Research By-Product

CRITICAL COMBAT PERFORMANCES, KNOWLEDGES, AND SKILLS REQUIRED OF THE INFANTRY RIFLE PLATOON LEADER

Code of Conduct, Evasion, and Escape

by
Frank L. Brown

15 July 1969
(Revised Edition)

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The George Washington University
HUMAN RESOURCES RESEARCH OFFICE

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The Human Resources Research Office is a nongovernmental agency of The George Washington University. HumRRO's mission is to conduct research in the fields of training, motivation, and leadership.
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Work Unit LEAD: Work Sub-Unit I

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HumRRO Division No. 4
(Infantry)

The George Washington University
HUMAN RESOURCES RESEARCH OFFICE
operating under contract with
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FOREWORD

Work Unit LEAD has as its objective the improvement of officer training in the critical skills required for effective combat leadership in small infantry platoons, and is being conducted by the Human Resources Research Office at Fort Benning, Georgia, under the sponsorship of the U.S. Continental Army Command.

In Sub-Unit I, performances, knowledges, and skills required of the leader of an infantry rifle platoon are being identified and categorized according to 41 comprehensive subject areas. This document details the requirements in the area of code of conduct, evasion, and escape.

The LEAD research is being performed at HumRRO Division No. 4 (Infantry), Fort Benning, Georgia. The present Director of Research of the Division is Dr. T. O. Jacobs, who is also the Work Unit Leader. Dr. Carl J. Lange was the Director of Research when the research was begun.

Military support for the study was provided by the U.S. Army Infantry Human Research Unit, Fort Benning, Georgia. LTC Chester I. Christie, Jr. is the present Unit Chief.

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Meredith P. Crawford
Director
Human Resources Research Office
CODE OF CONDUCT, EVASION, AND ESCAPE

General Considerations

Introduction

Adherence to the Code of Conduct by the IRPL and his men is vital to the continuing existence of our Nation and to the preservation of the American way of life. Transition from the secure and peaceful life of a civilian in a free country to the role of a Combat Infantryman pitted against a ruthless and highly motivated enemy on a foreign battlefield demands rapid and massive adjustments on the part of the novice soldier. That the great majority of men entering the Infantry make this dramatic change successfully is a tribute to the individual soldier, his family, the veterans who train him, and to our way of life. The Code of Conduct meets the need of the fighting man for basic guidance toward the complete fulfillment of his grave responsibilities as a soldier. It is a basic responsibility of the IRPL to instruct, to indoctrinate, and to inspire his men to adhere to the Code of Conduct regardless of personal hazard and the most adverse circumstances.

New technology in the form of tactical nuclear weapons and both fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft has vastly increased both the mobility and the dispersion of modern armies with a resultant increase in the threat of isolation to small units and to the individual soldier. Thus the probability has increased that small units (and individuals) more frequently will be required to evade superior enemy forces and rejoin friendly units or to evade pending reinforcements that will permit successful offensive action. Properly mastered, the knowledges, skills, and performances pertinent to patrolling will usually permit the small unit or the individual to evade capture successfully and to collect useful intelligence information at no additional risk while so doing. It is the responsibility of the IRPL to ensure that his men are adequately trained and to develop the will and patience required to evade capture successfully and thus adhere to the Code of Conduct.

Where wounds, the lack of means to resist, and lack of opportunity to evade result in capture, the individual soldier must often stand alone in the presence of the enemy and continue his resistance in accordance with the Code of Conduct pending opportunity to escape. Confined to an enemy prison camp, the soldier must continue his resistance to the enemy and contribute in accordance with his rank and ability toward the maintenance of organization, discipline, and an undying will to survive and escape among his captive fellow soldiers. The eventuality of capture cannot be ignored; thus the IRPL must prepare himself and his men physically, mentally, and morally to resist interrogation and indoctrination if captured, to survive honorably with habitual consideration for fellow prisoners, and to escape as soon as possible.

Scope

This paper sets forth the knowledges, skills, and performances required of the IRPL to exemplify adherence to the Code of Conduct.
and to instruct and indoctrinate his men in the knowledge of and need for adherence to it. The paper also presents basic techniques for survival, evasion, and escape and instruction in resisting enemy interrogation, indoctrination, and exploitation for propaganda purposes. Directly related and vitally useful knowledges, skills, and performances will be found in LEAD papers on Offensive Operations; Retrograde Operations; AirMobile Operations; Patrolling; Land Navigation; Radio Communication; Visual, Sound, and Tactual Communication; Use of Indirect Fires; Observation, Combat Intelligence, and Reporting; Cover, Concealment, and Camouflage; Physical Conditioning; Self-Aid, First Aid, and Evacuation; Human Maintenance Under Campaign Conditions; and Maintenance of Clothing and Equipment.

**Battlefield Cues**

Orders or instructions from commanders, including the senior prisoner of war in a prison camp, pertinent to evasion or escape.

Receipt of any mission requiring possible use of survival kits.

Any battlefield situation demanding evasion to prevent capture after accomplishment of the assigned mission.

Adherence to the Code of Conduct by any soldier to a degree that warrants recommendation for an award for valor, gallantry, or meritorious service.

Failure of any American soldier to adhere to the Code of Conduct.

Availability of communications and supporting indirect fire, close tactical air support, armed helicopters, or any other source of support during contact with a superior enemy force, particularly when isolated from the parent unit.

Significant information of the enemy, weather, terrain, or indigenous population observed during evasion, escape, or prior to escape from the enemy.

Roads, trails, inhabited areas, enemy personnel, or indigenous personnel of unknown allegiance observed or encountered during evasion.

Contact or suspected contact (link-up) with a friendly garrison after evasion.

Threat of capture of arms, ammunition, supplies, etc., prior to or during evasion.

Presence of sick or wounded personnel during evasion.

Food in any useful form encountered as a prisoner or during evasion.
Civilian clothing suitable for disguise during evasion and main-
tenance of PW status under Geneva Convention if capture should occur.

Friendly aircraft sighted during evasion.

Darkness, air strikes, lax guards, artillery fire, power failures, or
any other condition that increases opportunity to escape after capture.

Food, tools, clothing, or any similar item likely to aid escape from
a prison camp.

Relief of command of the senior prisoner of war by the enemy within
a prison camp.

Failure of the enemy to abide by the rules of the Geneva Convention.

Enemy attempts to interrogate, indoctrinate, or otherwise exploit
American prisoners.

Rumors circulating within a prisoner of war camp.

Observation of techniques employed by the enemy to exploit prisoners
of war.

Performances, Knowledges, and Skills

1. THE IRPL WILL EXEMPLARY ADHERENCE TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT
AND INDOCTRINATE HIS MEN IN THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CODE
AND THE NEED FOR ADHERENCE TO IT.

He will: recognize the need for the existence of the Code of
Conduct as a straightforward guide to soldierly be-
havior that will serve the best interests of the United
States of America, the military unit, and the individual
soldier during all military service.

: recognize that courageous and forthright adherence
to the Code of Conduct by each soldier, regardless of
rank or duty assignment, is vital to the defense of our
Country and to the maintenance of freedom from domina-
tion by totalitarian powers.

: know that failure to adhere to the Code of Conduct
will result in the disintegration of military units; serious
losses of trained manpower; significant intelligence and
propaganda victories for the enemy; and needless suffer-
ing, serious disability, and loss of life for individuals
who are unwittingly dominated by the enemy.
know that each soldier must be adequately trained, equipped, supplied, indoctrinated, and provided with a level of leadership that will enable the soldier to endure danger and repeated risk of life under the most adverse conditions during the accomplishment of unit missions.

He must: know that military training in support of the Code has a dual objective of increasing unit fighting strength and increasing the individual's will to resist the enemy under the most adverse circumstances.

continually emphasize, by precept and example, that every soldier must seek habitually to avoid capture through the maintenance of an organized fighting unit and the successful accomplishment of the assigned mission, to evade the enemy if temporarily isolated from the unit, to maintain an irrepressible will to survive and avoid capture, or if captured, to resist interrogation and indoctrination, and to escape from the enemy.

He will: know (memorize) the six basic articles of the Code of Conduct and interpret the meaning of each article in simple, easily understood language during the instruction and indoctrination of his men, i.e.:

"ARTICLE I: I AM AN AMERICAN FIGHTING MAN, I SERVE IN THE FORCES WHICH GUARD MY COUNTRY AND OUR WAY OF LIFE. I AM PREPARED TO GIVE MY LIFE IN THEIR DEFENSE.

A member of the Armed Forces is always a fighting man. As such, it is his duty to oppose the enemies of the United States, regardless of the circumstances in which he may find himself, whether in active participation in combat, or as a prisoner of war.

"ARTICLE 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.

As an individual, a member of the Armed Forces may never voluntarily 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.

The responsibility and authority of a commander never extends to the surrender of his command to the enemy while it has the power to resist or evade. When isolated, cut off, or surrounded, a unit must continue to fight until relieved, or able to rejoin friendly forces, by breaking out or by evading the enemy.
"ARTICLE III: IF I AM CAPTURED I WILL CONTINUE TO RESIST BY ALL MEANS AVAILABLE, I WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ESCAPE AND AID OTHERS TO ESCAPE. I WILL ACCEPT NO PAROLE NOR SPECIAL FAVORS FROM THE ENEMY.

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. Article 82 of the Geneva Convention pertains and must be explained. He will escape if able to do so and will assist others to escape. Parole agreements are promises given the captor (enemy) by a prisoner of war upon his faith and honor, to fulfill stated conditions, such as not to bear arms, or not to escape, in consideration of special privileges, usually release from captivity or a lessened restraint. He will never sign or enter into a parole agreement.

"ARTICLE IV: IF I BECOME A PRISONER OF WAR, I WILL KEEP FAITH WITH MY FELLOW PRISONERS. I WILL GIVE NO INFORMATION OR TAKE PART IN ANY ACTION WHICH MIGHT BE HARMFUL TO MY COMRADES. IF I AM SENIOR, I WILL TAKE COMMAND. IF NOT I WILL OBEY THE LAWFUL ORDERS OF THOSE APPOINTED OVER ME AND WILL BACK THEM UP IN EVERY WAY.

Informing, or any other action to the detriment of a fellow prisoner, is despicable and is expressly forbidden. Prisoners of war must avoid helping the enemy identify fellow prisoners who may have knowledge of particular value to the enemy, and may therefore be made to suffer coercive interrogation.

Strong leadership is essential to discipline. Without discipline, camp organization, resistance, and even survival may be impossible. Personal hygiene, camp sanitation, and care of sick and wounded are imperative. Officers and noncommissioned officers of the United States will continue to carry out their responsibilities and exercise their authority subsequent to capture. The senior line officer or noncommissioned officer within the prisoner of war camp or group of prisoners will assume command according to rank without regard to Service. This responsibility and accountability may not be evaded. If the senior officer or noncommissioned officer is incapacitated or unable to act for any reason, command will be assumed by the next senior.
"ARTICLE V: WHEN QUESTIONED, SHOULD I BECOME A PRISONER OF WAR, I AM BOUND TO GIVE ONLY NAME, RANK, SERVICE NUMBER, AND DATE OF BIRTH. I WILL EVADE ANSWERING FURTHER QUESTIONS TO THE UTMOST OF MY ABILITY. I WILL MAKE NO ORAL OR WRITTEN STATEMENTS DISLOYAL TO MY COUNTRY AND ITS ALLIES OR HARMFUL TO THEIR CAUSE.

When questioned, a prisoner of war is required by the Geneva Convention and permitted by this Code to disclose his name, rank, service number, and date of birth. A prisoner of war may also communicate with the enemy regarding his individual health or welfare as a prisoner of war and, when appropriate, on routine matters of camp administration. Oral or written confessions true or false, questionnaires, personal history statements, propaganda recordings and broadcasts, appeals to other prisoners of war, signatures to peace or surrender appeals, self criticisms or any other oral or written communications on behalf of the enemy or critical or harmful to the United States, its allies, the Armed Forces or other prisoners are forbidden.

It is a violation of the Geneva Convention to place a prisoner of war under physical or mental torture or any other form of coercion to secure from him information of any kind. If, however, a prisoner is subjected to such treatment, he will endeavor to avoid by every means the disclosure of any information, or the making of any statement or the performance of any action harmful to the interests of the United States or its allies or which will provide aid or comfort to the enemy. Under Communist Bloc reservations to the Geneva Convention, the signing of a confession or the making of a statement by a prisoner is likely to be used to convict him as a war criminal under the laws of his captors. This conviction has the effect of removing him from the prisoner of war status and according to this Communist Bloc device denying him any protection under terms of the Geneva Convention and repatriation until a prison sentence is served.
"ARTICLE VI: I WILL NEVER FORGET THAT I AM AN AMERICAN FIGHTING MAN, RESPONSIBLE FOR MY ACTION, AND DEDICATED TO THE PRINCIPLES WHICH MADE MY COUNTRY FREE. I WILL TRUST IN MY GOD AND IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The provisions of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, whenever appropriate, continue to apply to members of the Armed Forces while prisoners of war. Upon repatriation, the conduct of prisoners will be examined as to the circumstances of capture and through the period of detention with due regard for the rights of the individual and consideration for the conditions of captivity. A member of the Armed Forces who becomes a prisoner of war has a continuing obligation to remain loyal to his Country, his Service, and his unit.

The life of a prisoner of war is hard. He must never give up hope. He must resist enemy indoctrination. Prisoners of war who stand firm and united against the enemy will aid one another in surviving this ordeal."

(The interpretations of each of the foregoing articles of the Code were extracted from FM 21-77, Evasion and Escape, Hq., D.A., November 1965.)

2. ON ORDER OR AS DEMANDED BY THE SITUATION, THE IRPL WILL AVOID CAPTURE AND JOIN THE NEAREST FRIENDLY UNIT IF ISOLATED FROM HIS OWN FORCES AND THREATENED WITH CAPTURE OR DESTRUCTION AFTER THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE ASSIGNED MISSION.

He must: habitually keep his mission foremost in mind and direct the full power of all available resources to the successful accomplishment of his assigned mission regardless of personal hazard to himself or to the members of his command unless ordered to do otherwise by competent authority.

: anticipate that airmobile operations, airborne operations, patrolling, counterguerrilla operations, and enemy use of tactical nuclear weapons frequently will place the rifle platoon and its components in isolation from the parent unit as a matter of routine operational necessity; train and indoctrinate his men accordingly.
recognize that a small unit may be destroyed and still accomplish the assigned mission, particularly if assigned to hold key terrain for a given length of time or until action by another unit is completed, e.g., the defense of a bridge pending crossing by another unit or during preparations to destroy a bridge to deny its use to the enemy. (The conduct of retrograde operations is covered in detail in a separate paper.)

if his unit is isolated and threatened with capture, select and apply the course of action most likely to enable his unit or the largest possible number of its members to avoid capture and rejoin a friendly unit, e.g.:

(1) Defend the present position if located on good defensive terrain with a high probability of obtaining adequate fire support (e.g., indirect fires, armed helicopters) and timely relief by friendly forces.

(2) Breakout to an area under friendly control when only relatively weak or widely dispersed enemy forces are known to exist between the isolated unit and a friendly area.

(3) Evade by unit movement or the movement of small groups (infiltration) by carefully avoiding contact with the enemy.

(4) Penetrate deeper to conduct temporary guerrilla-type operations or to link-up with organized guerrilla forces only when other courses of action are impracticable.

(5) Combine practical courses of action, e.g., defend pending nightfall, then evade under cover of darkness.

He will know that the maintenance of effective communications within the small unit and between the small unit and the parent unit facilitates control, keeps commanders abreast of the situation and in a position to provide support, guidance, and relief during the accomplishment of the mission and during evasion to avoid capture or destruction after accomplishment of the mission. (Use and maintenance of communications equipment is covered in other LEAD papers.)
He must: anticipate situations wherein the reorganization of the isolated unit into smaller groups will increase the probability of successful evasion; recognize that the basic principles and techniques pertinent to attack by infiltration and reconnaissance patrolling also apply specifically to evasion by small groups; and organize, equip, and brief the members of small groups accordingly. (See the LEAD papers on Offensive Operations and Patrolling.)

He will: recognize that careful route selection and accurate navigation are vital to rapid movement, avoidance of danger areas, use of supporting fires, and accurate reporting of information; plan and plot routes accordingly for his command during evasion as a unit; and provide quantitative information to the members of small groups ordered to evade. (See the LEAD papers on Land Navigation; Counterintelligence; and Cover, Concealment, and Camouflage.)
He must: advise his men that the primary mission of an evading unit or individual is to rejoin a friendly unit; to avoid attempts at sabotage or other actions likely to result in capture; but during all movement to observe carefully, make mental note of as much useful military information as possible, and to anticipate detailed debriefing upon reaching a friendly unit. (See the LEAD paper titled Observation, Combat Intelligence, and Reporting.)

He will: anticipate the tendency toward the abandonment of excess weight during evasion; recognize the possible necessity to deliberately dispose of heavy or excess items that would interfere with movement or sap men's strength; and order an appropriate course of action, e.g.:

1. When the condition of the men, the nature of the terrain and weather, the enemy situation, and the weight and bulk of materiel permit, evacuate all serviceable materiel as a matter of course.

2. Consider caching and camouflaging heavy items that may be reclaimed at a later time through helicopter recovery.

3. Order the destruction, scattering of parts, burning, etc., of all items not vital to the evasion mission, particularly where long distances, the presence of casualties, rough terrain, and extremes of weather prohibit retention.

He must: make the best possible arrangements for the care of wounded or disabled personnel, i.e.:

1. Where the condition of the individual wounded or disabled men and the strength of the unit will permit, evacuate all wounded and disabled personnel.

2. Recognize that the condition of seriously wounded men may be worsened by unavoidably rough handling in difficult terrain, inclement weather, and limited visibility; consider concealing wounded personnel with medical supplies and an attendant pending recovery by aerial or other evacuation means. (See Self-Aid, First Aid, and Evacuation.)
(3) In the absence of specific instructions to the contrary, conduct isolated burials of deceased personnel when the situation permits to limit individual loads, to maintain mobility, and to maintain morale.

(4) Plan and control movement to avoid exhaustion of ambulatory wounded and men bearing litters, particularly in extremes of weather.

He will anticipate the possible separation and isolation of individuals and buddy pairs during difficult combat operations and provide advance guidance and instruction to his men to aid them to cope effectively with such situations, e.g.:

(1) Regardless of the size of the group, i.e., two or more, the senior man will assume command with a primary mission of evading capture and rejoining friendly forces with minimum practicable delay.

(2) Recognize that panic and haste, i.e., blind, unthinking behavior, are major threats in any emergency situation, and deliberately seek to maintain self-control to the greatest degree possible.

(3) Gain and maintain the best available cover and concealment with deliberate intent to avoid discovery by enemy in the area pending an opportunity to plan reasoned action, e.g., it may be necessary to remain concealed in close proximity to the enemy for several hours pending opportunity to move under cover of darkness.

(4) Seek as quickly as possible to make a sound estimate of the situation, to maintain or gain orientation, and to fix cardinal directions with regard to the probable locations of enemy and friendly troops and possible movement routes.

(5) Avoid known or suspected enemy locations, habitated areas not occupied by friendly troops, roads, trails, and similar danger areas.
(6) Move deliberately and in accordance with plans to reach a specific destination, i.e., use the compass, sun (shadow-tip method), stars, a map (if available), and known major terrain features to maintain direction and orientation and to avoid aimless wandering that will increase exposure time and cause needless fatigue.

(7) Rest and sleep periodically to avoid exhaustion and to regain strength for sudden, violent action against possible enemy contact.

(8) Habitually select a resting place that will provide concealment and forewarning of the approach of men or animals, e.g., deep within a dense thicket or in a rocky crevice on a rock-strewn slope.

(9) Conserve available food and water and recognize and use available natural food with practical attention focused upon hygiene and sanitation. Avoid contaminated water.

(10) Make maximum use of limited visibility, i.e., darkness, inclement weather, and natural cover and concealment, including personal camouflage, during movement.

(11) Anticipate airborne search and rescue effort to be mounted by the parent unit; recognize that if the attention of any friendly aviator or aircraft crew member can be gained, help will be provided; maintain an air watch as dictated by visibility, and use a mirror, panel, smoke grenade, ground markings, and personal exposure in an open area, as feasible, to signal friendly aircraft.

(12) Know that the abandonment of all visible military identification (e.g., a change into civilian clothing) may result in conviction as a spy (usually a death-penalty defense) if captured; do not rule out use of disguise; but know that military clothing and equipment are likely to be most serviceable during movement over difficult terrain under extreme weather conditions and depend primarily upon concealment as opposed to disguise.

(13) As a general rule, avoid contact with indigenous personnel except when specific prior instructions to the contrary have been received, e.g., an organized resistance movement and a manned escape and evasion organization may exist in some operational areas.
(14) If contact with indigenous personnel is in accordance with instructions or is deemed essential to survival, select a mature male for initial contact if possible and avoid abrupt contact with women, children, and elderly people who may become panic-stricken and immediately spread an alarm that will result in capture.

(15) If contact is made with indigenous personnel, safeguard all military information (including details of own movement), avoid involvement with women or intoxicants, avoid any unnecessary delay in movement, be polite, and avoid any behavior that might tend to compromise benefactors in any way, e.g., even the boot prints of military footgear found in the dooryard of a native hut may compromise the members of a household who have aided an evader.

(16) Anticipate situations where narrow escapes from death, extremes of weather, close proximity to a searching enemy, disease (e.g., recurring malaria), pain from wounds, fatigue, lack of food or water, sympathy and concern for a wounded or ill comrade, or similar circumstances may appear to dictate surrender; recognize that surrender is likely to provide little or no relief from or change in the situation as it exists, may worsen it at once, and that loss of freedom of action by surrender is likely to prolong both physical and mental anguish and may ultimately result in death or serious mental or physical disability.

(17) Establish and maintain an unalterable mental set fixed upon survival, adherence to the Code of Conduct, and return to freedom; provide as much physical and moral support as possible to any weaker member(s) of the group; and continue to evade capture.

(18) Recognize that an evader may escape capture only to lose his life to mistakenly delivered fire from friendly forces upon attempting to effect link-up; anticipate that friendly troop positions will be protected by wire, mines, anti-intrusion devices, and alert security personnel; seek to effect link-up during unlimited visibility if possible; ensure through observation that troop positions are manned by friendly personnel; and send one member of the evading group forward openly to establish contact using the standard procedure prescribed for a returning patrol except use of a substitute method of identification (i.e., questions and answers) in lieu of the challenge and password.
(19) Immediately upon effecting link-up with friendly forces, report to the commander of the unit, request necessary aid for his men, arrange to report return to friendly control to the parent organization, provide intelligence information of immediate tactical value to the commander, and request audience with an intelligence officer for debriefing. (Evaders are likely to be escorted to an officer for debriefing as soon as practicable after link-up.)

(20) Except to provide information of immediate tactical value to the commander of the unit with whom link-up was effected, reveal no details of routes, aid, contacts, etc., pertinent to the period of evasion except to the intelligence officer designated to debrief the evader(s). Adhere strictly to the instructions of the debriefing officer concerning dissemination of any information or activities pertinent to the period of evasion to safeguard other evaders and to avoid compromising any individual(s) likely to suffer reprisals from the enemy for having aided evaders.

He must:
- anticipate, upon assignment to a specific area of operations, that he will be briefed and instructed in evasion and survival techniques peculiar to the new environment; seek to learn as much as possible and to continue to learn through study and observation; and pass newly gained information and skills to his men (e.g., identification and use of natural foods, attitudes, and customs of indigenous personnel) to increase their confidence and capabilities in the event they are confronted with a survival/evasion situation.

He will:
- requisition and issue survival kits to the members of his unit and instruct his men in the use of the contents as necessary when the nature of a special mission indicates a need for such equipment.
- fabricate survival kits locally when standard items of issue are not available, i.e., know that a useful survival kit may contain:
  1. Metal signaling mirror (use routinely for shaving in the field).
  2. Ground-air emergency code card.
(4) Water purification tablets.
(5) Heavy pocket knife or light sheath knife (carry habitually in the field).
(6) Waterproof matches (dip heads in heavy shellac and dry).
(7) Antibiotic ointment (e.g., small tube of bacitracin).
(8) Malaria pills (if environment demands).
(9) Salt tablets (may be used to season food, also).
(10) 15 to 20 feet of nylon cord (e.g., parachute suspension line).
(11) Small, needle-nose pliers (for making snares, use as tweezers, etc.).
(12) Needles and thread (heavy needles; coarse, strong thread).
(13) Snare wire.
(14) Fishhooks and 20-30 feet of 20-30 lb. test monofilament line.
(15) Small whetstone or ignition file.

3. IF CAPTURED, THE IRPL WILL COMMENCE IMMEDIATE PLANS TO ESCAPE, ESCAPE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND AID OTHERS TO ESCAPE AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY. HE WILL ASSUME COMMAND IF SENIOR AMONG A GROUP OF PRISONERS.

He will: never surrender of his own free will and strongly emphasize to his men that surrender does not guarantee survival; that summary executions of American prisoners have been recorded in virtually all past conflicts; and that surrender may permit the enemy to take life while offering victims no opportunity to resist.

: strongly emphasize the need to retain rigid discipline and to look to leaders for example and guidance during any period as a prisoner of war (PW).
He must: instruct his men in a minimum number of escape techniques and provide practical guidance to prepare them to survive capture if loss of means of resistance, wounds, or other grave circumstances force them to become PWs, e.g.:

1. Avoid displays of strong emotion when facing captors, i.e., either apathy or belligerence may trigger violent action on the part of the enemy, particularly if the enemy has suffered heavy casualties or has been fatigued and sleepless for several days and nights; remember that a PW is still a soldier, and behave accordingly.

2. Habitually assume that guards may understand English unless it is proven otherwise and say nothing within earshot of a guard that will draw attention to plans or intent to escape or that will aid the enemy in any way. Conceal any ability to understand the native language spoken by the guards, at least initially, as a possible means of gaining information that may aid escape.

3. Do not resist physically while being searched; to do so may invite a disabling wound or injury that will limit chances to escape and it will also mark an individual for special surveillance.

4. Seek to gain and maintain orientation, study the enemy and the terrain, make an estimate of the situation, and select several tentative courses of action to be implemented if opportunity to escape occurs.

5. Recognize that opportunities to escape are likely to decrease with time; that movement away from the battlefield usually will increase the distance to be traveled when escape is made; and seek the earliest opportunity to escape.

6. During dismounted movement under guard, surreptitiously pass the word to extend the column by lagging, and drop out of the column at an opportune time and place, e.g., at a bend in the road or trail, when dust is being thrown up by passing vehicles, or on a section of road or trail where thick undergrowth on the sides will provide effective concealment.
(7) If artillery or aircraft fire is received and guards and prisoners disperse to take cover, seek cover and concealment and remain concealed or move away from the area when the prisoners are reassembled after the fire is lifted.

(8) Create a disturbance (e.g., commence a loud argument or a "fight" with a fellow prisoner) at one point in the column to provide opportunity for escape by prisoners at another point. (An apparent disturbance among prisoners is less likely to bring retribution from guards than an altercation between prisoners and guards.)

(9) Escape by dropping off slowly moving transportation, e.g., on steep grades or during entry into or exit from rail yards.

(10) Observe guards closely (i.e., organize a watch) during transit, particularly at night and during meals; the guards may be reduced in numbers or become sleepy, careless, or unobservant and thus provide an opportunity to escape.

(11) During breaks or waiting periods, casually group several prisoners together near cover or concealment to provide concealment from the guards while other prisoners slip into concealment to escape.

(12) Upon escape, move as fast as possible away from the immediate proximity of the enemy until it is apparent that the escape is at least temporarily successful; then, from a concealed position, make a visual reconnaissance and deliberate plans to continue evasion to rejoin friendly forces.

(13) Anticipate that both human trackers and dogs may be used in efforts to recapture prisoners; cut a stout, hardwood staff or club for defense against vicious dogs; leave as little trail sign as possible (e.g., as when on patrol); and consider wading streams, if practicable, to reduce scent left for dogs to follow. (Also applies to escape from PW camps.)

(14) When a member or members of a group escape, surreptitiously pass the word for other members of the group to stay in motion and shift positions to increase the difficulty of obtaining an accurate head count by enemy guards and thus conceal the escape as long as possible.
He will: if captured and placed in a PW camp, assume command of U.S. prisoners if he is the senior member of the camp or serve according to assignment under eligible U.S. officers senior to himself who assume command and staff positions in the camp organization.

recognize and impress upon his men that all officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers continue to be subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice and that the requirement for officers and noncommissioned officers to exercise their authority and to meet their responsibilities as leaders is not changed in any way by virtue of PW status.

emphasize to all PWs under his command the need for loyal, dedicated behavior at all times as a prerequisite for survival and escape; issue appropriate forewarnings and provide specific guidance to any individual who fails to adhere to the Uniform Code of Military Justice and the Code of Conduct while in a PW status; and emphasize that PW status is not a state of culpability and that detailed investigations of their behavior after release from captivity will be undertaken only if warranted.

know the provisions of Article 105 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice and ensure by example and through instruction and supervision that all PWs assiduously avoid any behavior that might be construed in any way as a violation, i.e.:

"Any person subject to this Code who, while in the hands of the enemy in time of war--

(1) for the purpose of securing favorable treatment by his captors acts without proper authority in a manner contrary to law, custom, or regulation, to the detriment of others of whatever nationality held by the enemy as civilian or military prisoners; or

(2) while in a position of authority over such persons maltreats them without justifiable cause; shall be punished as a court-martial may direct."

know that a PW camp may range from a handful of PWs held by guerrillas in a single native hut to a large central complex wherein several hundreds of prisoners are held captive; make a thoughtful estimate of the specific situation with which he and his fellow PWs are confronted on the basis of all available information; and proceed with deliberate patience to gain the best possible treatment for each PW held at the camp with strict adherence to the Uniform Code of Military Justice and to the Code of Conduct.
organize, or participate in the organization under the senior PW, of a military unit encompassing all U.S. PWs within a given camp with specific aims known to all PWs, i.e.:

(1) To establish and maintain a military organization with a level of discipline and attention to detail that will ensure that each soldier (PW) renders due service toward the welfare of the group as a whole and that no individual is permitted to suffer undue hardship that can be alleviated through concerted group and individual effort by members of the command.

(2) To maintain individual physical and mental health at the highest possible level with strong emphasis on group unity and individual will to survive.

(3) To resist enemy interrogation and indoctrination and to increase individual confidence in the democratic processes common to our own government and way of life.

(4) To plan and execute escapes at every opportunity as a primary means of continued resistance against the enemy.

He must: recognize that the basic principles pertinent to the organization and administration of military units apply within a PW camp as within any unit in garrison or in the field and act accordingly.

He must: know that the standards for adequate clothing, shelter, nutrition, personal hygiene, sanitation, medical treatment, religious needs, and requirements for guidance and counseling do not change because of PW status; seek habitually to ensure that all personnel maintain high standards and that the maximum of material support is obtained from the enemy; and seek to personally involve every able-bodied PW in providing for the welfare and maintenance of all other PWs, including individual maintenance of physical condition that will facilitate escape as often as opportunity can be created.

He must: establish and maintain scheduled and supervised activities on a routine basis to meet individual and group needs within the limits of available or obtainable resources and continually seek ways to involve all PWs in specific projects to improve living conditions, to avoid boredom and apathy, and to focus on future return to their own country, homes, and families. (See the LEAD papers on Physical Conditioning; Self-Aid, First Aid, and Evacuation; Human Maintenance Under Campaign Conditions; and Maintenance of Clothing and Equipment.)
anticipate enemy attempts to totally dominate the organization and administration of the camp as established by the senior PW and his staff.

if an arbitrary appointment of leaders by the enemy disrupts the PW organization, protest the relief of the members and demand reinstatement.

if protests and demonstrations fail to sway the enemy to reinstate the original PW leaders, establish a covert organization and continue to follow U.S. doctrine by controlling the camp through the enemy-appointed leaders with the original commander and staff operating in a covert role.

He will: organize (or contribute according to assignment) escape and intelligence collection tasks in accordance with classified instructions received during training that are pertinent to a specific enemy and operational environment, e.g., Viet Cong in Vietnam.

enlist the aid of all personnel in studying and reporting through established channels the routine of the enemy, schedule of guards, locations and capabilities of sentries, locations and types of barriers and anti-escape devices, etc., so the behavior of the enemy can be predicted with reasonable certainty when planning escapes, and utilize all talent available among the PWs to aid escape.

seek habitually to take advantage of unexpected opportunities to escape that may occur on work details, during air raids or power failures or similar emergencies.

anticipate the loss of leaders through transfer to other camps, illness, or death, and seek to train an adequate number of replacements for each key position in the PW organization.

He must: know that specific operations are planned both to exchange prisoners and to recover prisoners; recognize that the successful escape of one or more prisoners may permit a well-briefed and prepared escapee to provide information on the location, layout, organization, and routine of the camp to serve as a basis for planning and airborne or ground assault on the camp to liberate and evacuate all PWs; plan accordingly.
He will: know that the rights of U.S. PWs are essentially the same as those extended to the prisoners captured by our own forces; ensure that his men are aware of their rights; seek habitually to hold the enemy to recognized responsibilities; and promptly lodge protests (or recommend the lodging of protests by the senior PW) when PW rights are infringed in any way.

He must: know that every PW camp is required to have a copy of the Geneva Convention posted in the prisoner's own language where the prisoner may read it; ensure that the document is available; and use the provisions as a lever to obtain the best available treatment for all PWs.

He will: know that protests against the infringement upon PW rights may be lodged with the enemy camp commander, with representatives of designated protecting powers (neutral countries), and with representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross when either of the latter two are active in a specific situation; take full advantage of access to such personnel; seek to make any infringement of rights a matter of official record, and to obtain the best treatment available for all PWs.

He must: know that chaplains, doctors, and certain medical technicians may be retained by the enemy to care for PWs, but may not (according to the law of land warfare) be classified and treated as PWs; seek to obtain the best possible facilities for use by chaplains and medical personnel, including complete freedom of movement within the camp; and avoid involving such personnel in escape plans or in any activities that might cause them to lose their status and thus deprive PWs of their care, treatment, and ministration.

He will: know that prisoners are permitted to wear their own insignia of rank; that every prisoner, except an officer, must salute and show enemy officers the same external marks of respect provided for by the regulations of our own forces; and that officers must salute enemy officers of higher rank and the camp commander regardless of rank.

He must: recognize that strict adherence to formal military conduct, including proper military courtesy, can profitably be employed to maintain a psychological barrier between the individual PW and the enemy captors; require and encourage adherence to the formal rules of soldierly behavior during all contact with the enemy as a defensive measure and as a continuing display of personal pride; and require the continued practice of customary military courtesy among PWs to maintain discipline, to promote group cohesion, and to demonstrate to the enemy that all PWs stand together as disciplined and organized soldiers despite their status as PWs.
He must recognize that, despite instruction and indoctrination, the primitive conditions and the brutal treatment usually accorded prisoners in Communist PW camps will come as a debilitating shock to some soldiers and that maximum use of all available leadership, a soldierly based PW organization, adherence to U.S. customs and doctrine, and use of prescribed procedures to maintain physical and mental health will be vital to establishing and maintaining the will to survive and escape among all U.S. PWs.

4. He will anticipate enemy attempts to interrogate, indoctrinate, and exploit prisoners of war; effectively withstand such attempts if captured; and instruct and indoctrinate his men to aid them to thwart enemy attempts at interrogation, indoctrination, and exploitation if they should become prisoners.

He must know, and ensure that his men know, that Communism is an organized international and global movement that conspires to destroy the economic system of free enterprise and the democratic system of government under which our economic and social freedoms exist, and that world domination under a totalitarian government is the moving force and the basic objective of Communism.

: recognize that freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, freedom to own property, and freedom to work in one's chosen field and to live as one wishes are abolished under Communist government, i.e., the individual becomes a mere slave and a tool of the state.

: know that deception, subversion, force, and violence are established procedures for gaining Communist objectives at all times and places whether or not a formally declared state of war exists.

: recognize that any apparent success by a Communist power leads only to further attempts to achieve more power through deception, subversion, and violence; that no Communist government has ever provided adequately for its people or permitted individual freedoms comparable to our own; and that terror and bloody chaos (as in Communist China and in South Vietnam in 1968) are often the results of Communist attempts to gain or maintain power.
realize that becoming a PW will subject the individual soldier to grueling marches, hunger, extremes of weather without adequate protection, disease, and to painful and savage brutality at the hands of his captors as they seek to gain information and make propaganda, thus the need to avoid capture and to resist and escape if captured may often be a life or death matter. [Of some 7000 prisoners captured and held by the Communists in Korea, more than 2700 (almost 4 out of every 10) died in PW camps.]

He will recognize that instruction in and familiarization with Communist methods of interrogation will aid him and his men, if captured, to resist the enemy pending opportunity to escape, i.e., ensure that his men:

1. Recognize that the Communists have, in wars against the Germans, Japanese, and Americans, deliberately and systematically used PW camps as vast laboratories where they sought to discover and perfect the most useful techniques and methods of interrogation by using PWs as subjects for experimentation.

2. Anticipate from the outset of capture that any action taken by any Communist, from the lowest ranking guard upward, is methodically intended to dominate the individual PW toward providing information, producing propaganda, or accepting indoctrination, and that any success gained by the Communists is a direct loss to the individual PW, his fellowPWs, his family, his military unit, and his Country.

3. Know that Communist captors consider every PW initially to be a source of useful information or propaganda and as a potential convert to Communist causes, thus all PWs are likely to be subjected to interrogation and must be prepared to resist steadfastly and to avoid any compromise with the captors.

4. Anticipate that Communist interrogators often will speak excellent English, be well acquainted with American customs, colloquial expressions, etc., may have visited in the United States or attended an American university, and that all of the interrogator's knowledge of the United States will be employed as effectively as possible to induce American PWs to provide information and to cooperate toward the production of Communist propaganda.
(5) Know that Communist interrogators are likely to be intelligent, highly trained for their jobs, and bent upon breaking the silence of as many PWs as possible; that interrogators usually will be well-nourished and rested as opposed to the under-nourished, fatigued, and often frightened PW; recognize that to give only name, rank, service number, and date of birth and that to answer "I don't know" or "I cannot answer" to all other questions is the only practical way to resist interrogation.

(6) Anticipate that attempts to outwit or lie to enemy interrogators will prolong the interrogation and ultimately will result in a compromise or punishment for the PW and a victory for the Communists; further, that an interrogator who has been deceived by a PW is likely to seek personal vengeance against the PW, i.e., an overtly respectful answer of "I don't know," repeated as often as necessary, leaves the enemy interrogator facing a blank wall.

(7) Know that interrogators may display weapons or have weapons fired near the PW's head in attempts to induce him to talk, and that threats of execution (including requiring a PW to dig his own grave) may be commonly used in attempts to induce fear and force cooperation; seek to show as little emotion as possible, remain overtly respectful, and repeatedly refuse to talk or to cooperate with full knowledge that no other honorable course of action exists.

(8) Anticipate that food, rest, sleep, medical attention, tobacco, and even water may be withheld to induce cooperation or may be provided for the same reason; habitually assume that any action taken by Communist interrogators is intended to serve their own ends and is not an act of kindness nor an indication that a PW has met a humane captor.

(9) Anticipate the use of young, female nurses and nurses' aids to provide medical care with a feminine touch and possible implications of sexual gratification; recognize such women as Communist tools and interrogators; and maintain a correctly formal relationship to avoid any compromise that can be further exploited by the enemy.
(10) Know that a PW's personal mail may be delayed, withheld, or manipulated (e.g., only mail containing depressing information may be delivered) to create a feeling that the PW has been forgotten or neglected by his loved ones and thus cause him to look toward his captors for a means of raising his morale.

(11) Anticipate that all mail to and from PWs will be read by interrogators; that any information placed in any letter will be put to use by the Communists if possible; and adhere to the theme "I am alive and well" or to similar content not likely to aid the enemy in any way.

(12) Realize that barracks, mess halls, hospitals, and virtually any building occupied or used by PWs may be equipped with listening devices that will permit Communist interrogators to monitor the conversations of PWs, e.g., a fairly obvious microphone may be installed where it will be discovered and neutralized as encouragement to talk so a second, adequately concealed device will pick up all conversation; habitually act and speak with deliberate forethought to avoid carelessly imparting information that may go directly to the enemy for later use by interrogators.

(13) Recognize that attempts to obtain information may not appear to be formally structured or scheduled and thus may catch an unwary PW off guard, e.g., an interrogator not previously known to a prisoner may commence an apparently casual conversation on a seemingly chance meeting and seek to obtain bits and pieces of both personal and military information; deliberately use formal military conduct as a guard against enemy attempts to use informal situations to collect incidental information for later use in structured interrogations.

(14) Anticipate enemy scheduling and postponement of interrogations in attempts to create fear and apprehension; realize that to successfully withstand the initial interrogation, however stressful and painful it may be, will increase the PW's will and ability to resist and thus ultimately defeat the purpose of the enemy.
(15) Recognize enemy rumors spread deliberately to increase fear and breed distrust, e.g., uncooperative prisoners are to be shipped to Manchuria (or elsewhere); large numbers of Americans have become secret informants that report regularly to the Communists; drugs are available for use against prisoners who habitually refuse to answer questions, etc.; discount rumors and recognize them as crude attempts to frighten PWs into providing information and cooperation.

(16) Recognize "personal history statements" and similar blank forms as devices used by the Communists to obtain information to increase the effectiveness of interrogations, to build a "201 File" on each prisoner, and to indicate to the prisoner that he might as well talk and be cooperative because the captors already have extensive information pertinent to his background and activities; adhere to the Code of Conduct and provide only the minimum, authorized information.

(17) Know that each serviceman is issued a special identity card to be used in the event he becomes a prisoner; that this identity card is to be shown to the captors upon demand but may in no case be taken away from the prisoner. Refuse to write biographical essays or to do any writing requested by the enemy except to fill out the official Prisoner Card as governed by the Code of Conduct, i.e., name, rank, service number, and date of birth.

(18) Adhere to the normal chain of command within the PW organization to obtain medical attention, clothing, etc., so that the enemy is forced to deal with the senior prisoner of war on all matters and to avoid or limit enemy contacts with individual PWs.

(19) Recognize that the individual PW is likely to experience his most difficult time as he stands alone with enemy interrogators; resist interrogation; study the methods, techniques, and reactions of the interrogators; and seek to pass on to his comrades as much information as possible that will aid them to resist interrogation.

(20) Should any PW feel that he has inadvertently been compromised during an interrogation, i.e., has furnished information despite an intent not to do so, report the full facts to the senior PW to avoid having the Communists blackmail him and thus make a bad matter worse.
(21) Recognize that in a large group of PWs there will be wide variations in the degrees of stress produced in individual cases, i.e., some men will be able to withstand the stress of interrogation with less suffering than others; provide moral support and encouragement; and seek to inspire a level of confidence in each PW that will aid him to withstand interrogation as a deliberate act of continued resistance against the enemy.

He must: know and inform his men that the primary objectives of Communist indoctrination are:

1. To thoroughly train and indoctrinate PWs in the theory and practice of Communism, i.e., to convert the individual into a dedicated Communist.

2. To induce cooperation in the production of Communist propaganda, including that produced through deceit, distortion, and blackmail.

3. To undermine the faith of American PWs in their political and military leaders, form of government, their fellow PWs, and even their families, as a subtle form of subversion, i.e., to make them skeptical of democratic government and its institutions and thus reduce their resistance to Communism.

He will: recognize and ensure that his men know that Communist methods of indoctrination are neither mysterious nor irresistible, but are based upon a primitive form of conditioning similar to that used by a science student forcing a rat to learn the way through a maze, i.e.:

1. POWs are given barely enough food, clothing, and shelter to keep them alive, they are often overworked, and their needs for recreation and freedom of action are denied in a deliberate attempt to weaken their physical strength, to create self-pity, and to cause a deterioration of moral values.
(2) PWs are exposed to endless repetitions of distorted and deceptively organized facts and outright lies aimed to subvert their beliefs and destroy their faith in their political leaders, in the American system of government and free enterprise, and in their fellow PWs and families.

(3) PWs are isolated from news and factual information stemming from a free press, and mail may be manipulated or withheld to further isolate them from their loved ones and the outside world, i.e., the PW is confined in a limited environment largely created by his Communist captors.

(4) Men who refuse to respond to the Communist conditioning process are dubbed "reactionaries" and may be further isolated by solitary confinement, shipped to special camps, brutally treated, and denied adequate food and clothing. They retain their integrity and gain the respect and admiration of their fellow PWs who share their lot and steadfastly continue to resist the enemy.

(5) PWs who succumb to the Communist conditioning process are called "progressives" and are rewarded (like the rat that runs the maze) with extra food, clothing, recreation, and reduced work assignments as long as they are useful to their Communist masters, then they are dropped. They are rightfully shunned and despised as turncoats and informers by PWs who continue to resist, and they are subject to trial by court-martial for collaboration with the enemy upon release from captivity.

(6) Attempts to physically weaken and to subvert the moral values of PWs are likely to be continual as long as Communist captors feel that any progress is being made in an individual case, and any PW who shows any signs of succumbing to the conditioning process merely invites additional pressure and effort from the enemy.

He must: recognize and forewarn and instruct his men in the recognition of Communist methods and techniques of indoctrination and exploitation, i.e., instruct his men to:
(1) Anticipate that the Communists will habitually espouse the "big lie" with dedicated conviction, i.e., despite armed Communist invasion of a free country with deliberate intent to overthrow the free government by force and violence and to establish a totalitarian regime, the Communist invaders will habitually brand their adversaries as " aggressors" and seek to convince the world that Communists are fighting only for "peace and democracy."

(2) Recognize Communist arrangements for debates, lectures, language classes, movies, libraries, and athletic contests as vehicles for indoctrination; anticipate forced attendance; and recognize that the individual PW can control his own thinking and stolidly ignore such attempts at indoctrination despite forced attendance.

(3) Know that "peace committees," "discussion groups," and similar organizations established by the Communists are deliberately designed to indoctrinate PWs, to recruit informants within the PW population, to obtain collaborators for the production of propaganda, and, as a minimum, to neutralize the majority of strong-willed PWs who resist Communist indoctrination and exploitation; avoid involvement and adhere to PW-dominated organizations aimed at survival, resistance, and escape.

(4) Recognize that "peace petitions," "open letters," taped broadcasts urging an end to conflict, and "confessions" (e.g., to the use of germ warfare) are typical Communist techniques for using duped PWs to make propaganda for publication and broadcast all over the world and for presentation at the United Nations; refuse to participate in any way to aid Communists to depict themselves as peace-loving people while they are, in fact, waging a war of aggression and conquest.

(5) Know that any "confession" to any "crime" that can be obtained by pressure, deceit, or any other means from a PW may be used as a basis for a trial and ultimate conviction as a "war criminal" with loss of rights as a PW and a long prison sentence in a foreign country; that the publicity stemming from a "confession" and trial will provide potent propaganda useful to the Communists; and refuse to pose for photographs, utter words, or sign any papers or forms that may later be altered or used to serve as a "confession" or as "evidence" at a trial.
(6) Recognize repetition as a common feature of Communist indoctrination; refuse to participate in organized Communist "discussions," or to answer questions (except with an overtly respectful "I don't know") in "classes"; and anticipate possible losses of rights and privileges as a direct result of having the integrity and fortitude to resist Communist indoctrination.

(7) Know that any involvement with Communist propaganda schemes or any acceptance of enemy indoctrination is ample basis for ostracism by the vast majority of a PW population; that any PW who fails to resist the enemy is likely to be completely friendless; and that any opportunity to escape certainly will be afforded a PW who has continued to resist the enemy as opposed to a collaborator and turncoat.

(8) Habitually assume that any organization or activity sponsored by Communist captors is initiated with ulterior motives and with deliberate intent to use PWs to aid the enemy cause; seek habitually to recognize Communist attempts to exploit PWs; and covertly publicize their motives and the details of their schemes to fellow PWs as a continuing form of resistance to the enemy.
CRITICAL COMBAT PERFORMANCES, KNOWLEDGES, AND SKILLS REQUIRED OF THE INFANTRY RIFLE PLATOON LEADER: CODE OF CONDUCT, EVASION AND ESCAPE

This document is one of a series of research by-products that details the critical skills, knowledges, and performances the infantry rifle platoon leader must possess for effective individual and unit combat performance. The overall goal of the research is to improve officer training in these critical combat skill areas necessary for effective leadership. This document concerns the critical skill requirements in the area of code of conduct, evasion, and escape.
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