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TITLE

EVASION AND ESCAPE TRAINING DOCTRINE IS ADEQUATE
TO PREPARE THE INDIVIDUAL FOR COMBAT

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PREFACE

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The point of view expressed in this paper is that of the author - not necessarily that of the Infantry School or the Department of the Army.


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INTRODUCTION

† General Ridgway, in his critique of Exercise FLASH BURN, 7 May 1954, made an oft repeated, yet basic statement, "There isn't any mystery about what makes a good military organization. I believe I can sum it up in two or three words -- training and command supervision." He further stated in his concluding remarks, "The last and final thing is the importance of the individual. He is the decisive factor. He is the fellow that will win or lose for you." (1:1)

Herein, for us pursuing the military profession, is the keynote of our service: training and supervising the individual. If we do not subscribe to this tenet, we are willfully ignoring one of the basic principles of military obligation. Let us consider a situation that happened in Korea, 1950:

"The Eighth Cavalry Regiment dug in on the snow-flecked hills near Unsan. It was Hallowe'en, and a full moon flooded the snow-flecked ridges. Sometime after midnight, a private reported from an outpost that he heard a bugle in the distance, 'faint-like.' From another direction came the unmistakable sounds of horses' hooves striking the cold ground... Chinese firing Russian 'burp-guns' charged up the hills, howling and seemingly laughing...

"One battalion fought its way southward, leaving heavy equipment and its light observation planes behind... At day break, eight hundred men were surrounded, many of them dead or wounded. A relief column ran into withering fire and abandoned an attempt to break through from the south. The men were given up for lost." (16:90)

Why were these eight hundred men given up for lost?

Hadn't they been adequately trained and supervised prior to combat?

If you involuntarily became separated from your unit during combat; thus in fact, an evadee behind the enemy lines, could you survive? Could you evade or escape the enemy? And lastly, would you consider that your training was adequate to meet this situation?

Before and during the initial stages of the Korean War, the first two questions never entered my mind; but during the period 1-24 November 1950, when I experienced the situation of being an evader behind the enemy lines in North Korea, the third question constantly invaded my thoughts: was my training adequate to meet the situation?

Prior to the Korean conflict, little to no emphasis was formally stressed on the subject: Evasion and Escape Training. Today, we are more mindful of its relative importance in our over-all training mission of the individual.

The Army provides to all its personnel the basic physical needs: food, clothing, and shelter; it further provides technical or tactical military training to accomplish its given missions. I am of the firm belief that if the individual attains proficiency in his military training, he will, alone or with a group, be able to provide his own physical needs, and finally, if he becomes isolated behind the enemy lines, he can accomplish the mission: evade or escape.

It is my purpose to study our present evasion and escape training doctrine and to determine how adequately prepared the individual is for combat.

DISCUSSION

Throughout the Korean conflict 7,190 armed forces personnel were reported as captured by the enemy, and untold numbers more were reported as missing in action. The prisoner exchanges that began with Operation "Little Switch" in April 1953 accounted for a total of only 4,428 persons. (3:8,25) Classified reports list a very insignificant number of captured personnel escaping from the enemy. These startling facts caused great concern to the civilians and Army alike. To many, it appeared that the military had a most inadequate evasion and escape training program. A study of our training doctrine does not support this claim.

Admittedly, prior to the outbreak of Korean hostilities, a program so listed as "Evasion and Escape" could not be found in our program. However, our present training doctrine does include this subject. Our entire training program is so geared that this specific type of training can be, and should be integrated into appropriate subjects. (9:15)

Evasion and escape involve several integrated factors: mental conditioning, physical conditioning, basic military skills, and survival training. All four of these factors are essential to an individual or unit to successfully evade or escape the enemy. Let us now consider each factor individually with regard to our training.

Mental conditioning is nothing more than possessing the "will" to accomplish a mission. Our general attitude in the past has been "it couldn't happen to me" with regard to being isolated behind enemy lines or captured. The statistics of both World War II and Korea proved that "it did happen" to

many thousands. It has been, therefore, the task to remove this apathetic idea from the individual soldier, and prepare him for the job ahead if he needs to evade or escape.

The newly published Code of Conduct is listed and explained in Department of the Army Training Circular 21-1, dated 7 October 1955. This Code of Conduct is applicable to all members of the Armed Forces which was prescribed by an Executive Order No 10631, signed 17 August 1955 by the President of the United States. It should be understood that the spirit of this code has long been in effect prior to this order; in essence, this was not a new doctrine for the armed forces. (7:1)

Two of the six points within the code are the essential elements for our present evasion and escape training concept and proper mental conditioning: "II. I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command I will never surrender my men while they still have the means to resist. (Explanation) As an individual, a member of the Armed Forces may never surrender himself. When isolated and he can no longer inflict casualties on the enemy it is his duty to evade capture and rejoin the nearest friendly forces." (7:2)

"III. If I am captured I will continue to resist by all means available. I will make every effort to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favor from the enemy. (Explanation) The duty of a member of the Armed Forces to continue resistance by all means at his disposal is not lessened by the misfortune of capture. Art 82 of the Geneva Convention pertains. He will escape if able to do so, and will assist others to escape." (7:3)

As a minimum, instructions in this Code of Conduct will

be given all military personnel. A record and date of this instruction will be further entered on each person's permanent record. The above two points of the code serve as a specific mandate for the military.

Department of the Army Training Circular 21-2, "TRAINING FOR INDIVIDUAL COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS", further clarified its support to the executive order. It set forth that "...motivational training and education will continue throughout the career of all soldiers to prepare them for combat and to increase their resistance to capture or exploitation... Commanders are directed to conduct training to insure that the maximum combat realism prevails in tactical exercises. Maximum practical application of Evasion and Escape training will be achieved during unit exercises in accordance with TC 621-1."

(8:3)

It is not only a directive of the President of the United States, implemented by the military; but a devout obligation of an individual to have the "will" to return to those fighting to maintain the ideals for which we are engaged in time of combat. All armed forces personnel, officers and enlisted men, have an information and education program to further the ideals of Americanism. This certainly is mental conditioning should the time arise that it would be put to the test.

With the exception of the reported twenty-one "turn-coats" that decided to remain with their captors, there is no available evidence to support the theory that any of the returned prisoners of war had any desire to remain behind.

Like General MacArthur's famous quotation, "I shall return," such a statement was adopted by myself and my companions after we overcame the initial shock of realizing that we were be-

hind enemy lines. This idea, "we shall return", remained with us until we did return!

Physical training, or physical fitness, is as necessary to the individual soldier as possessing two feet, or two hands. This is one subject that is recurrent in nature throughout our training program, for a good intended purpose, regardless of our years service. It is well at this time to state the Army's doctrine and policy as set forth in all Army Training Programs: "Physical fitness.- Every opportunity must be taken to develop hardened soldiers capable of meeting the operational requirements of the most difficult situation. The lack of proper hardening can offset the best training." (6:3)

I certainly know of no greater test of physical endurance than evading the enemy for an extended period of time. Here lies the end result of good physical training; here is the test!

Captain Davis, a Marine officer, wrote an article, "Don't Kill Them With Kindness" and made the following quotation: "If we're to succeed in getting some spirit into young soldiers, the Congressmen and mothers have got to realize that in combat you have your life on the line every minute of the day and night and the trained, tough soldier is the one that lives the longest.-by Mr A.E.Hotchner, civilian, in an article in a leading men's magazine entitled, 'The New Army: More Sweat, Less Blood.'" (11:64)

Considering the fact that physical training, dismounted drill, and marches are a part of the physical fitness program, we can see that fifty-two (52) hours are allotted to the initial training of the soldier. (See Annex A) Then too, we must not forget that any other training that involves physical

exertion is added benefit to good conditioning.

Today's training policy requires that all enlisted personnel and officers, below the grade of Colonel, participate in the Physical Fitness Test, as outlined in FM 21-20, twice annually. This alone has promoted greater inducement to adhere to an active physical training program.

I feel certain that many personnel were unsuccessful in their evasion or escape due to the lack of adequate physical stamina alone. Even though the mind may be willing, it still requires a fit body to keep going. It has been generally accepted and proved by educators and physiologists alike, that if an individual is in good physical condition by taking part in regular exercise, his mental health is likewise improved.

Basic military skills are taught initially to all newly inducted army personnel in their first eight-week period, regardless of their possible later branch assignments. This basic combat individual training is conducted according to Army Training Program 21-114. (6:1) A study of those subjects most appropriate to evasion and escape (see Annex A, items 1-17) will indicate that 114 hours of a total sum of 404 hours in the training cycle represents approximately twenty-five per-cent of the total training time. (6:4-5)

These skills are later re-emphasized in the advanced individual training; but depending upon the individual's future assignment, a different time allotment is given to each subject. For this study, we will only consider that training which is common to all personnel.

Commanders are permitted to modify this training program to fit their local facilities; but they are not granted

authority to make substitutions or omissions of the subjects.

The adherence or lack of adherence to the teaching points of these basic skills has caused the success or downfall of many combat personnel attempting to evade or escape the enemy. "In August 1950 the 1st Battalion of the 23d Infantry, 2d Infantry Division, was defending a wide frontage along the Naktong River in Korea. During the early morning hours of 1 September, a North Korean Regiment crossed the river and penetrated between two companies of the Battalion, cutting off many men. Although these men were within enemy-held territory, they were not far from their own lines and were determined to return. Knowing that the enemy was continuing the attack and moving rapidly along roads and trails, these men stayed on the high ground and avoided trails being traversed by the enemy.

"Soon small groups of men under admirable leadership started drifting back to our own lines. They had started moving early, taking advantage of the noise and confusion of battle and of the fact that they were relatively close to friendly lines. If they had waited until the enemy had stabilized his position, their chances of making a successful evasion would have been much smaller." (15:57)

These men put to use elements of their basic military skills: concealment and camouflage, intelligence training, anti-guerilla training, individual daylight training, squad tactics, and battle indoctrination. Was their evasion and escape training inadequate?

Experiences have indicated throughout Korea that the "... use of fundamentals of cover, concealment, and organization of high ground continues to insure friendly success with minimum casualties." (14:55)

Lessons of improper appreciation of the terrain has supported the present doctrine that greater emphasis must be stressed in terrain evaluation in all individual and unit tactical exercises. Fort Benning presently includes terrain requirements in all of its problems at the Infantry School. (10:9)

Army leaders and civilians alike have often wondered what the basic trainees have thought of their training, and what, if any, problems were present. One such study was conducted by a Human Research Unit at Fort Ord, California, of five first-cycle training companies of the 63d Infantry Regiment. At the time of the survey, the 272 questioned personnel were approximately half way through their basic individual training cycle.

The question relative for our analysis was, "In your opinion do you spend most of your time in basic training learning things that are really important, or do you put in a lot of time on things that don't matter?" The answers:

"All of our time is spent on important things	10%
Most of our time is spent on important things	59%
About half of our time is spent on important things	29%
Most of our time is spent on things that don't matter	2%
Almost all our time is spent on things that don't matter	0%

"The preceding tabulation indicated that the trainees are markedly oriented toward a practical, and especially combat relative, type of training. This is somewhat surprising since our Army is not engaged in actual fighting at this time." (4:25)

Considering that our purpose of basic training is to teach fundamental military skills and the development of disciplined soldiers, it is indicative from this survey that 98% of those questioned stated that 50% or more of their time was spent in things that were considered important.

Let us now consider survival training as the last essential for evasion and escape training. In its simplest definition, survival is "living off the land".

General Curtis LeMay, Commanding General of the Strategic Air Command, has realized the importance of such a subject since his air crews fly all over the world, and that accidents are inevitable. Thus the Advanced Survival Training School presents a course designed to give both theory and practical knowledge to all flight personnel, so that whenever they may "go down," they will have better than an even chance to "get back".

"Nearly 30,000 Air Force officers and airmen have undergone survival training, with almost unanimous reluctance - and then grudging admiration. For it is the cruelest ordeal they will ever face unless the unpreventable happens and they crash in some mountain wilderness, some tropic jungle, some heaving sea, some arctic waste ..." (13:43)

"When one of the Strategic Air Command's big B-36 bombers crash landed in northern Labrador in February 1953, Maj Willie Knutson, then in charge of the Northeast Air Command's Arctic Survival School at Goose Bay, organized a rescue party. Speedy rescue was imperative, for northern Labrador in mid-winter can be fatal for the uninitiated. Impatiently, Knutson urged his snowshoed party on, fearing what he would find.

"Forty-eight hours later he stood in a clearing and blink-

ed in amazement at a perfectly constructed survival camp. The air crew, every man alive, was comfortably installed in paratepees and lean-tos. Water boiled over a fire. Distress messages had been tramped out in the snow, and signals had been laid with parachute panels. Knutson and one of the crew members stared at one another. Finally, the air-crew man spoke: 'What are you doing, Major? Following us around to see if we learned anything?'

"Knutson had trained the same crew at Stead 22 months earlier. They hadn't liked it then, but they thought it was all right now. They had survived." (13:51)

We in the military should never have any difficulty with this type of instruction since we both live and fight "on the land". All of our instruction involves the use of terrain indirectly or directly, as notably seen in all tactical exercises.

Our initial training vehicle for this subject is the bivouac during the basic cycle (see Annex A). For any of the "city boys" that have never been exposed to outdoor living, this constitutes their initiation. Here they encounter the rudiments of survival: construction of shelters, fire-making for warmth, drying clothes, plus cooking, and wood-lore. For those men that have been former Boy Scouts, this training is most elementary.

During this bivouac, such other subjects as care of the feet and clothing, water purification and discipline are also emphasized. Actually, all of the basic military skills as listed in Annex A are related to some phase of survival technique. A recent article, "Survival Training and the Soldier", written by Captain Grange, is highly recommended to all unit commanders who are interested in stressing good combat training for their

personnel. Here also are given subjects and methods to integrate survival training in their schedules. (12:102-104)

The high standards and relative importance of the Infantry Rangers has long been recognized, and today a major portion of their intense, rigorous training is devoted to this subject of survival. This is one other added indication of the importance of survival training. It is anticipated shortly that every infantry unit will soon have a certain per-centage of rangers in their organizations, and when that is an actuality, here will be an added source of qualified instructors for survival training.

It is well known that one of the greatest benefits of military instruction is through the means of the examination. Such a practical media is the maneuver, a most practical examination, to judge the individual and unit performance. One recent maneuver, Operation SNOW FALL, at Camp Drum, New York in January-February 1952 will be cited as an example. The following excerpts are from the final report:

"Joint Army-Air Force Exercise SNOW FALL will be conducted in the Pine Camp, New York area during the period 2 January-20 February 1952. This exercise will include a four week period of winter training for the Army and Air Force units, followed by a tactical exercise ... under winter conditions of snow and extreme cold... (2:14)

"Implementation of purpose of Exercise SNOW FALL - The directive set forth 8 purposes of the exercise ...a. 'Individual survival, oversnow movement, and the use and care of equipment, supplies, and weapons.' (2:2)

"Critique: Brig Gen Gaither, Commander Army Troops, ... Our training program as it was planned, was effective... Our

evasion and escape training to all newly inducted soldiers.

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ANNEX A (Extract of Master Schedule: ATP 21-114, 2 Nov 54)

<u>Instruction presented</u>	<u>Total Hours</u>
✓1. Concealment and camouflage	4
2. Field Sanitation	2
✓3. First Aid	6
4. Guard Duty	5
✓5. Individual protective measures against chemical, biological, and radiological attacks ..	10
6. Intelligence training	4
✓7. Map reading and use of compass	12
8. Personal hygiene	1
9. Signal communication	6
✓10. Anti-guerilla training	4
11. Battle Indoctrination	12
✓12. Defense against aircraft and armor	2
13. Individual day training	4
14. Individual night training	4
15. Mines and booby traps	10
16. Squad tactical training	20
✓17. Squad and platoon patrolling	8
✓18. Physical training	24
19. Marches and bivouac	8
20. Dismounted drill and ceremonies	20
21. Achievements and traditions of the Army .	1
22. Character guidance	4
23. Military customs and courtesy	3
24. Troop Information	4
25. Rules of land warfare and Geneva Convention	1
26. Commanders Time	19
27. Proficiency testing	6