

EXERCISE 'GEO' - STAFF OFFICER INSTRUCTIONS

INTENTION:

Exercise 'GEO' is a GPS led orienteering activity intended to:

1. Develop skills in GPS navigation & map making
2. Encourage an awareness of the historic environment
3. Nurture skills in team work, mutual support & co-operation

DURATION:

The full exercise is estimated to last approximately 3 hours and has a built in capacity to be reduced to just the main navigational and map-making activity if time is limited.

RESOURCES REQUIRED PER SESSION:

GPS's, compasses, OS 1:25,000 map, clean acetate sheets (to rotated in cache box with annotated ones), un-laminated OS sector maps for debrief session, pencils, erasers & rulers for debrief session (*cache resources can be used but MUST be returned to the Objective 1 cache box for other users.*

EXERCISE CHOREOGRAPHY:

The Beginning

The activity can begin from the base of operations with the explanation that the details of the afternoon activity are secret and contained within sealed orders which cannot be opened until the group has arrived at the Drop Zone (DZ), a location known only to the driver.

To add further mystery and suspense the participants could be blindfolded for the last part of the journey (ie from Mill Burn if approaching from the Hoy Centre).

The Drop Zone

The bus should be directed to stop at a suitable place on the Wee Fea Hill road just after the cattle grid where the ACOS HQ building is masked from view by the forestry plantation.

Once disembarked, the sealed order can be opened and read out either by a member of staff or a nominated participant. The information contained within the Operational Instructions and subsequent Objective cache boxes should provide adequate further instructions. One GPS, one OS 1:25,000 map and one compass should be issued by staff to the group at this stage.

Objective 1

Close supervision of the participants when nearing Objective 1 should be maintained to prevent entrance of the ACOS HQ building or blast wall void that surrounds it.

- Prior to departing from Objective 1 the participants should be divided into two groups and issued with a second GPS and compass so each group has one
- All group members should be made aware that ACOS HQ is the rally point to which they should return at the end of the exercise or in case of emergency
- It should also be emphasised that the exercise isn't a race and that it's about team work & accurate navigation
- Staff should agree a time that the groups must return by

Objective 2

- The main mapping exercises and associated instructions are located at the Objective 2 cache sites
- Staff accompanying the groups as 'Umpires' are encouraged to monitor the time carefully. If they feel that a group has taken too long to complete the mapping exercise and will therefore not have enough time to navigate to the other objectives then they should direct the group back to ACOS HQ and bypass either one or both of Objectives 3 & 4.

Completion of the Field Exercise

- Upon completion of the exercise and arrival back at ACOS HQ, groups should return all material borrowed from the Objective 1 cache box. Please also ensure clean acetate is placed in the box ready for other users
- Notes and sketches should be removed from notepads & retained with annotated acetate sheets for the debrief session

- The Scapa Flow Visitor Centre & Museum has offered use of the Romney Hut for debriefing however there are no tables so participants will either have to use the floor or staff could bring a table to use
- If time is tight then the debrief exercise could be carried out during the evening back at base of operations.

Exercise Debrief

- On arrival at SFVC&M Romney Hut the two groups should be issued with un-laminated Wee Fea Sector map sheets on which they are to plot the trench positions that they have mapped from the grid co-ordinates recorded in their notebooks
- The groups should also include the position of the other objectives they visited and any military features they traced from the historic maps
- Each group should then be encouraged to share the intelligence they have gathered with the other group through a verbal presentation

Debrief Discussion

From the presentations the participants should be encouraged to recognise how the information from each group can be brought together to form a better understanding of the whole Wee Fea wartime defence landscape

Further points for discussion prompted by staff could include:

- Different devices can be used to navigate
- Maps can be made by different people for different purposes and contain different kinds of information
- Not all maps are as accurate as others and the accuracy can often depend on what the map is intended to be used for
- Anyone can make a map, gather data/information, choose what to include and how to represent it
- Maps can help us to understand the historic environment better and share our understanding of it with others (in this case the WWII archaeology of Wee Fea Hill)