

During the CAP Middle East Region training weekend (29-30 Jan. 1977) at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, CAP members from six of the seven MER Wings met to discuss ground search and rescue training. It was mutually agreed that the training outline in CAPM 50-15 is almost useless as far as a basis for a training program due to its lack of detail. It was further agreed that training of the type provided by the Pennsylvania Wing school at Hawk Mountain, while of value, does not provide the type of training necessary for qualification as a CAP Ground Team member at the basic level. The group, after several hours of discussion and deliberation, arrived at the following rough outline of minimum training standards for qualification as a basic Ground Team member.

I. GROUND SEARCH

One day of lecture and practical exercise.

- A. Lost person and downed-plane searches and their protocols.
- B. Ground search theory and strategy.
- C. Ground search tactics. (How to run a proper line search, what to look for, etc.)
- D. Urban as well as wildland search. (e.g. lost children.)
- E. Downed-plane search using vehicles.

II. SURVIVAL AND WILDERNESS TRAVEL

One day of lecture and practical exercise. Important points are general safety and comfort in the outdoors and overnight bivouacs. Finding food in the wilds is not important.

III. LAND NAVIGATION

Approximately two hours of classroom instruction covering:

- A. Topographic and other maps.
- B. Compass use.
- C. Orienteering concepts.

Several hours of practical exercise including:

- D. A "map walk" where students actually locate symbols on a topographic map in the field.
- E. Various types of games and/or exercises to familiarize students with the use of compass techniques.

(Land Navigation continued)

- F. An actual point-to-point orienteering course for students to run.

IV. RESCUE

(It was generally agreed by the group that most techniques and equipment used by Civil Defense rescue teams and by urban rescue squads are not generally applicable to CAP rescue situations. CAP Ground Teams must be able to equipment that is lightweight, inexpensive, and backpackable, and should learn techniques suitable for occasional extrication from light plane wrecks and transportation across rough terrain and in adverse weather.)

Approximately two days of instruction, including classroom and extensive field training.

- A. Basic light extrication tools-- hammers, metal cutters, pry bars, come-alongs, etc.

- B. Extrication-- theory and practice.

- C. Security-- what to do at a crash site.

- D. Evacuation:

--Proper use of Stokes litters and army stretchers.

--Use of ropes and tree belays.

--Procedures such as multiple-pitch ascents and descents, rotation of litter bearers, laddering over obstacles and up steep pitches, etc.

--Use of improvised long distance carries.

V. LEGAL ASPECTS

About two hours of training in the legal aspects of SAR.

VI. INTERROGATION AND REPORTING

Approximately four hours or less.

- A. Basic theory and technique.

- B. Use of search patterns in interrogation search.

- C. A practical exercise in interrogation and reporting.

VII. CAP MISSION OPERATIONS

A basic introduction to CAP downed-plane search protocol and operations, about two hours of lecture and discussion.

VIII. FIREFIGHTING

Although this is listed as a training requirement for Ground Team members in CAPM 50-15, the group was unsure as to what type of firefighting was meant and why it is required for ground team members. The following areas were identified as possibly being relevant.

- A. Theory of plane and vehicle firefighting.
- B. Fire prevention.
- C. Extinguishing agents and types of fire extinguishers.
- D. Brush-fire firefighting.

Three other topics (First Aid and Emergency Medicine, Radiological Monitoring and Decontamination, and Communications) were discussed. It was agreed that adequate training in these areas is almost universally available, and they need not be considered here.

It should be noted that this outline is not a recommendation for a training program, but a rough compilation of current ideas regarding ground team training. Much additional work is necessary to formulate a reasonable curriculum or set of guidelines.

Respectfully submitted this
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