

Importance of the FTL

Where do you get a team to lead?

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-

Assessing your team

Don't forget to assess yourself so you don't make asses of yourselves

Assess proper size considering:

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-
-

Assess their availability

-
-

Assess their ability

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-
-

Assess their equipment

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-
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Assess the necessary task equipment

Assess your own ability and equipment always.

As FTL you can eliminate people from your team if you have a good reason.
Explain carefully and privately to the person why they could be better utilized elsewhere

Base interactions

Briefing from base

- explanation of task Ask Questions!
- get detailed **TAF** and map. Rule of thumb.

Obtain radio

- Where?

- What else do I need?

-Radio Check

As FTL you can refuse or abort a task at ANY time (hazards apparent or suspect)

Field Work

Requires the most training and confidence.

Land-Nav to Field Task

-Ask locals if they know the area.

Determine best method to accomplish search. If “hasty” base will let you know.

If **hasty**, do fast, safe search of the (usually) linear feature given. 2-4 people

If **Sweep** task then you must have the highest control of the team without seeming so. Explain what will happen before starting the actual task. Explain the steps and commands outlined below:

-(**Overhead 1**) The team should form a line for searching.

- This line is one being and should be under your control for safety and efficiency.

- The line should be spaced according to _____.

This can be determined statistically, but the numbers are meaningless when they are put into a practical situation with differing terrain and deteriorating light conditions. **I’ve come up with a handy method** which is easy to understand and follow during the actual task.

(**Overhead 2**) If two team members stay just far enough apart that they can just see each other’s boots, then critical spacing is met. This system adjusts itself to any terrain, light condition or weather.

(**Overhead 1**)

-The team should be directed by your commands: Ready Left/Right, Forward, Stop, and any plain English you need to convey. Watch them to make sure they are keeping their spacing, looking up, down and all around. They are searching, not you. Your job is to keep them searching. Keep the talking on the line to a minimum.

-As the line progresses, the end person should be flagging the place where searching stops. When the line shifts for the next pass, that is where they will start searching. As the line moves on, the person at the already placed line of flagging tape pulls it down as the other side is putting it up. A double flag signifying a permanent boundary should be placed at the perimeter of your search area so other teams can either find your area or pick up where your task stopped.

1 flag = _____.

2 flag = _____.

3 flag = _____.

When a clue is found

-Field team should be instructed to stop immediately on the sight of a clue. They should be instructed to yell “STOP” and call you over to investigate.

-Investigate the clue. If determined to be important, back out of the area and call it in to base. When in doubt, call base.

“**Clear the Net**” = _____.

“Secure the Net” = _____.

The same precautions should of course be taken with a find as well.

“Flag it, Bag it, and Bring it in.” *This method is demonstrated for class*

Flagging for clues should be 3 flags with the time, date, task#, FTL name and contact#, team ID, and Map Coordinates

Debrief

First debrief your team

- Anything they did not report at the time.
- Any hazards they did not tell you about.
- Their opinion of POD. Use analogies and “scale of 1-10” language
Then use that to make your own judgement of POD
- Ask if they are available to search again after a brief rest and food/water
- Point out the Staging area and any food available for them.

Debrief with base

- Allows base to know exactly what happened on your task. Important to be thorough.
- Show any area that was not searched, or any area you think deserves another search.

Get ready for next task!!!

Leading A Field Team

Blue Ridge Mtn Rescue

Importance of the FTL

Probably the most important position in the search effort. They are the key to effective searching in the field.

Where do you get a team to lead?

Staging Officer

Staging area

Ask around for waiting FTM/volunteers

Assessing your team

Don't forget to assess yourself so you don't make asses of yourselves

Assess proper size considering:

-Terrain

-Size of task

-Daylight available (span of control)

Assess their availability

-duration of task

-duration of search

Assess their ability

-Physical, Age (Mental), Health (discretely)

Assess their equipment

-raingear, water, light sources, water, food

Assess the necessary task equipment

Stokes? Repeater? Scent article bag? Flagging tape?

Assess your own ability and equipment always.

As FTL you can eliminate people from your team if you have a good reason.

Explain carefully and privately to the person why they could be better utilized elsewhere

Base interactions

Briefing from base

-explanation of task Ask Questions!

-get detailed TAF and map. Rule of thumb.

Obtain radio

-may come from Commo Officer or from a box in the corner, Sign it Out!!

-extra batteries, radio harness, TX/RX

-Radio Check

As FTL you can refuse or abort a task at ANY time (hazards apparent or suspect)

Field Work

Requires the most training and confidence.

Land-Nav to Field Task

-Ask locals if they know the area.

Determine best method to accomplish search. If "hasty" base will let you know.

If **hasty**, do fast, safe search of the (usually) linear feature given. 2-4 people
If **Sweep** task then you must have the highest control of the team without seeming so. Explain what will happen before starting the actual task. Explain the steps and commands outlined below:

-(**Overhead 1**) The team should form a line for searching.

- This line is one being and should be under your control for safety and efficiency.

- The line should be spaced according to **Critical Spacing**.

This can be determined statistically, but the numbers are meaningless when they are put into a practical situation with differing terrain and deteriorating light conditions. **I've come up with a handy method** which is easy to understand and follow during the actual task.

(**Overhead 2**) If two team members stay just far enough apart that they can just see each other's boots, then critical spacing is met. This system adjusts itself to any terrain, light condition or weather.

(**Overhead 1**)

-The team should be directed by your commands: Ready Left/Right, Forward, Stop, and any plain English you need to convey. Watch them to make sure they are keeping their spacing, looking up, down and all around. They are searching, not you. Your job is to keep them searching. Keep the talking on the line to a minimum.

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1 flag = temp boundary

2 flag = perm boundary

3 flag = clue

When a clue is found

-Field team should be instructed to stop immediately on the sight of a clue. They should be instructed to yell "STOP" and call you over to investigate. in

-Investigate the clue. If determined to be important, back out of the area and call it in to base. When in doubt, call base.

"**Clear the Net**" = stop all traffic on the radio frequency, I have priority transmission.

"**Secure the Net**" = also stop traffic, plus lower the volume of your radio or move out of earshot of any family, friends, media, etc. I have sensitive information.

The same precautions should of course be taken with a find as well.

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