

Approved For Release 1999/09/08 : CIA-RDP79-01096A000100050004-6

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT**CONFIDENTIAL**

TO : Chief, Geographic Research

DATE: 20 July 1953

FROM : Acting Chief, Geography Division

SUBJECT: Evaluation of the E and E and Survival Training, McCall Air Force Base, Idaho

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The following is a description by [REDACTED] of the purpose and programs of the E and E training at McCall AFB and his conclusions about them. I concur in his conclusions with the exception of the last paragraph. I feel that we should know more about, through personal experience, the E and E programs given by SAC at Stead Air Force Base, Reno, Nevada. In fact, I recommend that the next one of our personnel who is ready for E and E training go to Stead AFB.

I. Purpose

The purpose of the Air Force survival training is to familiarize military personnel with some of the basic concepts and techniques of survival, escape, and evasion. The MATS course at McCall, Ida., is considered especially useful to intelligence briefing officers, but its most direct application is for Air Rescue personnel who may be downed on missions anywhere in the world, especially behind enemy frontiers. Although similar in many ways to the SAC survival training at Reno, Nev., described by General Le May in the National Geographic (April 1953), the MATS course does not specialize on bomber crews headed for the Pacific, but covers the entire perimeter of the USSR and other areas where rescue or special missions might take aircrews.

Considerable emphasis is placed on E and E, which part of the training is under the experienced supervision of Major Fillingham of the British Army, who is assigned as Deputy to Lt. Col. Shumate, the Commanding Officer. Survival research and techniques have been under the direction of Dr. Frank Craighead, whose work in survival during and since the war has won him considerable recognition as a scientific and practical authority in the field.

No attempt is made in the basic course to create finished survival specialists or to furnish the detailed information which would be needed in specific border crossings, but the school provides an excellent framework of useful information and techniques which would be of value in any emergency landing,

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and, by means of extremely realistic field exercises, the students are exposed in some degree to the shock, discomfort, and problems of downed airmen. Since, for the most part, these problems must be experienced to be appreciated, an intelligence geographer who has participated in the course can apply his experience directly to the requirements of any regional studies involving covert cross-country travel, and the geographical factors which he observes in training may well serve to save a man's life when included in a regional study.

II. Program

Emphasis within the survival course is changed according to season, winter naturally providing the most difficult field conditions, and summer offering considerably improved foraging. Food is a major item of interest throughout the course, and although two canned assault rations are allotted per man per day in the field, there is pressure to cut this ration in order to create an even greater incentive to forage.

The program consists of 4 increasingly difficult phases:

1) The academic phase (5 days) includes illustrated lectures, demonstrations, and films on survival and evasion, as well as physical training in which bail-out and parachute landing practice are emphasized.

2) Base camp (5 days) includes construction of parachute-teepee camps such as might be erected by a crew awaiting rescue, and participation in field instruction on fish and game snares, edible plant recognition, mountaineering, land and river navigation, as well as foraging.

3) The cross-country trek (5 days) consists of back-packing over rugged mountain terrain and snow fields to simulate travel in difficult but non-hostile country.

4) The final technical training, or E and E phase, includes two days of evading in a patrolled area, "contacting the underground," and crossing a heavily guarded "border." In the event of capture, students are interrogated and imprisoned in a small scale PW stockade. Coming as it does at the end of 12 strenuous days on limited rations there is relatively little humor to the mock stockade and bread and water diet, and there is every reason to carry out escapes. Students are de-briefed on the final day of processing.

III. Conclusions

The value of survival training has been proven many times over, and since E and E is survival under the most difficult conditions, the need for this type of specialized training

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cannot be over-emphasized. Due to the large scope of the MATS course, numerous graphic and cartographic study aids are utilized, but the understanding and experience with actual field conditions that a geographer may acquire at the course may enable him to supplement the basic information to a much greater extent in his detailed regional studies. Knowing what is actually being used in training, he will be able to improve on the maps, illustrations, and descriptions, particularly of the human geography and vegetative cover in specific areas. The geographer might, for instance, add some pertinent information on aerial photo interpretation of land forms and vegetation, inasmuch as the airman should be able to judge ground cover and make a preliminary choice of routes while he is still high in the air and can see farthest.

Finally, the course offers an opportunity to discuss survival and E and E problems with men who have done both, as well as becoming acquainted with the capabilities of the men who may be called on to evade in the future.

The full three-week basic course, including the border crossing, is strongly recommended for analysts working on E and E or similar projects, whether they are assigned during a period of military leave, or as civilians. The MATS personnel were extremely cooperative and eager to improve on their course, and they were capable of handling many more students than were present in the last class.

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