

PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO TRAINING ACADEMY & CERTIFICATIONS

Proposed changes are the result of feedback we have had from the last 3 multi-operational searches and particularly this last one looking for the plane

1. We have noted that several of our members are weak in their navigation skills and search tactics
2. In looking at solutions to this we have some ideas of modifying our training academy and certification skills that would hopefully help improve our team member's navigation skills and search tactics

PROPOSALS

1. Beginning next year, have only 2 academies, one in the spring and one in the fall (March – September).
2. Beginning in this next academy add the following:
 - a. Add ~4 map problems to the Map & Compass class. This we would hope would increase our member's ability to look at the challenges of their search assignment and determine how they would approach searching it. We would plan to use all 4 hours of the time allotted.
 - b. Add additional GPS problems to the GPS class to help members get better familiar using the GPS and how navigate. We would plan to use all 4 hours of the time allotted.
 - c. Add an additional day to the academy class schedule that would add a 4 hour class on Search Tactics and navigating search terrain. Bill Macauley has agreed to teach this class initially and mentor others to teach in the future.
 - d. Restructure the clue awareness class to shorten it by removing the search tactics portion and move it to the session with tracking. We would move Helicopter Safety to the 2nd session. All of the classes only have a one-time sign off and this would group them together.
 - e. Restructure field day to add the additional work on navigation and search tactics and make field day a 2 day event.
 - f. Restructure Evaluation day as a 2 day event to add navigation and search tactics to the requirements.
3. Require all current members to attend the additional academy day and field day during the next 4 academies and evaluation days by your recertification date.
4. For Cycle 3 this year and for future years reorder the classes so that all the navigation classes follow one another leaving the Rough Terrain Class as the last class of the academy as it currently is.
5. There would be 3 additional search tactics certifications added:
 - a. Follow a track on the GPS out and back on a track loaded into the members GPS
 - b. Contour point to point on a slope for a ¼ mile length and "back" a given distance from the "out" route
 - c. Conduct a 3 man team grid sweep of a predefined sloped area with each team member serving different positions in the sweep.
6. Add time limits to each skill sign off for evaluations