Leading A Field Team

Blue Ridge Mtn Rescue

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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-

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

Obtain radio
- - Where?

(2-17-97 Dalton)

- 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 puls 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, <u>back out</u> 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#,
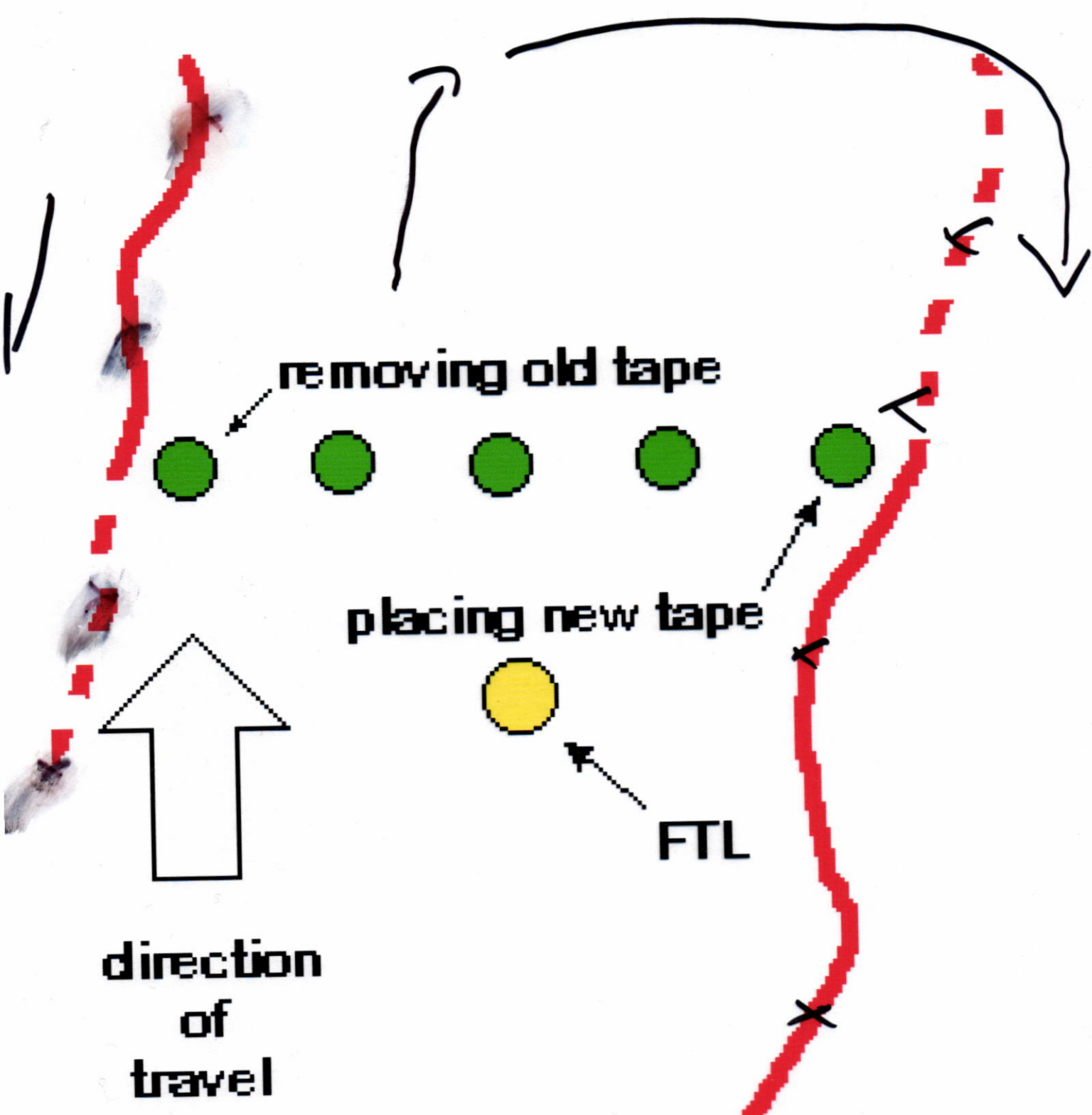 team ID, and Map Coordinates

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
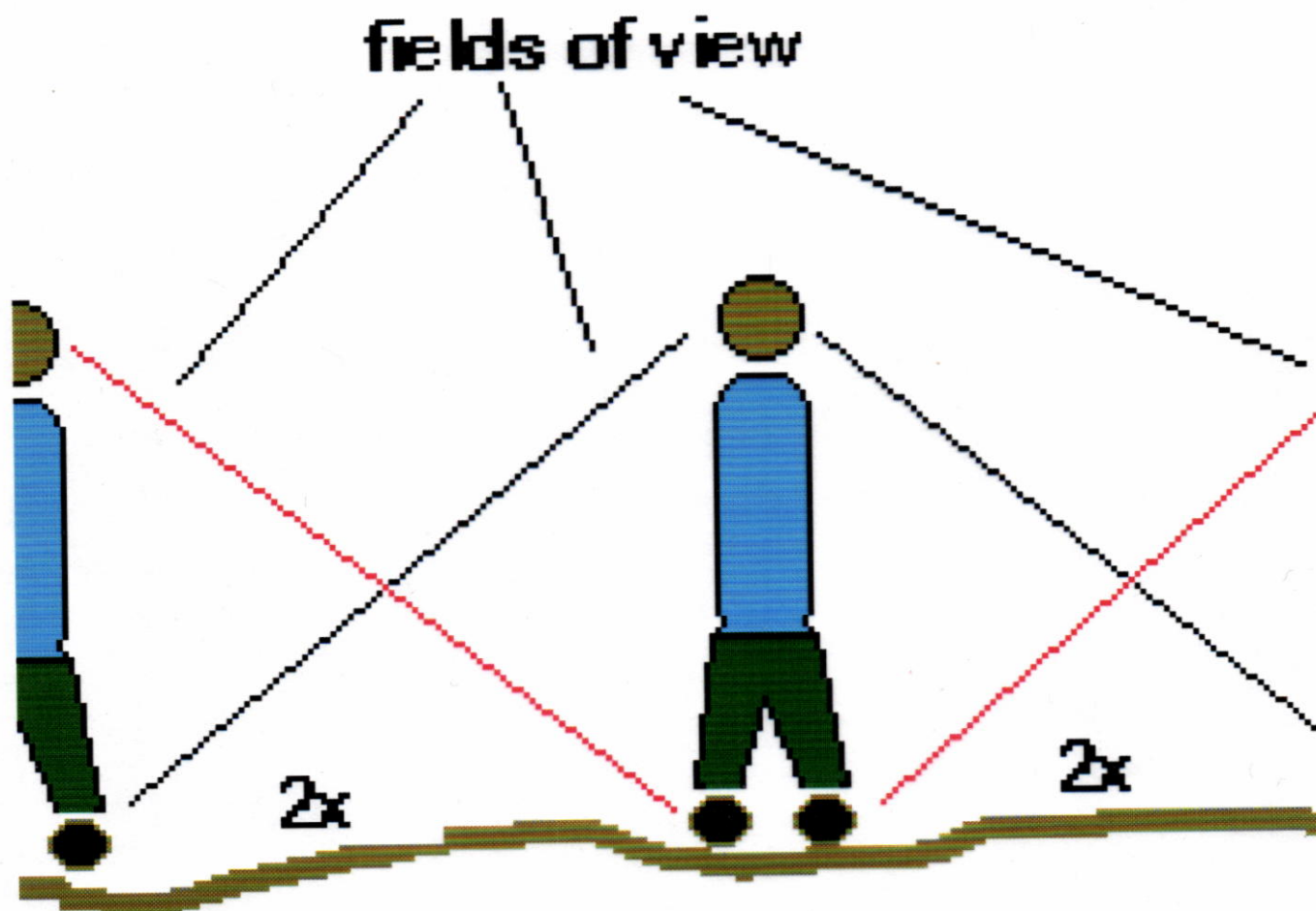   -Point out the Staging area and any food available for them.

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

Get ready for next task!!!

removing old tape

placing new tape

FTL

direction
of
travel

Overhead 1
- Leading a Field Team —Dalton 2-19-97

Simple Method for Critical Spacing

fields of view

2x

2x