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NATO STANDARD

APRP-3.3.7.5

**THE NATO SURVIVAL,
ESCAPE/EVASION, RESISTANCE AND
EXTRACTION (SERE) TRAINING
STANDARD**

Edition A Version 1

JULY 2018



NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

ALLIED PERSONNEL RECOVERY PUBLICATION

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NATO LETTER OF PROMULGATION

24 July 2018

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CHAPTER 1 GENERAL

1.1 RELATED DOCUMENTS:

STANAG 6511 AJOD (Ed. 1) – AJP-3.7, Edition A, Version 1, ALLIED JOINT DOCTRINE FOR RECOVERY OF PERSONNEL IN A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT

1.2 INTRODUCTION

Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Extraction (SERE) is an integral part of NATO Personnel Recovery (PR) as depicted in Figure 1. Experience has shown that personnel may become isolated and potentially face capture and exploitation by governmental and non-governmental organisations. Therefore, personnel need to be able to survive the environment and the theatre of operation whilst evading capture and preparing for extraction. They should be able to resist exploitation and take actions to promote their own recovery, including escaping if practicable.

1.3 AIM

This document details SERE training standards in order to reduce the risk to the joint force.

1.4 SCOPE

This publication focuses on the education and training of potential isolated personnel in the preparation phase of the personnel recovery system. It should be noted that SERE in the Execution phase in the personnel recovery system refers to SERE Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) as laid out in APRP-3.3.7.7.



Figure 1 - The Personnel Recovery System

1.5 AGREEMENT

It is a national responsibility to provide personnel with the training commensurate with the perceived risk of isolation and / or exploitation. Nations agree to incorporate these training standards into their national training programme(s).

1.6 DEFINITIONS

1. All terms and definitions used in this document are contained in AAP-6 and AJP-3.7 with the exception of:

- a. **Personnel Identified as at an Elevated Risk of Isolation and/or Exploitation (PIERIE)**. All deployed personnel are at some level of risk of isolation and/or exploitation, identified as: Low Risk of Isolation and/or Exploitation (LRIE), Medium Risk of Isolation and/or Exploitation (MRIE) and High Risk of Isolation and/or Exploitation (HRIE).

2. Of note is the distinction between "isolation" and "exploitation"; the two terms refer to two different types of training. Personnel may be isolated but not exploited, or vice versa.

CHAPTER 2 SERE TRAINING

2.1 SERE TRAINING OBJECTIVES

1. SERE training provides the skills required from the point that a person becomes isolated. It can be theoretical and/or practical training, dependant on the level required to survive the environment, the threat and a specific theatre. All training should be conducted using the same personal equipment that an individual would be issued during operations. Within SERE training a student must be taught, understand and practice techniques and procedures to:

Survival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address the priorities of survival: protection, location, water and food. • Maintain psychological and physiological well-being. • Maintain normal body temperature. • Maintain adequate hydration. • Maintain sufficient calorific intake.
Evasion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use location aids. • Avoid detection whilst static and mobile. • Plan and execute an evasion plan of action.
Resistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess conditions of capture. • Protect sensitive information. • Mitigate physical and mental stress. • Maintain self and others (Survive with Dignity). • Limit exploitation. • Attempt to escape if practicable.
Extraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote own recovery. • Establish communications with Friendly Forces. • Aid rescue/release • Carry out rendezvous Procedures. • Carry out recovery/pick-up procedures.

2. The preceding table defines the SERE operational standards and skills required by NATO personnel to survive, evade, resist and extract in a permissive and non-permissive environment. The methods of training delivery will be determined by individual nations. To allow isolated personnel to be extracted by recovery forces and increase the likelihood of success of survival and evasion, SERE training is conducted at the levels in the following paragraphs.

2.2 LEVEL A

1. This is the basic level of theoretical training which introduces potential isolated personnel to the concept of SERE. This level of SERE training is recommended for personnel assumed to be LRIE.
2. To provide basic theoretical knowledge of the overarching PR concepts:
 - a. survival using personal equipment and the natural environment;
 - b. readiness for a captive situation;
 - c. increase their chances of a successful recovery.
3. Level A SERE can be taught on a distributed basis at unit level. It need not be taught by a SERE instructor and may be delivered using some or all of the following methods: Video, DVD, Computer Based Training or other instructional media.

Survival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness about Basic survival (Protection, Location, Water, Food (PLWF)). • Awareness of physiological factors that limit the human body in a survival situation. • Awareness of how “temporary factors” affect personal capabilities. • Awareness of personal equipment to optimise chances of survival.
Evasion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of the principles of evasion.
Resistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of the Geneva Convention concerning treatment of prisoners”. • Rudimentary knowledge of Governmental and non-Governmental captivity and understand the difference between POW, detainee and hostage. • Awareness of the stages of capture and the concepts of Protection of information, Protection of life, Escape in order to return with dignity.
Extraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to report location. • Awareness of the techniques for signalling position using improvised methods. • Awareness of various recovery mechanisms. • Awareness of identification and authentication methods.

2.3 LEVEL B

1. An intermediate level of theoretical and limited practical SERE training specifically for those personnel identified by nations as at MRIE to conduct the following skills and techniques:

- a. Display a full understanding of the overarching PR system.
- b. Evade capture.
- c. Resist exploitation in a captive situation where the Geneva Convention may or may not apply (such as governmental and non-governmental).
- d. Use personal equipment and the natural environment in order to affect SERE.

2. Level B theoretical and practical training is delivered by SERE instructors. This may contain practical training through lessons, demonstrations, workshops and/or field exercises, to allow students to practice techniques and the use of equipment.

3. As a minimum, Resistance/Conduct After Capture (CAC) training is conducted through an academic briefing, however, it should allow students to practice resistance techniques conducting role play in a benign classroom setting.

Survival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply immediate actions on isolation. • Apply of the principals of PLWF. • Ability to use personal equipment to optimise chances of survival.
Evasion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand evasion principles. • Apply TTPs in order to prevent capture and promote recovery. • Understand the navigation systems and individual electronic equipment.
Resistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the Geneva Convention concerning treatment of prisoners of war. • Understand the psychological and legal aspects of captivity. • Understand how to resist exploitation in both a Governmental and non-Governmental captivity. • Understand the stages of capture.
Extraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand conventional and non-conventional recovery procedures. • Understand PR SOP and SPINS. • Ability to operate personal communications and comply with authentication and communication procedures.

2.4 LEVEL C

1. This is an advanced level of SERE theoretical and practical training, specifically for those personnel identified by nations at HRIE. This level must include realistic practical evasion and resistance/CAC training in accordance with national policy. To provide in depth theoretical and practical training in the following skills and techniques:

- a. Display a full understanding of the national and NATO PR systems.
- b. Evade capture.
- c. Resist exploitation in a governmental and non-governmental captivity situation.
- d. Use operational personal equipment and the natural environment in order to affect SERE.

2. Theoretical and practical training is delivered by SERE instructors. Resistance/CAC training can be delivered by suitably qualified instructors, ideally at a specialized school. This will include a theoretical package and a realistic practical evasion exercise using operational equipment and involving Opposing Forces (OPFOR) to demonstrate practical competency of the theoretical training. Training must include realistic practical resistance/CAC training in a simulated captive environment of a duration that allows students to develop robust coping mechanisms and demonstrate resistance techniques. Students may need to be conditioned to reflect realistic potential scenarios prior to entering the simulated captivity environment. The duration of the practical survival/evasion exercise and the resistance/CAC training is determined by national policy, however personnel should be trained and equipped to ensure survivability for a minimum of 72 hours.

Survival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform immediate actions on isolation. • Demonstrate the principles of PLWF in a non-permissive environment. • Utilise personal equipment to optimise chances of survival.
Evasion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete preparatory SERE actions. • Demonstrate evasion principles and TTPs. • Utilise navigation systems and individual electronic equipment.
Resistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the Geneva Convention concerning” treatment of prisoners”. • Understand psychological and legal aspects of captivity. • Understand and demonstrate the ability to resist exploitation in both a Governmental and non-Governmental captivity. • Thorough understanding of the stages of capture.
Extraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thorough understanding of PR procedures. • Understand PR SOP and SPINS.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrate the ability to operate personal communication procedures in order to promote recovery.• Demonstrate recovery procedures.
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CHAPTER 3 SUPPLEMENTARY SERE TRAINING
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3.1 INTRODUCTION

The SERE training levels are to be supplemented by continuation training, theatre-specific pre-deployment training and in theatre training, in accordance with national policy and/or NATO operational requirements. It is national responsibility to determine the currency duration of each level.

3.2 CONTINUATION TRAINING

Nations are to ensure that personnel receive SERE Continuation Training that focuses on SERE skills, equipment and procedures in order to maintain proficiency.

3.3 PRE-DEPLOYMENT AND IN-THEATRE TRAINING

1. SERE training (Level A, B and C) does not necessarily prepare personnel for all operations. Having completed the appropriate level of SERE training, it is a national responsibility that personnel conduct theatre specific pre-deployment training based on theatre requirements. Pre-deployment training should cover the following topics:

- a. Theatre Personnel Recovery Procedures, and organisation;
- b. Confirmation of ISOPREP preparation;
- c. Threat of captivity;
- d. Legal status of individual and specific legal aspects;
- e. Rules of engagement (ROE);
- f. Equipment;
- g. Procedures: radio, extraction, etc.;
- h. Intel;
- i. Environmental;
- j. Theatre specific P,L, W and F;
- k. Overview containing country specific information;

- l. History¹;
 - m. Religions;
 - n. Language(s)
2. Pre-deployment training is not the responsibility of the JFC and in-theatre training should be conducted only when the operational situation / risk demand it.

¹ Major Historical Events, Beginning of the Conflict, Political & Economic Situation, Manners & Practice, UN CoC, Situation of Refugees (if any), etc.;

CHAPTER 4 SERE INSTRUCTOR COMPETENCIES

4.1 GENERAL

1. The term SERE instructor identifies those personnel qualified, in accordance with national policy, to deliver aspects of SERE training. The complexity and diversity of the subjects taught may require different standards/competence levels from the instructor but should cover the following topics:

- a. Theoretical instruction on National SERE+JPR organisation.
- b. Theoretical and practical survival training.
 - (1) Land SERE training.
 - (2) Maritime SERE training, including pool and sea drills if applicable.
- c. Permissive and non-permissive survival and recovery operations techniques.
- d. Theory and practical training on survival equipment.
- e. Theory and practical training on Evasion and Extraction.

2. Instructor competences may also include, but not limited to, the following topics:

- a. Theoretical Resistance/Conduct After Capture and escape training
- b. Organise, Administer and Supervise SERE Training, including production of training documentation.
- c. Deliver environmental SERE training. As an example Extreme Cold Weather (ECW), Jungle, Desert, Mountainous and/or urban environments.
- d. Produce and deliver theatre specific basic survival theory, environmental and resistance briefings.

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ANNEX A ACRONYMS

AOR	Area Of Responsibility
CAC	Conduct After Capture
HRIE	High Risk of Isolation and/or Exploitation
ISOP	Isolated Personnel
ISOPREP	Isolated Personnel Report
JFC	Joint Force Commander
JOA	Joint Operations Area
LRIE	Low Risk of Isolation and/or Exploitation
MRIE	Medium Risk of Isolation and/or Exploitation
PIERIE	Personnel Identified as at an Elevated risk of Isolation and/or Exploitation
PLWF	Protection, Location, Water, Food
POW	Prisoner Of War
PR	Personnel Recovery
SERE	Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Extraction
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SPINS	Special Instructions
STANAG	NATO Standardisation Agreement
TTPs	Tactics, Techniques and Procedures

APRP-3.3.7.5(A)(1)