



## PRISONER OF WAR HANDLING INSTRUCTOR'S PACK

### LESSON ONE: BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PW HANDLING AND INITIAL CAPTURE

References:

- A. Joint Warfare Publication 1-10
- B. The Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949

Time: One 45-minute period

Dress: Working dress

Location: A suitable indoor location with Powerpoint facility

Notes	Remarks
<p><b>AIM</b></p> <p>The aim of this lesson is to introduce you to the basic principles concerning the handling of Prisoners of War and to teach you the actions that you should take in the initial stages of dealing with them.</p> <p><b>REASON WHY</b></p> <p>Throughout the history of warfare, the capture and treatment of prisoners has been an emotive subject. The taking of prisoners reduces the enemy's fighting strength, adversely affects the morale of those remaining free, and the prisoners themselves are often an important source of intelligence.</p> <p>The standards that we set for the treatment of those whom we take prisoner are a benchmark for our nation's culture and humanity. The efficient and correct handling of enemy Prisoners of War will reduce the burden on our combat troops, logistics chain and medical services. It will also significantly increase the likelihood of useful and timely information being extracted from them.</p>	SLIDE 1

that group of prisoners. This will be of considerable assistance to the G2 staff further down the line. The simplest method of doing this is an ad hoc number or letter code, made with a marker pen, to match a person to a bag of kit.

It should be remembered that anything that is wrongly taken from a prisoner at this stage, will have to be re-issued to him further down the chain, thus placing unnecessary burden on the logistic chain.

#### Segregation

In times of stress, we naturally turn to our superiors for guidance and support. Immediately after capture the Officers and SNCOs are to be segregated from their men to prevent them organising escapes, sabotage or generally giving encouragement.

As soon as the situation allows, further segregation is to take place. Officers, NCOs and Other Ranks are to be split into three groups, males and females are to be separated, and juveniles (under the age of 15) are to be separated from both.

Prior to hostilities, as part of an overall concept of knowing your enemy, every effort should be made to learn the enemy's rank system.

#### Treatment

The use of plasticuffs should be considered only as a last resort for those PW who are violent or who try to escape. Their widespread use is generally unnecessary, impractical and is considered inhumane. Likewise there is no requirement to sandbag the heads of prisoners. Contrary to popular belief, the harsh treatment of PW is counter productive when it comes to questioning, it potentially strengthens the resolve of the individual who is being mistreated, as well as being illegal.

Due to the language barrier that will inevitably be encountered, the majority of communication will be through hand-signals and sign language. Fortunately this is in keeping with the 'Silence Rule', which says that in order to help maintain the shock of capture, PW should always be moved and dealt with in silence.

PW are to be protected from insults and public curiosity; This includes media coverage of prisoners.

SLIDE 8  
GC III, Art. 13

Notes	Remarks
ACTION AT THE SUB-UNIT OR UNIT HQ	SLIDE 9