

**North Wales Mountain Rescue
Association**

**Search Training and Joint Exercise
Weekend**

7-9 December 2001

**Plas Y Nant
Betws Garmon**

1. Search Training Weekend

1.1. *Introduction*

It is proposed to run another search training event over the second weekend in December. An provisional program has been developed that aims to offer formal training for about 25 students and then a period of free play exercise.

The free play exercise is open to larger numbers and will form the Joint Exercise (Joint Ex) allowing participating team members to interact.

1.2. *Aims*

The primary aim for the weekend is to offer practical search training to Mountain Rescue Team Members. This will be offered at different levels, from search managers to junior team members.

Additionally, the working together of members from different teams will allow the exchange of ideas and encourage good relations.

Aims for each training phase is covered separately later in this document.

1.3. *When*

The duration of the course will be from 19:01 on Friday 7 December until 18:01 on Sunday 9 December.

Timings throughout the course documents will use the DTG method i.e. 9pm on Friday 7 December is expressed as: 072100 Dec 01. All times are local.

The training event, which is limited to a specific number of students, will run from 071900 Dec until 081800 Dec 01.

The Joint Exercise will run from 081900 Dec until 091800 Dec 01.

A search planning phase has been set aside for the search managers in the Joint Ex and they will need attend between 081900 Dec and 082300 Dec.

Other Team Members will be expect arrive in time for the first Operational Period Briefing at 090900 Dec.

A Joint Exercise de-briefing will take place on Sunday at 12163000 Dec and departure will take place at about 111800 Dec once all the domestics have been completed.

1.4. *Where*

The weekend will be based around Plas Y Nant, Betwys Garmon

The address is:

Plas Y Nant,
BETWYS GARMON
Gwynedd
LL54 7YR

And the Grid Reference is: SH 551 563

1.5. *With Who*

The course is open to any Mountain Rescue Team member that is part of NWMRA. Additionally a limited number of places (5 maximum) are available to Police Officers and RAF Mountain Rescue Team members.

Up to 25 students are expected to attend the training phase of the weekend, running from Friday evening to Late on Saturday. This phase is most suitable for new or inexperienced team members.

The Search Exercise is open to all team members but it will be probably only be able to deal with about 60 peoples as ground teams. The search planning phase is ideally suited to provide training for between 8-10 search managers.

2. Domestics

2.1. **Food**

Food will be provided for team members attending the training phase of the course and the search managers who attend on Saturday evening.

Team members attending the Joint Ex/Search Phase should bring their own pack lunches

2.2. **Accommodation**

Bunk room accommodation has been provided by Andy Goodall at Plas Y Nant. Attendees should bring their own sleeping bags.

2.3. **Budgets**

A budget for this event has been set aside by NWMRA.

2.4. **Costs**

A charge of £10.00 per team member attending the Friday Evening/Saturday Session will made.

Cheques should be made payable to “*North Wales Mountain Rescue Association*”.

2.5. **Facilities/Permissions required**

The following facilities will be required at the base in order to complete the training and joint exercise parts of the weekend:

Facility	Action
Land Clearance	R Leyland
Maps and Overlay films	A Read/R Leyland
Pens, briefing forms	A Read
OHP, Pens and acetate films	R Leyland

3. Overhead Teams

An exercise overhead team will be responsible for running the weekend.

The overall weekend co-ordinators are:

Alistair Read (01492 660856 or 07770 834148)

Roland Leyland (07713 211012)

Various other instructors will provide training and support for the exercises.

4. Training Phase

4.1. Times

The training phase of the weekend runs from;

	Times
Training Part 1	071900z - 072300z Dec
Training Part 2	080900 -081800z Dec

4.2. Aims

The aims of the training phase are;

- Introduce, update and demonstrate field search skills;
- Improve the observations skills of party members;
- Provide party awareness with respect to documentation and evidence handling;

4.3. Training Offered

Training sessions in the following will be offered (tbc):

Sessions/Workshops	Instructor
Search Overview	AI Read
Briefing & Debriefing	TBC
Observations Skills / Clue Awareness	TBC
Tracking	Mark Gibson (SARDA(W))
Kit for searches	AI Read (Group session)
Evidence Handling	TBC
Sub-segmenting	AI Read (OVMRO)
Acting as a SARDA Navigator	R Leyland
Technology in Search	Russell Hore (OVMRO)

4.4. Outline Training Phase Time Table

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date/Times</i>	<i>Items</i>	<i>Notes</i>
	07 Dec 2000		
T0701	071900	Students RV at SSSRT Base	
T0705	071910-1930	Introduction, Welcome and Domesticcs	
T0710	071930-2030	Lecture 1 (Search Overview)	
T0715	0712030-2130	Lecture 2	
T0720	072130-2250	Break	
T0725	072250-2220	Lecture 3	
	08 Dec 2000		
T0801	080800-0845	Breakfast and domestics	
T0805	080900-0910	Recap of previous event	
T0810	080910-1000	Lecture 4	
T0815	081005-1045	Lecture 5	
T0820	081100-1200	Workshop session 1	
T0825	081200-1245	Lunch	
T0830	081245-1330	Workshop session 2	
T0835	081340-1425	Workshop session 3	
T0840	081430-1450	Field Ex 1 Briefing	
T0845	081500-1700	Field Ex 1	
T0850	081700-1720	Field Ex 1 debrief	
T0852	081720-1740	Training Phase Debrief	
T0855	081800-1900	Domestics and clear away	
T0856	081820-1840	Overhead Team debrief	

5. Joint Exercise Phase

5.1. *Times*

The Joint Exercise Phase will run from 081900 Dec 01 until 091800z Dec 01. It is split in to two sections:

Exercise Sections	Times
A. Planning Phase	081900z – 082300z Dec
B. Operational Phase	090700z – 091800z Dec

5.2. *Aims*

The aims of the Planning Section are:

- Enable Search Managers to practise skills required to plan a search operation

These skills include:

- Determining search urgency;
- Developing a lost person profile and completing a Lost Person Questionnaire;
- Identifying Search regions, sectors and segments;
- Planning tasks for search teams;
- Preparing Briefing material.

The aims of the Operational Section are:

- For Search Managers: To practices the skills required to conduct a search operation;
- For Hill Parties: To practice the skills required to be effective search teams.

The search managers will run the search operation; briefing teams, updating maps with segments searched, maintaining records of searches and conduct de-briefings of teams returning from their search sectors.

Hill parties will deploy to their respective search segments following their briefing.

5.3. *Training*

The on hill scenarios will exercise the hill parties in various skills including:

- Dealing with the found person

- Sub-sectoring and compiling debriefing notes

They will allow the skills taught earlier in the weekend to be put into practice in a field environment.

5.4. Joint Exercise Training Time table

	08 Dec 2001	Search Exercise (Planning Phase)	
S0860	081900-1920	Welcome, Introduction and domestics	
S0865	081920-1940	Search Briefing	
S0870	082000-2200	Planning	
	09 Dec 2001	Search Exercise (Operational Phase)	
S0901	090700-1300	Operational Period 1	
S0902	090800	Start SAR team briefings	
S0905	091230-1600	Operational Period 2	
S0906	091500-1550	SAR team debriefings	
S0910	091615	All personnel Return to Base	
S0915	091630-1700	Joint Ex De-brief	
S0920	091700-1730	Clear away and tidy SSSRT's Base	
S0925	091700-1730	Overhead Team de-brief	
S0930	091800	End Ex	

5.5. Previous Search Exercise Lessons Identified

The lessons/comments identified from last years search exercise are attached.

Search Management and Planning Aspects

- A.1. Separating the search management phase of the exercise from the operational aspects allowed the planning to be done in a thoughtful manner.
- A.2. It is slow process to determine the areas of regions and segments, this will need someone with a patient and a methodical mind.
- A.3. Jobs were allocated to people and they carried them out.
- A.4. If you check a car, leave a note on it and revisit it at times during the search.
- A.5. Have a routine to check on the location of deployed search parties and how they are doing.

Search Base Management Aspects

- A.6. People need to be clearly identified in the role they are engaged in.
- A.7. Access control is important, allowing just anyone to walk into to search control may cause problems, especially if personal data is being displayed on the walls/briefing boards.
- A.8. Develop a strategy for dealing with the press, it is recommended that you direct the press to contact NWP and provide an outline press statement to NWP so that they can formulate an official press release.
- A.9. Don't make promises to the Press that you can't keep e.g. it will all be over by midday!
- A.10. Have a white board available to provide directions and instruction for what to do when people arrive.
- A.11. Answer the phone – it might be the person phoning in to say they are down!
- A.12. Providing refreshments and/or food to search parties is important.
- A.13. Always have at least one search manager in the control/ops room who is fully aware of the aims and objectives of the operational phase you are in.
- A.14. The search party briefing room/ informants debriefing room needs to be quiet and ideally away from the main area that the search management and planning is taking place.

Search Parties

- A.15. It was difficult to estimate critical separation in the field because of the varying nature of the terrain. Using sub-segmenting you should be able to identify areas that caused problems.
- A.16. The enlarged maps of the area were difficult to use, they need to be annotated with grid lines and a scale.
- A.17. Full briefing on the map should be given, this map should be used in the field and then forms part of the de-brief. It then needs to be logged into a document register.
- A.18. Searching long thin strips is easier than squares.
- A.19. Consider how you are going to sub-segment and put people into the sub-segments carefully.
- A.20. If you have enough people, get one person to concentrate on navigating and documenting what you do.
- A.21. Ensure that you have alternative communication plans (e.g. use a mobile but make sure the party knows Search Control's phone number!).
- A.22. Parties should be encouraged to start searching when they leave SC until when they arrive back.

- A.23. Transport should be provided for the parties that are being deployed into segments that are further a field.
- A.24. Provide clear instructions on how the party is deploy into their search area, using which road or path.
- A.25. Kit checks need to be carried out before a party deploys to the hill. This information should be documented as part of the briefing and logging process.

Dealing with the Informant or Missing Persons




- A.26. Care and thought should be given to the place where any interviewing is conducted.
- A.27. Have an organisation in place to look after the relatives if the are in and around search control.

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



*Amendments please contact Al Read
(07770 834148)*

**Outline
Training Timelines**







Friday

	18:00		23:59
Training			
Domestics			
Lectures			

Saturday

	06:00		12:00		18:00		23:59
Training							
Lectures							Joint Ex
Workshops							
Search Ex 2							
Brief / de-brief							
				Domestics			
				Search Planning Phase			

Sunday

	06:00		12:00		18:00		23:59
Joint Ex							
OP 1							
OP 2							
Brief / de-brief							
Domestics					