the



rear, leader somewhere between the middle to near front of the column. I doubt anyone has heavy weapons, so I will just mention that if you have a weapon with automatic weapons (will address this from this point as **AW**) capability, they will either sit about 2-3 troops behind the point (this is in a ten man column).

- b. Wedge: An inverted “V”. The point man is only 120 degrees, the rest of the team is offset from the point and has a 90 degree limited view for the side they are responsible. The team leader is in the middle of this formation and another V follows up in support and provide rear guard for the frontal assault team. In this case, place AW on middle of either flank (\*closest to expected enemy contact).
  - c. The diamond is made from a four member fire team, point in front, left and right members and the leader is in the rear. This formation is the best in giving 360 degree capability, ease for travel and allows larger teams to move fluidly from wedge to diamond formation.
  - d. Jungle file (I would also say, this is a formation you can use for heavily wooded areas like a National Forest...teams are broken down into two or three columns, just know that communication between the three groups become difficult, use of hand signals or voice command is influenced by density on environment. NOTE: If your Communication Security (COMSEC), is restricted, possibly using this formation within line of sight is the only option.
13. Crossing Danger Areas:
- a. Patch to the Road: **Speed, speed, speed!** The team halts, members close within each other, shoulder to shoulder, leader uses hand signals, point man steps into roadway, point looks left and right, if road is free of OPFOR, then point take a position down the road to his right, his left arm should be facing the road because his left arm has his “unit patch”, why it is called “patch to the road”, the second man immediately rushes to the point man, take same position with patch (left arm) facing the road, and then says “go”, the point man takes off across the road and faces the opposite road, with left arm, patch to the road, now both men have

cover of the road providing 360 coverage. Each team member then relieves each member that is providing coverage with the "Go". This allows the point member to resume point and also ensure that team formation is not disrupted during the movement phase. **NOTE: If any member does not have a patch to the road, he/she is not doing their job! On an exercise, this is a mistake, refine, practice, and reevaluate team member's understanding of this method, If real, guess what your team is compromised and people get killed.**

b. Heart Shaped: Used for clearings, depressions and areas around bodies of water. Some issues, it will mess up your order of march and leaders must know communication problems can occur.

- Point man brings team to halt and signals they are in danger area.
- The leader comes forward to view danger area, he will order a two man team provide security 20-50 meters down to the right. Another team is positioned to the left, same distance of the team to the left. Leader will rejoin rest of team. Then send a security team across the danger area to secure the far side.
- The far side team becomes the listening team and observation team staying concealed against any danger or OPFOR. If it safe and free of danger, then the team expands the area, so that the entire team can fit on the far side and prevent bunch up.
- Far Side expands this site by moving away at a 45 degree angle in two small teams, they continue to listen and observe. They will then turn inward and head back to the initial listening point by going down the middle of this small patrol, then signal by hand signals to the leader if it clear.
- Then the team leader will send the rest of the team over and then once the team is across the danger area, then he will pull the two security teams providing watch.

c. Bypass method:

- Used if danger area is suspected area contact. Point and leader confirm azimuth of terrain features, (example: hill,

taller tree, or large boulder, anything that allows leader and point to maintain a point to do a back azimuth once you find an area that decreases your exposure. Teams then stay within the cover of tree line and skirts back toward the far side feature, leader does a back azimuth and then team continues route of march.

d. Box Method (used for smaller teams), more or less use your brains and dead reckon the other side.

14. Security halt is pretty simple in a column. Point is front, then each member is offset to right and then the next member to the left and so on, until you end with the drag man who is pointing opposite from the point. This provides 360 degree and does not compromise the column formation and also allows the leader to signal how to prepare for the next movement or formation.

15. I am not going to talk about ambush...maybe another time, if you need to know this, then contact me. I'll put it into another thread.

16. The last part is to discuss the **Objective Rally Point**, sometimes not practiced by people, but very important for preventing blue on blue incidents.

- a. Either 300 meters from the engagement site or a feature (I like feature for daylight, but at night, feature might not be distinguishable, so then it might be an edge of a clearing 300 meter back. My experience is that during recon or leaders eval of engagement site, walk the area...but on your BOL, if you extend you outer security ring to say about 5 miles out, then you will know the lay of the land. Will save you options and also provide distance as an exchange for time theory...email, I'll explain this theory for a BOL site. We've practiced this scenario for the BOL and our outer security ring is now 10 miles out.
- b. Team leader should use the Security halt to establish that OPFOR has not taken your rally point. Take head count, any member missing? Then if clear, move to the Rally Point.
- c. Once this is cleared, then use the "Wagon Wheel or Clock Method, by dispersing all the members into each of the clock numbers or

as a spoke on a wagon wheel, weapons facing out, look, listen and wait for any members. Another option, is triangle style, this creates three lines that join, base and two side (leader in the middle). This is a pretty difficult maneuver, so your going to have to practice it. Email me, I can send it via email. Better for me to draw you something for you to get it.

17. Movement to Contact: Identify a distance and direction of the OFOR, 2) suppress the OPFOR to restrain their movement or fire control, and last Maneuver to the flank and destroy your opponent.
  - a. What is the direction and distance of your OPFOR, give it using the clock method, 12, 1, 2...and use whole numbers, and yards or meters. Good rule of thumb in engagement is take the closest first if possible, it's the larger target and will kill you. Example, your going to shoot the man with a club in his hand that is 10 yards away, rather than the guy with the rifle 400 yards away. Simple right, not so in the fog of battle, bullets are hitting your hide site, someone is screaming at you, your deaf from pulling the trigger and oh, yeah, did you count how many rounds you've fired, because your either out and are still pulling the trigger from your automatic and nothing is coming out, or like my police friend says, you've not even pulled the trigger yet, you've done dry fires so many times, you've never pulled it in a real event. Happens to all of us. Oh and your riding in your vehicle, things are even more crazy.
  - b. Use stealth and cover as much as possible.
  - c. Do not break your attack formation
  - d. Bypass all unassigned obstacles, focus on the targets, unless the community is the OPFOR, then use your own initiative on site.
  - e. Use only the teams that are required to complete the mission, hold what you don't deploy in a supporting role or floating reserve to react to battle conditions that your opponent reacts.
  - f. Use the bounding fire team approach, it ensure security for the attacking force and continues to uphold fire integrity and keeps the bad guys head down.
  - g. React with violence once contact is made, don't let up, never give them a chance to reform or reorganize, never allow them to reposition so they can stall your attack or inflict casualties, you are not in a game of attrition in survival mode, every member counts, every member has a family member that you are responsible for.

Never let them retrograde, even if it looks like they are retreating, unless they surrender. Hate to say it, this is where my Marine sniper friend told me that his rifle was salvation for those that want to hurt him. He would never give a bad guy a break, didn't matter if he was a grown man or woman, even a kid. If they don't drop their weapon and are falling back, they still have hostile intent and in this case, prosecute it to the limit. If they have their hands behind their head, then of course don't shoot them in the back, but if their running to their vehicle, then fill it with lead, two rounds through the left side wind shield. My dad's rule when he was in the military was if they bring knives, you bring clubs, if they bring handguns, then you bring rifles, if they bring machine guns, you bring a mortar or tank...get it, any questions.

- h. If your lucky, surprise is on your side and your opponent is disorganized, not as well trained and well hate to admit it, you take the leaders out quickly, then the fight will be drained out of the rest.
- i. In modern warfare, we take prisoners, but this is a question, I am going to leave up to you all on another thread...what do you do with them. Easy if you still have government in your area or the police...then turn them over, of course that is another blog too.

So when you practice add, some realism, add a smoke pot out in the country...don't do it during the high fire season and I would recommend contacting your neighbors, the local sheriff and if your near a local volunteer fire company, do some communication, date, times, etc....if in Texas, don't even think of doing it during a burn ban...believe me, you could be held accountable for arson. Now it is funny, but it wasn't when I was talking to the deputy fire chief explaining to him why I was trying to burn out an old reed plant that I had been using shovel and ax, so can of lighter fluid and a match seemed easier...I know dumb ass, so go ahead and laugh, we all do something stupid. Anyway just got a warning, but if you plan to recreate a combat environment, some thing like an official letter to your local government and those that respond to real events, save you some serious embarrassment and the loss of a training opportunity. Also not a great way to foster good relationships with your neighbors.

Well that is about it, the novice plan. I am not talking about hostage takeover crap, rescue ops, using heavier weapons like 50 cal sniper team, mortar team, heavy Machine gun team. You might have access to them, but when you have to move quickly and react quickly, I think these simple processes are a good start that all teams should practice regularly.

I think the most important phase of any mission, besides the planning and execution, is the Pre-Inspection, I've seen some crazy stuff, this is not a war story write-up, but I've seen wrong ammunition loaded on the bird we were flying to real engagement, I've seen tray pack heater meals loaded up with no ability to warm them up.

Lastly, I want to put this out there for all of those people who read this. I am a law abiding citizen. This blog is not meant at all to influence people to not do anything illegal, but to provide information that may be used in training if should their ever be a day, when we must protect our families. Trust me, my wife does not like discussing these issues, has led to arguments, but she is a good person, and while she's put up with me in the military, she doesn't buy or advocate in the concept. Hence, when I speak of the BOL, I talk about the place as her book reading cabin. Trust me, you just have to sell it like a used car sales person...sorry for those that have that line of work, but you know what I mean. I buy my weapons legally, they are all registered. My neighbors who are law enforcement know me, heck, other than when I travel long distance, most of the time, I am driving the speed limit. When I've been pulled over, the first things out are concealed weapons license first, drivers license and then registration. In fact, as the patrolmen steps up, the first thing beside greeting him, is to tell them I have weapons in the back of my rig. Normally they say...okay thanks for giving me the heads up, they run my info and then the officer has either given me my ticket or warnings. The warnings, I normally offer the officer a chance to peak at my weapons...that leads to a minute or two conversation and I normally allow them to hold them, especially when I am transporting my larger caliber weapon...for some reason, they like my FN-FAL and Barrett.

Hope this helps.