



Masterton Police  
Po Box 443  
Masterton  
3700300



## **Wellington Wairarapa Sarex 4-5 November 2017**

### **Introduction:**

The Wairarapa SAREX was conducted over the weekend of 4-5 November 2017 in the Waingawa Valley of the Tararua Forest Park.

The SAREX planning was balanced with Police instructions for a Police Exercise and Search and Rescue Operations. Health and Safety considerations were factored into the planning.

The Sarex was a field based exercise with a scenario involving the deployment of two lost parties.

The scenario involved an element of evasion by the lost parties.



We aimed to test Wellington Regional SAR resources – in a field based exercise – in terrain that may be the subject of a real event in the future.

### **Factors for the SAREX**

Health and safety

CIMS

Planning

Briefing and debriefing

Competencies

Deployment

IMT

Handovers

Search Dog

Communications

SAR track

First Aid

Confinement

Reporting and recording  
Search methods  
Attraction  
Helicopter deployment  
Capture of training records

### **Mission**

To safely conduct a search and rescue exercise to locate two missing men

### **Scenario**

The scenario was handed over to the IMT at 1845hrs on Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November with the balance of volunteers due to arrive at 0800hrs the following day.

### **Incident Management team**

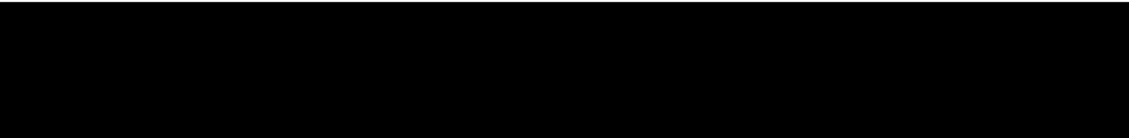
The IMT members chosen were assigned more experienced advisors to act as mentors.

### **Competency station**

A station was set up to capture competencies achieved during the SAREX. Credited assessors were used.

### **Helicopter**

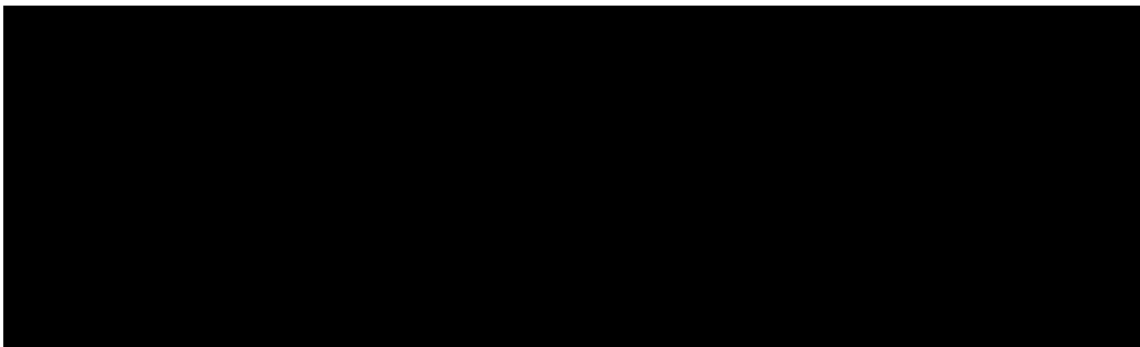
A helicopter briefing was provided to all attendees at the Wairarapa SAR base on the morning on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> of November. Amalgamated helicopters provided this briefing. Weather conditions during the SAREX prevented any further use of a helicopter.



### **Conclusion**

The Sarex was completed within the timeframes set, the lost parties were found and treated. There were no injuries or near miss events during the SAREX. Training records were captured. Each of the SAREX factors was met to the satisfaction of the mentors monitoring the IMT.

There was no external overview of the SAREX



## SAREX Scenario

### Ground:

The field location will be the Atiwhakatu and Waingawa rivers - Doc land only – from Kiriwhakapapa to Cow Creek and the Waingawa down to the pines – Atiwhakatu River from the top swing bridge down to Holdsworth lodge.

### Situation:

The scenario involves two Air Training Corps cadets who are overdue having participated in a navigation and evasion exercise. The pair were at Mitre Flats hut on Wednesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November. They were tasked to vacate the park via Doc land only. Both were due out of the park by 1300hrs on Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November. They were tasked to evade potential ambush sites. One of the two was required to get to the shelter at Kiriwhakapapa without being detected, and the other was required to get to the bridge over the Atiwhakatu – next to Holdsworth lodge.

Six ambush teams were deployed to intercept them – the pair were tasked to surrender if observed and voice challenged. The evading cadets did not know the location of actual ambush sites.

A job sheet dated 03 November provides more details - initial missing person's reports are also available.

### Mission:

To safely conduct a search and rescue exercise to locate the two missing men.

### Execution:

Establish an incident management team and deploy the resources made available. A [REDACTED] helicopter budget [REDACTED] is not to be exceeded. The exercise is to be concluded by 1500hrs on Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> of November.

### Communications

HF

VHF Holdsworth and Cattle Ridge

Portable repeater options

# JOB SHEET: Missing persons Tararua Forest Park

## **Introduction**

No 21 (Masterton Squadron) Air Training Corps Cadets in conjunction with No 49 (Kapiti Squadron) Air Training Cadets have been holding an evasion exercise in the Tararua Forest Park between Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> and Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 2017.

## **Witness**

Proficiency Flight Sergeant Roger Clarke

17 Prosser St

Masterton

Phone 0211909519

*Over the 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of November Masterton Air Training Corps were hosting an evasion exercise in the Tararua Forest Park.*

## **Evasion exercise Tararua Forest Park 1-3 November 2017**

*The exercise focus was based on two downed airman trying to get to a place of safety*

*The pair were tasked to navigate to a road end location without being encountered by ambush teams.*

*Masterton Air Training corps provided the roles of the two airman and Kapiti Air Training Corps provided the ambush teams.*

*The start point for the event was:*

- *Mitre flats hut in the Waingawa River*

*The end points being:*

- *The swing bridge over the Atiwhakatu at Holdsworth lodge*
- *The shelter at Kiriwhakapapa road end*

## **Rules:**

*This was a map and compass exercise only*

- *The evading airman were tasked surrender if seen and called upon to do so by an ambush Party*
- *No ambush sites within 300 meters of either the swing bridge at Holdsworth or the shelter Kiriwhakapapa*

## JOB SHEET: Missing persons Tararua Forest Park

- *Only Doc land to be utilised for travel during the exercise*
- *No travelling between 2030hrs and 0500hrs*
- *Walking event only ( no opportunist use of vehicles or helicopters by the evading cadets)*
- *Evading cadets have no prior knowledge of the actual ambush locations.*
- *The ambush cadets – know only the start point and end point for the exercise*
- *Evading cadets were to decide between themselves which road end they would make for – this decision was to be made on arrival at Mitre flats hut*
- *Evading cadets were not to share their intended routes with each other*
- *This was a communications free exercise.*
- *The end time for the exercise was 1300hrs on Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November*

### **No 21 (Masterton Squadron) provided two advanced cadets for the exercise.**

#### There are:

- *Advanced cadet: Peter Theobald*
- *Advanced cadet: Cameron Ellis*

(Initial missing person's reports are attached)

#### Tasking:

- *At 10am on the Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> of November the pair were delivered to the Pines at Upper Waingawa Rd end.*
- *The cadets were deployed in plain outdoors clothing (not wearing uniform)*
- *They were tasked to walk into Mitre Flats Hut and stay the night.*
- *At 7am on Thursday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November the pair were tasked to navigate their way to either the bridge at Holdsworth or the shelter at Kiriwhakapapa. One in each direction*
- *They were tasked to second guess potential ambush points and avoid potential ambush locations*
- *They were tasked to play by the rules and surrender if called upon*
- *They are equipped for camping out*
- *They are not familiar with the area – and for them it is both a navigation and evasion exercise.*
- *They are fit and healthy*
- *Outdoor skills are limited to cadet training events only*
- *They are skilled in map and compass*
- *They were tasked to be at the end points no later than 1200hrs on Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November*

# JOB SHEET: Missing persons Tararua Forest Park

## No 40 (Kapiti Squadron) provided six four person ambush groups

Holdsworth Group: Masterton Map BP34

Tasking's: (★refer to map attachments)

- *Ambush group 1 (via the track) to their site the top of Donnelly Flat at Gr 079 690*
- *Ambush Group 2 (via the ridge as highlighted) to high point 846 on Pinnacle ridge GR 078 723*
- *Ambush group 3 (via the Atiwhakatu track) to the swing bridge upstream from Atiwhakatu Hut at GR 073 747*



# JOB SHEET: Missing persons Tararua Forest Park

## Kiriwhakapapa Group Shannon Map BN34

Tasking's: (★refer to map attachments)

- *Ambush group 4 (via the track and route) to Te Mara 1104m Gr 118 802*
- *Ambush group 5 (via the blue range track to the bottom of the spur) at GR 144 798*
- *Ambush group 6 (via the old tram track) to GR 144 788*



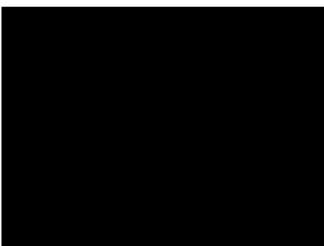
## JOB SHEET: Missing persons Tararua Forest Park

- *The ambush groups were deployed to Holdsworth and Kiriwhakapapa road ends at 3pm on the Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> of November.*
- *They were tasked to be in position at the ambush locations by 0700hrs on the morning of Thursday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November 2017*
- *They were tasked to spread out at the ambush locations to ensure good coverage*
- *They were tasked to call upon the evades to surrender if sighted*
- *The ambush groups were in camouflage clothing.*
- *They were tasked to remain active and alert at the ambush sites between 0700hrs and 2030hrs on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November and between 0500hrs and 1200hrs on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November.*
- *At 1200hrs all ambush groups were tasked to vacate back to their drop of points.*

*None of the ambush groups encountered the evades*

*The ambush groups have vacated the park and returned to Kapiti*

*As at 1730hrs Advanced Cadets - Theobald and Ellis remain unaccounted for.*





# INITIAL MISSING PERSON REPORT



Informant	
Date: 03 March 2017	Time: 1730hrs
Full name: Proficiency Flight Sergeant Roger Clarke	
Address: 17 Prosser St Masterton	
Contact numbers now and in foreseeable future:	
Home Phone:	Business Phone:
Cell Phone, other numbers: 0211909519	
Relationship to missing person: Air Training Corps supervisor	
Reason for reporting this person missing: Advanced ATC Cadet Peter Theobald has failed to vacate the Tararua forest park after a navigation and evasion exercise. He was due out of the park at 1300hrs Friday the 3rd of October - at either Holdsworth Lodge or Kiriwhakapapa road end.  He is normally very reliable	

Missing Person	
Full name: Theobald	Preferred name: Peter
Subject's primary language: English	
Home address: 21A Church St Masterton	
Home Phone:	Business Phone:
Cell Phone, other numbers:	
Occupation: Analyst	
Medical and mental condition: Nil	
Doctor's name and details: Dr Judd Masterton Medical	
Physical fitness: Moderate	

Description					
Age: 45	Race: E	Gender: M	Build: M	Height: 179	Hair Colour: Brown
General description, clothing worn and equipment carried					

## Description continued...

Smoker:  Yes  NoPhoto attached:  Yes  No

Footwear specific information:

## Circumstances

Location missing from: Tararua Forest Park

Point last seen (PLS): Upper Waingawa Rd

Day/date last seen: 01/11/17

Time last seen: 10am

Last known point (LKP): Believed to be Mitre Flats Hut

Activity (what doing): ATC navigation and evasion exercise (refer to job sheet)

Last seen by whom: Proficiency Flight Sergeant Roger Clarke

Vehicle description, if driving: N/A

Reg no:

Destination(s), stated intentions:

He was be making his way to either Kiriwhakapapa Rd end or Mt Holdsworth Rd end - which was part of the exercise. Likely to be off track. He was with Advanced cadet Cameron ELLIS - but they will have separated.

The job sheet attached outlines the situation in more detail

Has this person been the subject of a search in the past:  Yes  No

If so, describe date(s), circumstances of loss, how long missing, when found, where found, condition when found and actions taken by subject while missing (if known):

N/A

Reliability:

Normally very reliable

Experience and knowledge of area:

Not familiar with the area - first time in this part of the park - he is map and compass literate.

His outdoor experience is mostly ATC based training

Actions taken by informant or others:

Other ATC members were stationed at 6 different locations to try to intercept the pair as part of the evasion exercise. (refer to the job sheet for these locations)

Completed by (name): A/Sgt Matheson

Date/time: 03/11/17 1730

Signed:

Date/time:

# INITIAL MISSING PERSON REPORT



Informant	
Date: 03 March 2017	Time: 1730hrs
Full name: Proficiency Flight Sergeant Roger Clarke	
Address: 17 Prosser St Masterton	
Contact numbers now and in foreseeable future:	
Home Phone:	Business Phone:
Cell Phone, other numbers: 0211909519	
Relationship to missing person: Air Training Corps supervisor	
Reason for reporting this person missing: Advanced ATC Cadet Cameron Ellis has failed to vacate the Tararua forest park after a navigation and evasion exercise. He was due out of the park at 1300hrs Friday the 3rd of October - at either Holdsworth Lodge or Kiriwhakapapa road end.  He is normally very reliable	

Missing Person	
Full name: Ellis	Preferred name: Cameron
Subject's primary language: English	
Home address: 21D Church St Masterton	
Home Phone:	Business Phone:
Cell Phone, other numbers: 0211908747	
Occupation: Youth Worker	
Medical and mental condition: Nil	
Doctor's name and details: Dr Jenkins Masterton Medical	
Physical fitness: Athlete	

Description					
Age: 34	Race: E	Gender: M	Build: M	Height: 181	Hair Colour: Dark
General description, clothing worn and equipment carried					

## Description continued...

Smoker:  Yes  NoPhoto attached:  Yes  No

Footwear specific information:

## Circumstances

Location missing from: Tararua Forest Park

Point last seen (PLS): Upper Waingawa Rd

Day/date last seen: 01/11/17

Time last seen: 10am

Last known point (LKP): Believed to be Mitre Flats Hut

Activity (what doing): ATC navigation and evasion exercise (refer to job sheet)

Last seen by whom: Proficiency Flight Sergeant Roger Clarke

Vehicle description, if driving: N/A

Reg no:

Destination(s), stated intentions:

He was be making his way to either Kiriwhakapapa Rd end or Mt Holdsworth Rd end - which was part of the exercise. Likely to be off track. He was with Advanced cadet Peter Theobald - but they will have separated.

The job sheet attached outlines the situation in more detail

Has this person been the subject of a search in the past:  Yes  No

If so, describe date(s), circumstances of loss, how long missing, when found, where found, condition when found and actions taken by subject while missing (if known):

N/A

Reliability:

Normally very reliable

Experience and knowledge of area:

Not familiar with the area - first time in this part of the park - he is map and compass literate.

His outdoor experience is mostly ATC based training

Actions taken by informant or others:

Other ATC members were stationed at 6 different locations to try to intercept the pair as part pf the evasion exercise. (refer to the job sheet for these locations)

Completed by (name): A/Sgt Matheson

Date/time: 03/11/17 1730

Signed:

Date/time:

## Holdsworth Lodge: Cadet 1

### Introduction:

The scenario involves two Air Training Corps cadets who are overdue having participated in a navigation and evasion exercise. The pair of you are advanced cadets. This was a map and compass exercise only – with no communications. Your role on the exercise was to get to a fixed location without being detected by other cadets who have set up ambush points. You had to guess where the ambush points were placed.

In the scenario you walked to Mitre Flats hut on Wednesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November.

You were tasked to vacate the park via Doc land only – couldn't cross private land, take a ride in a car or helicopter. You could only walk between 7am and 8.30pm

One was tasked to get to the bridge over the Atiwhakatu River at Holdsworth Lodge – the other was tasked to get to the shelter at Kiriwhakapapa Road end.

Travelling separately you had to reach one of these locations undetected by 1300hrs on Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November.

For the purpose of the exercise there were 6 ambush sites set up to detect you. You didn't know where these ambush sites were set up and had to predict a route that would avoid them

Six ambush teams were deployed to intercept you.

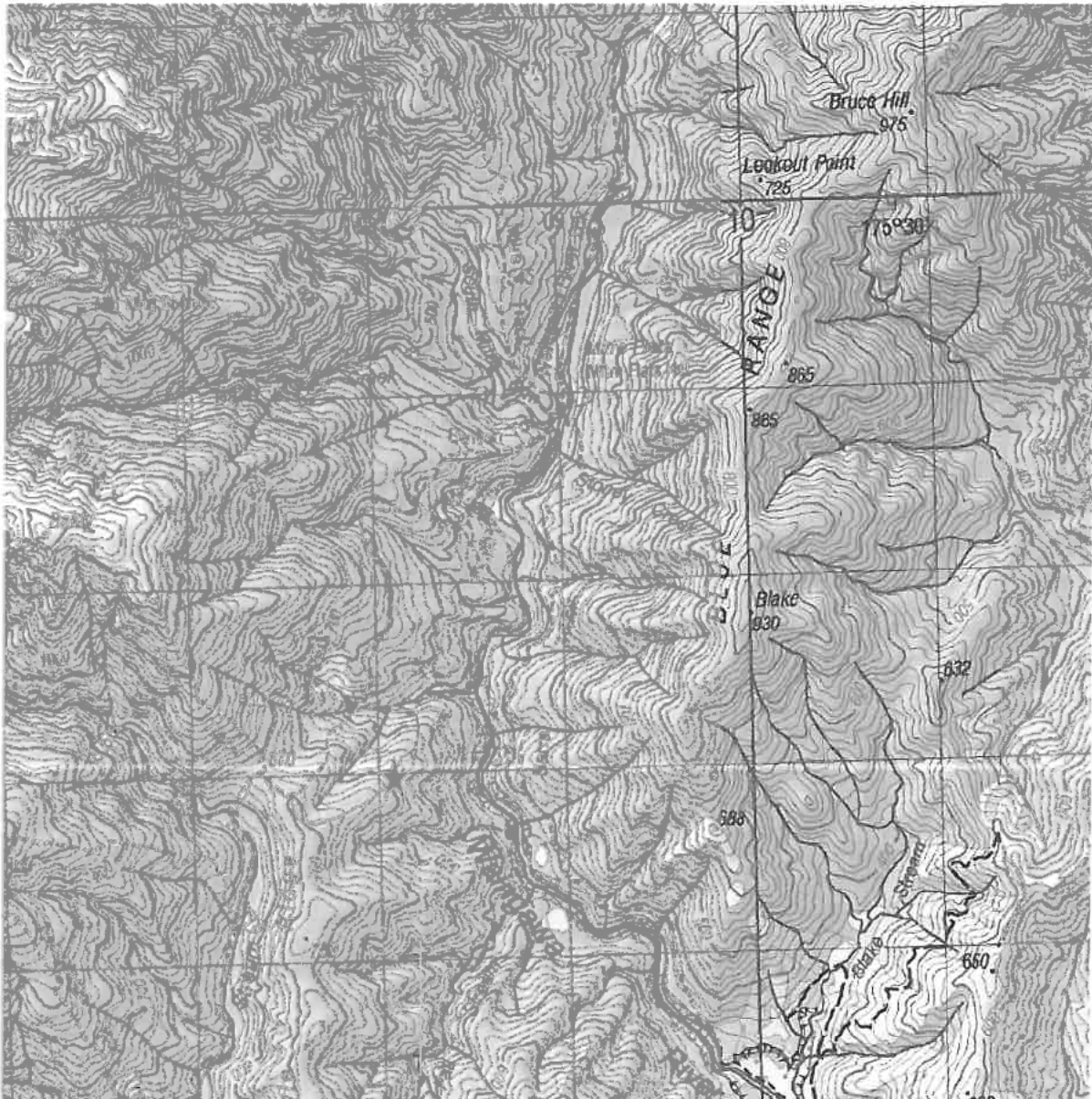
The job sheet I have given you provides full details of the scenario.

I have provided separate tasking's sheets

For the purpose of the exercise and when interrogated you don't know the route that the other person is taking to get to his target location.

**Holdsworth Lodge: Your Tasking:** Upon delivery to Upper Waingawa Rd – walk to Mitre flats hut and stay the night.

- Don't leave a log book entry and don't tell anyone else in the hut that you are part of an exercise
- You are actually a few days later than what's written into the scenario so we don't want any trampers giving helpful clues.
- If there are people in the hut – suggest you are walking back out to the road end the next morning
- When you deploy and try to sneak away so they don't which way you go
- Deploy at 0700hrs on Saturday morning as follows.



- Negotiate the Barton track until you get to the creek below the saddle the saddle at 670.
- Drop down this creek until you find a good route onto the leading spur outlined in red.
- Stop at approx. grid reference 080750 ( Masterton BP34) ★
- You will suffer a fall and sustain a fracture skull
- You will be passively responsive and semi-conscious
- At 0800hrs on Sunday if you have not been found walk up onto Pinnacle ridge and drop down to the track and head out to Holdsworth lodge.
- If you come across a team – stay in role and present as having a head injury – but otherwise just walk out down the Atiwhakatu track.

**Communications:**

You should have some communications off the Holdsworth repeater EE196 – the radio is encrypted so the lost parties won't hear you.

Alternative channel is DOC05 – which is on cattle Ridge

Your call sign: Cadet 1

My call sign: Wing Commander

Make yourself familiar with Mt Holdsworth as that is the repeater you will be trying to trigger – you may end up in a blind spot for communications.

I will leave you too it on the Friday night but will call you as follows on Saturday and Sunday.

**Saturday:** 1000hrs 1200hrs 1400hrs

**Sunday:** 0800hrs 1000hrs 1200hrs

I will maintain a listening watch between 0800 and 1600hrs

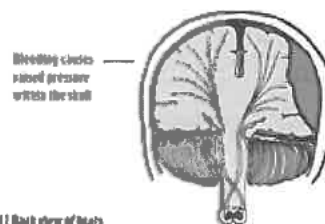
- If you lose communications – just stick to the plan
- If you sustain an injury or have a significant problem – set off your PLB
- You may have some cell coverage up high – my cell is 0211909519

***Head Injuries should always be treated seriously as there may be damage to the brain. Sometimes this damage may not be evident for hours after the injury occurs.***

Head injuries such as concussion, brain compression, and skull fracture are difficult for a first aider to determine, and therefore all head injuries should be treated in the same way.



Fracture of the Skull Back view of head  
**Symptoms and signs – Not all may be present**



Back view of brain

- altered conscious state, often deteriorating over time

- blurred or double vision
- a thumping or pounding headache
- nausea or vomiting
- loss of balance and coordination
- altered sensation in the fingers or down one side of the body
- loss of short-term memory – e.g. recent events
- noisy breathing
- leaking fluid from the nose or one ear
- history of a blow to the head

### **How you can help**

#### **1. Assess the patient**

- Assess the patient's conscious state.
- If not fully conscious, place the patient on the side in a supported position.
- Check that the airway is clear and for signs of life every few minutes.
- If conscious, help the patient to rest in the position of greatest comfort.
- Sometimes patients with head injury may become agitated. Enlist friends or family to calm and reassure the patient. Consider calling the police if the safety of the patient or others becomes threatened.

#### **Call 111 for an ambulance.**

#### **2. Give care until arrival of the ambulance**

- Cover any wound with a sterile dressing.
- If there is any discharge from the ears or nose, cover the area with a sterile dressing.

#### **DO NOT pack the ears or nose with dressings.**

#### **3. Monitor the patient**

- DO NOT leave the patient alone and keep a constant watch on breathing and consciousness level.
- Check for and treat any other injuries that may have been overlooked.

#### **4. Maintain body heat**

- Cover the patient lightly with clothing or a blanket and protect from extremes of temperature.

Always arrange for a doctor to check the patient in the case of a head injury even if it appears that a full recovery has occurred. In some cases the recognition of serious head injuries may be delayed for 24 to 48 hours due to a gradual increase in swelling or bruising around the brain.

- Note: When a head injury is suspected in a player during contact sport, the first aider should recommend that the patient does not return to the game. The patient should be seen by a doctor for clearance to continue playing.



## Lost Party Tasking

# Kiriwhakapapa: Cadet 2

### Introduction:

The scenario involves two Air Training Corps cadets who are overdue having participated in a navigation and evasion exercise. The pair of you are advanced cadets. This was a map and compass exercise only – with no communications. Your role on the exercise was to get to a fixed location without being detected by other cadets who have set up ambush points. You had to guess where the ambush points were placed.

In the scenario you walked to Mitre Flats hut on Wednesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November.

You were tasked to vacate the park via Doc land only – couldn't cross private land, take a ride in a car or helicopter. You could only walk between 7am and 8.30pm

One was tasked to get to the bridge over the Atiwhakatu River at Holdsworth Lodge – the other was tasked to get to the shelter at Kiriwhakapapa Road end.

Travelling separately you had to reach one of these locations undetected by 1300hrs on Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November.

For the purpose of the exercise there were 6 ambush sites set up to detect you. You didn't know where these ambush sites were set up and had to predict a route that would avoid them (I have listed them in the job sheet which the IMT will get)

Six ambush teams were deployed to intercept you.

The job sheet I have given you provides full details of the scenario

I have provided separate tasking's sheets for each of you

For the purpose of the exercise you don't know the route that the other person is taking to get to his target location.

**Kiriwhakapapa: Your Tasking:** Upon delivery to Upper Waingawa Rd – walk to Mitre flats hut and stay the night.

- Don't leave a log book entry and don't tell anyone else in the hut that you are part of an exercise
- You are actually a few days later than what's written into the scenario so we don't want any trampers giving helpful clues.
- If there are people in the hut – suggest you are walking back out to the road end the next morning
- When you deploy try to sneak away so they don't which way you go
- Deploy at 0800hrs on Saturday morning as follows.



- Follow the Waingawa river track upstream to Peggy's stream – cross the river and ascend the leading spur on the northern side of Donald's creek towards Te Mara
- Camp on the spur at approximate GR 110 803 ★
- You will have a taken a fall and fractured your tibia – you are responsive
- If you have not been found by 0700hrs on Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> of November – continue up the spur to Te Mara – drop off Te Mara to join the track – follow the track out to Kiriwhakapapa
- If encountered by a team along the way – forget the broken Tibia – tell them you were delayed by exhaustion and severe cramping.

## Secondary tasking if the Waingawa River can't be crossed due to flooding:

- **If the river is in flood**



- Cross the swing bridge – take the leading spur – climb to Bruce Hill 975 Gr 109 784
- Pretend to have the same injury
- If not located by 0700hrs – continue along to Te Mara – drop onto the track and walk out to Kiriwhakapapa
- If encountered by a team along the way – forget the broken Tibia – tell them you were delayed by exhaustion and severe cramping.

### **Communications:**

You should have some communications off the Holdsworth repeater EE196 – the radio is encrypted so the lost parties won't hear you.

Alternative channel is DOC05 – which is on Cattle Ridge

Your call sign: Cadet 2

My call sign: Wing Commander

Make yourself familiar with Mt Holdsworth as that is the repeater you will be trying to trigger – you may end up in a blind spot for communications.

I will leave you too it on the Friday night but will call you as follows on Saturday and Sunday.

**Saturday:** 1000hrs 1200hrs 1400hrs

**Sunday:** 0800hrs 1000hrs 1200hrs

I will maintain a listening watch between 0800 and 1600hrs

- **If you lose communications – just stick to the plan**
- **If you sustain an injury or have a significant problem – set off your PLB**
- **If you are up high you may get cell phone communications – my cell is 02119095190**

### **The most common symptoms of a tibia fracture are:**

- Pain.
- Inability to walk or bear weight on the leg.
- Deformity or instability of the leg.
- Bone "tenting" the skin or protruding through a break in the skin.
- Occasional loss of feeling in the foot.