ROYAL CANADIAN AIR CADETS

PROFICIENCY LEVEL ONE

INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDE

SECTION 10

EO C190.03 – CONSTRUCT A HOOTCHIE-STYLE SHELTER

Total Time: 90 min

PREPARATION

PRE-LESSON INSTRUCTIONS

Resources needed for the delivery of this lesson are listed in the lesson specification located in A-CR-CCP-801/PG-001, *Proficiency Level One Qualification Standard and Plan*, Chapter 4. Specific uses for said resources are identified throughout the instructional guide within the TP for which they are required.

Review the lesson content and become familiar with the material prior to delivering the lesson.

Prepare all materials required for the construction of a hootchie-style shelter for each group of cadets.

Prepare an example hootchie-style shelter.

PRE-LESSON ASSIGNMENT

Nil.

APPROACH

A demonstration and performance was chosen for TP 1 as it allows the instructor to explain and demonstrate setting up a hootchie-style shelter while providing an opportunity for the cadets to observe and ask questions.

A practical activity was chosen for TP 2 as it is an interactive way for the cadets to experience setting up shelters in a safe and controlled environment.

INTRODUCTION

REVIEW

Nil.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this lesson the cadet shall have constructed a hootchie-style shelter.

IMPORTANCE

In a survival situation, it is very important to be able to construct an effective shelter. A shelter protects a person from weather, animals and insects. They can also provide warmth, shade and comfort. The hootchie-style shelter is effective for squadron aircrew survival exercises.

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Teaching point 1 **Explain and demonstrate the procedure for constructing a hootchie-style shelter.**

Time: 25 min Method: Demonstration

OBTAIN THE APPROPRIATE SUPPLIES

In order to effectively build a hootchie-style shelter, the following supplies will be needed:

- Two military-style groundsheets that properly zip together (these are also called half shelters or utility sheets).
- Three metres of twine or thin rope.
- Several pegs or small twigs.
- Spade or small shovel.
- Knife or scissors.

Note. Created by Director of Cadets 3, 2006, Ottawa, ON: Department of National Defence.

Figure 1 Two Military Groundsheets

Note. Created by Director of Cadets 3, 2006, Ottawa, ON: Department of National Defence.

Figure 2 Appropriate Supplies

SELECTING A SITE

1. Apply the site selection principles when constructing the hootchie.

2. Ensure that the two trees are spread approximately ten feet apart (or the length of the groundsheets allowing for approximately two feet for the entrance).

CHECKING MATERIAL

1. Inspect the material for fatigue and wear (should not have holes as it would allow rain and other objects into the completed shelter).

2. Ensure that the zippers on the groundsheets are not damaged.

3. Inspect the grommets on each groundsheet to ensure they are in good repair so that they can be utilized for holding pegs down.

Note. Created by Director of Cadets 3, 2006, Ottawa, ON: Department of National Defence.

Figure 3 Grommet

4. The twine used should be strong enough to hold the two groundsheets up and allow enough give for the fatigue that is experienced when cadets enter and leave the shelter.

ZIPPING THE GROUNDSHEETS

1. The two groundsheets are zipped together to form a sufficient bond.

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Note. Created by Director of Cadets 3, 2006, Ottawa, ON: Department of National Defence.

Figure 4 Zipping Groundsheets

Note. Created by Director of Cadets 3, 2006, Ottawa, ON: Department of National Defence.

Figure 5 Two Groundsheets Zipped Together

TYING THE SHELTER TO TREES

1. Using a clove hitch, tie each end of the zipped groundsheet to the two trees with the twine provided, cutting the excess twine for future use.

2. Ensure that the shelter is tied at the waist of the tallest occupant. This height allows enough head room when the shelter is complete.

Note. Created by Director of Cadets 3, 2006, Ottawa, ON: Department of National Defence.

Figure 6 Tying Shelter to a Tree

3. The two groundsheets should be pulled tight as possible between the two trees to prevent rain from collecting and stops the shelter from sagging after extended use.

4. When tying the shelter, ensure that the flap at the peak of the shelter covers the zipper and that there is enough room on one end for an entrance and exit.

Note. Created by Director of Cadets 3, 2006, Ottawa, ON: Department of National Defence.

Figure 7 Shelter Tied to Two Trees

PEGGING

1. Using an appropriate length string, pull the string through the grommets that run along the bottom of the groundsheets.

2. Tie the string together to form a loop. Using these loops, tightly pull each corner of the groundsheets out from the centre and peg them using small twigs.

3. Leave the edge of the groundsheet about 5 cm above the ground for ventilation.

Note. Created by Director of Cadets 3, 2006, Ottawa, ON: Department of National Defence.

Figure 8 Pulling Pegs Tight

Note. Created by Director of Cadets 3, 2006, Ottawa, ON: Department of National Defence.

Figure 9 Shelter 5 cm Above the Ground

4. After the corners are pegged, peg the remaining grommets in between the two corners on each side.

When each side of the shelter is pegged, it should be flush, tight surface with no wrinkles. This tight surface allows for efficient run-off of rain.

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Note. Created by Director of Cadets 3, 2006, Ottawa, ON: Department of National Defence.

Figure 10 Flush, Tight Surface

Ensure that the flaps for the doors are tied together prior to pegging. If the doors are not tied they may not tie together properly when the shelter is tightly pegged.

Note. Created by Director of Cadets 3, 2006, Ottawa, ON: Department of National Defence.

Figure 11 Doors Tied Together

DIGGING TRENCHES

1. Dig small trenches 10 cm away from the sides of the shelter to allow for effective drainage of rainwater.
2. Trenches should be approximately 10 cm in width and 5–10 cm deep.
3. When the shelter is complete, dry grass or hay can be used as bedding.

Note. Created by Director of Cadets 3, 2006, Ottawa, ON: Department of National Defence.

Figure 12 Completed Hootchie-style Shelter

Teaching point 2 **Have the cadets construct a hootchie-style shelter.**

Time: 60 min Method: Practical Activity

ACTIVITY

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this activity is to have the cadets construct a hootchie-style shelter.

RESOURCES

- Two groundsheets,
- Three metres of twine or thin rope,
- Several pegs or small twigs,
- Spade or small shovel,
- Knife or scissors, and
- Flagging tape.

ACTIVITY LAYOUT

Nil.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

- Divide the cadets into groups of two. Each group member should be of the same gender.
- Direct cadets to find a suitable site to build a hootchie-style shelter.

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- Issue required resources to each group of cadets.
- Direct each group to construct a hootchie-style shelter.

SAFETY

Nil.

END OF LESSON CONFIRMATION

The cadets' participation in the activity will serve as confirmation of this lesson.

CONCLUSION

HOMEWORK / READING / PRACTICE

Nil.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

Nil.

CLOSING STATEMENT

In a survival situation, it is very important to be able to construct an effective shelter. A shelter protects a person from weather, animals and insects. They can also provide warmth, shade and comfort. The hootchie-style shelter is effective for squadron aircrew survival exercises.

INSTRUCTOR NOTES / REMARKS

The directives outlined in CATO 11-08 *Environmental Protection and Stewardship* are to be adhered to during this training.

REFERENCES

C3-002 ISBN 0-00-653140-7 Wiseman, J. (1999). *The SAS survival handbook*. Hammersmith, London: HarperCollins Publishers.

C3-003 ISBN 1-896713-00-9 Tawrell, P. (1996). *Camping and Wilderness Survival: The ultimate outdoors book*. Green Valley, ON: Author.

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