

Exfiltration Scenario – A Teamwork Session

Intended Population: Infantry Platoon

Begin with a 10-minute brief on decision-making, communication, or another relevant mental skill to prime the group before the training task.

Time Cap: 40 Minutes

You provide maps of the surrounding area, military-grade protractors, and an exfiltration scenario to the PL and PSG for training. The PL and PSG take the lead and issue a WARNO to allow squad leaders to progress through their 8 TLPs. For the soldiers tasked with pulling security, the CPS can ask questions enabling application of the commander's intent (e.g., "You see two military-aged males in civilians moving into the building across the street. They appear unarmed but are hurrying. What is the next action you would take?" OR "From your elevated position, you see an enemy patrol of four soldiers moving through the trees 700m from your position. What is the next action you would take?")

Example Scenario

Situation: Your platoon is part of a company-sized element tasked with conducting reconnaissance and surveillance operations in a hostile environment. Intelligence reports indicate that the enemy is planning a significant offensive operation in the area within the next 24 hours. Your mission was to gather critical intelligence on enemy movements and fortifications. Having completed your mission, you must now plan for exfiltration back to friendly lines under the cover of darkness. The enemy is on high alert, with multiple patrols and checkpoints established in the area.

Task: Plan for the exfiltration of your platoon back to the designated friendly lines located 15 kilometers to the northwest by 0300 hours without being detected by enemy forces. Avoid engagement unless necessary to maintain the element of surprise and ensure the safety of your personnel.

The intel you gathered includes information on the following enemy movements.

Regular Patrols every two hours of 5 to 6 soldiers armed with light infantry weapons and nods. Regular patrols follow a predictable pattern along the main roads and trails. Roving Patrols at random intervals consist of 3 to 4 soldiers. Roving patrols are less predictable and designed to cover areas between the regular patrol routes. Static Observation Posts include key terrain features, such as hilltops or buildings, offering wide visibility. These posts are manned by 2-3 soldiers with long-range surveillance equipment.

Leaders must issue a WARNO quickly into the session before planning exfil routes.

After 40 minutes, allow the team to conduct an AAR and ask debrief questions where appropriate to further the conversation.

To run such a session, you must create or acquire maps and determine key grid coordinates. You may need to provide other relevant information, such as a weather report, time of day, time of last patrol, path of various enemy patrols, etc.