

Wellington SAREX 2015

Assessment Report

Introduction

Wellington Police SAR held their annual Land SAR EX over the weekend of 13-15 November 2015. This years SAR EX was based on the ROGAINE (Rugged Outdoor Group Activity Involving Navigation and Endurance) style event.

ROGAINE in a SAR setting is an event involving navigation, and completing SAR related tasks at stations within a set geographical area in a set time period. Teams are required to completed compulsory tasks and elect others to gain maximum points. There is a need to plan ahead and book in, to complete certain tasks along with navigational planning. Teamwork, endurance, competition and an appreciation for the natural environment are features of the exercise.

This ROGAINE ran for 24 hours, until 1100 on Sunday.

Background

There have been several searches in the Orongorongo Valley, 12 km south of Wainuiomata. It is part of the Rimutaka Forest Park and a very popular area for tramping and day walks which has a number of tracks. The area is often used for school trips and overnight camps.

The most common access to the tracks is the Catchpool Valley car park.

This area was selected for this year's SAREX to continue to expose all SAR groups to the area for familiarization.

Topo of the area is attached as appendix A

SAREX Objectives

- To quantify and consolidate the existing skills of Wellington Land SAR Volunteers;
- To re-emphasize Police and WLSAR working together as field team members.
- To identify gaps in operational capabilities of Wellington Land SAR.
- To pass recommendations to address those gaps to the Training Standards officer and Committee;
- To strengthen relationships other SAR organisations such as AREC and neighbouring areas.

SAREX Assessment

This report is based on the observations made during the SAREX by Sergeant Phil Simmons (Canterbury SAR Coordinator), and myself Sergeant Craig Madden (Western Bay of Plenty SAR Coordinator).

It had been prepared without bias and it intended to be for the purpose of identifying learning's and "what went well".

Briefing



A full briefing was conducted by Sergeant Ants Harmer and Sergeant Wheble, in GSEMAC form, which is consistent with current police practice . The briefing included

- Geographical boundaries for the exercise
- Assessments and how the ROGAINE was being run.
- In-depth safety briefing
- administered.
- Comms plan

Teams

There were only four teams of three made up of a mix of LSAR and Police SAR members. The number of participates in the field was disappointing for a district SAREX.

Team Tasks

Radio Comms

Teams were accessed on both HF and VHF reports. Each team was required to transmit and message via HF to the ICP.

A common error was made by some of the teams in that messages were not recorded in a written form before the message was sent and when asked to repeat message the wording changed.

At times team members faced away from the repeater site when transmitting. This caused the quality of the transmission to be noticeably decreased in quality.

By in all, the radio comms were loud and clear in this valley.

First Aid (stn)



Scenario: Victim has a bush type injury, stick impaled through and through right leg and displaying signs of hypothermia. Victim gave nonsensical answer to questions. This was a realistic scenario and the victim was well briefed on what signs and symptoms to display. The facilitator was a trained Ambulance Officer and member of LSAR.

The team observed completing this task, were able to elicit information from the victim which identified the victim was a diabetic. Once sugar was given to the victim her level of cognitive response rose significantly.

Treatment for the injury was carried out in a suitable manner stabilising the impaled object.

This team's feed back was "a realistic and challenging station".

Attached as appendix B is a photo of the marking sheet

River Crossing (stn)



Scenario, during a search for a missing tramper a helicopter has spotted an article of interest and provided the grid ref for this item. Teams were tasked to collect the item of interest and report back their findings to establish a ROC.(Relevance of clue)

Teams had to make two river crossings and due to the level of the river at the time of the exercise (low) they were to inform the facilitators on suitable sites to make a river crossing and crossing techniques. The second crossing was at a slow moving deep pool where they had to retrieve a back pack from a rock face on the opposite side.

Points were also allocated on radio report back to IMT and detail of what they discovered and photographing the pack and contents.

At the debrief there was good feed back to the teams by the facilitators. They gave other options for crossing with pros and cons for each.

The team we observed identified after the task they should have photographed the items so good self correction. They also noted they did not advise the IMT where they were about to enter the river which has a degree of risk and from a safety point of view this should be done.

The feed back from the teams was real life situation, good refresher as they had to cross correctly and often in operations river crossing can be a bit lax.

Attached as appendix C is a photograph of the marking sheet.

Pack Check (stn)

This task was completed straight after the river crossing task and consisted on each team member removing all contents of their pack and a check list made of all essential items they should carry. And what items needs to be in a waterproof packaging

Attached at appendix D is a photograph of check sheet.

Clue Processing (stn)



Scenario was, search teams were looking for a single missing hunter, overdue by 18 hours. They came across a camp site and were to conduct clue processing on the site.

Teams needed to plan and consider access to site, using STOPPER would assist this process

- Stop, and slow down so you don't miss anything
- Think, concentrate on what is happening
- Observe, look from a holistic perspective
- Plan route in, least likely to have been used by MP, consider sign cutting
- Process systematically
- Evaluate, collate all information and as a team make some conclusions
- Record and report findings

This was a well set out scenario and each team had a fresh site to process. It was a well managed realistic scenario providing a clue rich environment for the teams.

The objective of this task was to identify items and establish ROC and a DOT (direction of travel) for the person who had occupied the site.

The facilitator provided good feedback to the teams. Promoted the things done well and identified other alternatives they could consider.

The feedback was "realistic scene" with lots of clues, good practice and refresher".

Search Methods (stn)



Scenario was a report of a missing female last seen leaving a camp site after she had an argument with the male party camping with her.

Male who was being spoken to by police had provided the location of the camp site and a team was tasked to locate the site and begin searching for the female.

Again a realistic scene, although a search method scenario there was a need to clue process initially and confirm this camp site was the missing females. This site provided a clue rich environment.

Once site was confirmed teams were to detect a DOT and commence searching.

The team leader we accessed gave a good briefing to the team before the entered the site. They planned entry and took a route less likely to have been used by its occupants. They photographed the scene in situ.

They considered this camp site may not be the missing females camp site and conformed it was by locating ID inside the tent.

They finally established a DOT but did not begin a sound line, search was tracking only.

There was no protection of shoe imprints located or record of the pattern. There were some good suggestions made by the team members but not picked up on by the TL.

At the debrief the facilitator gave good feed back and opened up other possibilities of other search methods that may have been used.

Team Building (stn)



Spider web. Team of four (one facilitator became the fourth member) had to each climb through a section of the web, each member had to traverse through a separate section and could be helped by other team members. They could not go under the web. Touch the web and start from scratch.

Challenging task which required plenty of planning and cooperation.

Observations (stn)

This station consisted of two parts, the first being a static search in a small area, the other being a line search. There were 22 items in the static area and 40 on the line search.

Each team had 30 minutes to complete both components and were marked on the number of items they observed and recorded.

There was no record of where the items were situated or a layout of the station.

The team observed felt this station highlighted the need to slow down in a clue rich environment in a SAR OP.

Navigation

Ten navigation flags to be located, each flag had a different name on it. Each name was recorded once flags located. A Topo map with locations were issued to each team.

Attached as appendix E is a copy of the topo map.

Quiz

A 100 question quiz sheets was issued at the beginning of the exercise and was required to be completed by the end of SAREX,

Rest

There was a compulsory six hour continuous rest break. The teams had to provide the ICP with grid ref at the beginning. This break had to be taken in the field and teams were not allowed to stay in any huts.

All teams were able to take a longer break than the above.

SUMMARY

This was a well planned exercise located in an area of recent SAR OPs. The stations were well set up and maintained.

Safety was addressed in a manner of best practice. All staff in the field were accounted for via the T card system and monitored with regular checks made via comms.

Sergeant Wheble was the dedicated safety office for the exercise and was field based.

The ICP was manned by AREC staff who recorded the team's progress. The I/C Sergeant Harmer was in the field monitoring the event.

ROGAINE style SAREX is becoming more popular in the land SAR sector. It allows fundamental skills to be targeted as specific learning's and all participants have the opportunity to be tested in each of these fields. The overall realistic scenario's displayed relevant situations of any SAR OP.

The performance of each team is able to be fed back by each station facilitator and allows for open and honest discussion.

The scoring aspect of the event triggers the drive of each member to excel in a team setting, and over a 24 hour period it provides the stresses normally associated in a SAR OP.

All teams completed the exercise in the required time with an extended rest period. If more teams had entered it would have made planning a critical element and placed more pressure on the teams as the system is intended to.

CONCLUSION

This style of SAREX was received well by the field members which was reflective in the monkey survey conducted post event.

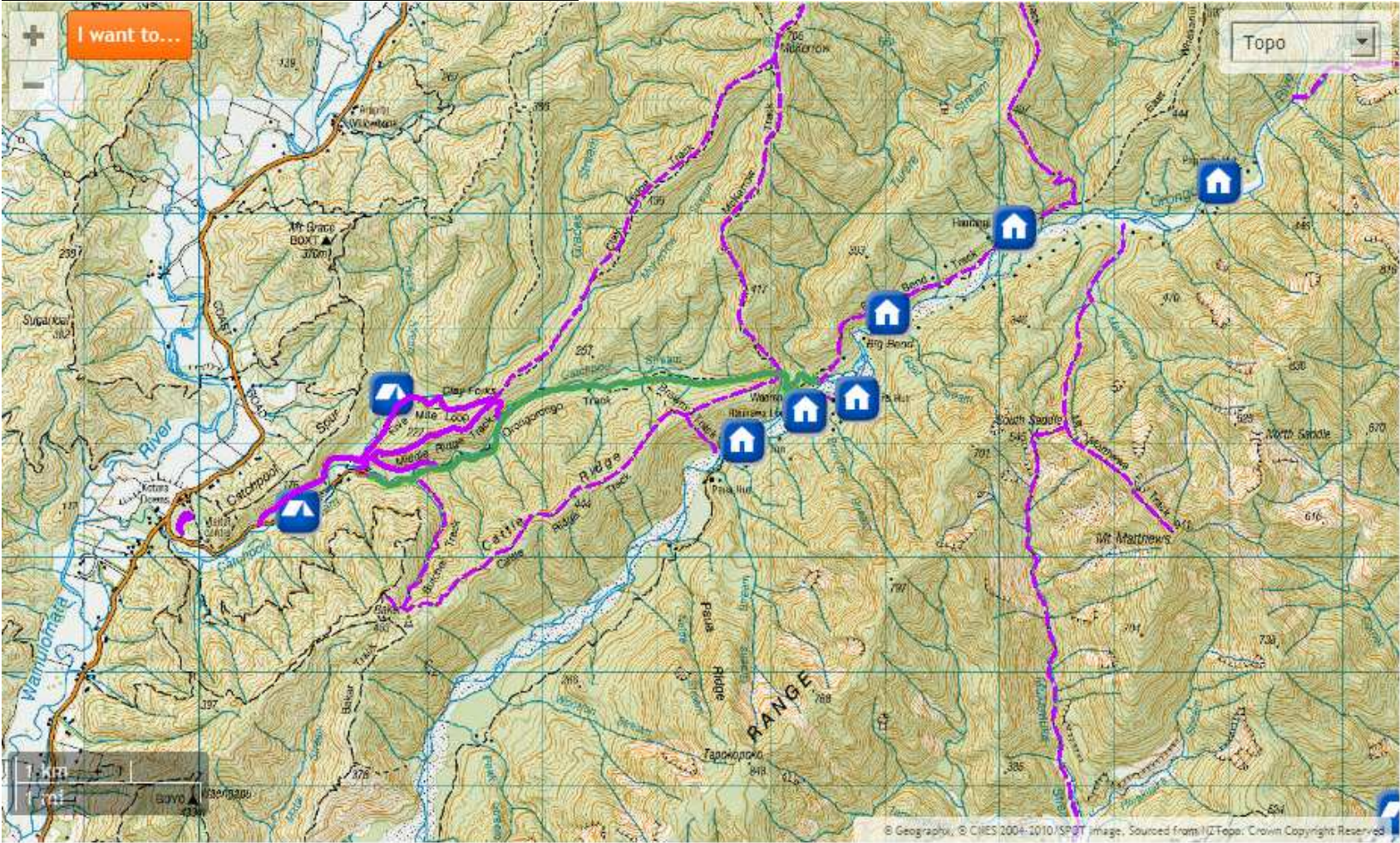
There is a good feel with this group and they interacted well, displaying a strong team spirit.

However this EX did not test or use a fully functioning IMT and there needs to be alternative exercises to test the capabilities of this function during the year. It is best observed with a full SAREX but table top exercises will also test the effectiveness of an IMT to a lesser degree.

My commendation is to have the IMT accessed in next years SAREX.

Sergeant Craig Madden
WBOP SAR Coordinator

Appendix A NOT TO SCALE



Appendix B

Skill	Competency	%	Comments
Primary Survey	D-Danger R-Response ✓ S-Help ✓ A-Airway ✓ B-Breathing ✓ C-Circulation D-Disability E-Expose/Environ	20	Don't seem afraid to touch Threats
		15	
Secondary Survey	Full body assessment ✓ S-Symptoms A-Allergies M-Medications P-Previous HX L-Last eaten E-Events prior	20	no obvious wounds
		15	no distal pulses no vital signs asked any other injuries
Treatment	Vitals Packaging What are they going to do	10	- make a plan asking
		6	
Communications	Effective within the group and back to base	10	Good Reporting what they saw
		6	
Decision Making abilities	Effectiveness/speed	10	difficult to touch tell people what they're doing talk to people
Extrication	How are they going to get the person out of the bush?	10	he's phrased to walk
Team work	Does the group work well as a team? Delegation	10	Good Delegation
Medical knowledge	Look for knowledge of medical issues.	10	
Total			

Appendix C

SAREX 20 Station run by Rawena Johnstone and David Eaton

Team: *Pete King, Sam Kempthorne, Claudia Harrison* Time Booked: Time Arrived: *3:35pm* Time Departed:

Actions Expected	Points Available	Points Gained	Notes
Locate GR on map. Travel to site (20-50m away).			
Cross DO River to gain better view of article/site			
Anticipate team crossing individually or in pairs (straight forward walking in a river < knee deep, medium current)			
- chest straps undone	5		
- no loose clothing (hats, sunglasses, phones, radios)	5		
- good speed while crossing (not unduly slow)	5		
- ensuring all team ok (quick glance or verbal check)	5		
Photograph article in situ			
- Taking photograph	10		
Report find of clue to IMT including 14 figure GR (as it is a clue).			
- Reporting in via radio with 14 figure GR	5		
Record GR and time in notebook.			
- Record of GR and time/date.	5		
Come up with a plan to retrieve article.			
Appropriate leadership style and team work	5		
Consideration of keeping article dry & any signs/clues around it	5		
Link up using mutual support method to enter pool			
(teams can choose packs on or off.)			
Correct linking of mutual support	10		
Consideration of order of team members	5		
Emergency exit plan mentioned, incl run out & remaining linked.	10		
Exit plan mentioned eg Back out or turn of ...	5		
Leader doing commands	5		
Nothing dangling from team, waist strap buckle clear.	5		
Chest straps undone	5		
Controlled river crossing, appropriate speed	5		
Team member feedback listened to eg muddy, too fast	5		
Staying linked till exited/on safe ground	5		
Appropriate clothing being worn for river crossing eg suitable wear, gaiters, thermal clothing, & other wx dependent options.	5		
Article being kept out of the water.	5		
Check article to see if it is relevant to MP			
Opening pack	10		
Radio ends there with the team finding a note and lollies in the			
Finishing within time requirement of 40mins.	10		
Requested to debrief themselves on their completing of the			
This is the final 5mins.			
Debrief with a format and/or ensuring all team members	10		
Submitted.			
Total Points	150		

Appendix D

MAIL: SAR

POLICE

TEAM NUMBER 1 Pete

Equipment Check

Personal Gear - wearing Points deducted - 2 per item

1. Wool or polypropylene top	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2. Gaiters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
3. Tremper gaiters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
4. Bobbins - shorts/longs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Personal Gear - in pack Points deducted - 2 per item

5. Waterproof jacket	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
6. Overtrousers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
7. Base layers/leants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
8. Gloves or mittens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
9. Longjohns	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
10. Extra spare clothing for cold climates	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
11. Long-sleeve top or jacket	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
12. Spare socks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
13. Spare underwear	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
14. Spare shorts/longs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
15. Spare gaiters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
16. Spare gloves/mittens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
17. Spare longjohns	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
18. Spare jacket	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
19. Spare overtrousers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
20. Spare long-sleeve top or jacket	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
21. Cold gear (personal and/or track marking)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Long Johns - 1

Team gear Points deducted - 2 per item

1. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
3. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
4. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
5. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
6. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
7. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
8. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
9. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
10. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
11. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
12. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
13. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
14. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
15. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
16. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
17. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
18. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
19. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
20. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
21. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
22. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
23. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
24. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
25. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
26. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
27. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
28. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
29. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
30. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
31. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
32. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
33. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
34. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
35. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
36. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
37. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
38. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
39. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
40. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
41. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
42. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
43. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
44. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
45. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
46. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
47. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
48. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
49. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
50. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
51. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
52. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
53. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
54. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
55. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
56. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
57. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
58. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
59. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
60. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
61. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
62. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
63. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
64. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
65. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
66. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
67. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
68. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
69. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
70. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
71. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
72. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
73. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
74. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
75. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
76. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
77. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
78. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
79. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
80. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
81. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
82. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
83. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
84. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
85. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
86. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
87. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
88. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
89. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
90. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
91. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
92. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
93. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
94. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
95. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
96. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
97. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
98. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
99. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
100. Spare gear for team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

TOTAL

TOTAL

Appendix E

