

CASARA Ottawa, 17 July 2012

PERSONAL SURVIVAL KITS

“... To the instinct for survival, which you can further develop, add knowledge, training and kit and you will be ready for anything.”

John Wiseman – The SAS Survival Handbook (1986)

WHAT, WHY, WHERE, WHEN

- ✘ What – tools and supplies
- ✘ Why – what it will help you do
- ✘ Where – how and where you can store it
- ✘ When – when to inspect, restock, and use it

- ✘ Suggested items

WHAT: - DO'S AND DON'TS OF TOOLS & SUPPLIES

× Must:

- + Be effective
- + Be usable by monkeys
- + Store well

× Should:

- + Be versatile
- + Be rugged (reusable)
- + Be inexpensive

× Must Not:

- + Cause damage easily
- + Break readily
- + Disappear

× Should Not:

- + Be expensive
- + Be bulky
- + Be heavy

WHY – TO GET YOUR CREW RESCUED

- ✘ Recover from Landing
 - + Medical/Psychological First Aid
- ✘ Stay Safe until Rescue
 - + Create Shelter
- ✘ Get Found
 - + Deploy Signals
- ✘ Go Home...



Photo courtesy of DND – Whistler BC

WHERE

- ✘ PSK items must be ON you to help you
- ✘ Pockets and pouches must survive unusual attitudes
 - + inverted, dragged, snagged and submerged
- ✘ Open reasonably easily by other users

WHEN – CARE, CLEANING, AND FEEDING

- ✘ Validate – prior to adding to kit
- ✘ Check and Test – prior to training events
- ✘ Confirm – prior to tasking

SUGGESTED ITEMS

- ✘ Cutting tools
 - + Sharp and secure
 - + Blade styles
- ✘ Ignition elements
 - + **NO STRIKE ANYWHERE MATCHES!**
 - + Secure matches in airtight containers
 - + Armour/Cover lighter heads
- ✘ Food and adhesives –fresher is better

ENDNOTES

- ✘ Recover
- ✘ Stay Safe
- ✘ Get Found
- ✘ GO HOME!
- ✘ References:
 - + SAS Survival Handbook
 - + USAF, RCAF, CASARA aircrew survival manuals
 - + Web resources