Land Navigation

Task: Find as many points as possible in wooded, hilly terrain using basic military navigation/orienteering skills.

Conditions: Utilizing a map, compass, and protractor during daylight conditions in heavily wooded rolling hills. Uniform will be ACU’s, boots and LCE or MOLLE equivalent with eyepro.

Standards: Cadets have 90 minutes to find as many points as possible, up to a maximum of 20.

1. Description of the Event: Competitors start at the Land Navigation Tactical Operations Center at Mt. Airy. Teams receive an introduction and orientation to the course as well as a safety briefing. Teams are given maps, protractors, one alcohol pen, an answer sheet, and 20 grid coordinates. These same items must be turned back in at the end of the course in order to receive full credit. There are a number of stakes at Mt. Airy; approximately 20 of these stakes are used for our competition and there are some points on the course that are not used or count for a score. The grid sheet handed out contains the 20 grid coordinates in use with assigned point values given to each stake. Stakes are given point values based on distance and degree of difficulty. All other stakes found on the course are worth zero points. An example of the official stake is provided in the competition brief and on-site orientation. After all the equipment has been passed out, time begins and competitors have 90 minutes to plot and to find stakes. Cadets should plot as many points on their map as possible based on the point values assigned to each grid coordinate. A quick rule of thumb is that if the point value for a stake is higher than others, it is probably going to be a farther distance away. Cadets should keep this in mind when planning, take time to plot some points, and then begin.

2. Scoring: Points for this event are awarded based on the number of stakes found. Teams should take all the time necessary within the allocated 90 minutes to locate as many stakes as possible. Do not be late. Teams that exceed the 90-minute time limit lose 25 points per minute or part thereof after time expires. Specific instructions on times and finish line are provided in the competition brief and on-site orientation. There are 400 total points for this event. Wrong answers are awarded zero points but there is no additional penalty. Talking to other teams during the competition will result in disqualification and will result in the team receiving 0 points. There are officials on the course to enforce this rule. Final scores are calculated and recorded. A Cadet cannot have a final score of anything less than 0. For safety reasons, the two-ranger buddy team must negotiate the course together. If they are caught more than 25 meters from their Ranger buddy, 100 points are deducted from the final score. Eyepro must be worn for the duration of the event and teams may be disqualified for this safety violation.