



The Vanguard

SECOND QUARTER

2018

IN THIS EDITION

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2018 FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE

Article submitted by Elvin Burnell, OSRT Commander

The Ohio Special Response Team conducted their annual field training exercise (FTX) on 9th and 10th Jun 2018. This year the FTX in June was changed from a 3-day event to a 2-day event. The change was made to allow for a 3-day event this coming September – Wide Area Search. These training events were planned to help members fulfill their training requirements.

Approximately two-thirds of the membership attended the FTX this year. Saturday morning started with training in utilizing a new computer based mapping program. The mapping program covers the entire United States. The program will enhance the planning and recording search and rescue operations.

Next on the agenda was a presentation by a representative from an electrical power company on the topic of down power cables. Why did we have an instructor on down power cables? OSRT places much emphasis on the safety of members. Searching operations in a major disaster area can expose searchers to down power cables – some of which may be live. The training focused on how to stay out of danger when power cables are down and thus there is a risk involved coming in contact with a live candle (still connected to the power grid). This training kept everyone's attention.



ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

THE OHIO SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM

The Ohio Special Response Team (OSRT), Incorporated is a broad based response unit able to respond to a variety of emergencies and disasters in support of the civil authorities. Possessing a range of skills increases the value and versatility of the unit to the civil authorities. Members of the unit are trained to rigid standards in a number of skills to assure they can accomplish the assigned task (s).



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! JOIN THE TEAM!

Would you like more information about OSRT or would you like to volunteer?

Contact Information
597 PARK AVENUE EAST RD
MANSFIELD, OH 44905
419-528-0041
OSRTINC@YAHOO.COM



facebook.com/ohiospecialresponseteam

The Vanguard Staff

The term Vanguard originates with the medieval French avant-garde, i.e. the ward in front. The vanguard would lead the line of march and would deploy first on the field of battle. OSRT strives to lead the way in volunteer assistance through a variety of services, leadership and professionalism.

Editor in Chief: Capt. Philip Lohmeyer
Design: Capt. Joseph Bobot

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



Unit 3 third Saturday of the month

Unit 7 second Saturday of the month

Unit 2 second Saturday of the month

August 4: UAS (drone) training

September 8: HQ Staff Meeting

K9 training Sundays

IRTB August 25

Wide Area Search September 14-16

SAR exercise September 22

RCEMA exercise October 3



Ohio
Voluntary Organizations
Active in Disaster



2018 FTX

William Ryan, Capt.,
Commander Unit 7



Continued from page 1...

Saturday after lunch members separated into groups – with the largest group attending the 8 hour Lost Person Behavior course. The course instructor was Captain William Ryan (Unit 7 Commander). Captain Ryan had attended Robert J. Koester, db's instructor school. The course finished on Sunday (remaining 4-hours).

Members not in the LPB course attended other training classes. The K9s and the handlers conducted training utilizing the K9 GPS units and learned how to download the information in the GPS units to maps – thus recording on a map the route the K9 took in searching for a subject. The K9 GPS will be a great asset in actual search events.

Another group conducted training on how to operate the DJI Inspire Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAs – drones). The members practiced assembly of the drones for operation and flew the drones. On Sunday morning the drones and K9s were coordinated to operate together in a joint exercise.

A separate group practiced rope rescue skills. Rope rescue is another one of those skills that necessitates repetitive practice to maintain proficiency.

2018 has been a hectic one for the Unit. With the joint training with Unit 3 in Dover at the historic Camp Tuscazoar a definite highlight. Here we were able to set up multiple operational periods each having multiple search teams searching some of the roughest terrain in this part of the state.

We have also been very busy with interviewing new candidates, with 11 people requesting more information about possibly joining the Unit. I am in the process of meeting with and answering their questions and we'll see how many can make the cut.

Recruiting Activities for the summer are having a booth at the Medina Pizza Palooza in the square of Medina on Saturday, June 16 and a booth at the Wadsworth Blue Tip festival, near the vendors alley, the week of Jun 19-23.

Community Activities for the summer include working with the Medina Amateur Radio Group for the Annual Twin Sizzler bicycle race being held on the 4th of July with the course covering much of Medina County. Plans are in the works for another field training exercise this fall possibly in the Medina area, so watch for it.



Cletus Payne, Capt., Commander Unit 2

Unit 2 has been focusing on recruitment over the past several months and now has six drilling members and a pending application. There are also several potential new recruits. The unit now has the numbers to increase training. After summer camp the unit will be spending as much time as possible in the field on drill days. We drill the second Saturday of the month with additional drills scheduled when needed. Three members are trained to the SARTEC II level with the intent to have everyone complete the minimal unit requirements by the end of June.

Unit 2 members have participated in OSRT wide training and one deployment this year. Members have participated in the NASCAR firefighter training; the search exercise in Dover, Ohio; and three members deployed to a recent real search. Five of the six drilling members will be attending summer camp in June. The current team members are enthusiastic to complete their training.

The future of the unit is looking good. Our goal for this year is to reach eight to twelve drilling members and have representation at all OSRT events. We will be starting a targeted recruiting program in a few months for the Wyandot County area. The unit has also supported the drone team and has one FAA registered drone pilot. Additionally two members are interested in training for the rope team and will become a great asset for OSRT.

Carabiner Recall!

Omega Pacific recalled approximately 1,900 G-First carabiners due to potential failure during loaded use. This recall involves six models of Omega Pacific G-FIRST series aluminum carabiners sold around February through October 2017. "Omega-17 UL Classified USA" is printed on the front and "Meets NFPA 1983 17ED MBS kN 40 G" statement is located on the back side. The 2-digit lot code "OD" is embedded on the bottom side of the carabiner spine. They were sold individually in silver, black and red colors. For additional data as well as information on refund/replacement:

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2018/Omega-Pacific-Recalls-Carabiners-Due-to-Risk-of-Injury-or-Death>



BOOK REVIEW

Article submitted by Chuck Wright (Unit 4)

How To Read Nature: Awaken Your Senses to the Outdoors You've Never Noticed by Tristan Gooley

Published by The Experiment, LLC 2017, originally published as How To Connect With Nature, London, 2014.

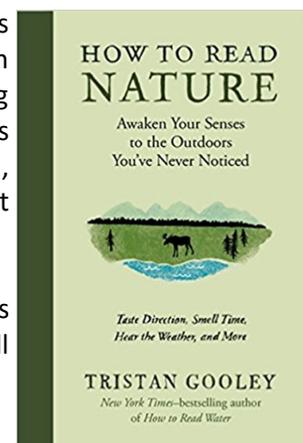
This is the second book I have reviewed from this same author. My first book review from this author was of 'The Natural Navigator' which appeared in an earlier OSRT newsletter. I think this book is as equally worth your time as The Natural Navigator was.

So, why should you read this book? My answer is that as wilderness search and rescue people we spend a lot of time outdoors in nature. It makes sense for us to both understand and have well developed senses about the environment we find ourselves in. This book will help you refine your senses and help you read the environment. The author points out that reading nature will make you both a more interesting and effective person. After reading his book and trying several of the exercises he presents I agree with his sentiment. While he does not directly apply his lessons to our search and rescue duties I think what he presents could make us much better at our wilderness search tasks. I think you will agree with me after reading this book.

Whenever I am out in the wild I immerse myself in the environment using all my senses to understand and appreciate what is going on around me. Most of us have seen adventure movies where when the birds and animals stop making noise then the movie actors know something is about to happen. This is what the author teaches you to do with the various field craft exercises he has included in this book – knowing what is going on around you in nature – situational awareness for want of a better term. One of the field exercises he recommends is for one person to lead a group on a walk where no one but the leader knows where they are going. Only the leader has map, compass, GPS aids. When the group reaches its destination each member is asked to make a sketch of the route taken. The result being that each person in the group has now learned to see nature and their surroundings, including terrain, in a fresh way.

There are a great many lessons to be found in this book. I think the author does a good job in making his point that developing a better understanding of nature helps make us better persons and gives us the ability to look at our surroundings in a fresh way. I recently read a disturbing news report that most people are now spending nearly all of their time indoors. How sad that they choose to miss the many wonders of our fantastic planet. Nature offers up many important lessons on life and death, survival, and adaptation that all of us can use even in this age of so called smart phones and electronic distractions.

The author has also written related books entitled: The Lost Art of Reading Nature's Signs; How to Read Water; and The Natural Explorer. You can find this book as well as his others on Amazon or in your favorite bookstore's nature section.



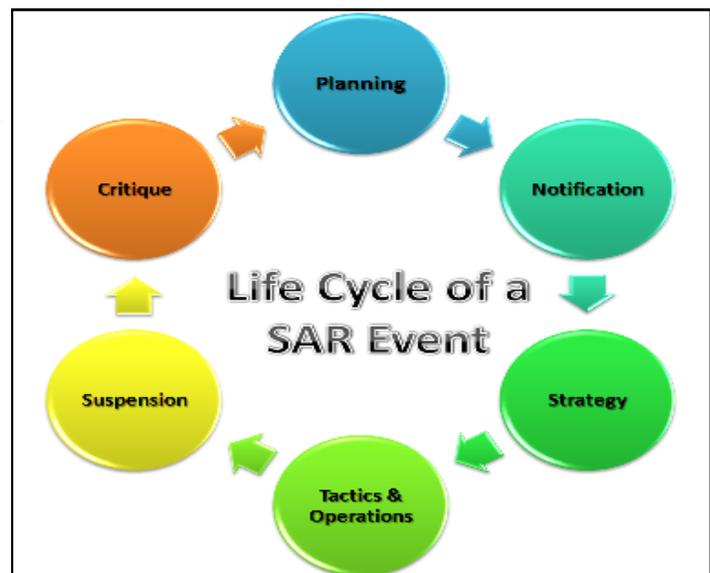
SAR NOTES

By Capt. Joseph Bobot, WEMT/NASAR SAR Tech I

The life cycle of a SAR event doesn't start with the call for help. It is continuously evolving in a cyclic manner. It starts when you, as a searcher begins the training or as a department begins writing SAR into their procedures. The incident that requires SAR intervention is actually in the middle of this cycle.

At the beginning is constant improvement, training, researching new technology and equipment, writing policy and procedures; getting ready for the call. At the end of this cycle is the critique, or discussion about how the team did during the incident, identifying lessons learned and using that feedback in pre-planning. The life cycle of a SAR event has six major phases:

- * **Planning** or "Preplanning" is a term applied to the overall planning which occurs before an incident and addresses all phases of likely SAR situations. Good preplanning means being ready in terms of equipment, organization, management and training.
- * **Notification** is the moment in time that an incident is made known to SAR personnel. There are two phases of notification; first the notification of a SAR mission (usually the call to 911) and the notification of SAR personnel.
- * **Strategy** asks the question "What actions can be carried out?". As each SAR phase begins, situation specific planning and strategy development arises from completed Pre-planning efforts. During this phase, the details are developed regarding how the current incident will be managed.
- * **Tactics** are those plans or strategies that are physically carried out. Tactical assignments may include either passive and/or active search techniques.
- * **Suspension** happens at the end of a search along with demobilization, if the subject has been found, the search is suspended and the access phase can commence. However, if the subject has not been found, the decision to discontinue active search efforts is a difficult one, but often required.
- * **Critique** is VERY IMPORTANT! You must within 48 hours of returning from the incident, sit down and discuss what happened – the good, the bad and the ugly! After every incident, mission, assignment or training, participants realize that if they had it all to do again, they would do some things differently.





Daryl Smith, Cap., Commander Unit 3

Greetings from the members of Unit 3 in Stark County. The past few months have been quite busy, in a good way! We are happy to announce the purchase and delivery of a new command center trailer. OSRT purchased a 6 foot by 12 foot enclosed utility trailer to be outfitted as a mobile command and support station. It has been deployed and promises to be a great asset. The master plan is to outfit three trailers in the same fashion to enhance O functionality and response time when deployed.

Another first for OSRT is the use of a new venue for the Spring Exercise hosted by Units 3 and 7. This year we held the event at Camp Tuscazoar in Tuscarawas County.

This was a Boy Scout camp for many years until 7 Ranges were established. The Ranger and Directors were happy to have us...at no cost...and we were invited back. Our event went well and the turnout was incredible! Members from all over the state made the journey to spend the day training. We are fortunate to have so many dedicated personnel. The day consisted of K9 training and the teams did well. We helped a young student with her field study in K9 SAR. She and her mother spent time with Marsha and Lynn learning how the dogs work and react to targets. Special thanks to Donna Stein and Cel Ryan and their crew for providing lunch and snacks. Our final event to mention is the Summit-Stark Joint Crash Disaster Drill held at the Akron Canton Airport. While OSRT was not an official player, we were invited to participate. Again, it was a great opportunity to show how well we operate. Sarah, Lynn and Marsha found targets in the mock debris field as the FBI searched for mock wreckage remnants. Once more, all targets were found by the pups. Great job

As we continue to learn the new Learning Management System, put together by our own Alan Plastow and Dennis Breem (Chief of Headquarters training section) and grow our numbers I believe good changes are happening and it is helping us gain valuable hands-on time to hone our skills. Until next time, keep up the good work and stay safe.

GEAR REVIEW

By Capt. Joseph Bobot, WEMT/NASAR SAR Tech I

Light My Fire Swedish FireKnife is a colorful outdoor knife with Swedish FireSteel fire starter. The Light My Fire Swedish FireKnife is a collaboration between Light My Fire and Mora of Sweden. Mora has made top-notch knives for 120 years. But this is more than just an extremely sharp, flexible, and sturdy all-around knife: the handle contains a fire starter. Gut and clean a fish, split kindling, and light a campfire with one single handy tool. Swedish FireSteel firestarter works equally well when wet, performs at all altitudes, and produces a 3,000 degree C (5,400 degree F) spark. Dimensions: 8.9 x 1.8 x 1.5 inches (22.5 cm x 4.5 cm x 3.8 cm); blade length: 3.9 inches (10 cm). Weight: 3.4 oz. (94 g).



SAFETY CORNER

By Matt Nichols , Chief, OSRT Safety Officer



I recently completed the weeklong All-Hazard Incident Management Team Safety Officer course on May 11, held at the Heath F.D. in Licking County.

We all go into these with some preconceived ideas of what the class is going to be like... this one was an eye opener. It was designed for the big-picture type of incident and covered every aspect of the Safety Officer's bailiwick, from having to have encyclopedic knowledge of OSHA regulations to sticking thermometers into any food cooked on site to avoid having responders doubled over with ptomaine.

Hand in hand with the snowballing disaster table top exercise, several good contacts were made with members of agencies and department from around the state, including Ohio EMA. (I recall we managed to save most of the town we were assigned to help)

The Command Staff will be helping to tailor all the components of the SO's responsibilities to cover the needs of OSRT. Also, your input is always welcome, especially if you have any particular point you feel might have been overlooked or not stressed enough.

So, when you see me wandering around exercises and deployments, I'll be putting all the new-found knowledge to good use... but remember, it'll only work to its fullest because ALL of us are responsible for our collective safety!

NICHOLS COMPLETED PPE COURSE

Article by Elvin Burnell, OSRT Commander

Captain Nichols recently completed Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) resident course at Denver CO. This course prepared Matt to inspect OSRT personal and organizational equipment. In conducting the inspection he will be able to determine if the equipment still meets its intended purpose. The inspections will involve rope rescue equipment, helmets, safety vests and other related safety gear.

Cost \$25/person

- » Lunch catered by NOURISH
- » Entrance to the Zoo
- » Animal visitors

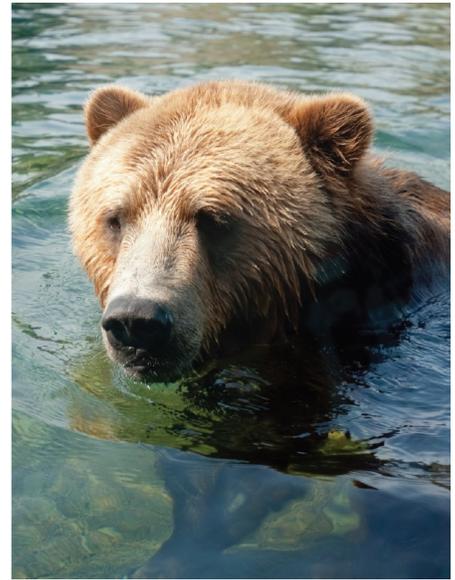


COLUMBUS ZOO EMS & OHIOHEALTH PRESENT

EMSAFARI 2018

Course Specifics

- VENOMOUS BITES/STINGS
Dr. Rob Lowe
- CARDIOLOGY
Dr. Tejas Mehta
- PEDIATRIC
Dr. Ann Dietrich
- MASS CASUALTY
Zoo EMS Staff



Parking

Please park at the Heart of Africa event center, located at the North East corner of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium's parking lot.



September 6th, 2018
Columbus Zoo's Africa Event Center
8:30 AM to 1:30 PM

TO MAKE PAYMENT ONLINE FOLLOW THIS LINK:
reservations.columbuszoo.org/info.aspx?ActivityID=1924



Preventative Search & Rescue (PSAR)

By Capt. Joseph Bobot, WEMT/NASAR SAR Tech I

Preventative Search & Rescue (PSAR) is a very valuable educational tool used by SAR teams across the country. As with law enforcement and the fire service, public education has always been a priority.

Inspired by the search for nine year old Jimmy Beveridge in 1981 in southern California, and initiated by the caring heart of Ab Taylor. The Hug-a-Tree and Survive program teaches children how to survive in the woods should they become lost. The program was developed to educate children in a select few of the most basic and vital survival principles. It was specifically designed for children between the ages of 7 and 11 but can be effective with slightly younger and older children. The program consists of a trained presenter—usually a search and rescue volunteer, police officer, park ranger, or similar uniformed individual—following a tightly scripted presentation

Precautions Prior to Departure

There are a number of precautions you can take to avoid the need for an extensive search and rescue operation. Obtaining maps and knowing how to use them in conjunction with a compass is a basic outdoor skill. Too often discounted, it is the surest way to avoid becoming lost. The wilderness is remote and unforgiving for those not prepared.

Pre-planning such as taking time to write out your trip schedule and plans, and leaving them with someone, is routinely ignored. Yet pre-planning greatly aids in the efficiency and timely response of a search effort. Also, should you become lost, you need to know whether to stay put or find your own way out. Either way, you must not wander around aimlessly, making it more difficult for an SAR team to locate you.

Here are the steps you should always follow when heading into the backcountry away from civilization:

- * Let someone know where you are going, your route, and when you expect to return. Notify them when you do return or if your plans change.
- * Bring several layers of synthetic or wool clothes. You can get very hot hiking, but can cool down quickly after stopping. Make sure that you have a windproof and waterproof layer.
- * Bring a hat and sunglasses. Always wear sunscreen to protect your skin.
- * Wear good footwear with ankle support and a firm sole with a secure grip.
- * Carry a compass and map of the area. Learn how to use them!
- * Carry emergency equipment such as matches, solar blanket, a first aid kit, whistle, signal mirror, and a flashlight.
- * Take ample food and about 2 quarts of water per person per day. **DON'T DRINK FROM STREAMS, YOU CAN GET SICK DOING THIS!**



THE SPOTLIGHT



MARK PITTS
Ohio Special Response Team



Mark "Robert" Pitts was born and raised in the little city of Salem Ohio. Mark joined the United States Army at the age of 17 years old. This made him the 4th straight generation to serve in the Army. He went to basic training at Fort Knox to become an M1 Armor Crewman. He graduated basic training in September of 2009 and was transferred to Fort Hood. Shortly after, he was sent to International Training Inc. for his protective service operation certificate. Mark was then assigned to General Robert W. Cone's personal security detachment and served with 3 corp until he was transferred to the 1st Cavalry Division. Mark was then deployed to northern Iraq for a year in September of 2010.

Mark currently resides in Canton Ohio with his fiancé Lindsay and dog Sookie. Mark attended college for his OPOTA certificate. He has been working at Aultman Hospital for the past 2 years as a Security Officer. Mark is an instructor in Non Violent Crisis Prevention for the hospital, teaching classes to Nursing and Security staff members. Mark has been with the Ohio Special Response Team for a little over a year and has drawn attention to our team by creating the Facebook page which is almost at 1200 followers. Mark lives his life for the service of the people, most importantly being proud of who he is as his favorite poem Chief Tecumseh of the Shawnee said:

“So live your life that the fear of death can never enter your heart. Trouble no one about their religion; respect others in their view, and demand that they respect yours. Love your life, perfect your life, beautify all things in your life. Seek to make your life long and its purpose in the service of your people. Prepare a noble death song for the day when you go over the great divide.

Always give a word or a sign of salute when meeting or passing a friend, even a stranger, when in a lonely place. Show respect to all people and grovel to none. When you arise in the morning give thanks for the food and for the joy of living. If you see no reason for giving thanks, the fault lies only in yourself. Abuse no one and no thing, for abuse turns the wise ones to fools and robs the spirit of its vision. When it comes your time to die, be not like those whose hearts are filled with the fear of death, so that when their time comes they weep and pray for a little more time to live their lives over again in a different way. Sing your death song and die like a hero going home.”

Greetings All,

As we all enjoy the beauty of summer, let us not forget to look at nature and remember that the glory of this earth is God's Creation.

Take some time each day to reflect on the Glory of God.

Job 12:7-10 New International Version (NIV)

7" But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; 8 or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you. 9 Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? 10 in his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind.

God Bless.

Chaplain's Corner



Chaplain Phillip Lohmeyer



Did you know that our drone can see you at night?

THE SAR QUIZ
(Answers from page 6)

1. A
2. C
3. A, C & E
4. B
5. FALSE

