**Observation Practical Exercise (Day 2)**

**General Description of the Practical Exercise**

The intent of the Observation Practical Exercise (PE) is to train the eyes to identify IED components. The Observation PE consists of two parts; 1) an observation lane and, 2) a station to teach the Visual IED Signature Detection Suite (VISDeS) thermal optics. The Soldiers will be placed on an observation lane that has ten IED components. Soldiers will be given 15 minutes to observe the lane with both naked eye and with optics, while observing from different vantage points on the observation line from left to right, since some items may be observable from only certain vantage points. Soldiers will be required to record the IED components on a sheet of paper (appears to be, size, shape, color, and condition) as they identify them. After the required 15 minutes, the instructor will have the Soldiers present what they have recorded. Upon completion, the instructor will conduct an AAR of this PE. This AAR will discuss all components within the lane and what it takes as a master trainer to conduct this training at unit level. The PE is complete when the Soldiers are able to identify at least 7 out of 10 IED components. After conducting the observation lane PE, the Soldiers will move to the VISDeS portion of the training. At this station the Soldiers will learn to identify IED signatures with thermal devices that detect temperature differences in the ground where the IED’s have been emplaced.

**Prior to the Start (Prep Time: 1 hr)**

The instructor will:

1. Prepare: Select ten (10) IED components to be used for the PE (Example: Inert mortar round, inert grenade, inert mine, inert artillery round, detonation cord, battery, wire, HME container, DFFC, VOIED device, etc.). Use 10 clipboards with paper and lane marking tape.
2. Setup: Marked and identify the 10 items placed in the defined PE lane for the Soldiers (left, right, near, far limits). Exercise care when emplacing the components ensuring that the items are placed from the observation lane out to (no farther than) 25-50 meters. Blend items into the environment without being deliberately camouflaged (don’t over do it).
3. Brief - Tell the Soldiers the following: “You have 15 minutes to observe the lane with both, the naked eye and with available optics while moving along the observation line from left to right. You may observe some items from only one certain vantage point. Record in your paper tablet each IED component that you identify and include: what it appears to be, size, shape, color, condition etc. You will have another 15 minutes to brief your observations”.

**NOTE.** *After the Soldiers identify the IED components move into the observation lane and show the Soldiers the emplaced IED components.*

1. Notify: Make a range card of the items and the task and purpose for why they were placed in a particular place.

**Performance Learning Objectives (The Learner**  **will…)**

1. understand the “eye-brain” relationship in the identification of IED components.
2. identify at least 7 out of 10 IED components.
3. Be able to plan, resource, set up, and facilitate the Observation PE as a Master Trainer.

**Critical Teaching Points (The Learner**  **will know how to…)**

1. teach Soldiers how to identify and record IED components and the threats associated with dismounted operations in today’s battlefield.
2. teach time lapse of stress related activity or inactivity followed by recall ability.

**Safety Precautions:**

1. Safety must be paramount in the complex outdoor environment and is everyone's responsibility.
2. During the training process, instructors will utilize the 5-Step Risk Management process to determine the safest and most complete method to train. Every precaution will be taken in the field conditions given.
3. The instructor will brief the Soldiers on for outdoor contingencies (i.e. rally points, severe weather, WBGT/Kestrel set up, etc).

**Equipment per Team**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Inert mortar round | Inert grenade | Inert mine |
| Inert artillery round | Detonation cord | Battery |
| Wire | HME container | DFFC |
| VOIED device | VISDeS Thermals | M-4 with Optics / Binos |

**Squad Rotation Schedule** (Completion: 50 min/Reset: 10 min per iteration)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Iteration** | **Station 1Observation** | **Station 2Ground Sign Awareness** | **Station 3Hasty and Deliberate Emplacement** |
| **1** | Squad 1 | Squad 2 | Squad 3 |
| **2** | Squad 3 | Squad 1 | Squad 2 |
| **3** | Squad 2 | Squad 3 | Squad 1 |

**Diagram or Picture of Practical Problem Setup**

VISDeS IEDs

15-25 Meters

25-50 Meters

Observation Items X 10

Observation Line

RL

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