



Exercise HAKATERE

11th-12th March 2017

Canterbury District SAREX

FINAL REPORT

Introduction

The Canterbury Police District major land search and rescue exercise (SAREX) for the 2016-17 year was held at Hakatere, near Mt Somers on the 11th and 12th of March 2017.

The exercise involved approximately 70 LandSAR personnel, 25 Police personnel,

Objectives

The objectives of the SAREX were:

- a) *To enhance the inter-group operating capabilities of LandSAR groups in the district.*
- b) *To promote leadership and teamwork within SAR teams.*
- c) *To assess LandSAR field teams in basic SAR skills outlined in the LandSAR field competencies document.*
- e) *To set a baseline for field team performance throughout the district.*
- f) *To assess how fatigue and psychological pressure affect the operational effectiveness of the teams and to train in conditions that will simulate a realistic operational environment.*
- g) *To utilize SAR track in the IMT, to monitor participating teams progress, to keep a log of key elements.*

Scenario

The SAREX consisted of a 24 hour Rogaine style event. During the 24 hour period the 13 teams that participated were tasked to complete 11 skill stations. These stations were based on the LandSAR field competencies. Four of the stations were compulsory.

An ideal location for this style of SAREX is one where the stations can be placed in a circular fashion, with the Navigation targets placed inside this area, this gives the participants an option of completing these in down time or while transiting from one station to another. I believe this location gave the best example of this layout than previous SAR EX's.

Details of the stations and exercise rules are included in the exercise order, which is **attached as Appendix A.**

The concept for this district SAREX was to assess the field teams and give feedback so they can manage their group training throughout the year to address any weaknesses. They will also have an idea how they compare against other teams within the district.

Some of the changes made from the previous run Rogaine SAR Ex's were to increase the rest period to 6 hours, therefore not requiring the participating teams to provide a non competing driver. Also that they could take the rest period at any time

or location they desired, having a complete shut down of all stations from midnight to 0400hrs, this giving the station staff a break. Having the stations placed strategically around the exercise area making them more accessible, shortening down the station task times, this allowing more time to transit. Having some of the stations capable of taking 2 teams at the same time.

Police funding

Police supplied catering for the exercise for the ICP and final BBQ, refreshments, venue hire and other miscellaneous associated costs.

Superintendent John Price, District Commander Canterbury attended on the final day, he spoke to the group and presented the certificates to the participating teams. His attendance and involvement is appreciated and was well received by the LSAR groups.

Monitoring report

The SAREX was reviewed by:

Dave DITTMER, Senior Ranger, Search and Rescue, DOC, Aoraki Mt Cook. Report ***attached as Appendix B.***

It was also nice to have Carl van der Meulen attend the SAREX, he spent a fair bit of time visiting the various stations and speaking to some of the participants and assistants.

Feedback

Feedback is important, especially in developing the Rogaine for SAREX, but also to ensure we are achieving the goals and objectives, and making the most of the training opportunity.

A survey has also been sent to all exercise participants. The results are ***attached as Appendix C.***

These comments were overall positive, with many complimenting the organisation and the concept of the SAREX. Most seem keen to see the Rogaine style SAREX being held every 2nd year, with a traditional SAREX being held alternatively.

Lessons learnt

1. The stations being located closer together and in a circle worked well.
2. The system with a casual rest area worked well and was an improvement.
3. Assessment feedback was given to participants as they completed each station was well received (*written feedback was later forwarded to the teams*).
4. Stations need consistency and to adhere timeframes.
5. Having the river safety station open throughout the hours of darkness allowed for more teams to be processed.
6. Stations being able to take 2 teams at a time minimised bottlenecks.

NZSAR funding

The funding was applied as follows:

██████████	██████████
████████████████████	██████████
████████████████████	██████████
██████████	██████████
	Total \$4000.00

Effect of funding

It allowed us to hold the SAREX in the Mt Somers area, to meet the costs associated with that. With it being centrally located within the region we were able to encourage all the LSAR groups in the district to participate, we have had indifferent involvement from South Canterbury LSAR teams in previous SAREX's.

The changes made to this Rogaine District SAR Ex ensured good engagement from the participants.

It's pleasing to see that the teams were made up from a mix of experience, with new members learning skills from the SAREX and group environment. It is also pleasing to see the participating teams showing improvement with an increase in the scores achieved. **See results Appendix D.**

The funding provided by NZSAR has enabled us to get a comprehensive look at the standard and abilities of LSAR groups within the district. It allows groups to address shortcomings in their abilities and training possibilities going forward.

Customer Invoice Note

A customer invoice note for \$4000.00 has been prepared and forwarded.

Summary

Having run several of these events in Canterbury, I believe we have refined the Rogaine concept to the stage where it is a useful training platform for LSAR teams. It can be tailored for individual needs or competencies.

It is labour and time intensive, requiring a lot of preplanning and administrative work before the actual SAREX, but given the benefit and positive outcomes for the participating teams it is a valuable training addition to our SAREX calendar.



Phil Simmonds
Sergeant C661
SAR/DVI Coordinator - Canterbury
23rd May 2017

Appendix A - Exercise Stations



New Zealand
POLICE
Nga Pirihimana O Aotearoa

SEARCH & RESCUE
LAND SAR
NEW ZEALAND

Canterbury District Land SAREX 2017 - Exercise Hakatere RULES FOR PARTICIPANTS

Welcome to the 2017 Canterbury SAREX, this year a Rogaine style event will take place, the majority of which will occur within Department of Conservation land.

Teams **do not** require a non-competing driver. In saying that any participants who feel they are too fatigued to drive home following the exercise, must bring this to the attention of the organisers (NZ POLICE) and arrangements will be made for them to either stay in Hakatere or a driver made available to deliver them to their home. Anyone in this position will need to communicate with the ICP staff.

All teams must consist of three to four people. The team must designate one person as the team leader (they must remain the leader throughout the competition). If anyone in a four person team has a member withdraw from the SAR EX for any reason, the remaining 3 person team members can continue with the SAR EX. Regardless all teams must finish with a minimum of three people.

Teams must comply with all rules and directions from organisers and signs. Teams that fail to do so will face point deductions. Intentional rule breaches will result in disqualification.

Individuals and teams must carry what they would be expected to carry on a SAR operation (see page 18/19 of the LandSAR field guide for details). Teams will be in the field for the night (and will be involved with the exercise for much of it) and must carry suitable shelter, clothing, food and water.

Exercise Layout

The event includes 11 stations. Most of the stations are based on competencies found in the LandSAR operational and probationary field competencies documents.

All stations (except the rest area) will be awarded points. There are a total of 1000 points available to teams. Any team that achieves over 750 points (75%) will receive a gold award, teams that achieve between 600 and 749 points (60-74%) will receive a silver award. Teams achieving below 600 points (59%) will receive a bronze award.

The time frames below is the MAXIMUM time that you will have to complete your task once you have been given you briefing by the station coordinator. This does not include additional time that may be used for a quick de-brief.

STATION	TIMEFRAME
Observation	30 min
Search Methods (<i>compulsory</i>)	30 min
HF Radio	No limit
Team building	30 min
Navigation	No Limit
Pack Inspection (<i>compulsory</i>)	30 min
Clue Processing	30 min
River Crossing (<i>compulsory</i>)	30 min
Rest Area (<i>compulsory</i>)	Minimum 6 hrs
Quiz	No limit
First Aid (<i>compulsory</i>)	30 min

Five out of the eleven stations are compulsory for all teams. They are PACK INSPECTION, SEARCH METHODS, RIVER CROSSING, FIRST AID and REST stations. The other stations are not compulsory but teams should aim to complete as many as possible. The course is designed to be achievable.

All stations once visited by a team will be considered completed, with the exception of the NAVIGATION task. Participants can complete any part or portion of the NAVIGATION course as they travel between any other activities. There is no requirement to book in for the NAVIGATION task and this task will remain unmanned throughout the exercise. The NAVIGATION clue sheet is included with the competition pack and needs to be completed and handed in on at the completion of the exercise.

Previously there have been problems at the start of the event booking stations, to alleviate this, all teams must complete **a short fitness walk** to a prominent feature and immediately afterwards attend the Pack Inspection station. There is no need to book into the pack Inspection Station as there will be sufficient people there to process numerous teams.

Teams must travel from the briefing location and follow the assigned route to the check point and then to the Pack Inspection station. The dedicated route is marked on the attached map, no deviation from this route is to occur and packs must be carried. Once the pack inspection is completed then teams may book into their next station.

REST STATION / AREA

There is no designated rest area for the exercise, teams can take their Rest Stop where they want (within the exercise boundaries and 100 meters off/away from any formed track or road), however it must incorporate the timeframe of 0000hrs and 0600hrs Sunday 12th March. Teams must radio the start of their rest stop, giving the Grid Reference where they are staying and must remain there for six hours or in the case where a rest period starts before 000hrs then until 0600hrs. Teams must remain at their rest location unless an emergency arises, in which case they must radio the ICP. Teams may take any other short rest breaks that they require throughout the event when and where they like.

All stations will be closed from 000hrs to 0600hrs and therefore no bookings will be taken during this time.

Logistics

Every competitor will be issued with a 24hr ration pack (back country). Any other food must be supplied and carried by the team. A BBQ lunch will be provided at the Woolshed on Sunday. Water will be available at GR1452108, 5169378 (Southern end of woolshed), and GR1447830, 5172153 (4wd track crosses Paddle Hill Creek).

Paddle Hill Creek and the South branch of the Ashburton River are within the exercise area and provide an additional fresh water supply. The standard advice from DoC is to **BOIL** all water taken from these sources prior to drinking.

Toilet facilities are available at GR1452108, 5169378 (Southern end of woolshed), GR1452277, 5169282 (DoC Building) and on the 4WD track vicinity GR1449288, 5172194

These are also indicated on the attached competition map.

Teams must ensure they have two VHF and one HF radio and that they are all working correctly before deploying into the field. HF radios and batteries will be available from the logistics team from 0900 hrs Saturday. Teams must check that their equipment is in working condition before beginning the competition.

Communications

Teams will be given a communications plan as part of the competition pack. All teams must complete VHF radio calls at the following times:

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when entering the competition area

when arriving at a station

when leaving a station

when leaving the competition area

Once every two hours if one of the above four events has not occurred.

Teams must also answer radio calls from the ICP at any point during the competition.

There is one VHF radio channel for the exercise area. There is NO cell phone reception within the exercise area.

BOOKING STATIONS

Teams can only book one station at a time. Once they have checked into their station they can book their next station. Bookings are not essential and if a team is passing a free station then they can check into that station by contacting the station supervisor.

Teams will be penalised 10 points for:

Failing to arrive at a booked station on time.

Teams must give an ETA for their arrival at a station when booking. If they fail to arrive on time they will forfeit their booking if another team is waiting.

The procedure for booking a station is to call the ICP, "SAR Base" and request to book a station.

Some stations can take more than one team at a time so it will pay to check with SAR Base if there is bookings available.

When arriving at a station, participants must go to the 14 digit location provided in the briefing pack, the station itself will be within 50meters of this point. The team leader must then call the station supervisor to advise they are at the arrival point for that station, and then WAIT until a station supervisor comes to get them.

At the conclusion of a station teams will not be advised of their score until the conclusion of the competition. Team leaders will be posted a feedback sheet for each station in the days after the exercise. A quick debrief **WILL** occur at the conclusion of each station, this will cover the following.

What went well.

Any area for improvement.

Anything identified that may cause continual deduction of points (ie team members not wearing High Visibility clothing)

General Conditions of Participation

All team members must wear High Visibility clothing (and be identifiable as part of LandSAR/NZ Police) at all times and remain with the exercise area.

Teams must be back at the ICP by 1100hrs on Sunday 12th March. Teams that have not returned will lose 5 points for every minute they are late for the first hour (ie 20 minutes late = 100 points lost, 60 minutes late = 300 points lost), If teams have not returned by 1200hrs on Sunday then they must radio their location to be uplifted. Safety Staff will advise them where their pick up point is and this will result in half of the teams remaining points being deducted.

Teams must not interfere with any signs, markings, navigation stations etc. Absolutely no litter is permitted. There is a total fire ban and therefore no open fires of any type are permitted. Please ensure a suitable area is cleared prior to lighting any gas, solid or liquid fuel cookers.

The two main roads, Hakatere Heron Road and Hakatere Potts Road must not be used for travel. If walking parallel to the road you must be at least 20meters away from the edge as a safety measure. All team members are reminded that the roads are **OPEN** to all other traffic and they should only be crossed once both ways have been checked. Teams must cross together, ie as one bunch and cannot be spread out over 100m. Teams found not complying with this safety rule will be deducted half of their points.

The land the exercise is being run on is both Department of Conservation land and also Private Land. The private land is a working high country station and care must be used when crossing over this land. **Under no circumstances at all** shall any member open or climb over any **DEER FENCING**. All normal stock gates must be left as they are found. Care must be taken to avoid damage to any property. Please refer to the exercise map for OUT of BOUNDS areas, please respect the privacy and cooperation of all those who live near this exercise area.

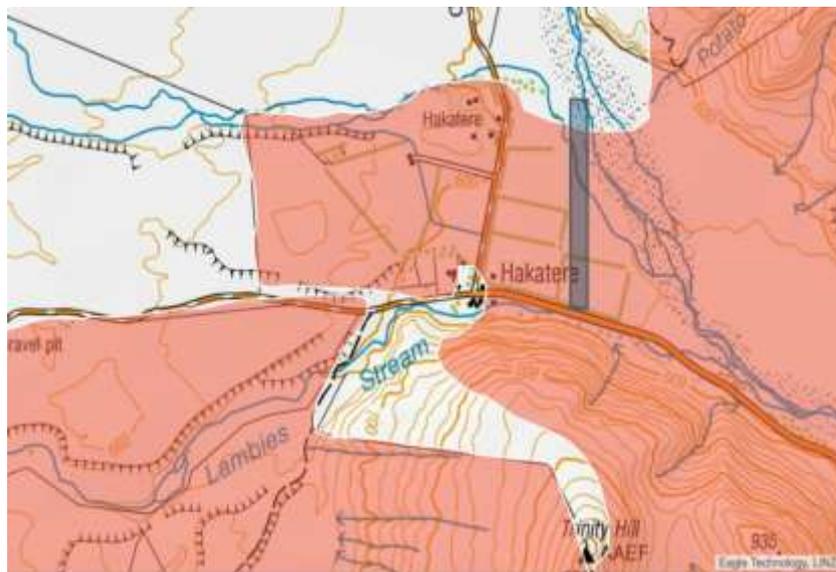
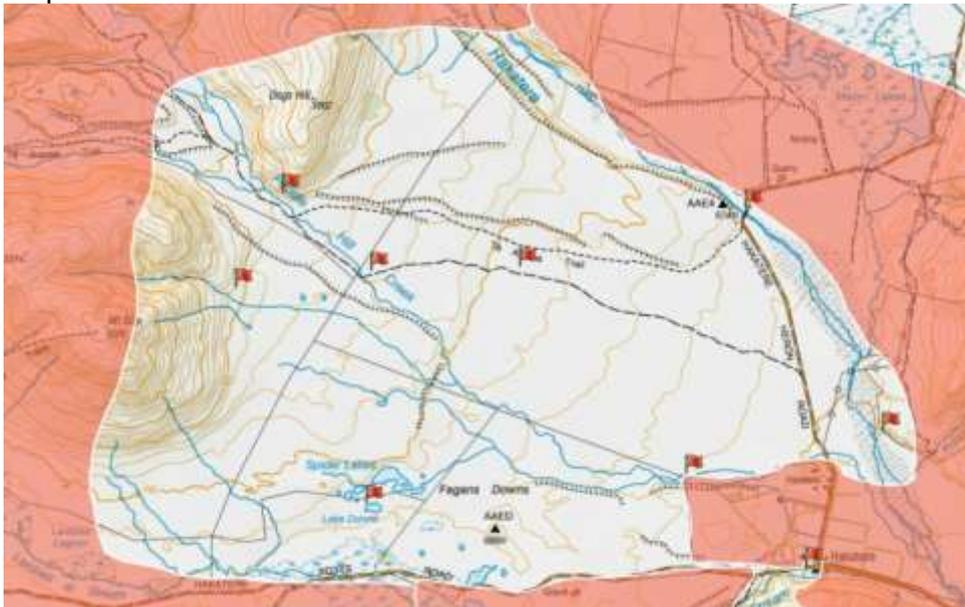
The only permissible method of travel for exercise participants during the exercise is by foot. Participants should ensure that general travel between stations is on formed tracks.

Teams must stay together throughout the competition. All team members must be within a 100 metre radius of their team leader at all times.

All teams must report to the Registration Tent, once they have finished the exercise so they can be logged out. Teams must **ALSO** log out over the radio.

The word of all exercise officials, assessors and safety officers is final. No discussions will be entered into.

Area Map



Appendix B – Dave DITTMER Report

Canterbury District Land SAREX 11th-12th March 2017

Exercise Hakatere, held on Department of Conservation Land.

ICP Location: - Hakatere, Junction of Ashburton Gorge, Hakatere Heron and Hakatere Potts Roads.

Evaluation conducted by: - Dave Dittmer, Senior Ranger Search & Rescue & Recreation, Department of Conservation, Aoraki/Mt. Cook.

Introduction

This Rogaine style SAREX format has twice previously been run jointly by the Canterbury Police SAR Squad and Senior Land SAR members held over a 24 hour period for participating teams of not less than 3 or ideally 4 people managed under a set of rules which require each team to complete the full event with at least 3 members. This is the third of the Rogaine series with this type of event held every two years.

Feedback and learnings from previous Rogaine's have been adopted, the organisers had made changes to ensure safety of participants, manage fatigue and well-being of participants, one being the mandatory rest period of 6 hours between midnight on Saturday night and 0600 hrs on Sunday morning.

The Hakatere event was planned and organised by the South Canterbury Police SAR Squad with support provided by the Christchurch SAR Squad and Senior Land SAR members to facilitate event station's assessments. Format was the Rogaine style requiring each team to visit a set number of stations over a 24 hour period, some of the stations being compulsory.

Pre Exercise

An invitation was emailed around all the Canterbury District LandSAR groups providing information about the Rogaine SAREX covering location, arrival and registration time's, teams, equipment, food, rules, tasks assessment, management personnel and suggested training prior to the event.

SAREX Objectives

- Complete an exercise briefing for all field team members.
- Complete a safety brief and emergency procedures.

- Test field teams on Land SAR operational competencies by assessment at event stations which included a group of compulsory stations, points awarded by station assessment facilitators.
- Test navigation with a navigation course spread across the whole Rogaine territory.
- Use “SAR Track” software in the IMT to track and process teams and record messages.
- Assess team’s fitness and ability to operate effectively for a sustained period.
- Provide an opportunity to use radio communication systems.
- Debrief the SAREX – hot debrief immediately after, and a wider debrief by way of Survey Monkey in the week after the SAREX.
- Award achievement certificates to all participating teams scaled by accumulated points achieved Bronze, Silver and Gold levels with a champion team award.

Evaluation of the Rogaine SAREX

Done well:- ICP was established at the historic Hakatere Station complex, using established buildings, the AREC communications bus and the Police Mobile base.

IMT was established with a small CIMS team established and computer system operating using SAR Trak.

Prescribed camping and off road parking area for participating teams and vehicles.

Large woolshed complex available for team briefings

Welcome of teams and exercise brief, rules, boundaries, use of private land and care code.

Comprehensive safety brief, covering stock, fences, travel along roads, weather conditions, emergency procedures and fatigue, especially for the drive home after the exercise.

Communications plan, VHF channels, HF use and radio exercise briefing.

Registered team’s confirmation and handing out of competition packs containing the exercise information, including maps, station locations, navigation exercise locations and quiz covering a range of SAR related questions.

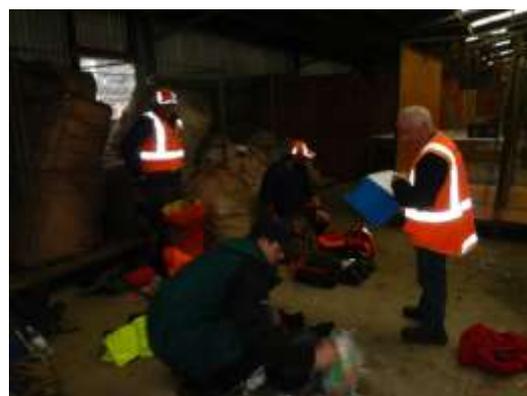
Rogaine stations were spread around the SAREX designated area with a booking process for teams clearly outlined in the rules.

Five compulsory stations clearly identified for teams: - **Pack Inspection, Search Methods, River Crossing, First Aid and Rest Stations.**

Optional stations were: - **Observation, Team Building, Navigation, Clue Processing, and Quiz.**



Fitness test involving all 13 teams climbing 400 metres up nearby Trinity Hill (without packs with the very wet underfoot conditions) One other objective was to spread the teams to avoid a bottle neck at



Pack Inspection was processed efficiently as teams returned from the fitness exercise, teams being assessed on what they must carry on a SAR operation as listed in the Land SAR field guide. A team approach by assessors ensured efficient processing. Some packs seemed rather heavy for a 24 hour operation.



River Crossing good location with teams required to verbalise their decision process and techniques employed to cross the river safely. Each team was required to identify a safe area to cross the river safely and were scored on how well they planned and secured electronic equipment from getting wet. Excellent feedback provided to teams by site assessors at the conclusion.



First Aid scenario based station with plausible injuries, teams having to carry out a primary survey of the patient, establish medical status of the patient and provide shelter and care. Excellent debrief by site assessors to support participants learning. This particular station was heavily booked through to mid-night on Saturday.

Search Methods a scenario station with team leaders planning a landscape search for a missing youngster and teams then conducted a search up through an open gully system. demonstrating effective search methods and locating clues. Excellent feedback provided by the assessors at the conclusion.

Rest Stations, all teams were required to report that they had established shelter for the night prior to midnight which was achieved for the compulsory 6 hour break. With the inclement weather a number of teams took the practical option of returning to the large woolshed for overnight shelter. The remainder camped out in the field in very wet conditions.



H/F Radio/communications, teams were required to locate the H/F radio set and configure the aerial on the night frequency and communicate a prescribed message to radio coms. Teams were also required to communicate on the VHF system to book their respective stations.



Observation, teams were tasked with a moving visual search for placed objects and concluded with a static site observation point. A challenging station for teams with the inclement wet weather and very dull light conditions experienced over the weekend.

Team Building station, teams were required to pitch a tent blindfolded with a designated team leader providing directions. This station was not visited much by teams until late in the exercise with some teams tactically missing out on a booking. Well received by teams who visited this station



Clue Processing station, teams were required to plan an effective search of a tent camp site and also complete a short tracking exercise. Well-designed campsite scenario with a good investigative story to deduce from clues followed by a short tracking exercise, sound feedback provided by site assessors to participating teams.

Navigation exercise stations scattered across the Rogaine terrain providing a good test of map reading, traditional navigation skills and use of GPS technology. Scored by recording a code located at each station visited on a score sheet handed in at the exercise conclusion.

Quiz included in the information pack, 50 questions of which the majority were SAR related, to be completed any time during the exercise and handed in at the conclusion for marking.

Participation effort excellent involving 13 teams plus IMT staff and station assessors/facilitators, a sum total of 74 search and rescue practitioners who performed creditably in particularly inclement wet cloudy weather conditions, cloud down to 900 metres with colder rain on Saturday evening, classic search and rescue conditions.

Observation/Improvements

Booking communication for activity stations by teams proved problematic later on Saturday particularly, delays and some confusion around actual confirmed stations booked for teams. Suggested is a review of the SAR Trak messaging system which seemed to contribute to the delay between the coms team posting the message request and the IMT responding back to the coms team. Some teams sustained considerable delays in obtaining a confirmed booking.

Volunteer search team members like to have an opportunity to socialise, one of the attractions of attending SAR events. Consider modifying the Rogaine time frame on Saturday evening and run the quiz in a collective camp location with the quiz being collected and results tallied earlier to save time at the exercise conclusion. At the same time provides an opportunity for volunteers from contributing groups to have a social evening in a camp environment.

Pack Inspection; suggest incorporating for Pack inspection a pack weight analysis. Some packs randomly tested seemed excessively heavy for effective field operations over 24 hours.

Conclusion

To summarise, a well organised Rogaine event which was run efficiently over unfamiliar terrain for most participating teams coinciding with a wet weather system making field operation's quite unpleasant for participants.

Pleasing to observe the attendance of senior police staff from Canterbury, both on Saturday and on Sunday at the debrief speaking to the participants complimenting them for their participation in this exercise.

The Rogaine format is well proven and provides the opportunity for both Land SAR and Police to practise and test a full range of search and rescue skills in the field. I recommend that from what I have observed that this format be continued and could be adopted through-out New Zealand as a very effective way of practising and assessing search skills



Debrief and awards presentation



BBQ Food after the debrief



Top Gold level team

David Dittmer,

Senior Ranger, Search & Rescue, Recreation & Historic

Department of Conservation - *Te Papa Atawhai*

Aoraki/Mt.Cook Office

Appendix C - Survey

Question 3 Showing 34 responses

Pack search add tracking materials

3/30/2017 11:36 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Good location, well organised

3/24/2017 3:24 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Make them closer together. If we want a square-bash, we'd be in the army! Do we need to demonstrate our fitness on a rogaine?

3/20/2017 8:11 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

No change- the stations were all very good.

3/19/2017 8:58 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

free up bottle necks.

3/19/2017 2:00 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

If there is going to be a hill ascent or other moderately challenging activity, communicate this in the weeks beforehand, so that participants know to maintain a good level of fitness - some people were caught out by this.

3/18/2017 10:02 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Better shelter for the 1st Aid patient

3/18/2017 7:14 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

none

3/18/2017 4:09 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Depends on what exactly the objective was. If it was to maintain training, then I don't think you should bother with points. Instead do a more detailed debrief at each station. If that is indeed the objective then get rid of station booking, too. Send each team to a different station and rotate them.

3/16/2017 9:41 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Compulsory stations further apart to avoid crowding

3/16/2017 9:28 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

None. All were good.

3/15/2017 9:29 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

none

3/15/2017 9:11 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Ability to book two stations for more chance of planning ahead to save retracing routes

3/14/2017 1:22 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

with the tracking and clue processing they need to be done in clean areas as this makes it hard to be mark. also I understand area to do this is hard with 13 teams. But these need to be set up with clear objectives.

3/14/2017 12:21 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

no quiz. know what points nav waypoints are worth at the start of competition

3/14/2017 11:51 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

A good range covering all basis. Thanks to the guys giving up their time in the cold and wet.

3/14/2017 11:49 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Stations booked by those running the station Not imt as lots of double bookings lost bookings. no point asking for an eta then booking 30 mins before or 3 hrs after

3/14/2017 11:05 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

The clue processing was run by an assessor who had different ideas as to how to process a site than is taught in the search techniques course. The search techniques station was unclear weather the first objective was to find the missing party or demonstrate a range of techniques. Team building was great, the first aid scenario was really interesting, observation was tricky for us because we hit it at dusk, but that was our poor planning.

3/14/2017 9:53 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

use two channels for the teams as it was too crowded on one channel and led to some grizzles from teams

3/14/2017 9:10 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Minimum speed or ability to jump a fence or a log or a small hole on the ground something like this before teams goes out to make sure all members had minimum fitness required to do a task or to help someone.

3/14/2017 8:05 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

None, stations were well setup and we'll managed.

3/14/2017 5:35 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

there were too close to each other. compulsory stations should be far apart

3/14/2017 5:30 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

The first aid, observation and search methods could of been spread out slightly more to ensure less clogging up of teams. Teams that cancelled a booking should have received a points deduction similar to what occurs if your late to a station. Otherwise if your going to be late to a station you might aswell just cancel booking without getting a penatly. Teams that cancelled a station made it unfair on teams

that had requested a booking earlier and had to settle for a later time. Then another team jumps in and takes the cancelled booking, thus making it unfair on earlier team that's already booked in and waiting their turn.

3/14/2017 3:06 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

I thought the stations were good, a good test and provided useful feedback for further development.

3/14/2017 2:56 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Have a covered meeting area that was not exposed to the elements - some of the stations had this which was great, while others did not and this made a huge difference as to how cold people got at each station, particularly if they were having to wait around.

3/14/2017 2:30 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

N/A Comms I didn't see any stations

3/14/2017 2:27 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Give time penalties for arriving late or running over time at stations to avoid bottle necking

3/14/2017 2:23 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

A short briefing on rules. Longer than what was done but not too long as they are written.

3/14/2017 2:11 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

The only major breakdown for the weekend was the booking-in procedure. With the distance between each station, choosing the right one each time was key but if you were given a 4 hour wait for a station that you were 30 minutes from, obviously you will move on to another station which means either missing that first station or having to back-track to it. While the navigation exercise gave a good way to fill the time in between stations, there was a fair bit of angst around trying to find an available station. The time delay between requesting a booking and having it confirmed was also too long as it meant a 5-10 minute delay standing around in the cold waiting to find out what direction of travel was correct. My solution to this would be to have the booking-in procedure managed by the radio operators rather than sending through to the IMT. If there had been a whiteboard in the radio operators area that they could immediately advise availability & book an activity on, that could have sped the process up immensely.

3/14/2017 2:03 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

All SAREX stations were pretty good.

3/14/2017 1:52 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

I thought the stations were all pretty good.

3/14/2017 1:29 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

First Aid. Just basic first aid as we are not trained doctors or nurses.

3/14/2017 1:06 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Ensure a stronger time keeping protocol on the compulsory stations.

3/14/2017 12:52 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

better weather please

3/14/2017 12:43 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Question 6 Showing 33 responses

Training activity in the morning that will be required in the search to follow. Teams start search for patient around mid day. minimal stretcher carry

3/30/2017 11:36 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Booking system needs work

3/24/2017 3:24 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Our team (Oxford) couldn't find a couple of the Nav way points even after a couple of attempts so maybe a double check of the way point positions after they have been placed.

3/19/2017 8:58 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Keep the standard competency stations, but also mix it up with a couple of random and interesting ones, such as a stretcher carry through an obstacle course, a race to prepare the fastest de-hy meal, or even locating an actual 'missing' subject. It would also be good to get going a bit earlier on the Saturday, since the day was almost half gone once we commenced.

3/18/2017 10:02 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

No looks good to me

3/18/2017 7:14 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Nothing, I enjoyed it

3/18/2017 4:09 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

See above. I enjoyed finding the navigation points.

3/16/2017 9:41 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Separate into competitive teams and learning teams

3/16/2017 9:28 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

I'm sure others will mention, but booking system was very frustrating to deal with, especially for the first few hours after the gear check (until about 4 pm or so). I know a lot of teams were just looking for something to do and weren't particularly fussed about what station they went to first, but it was impossible to determine station availability over radio. We were repeatedly told "you must cancel your current booking, only one booking at a time" when we were merely enquiring about availability. One solution would be to have the stations grouped closer together (<1 km or so) so that teams could quickly

move to one that was free. It should also be possible to turn up at a station and complete it if there is nobody there even if you already have a booking elsewhere. Another solution (used in WLG SAREX 2014?) would be to have additional optional nav points in one or two loops of different lengths starting/finishing near the stations, so in addition to the nearby compulsory nav points teams can go on a dedicated 2-4 tramps to pick up some other optional points. Doesn't have to be a perfect loop, just some arrangement of nav points so that you can pick up a few and come back to where you started without too much back tracking. This was a good way to fill time between station bookings.

3/15/2017 9:29 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Booking system for stations to be looked at. Either remove it or make it quicker so responses can be within minutes

3/15/2017 1:13 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

change the layout so that they are not in a circle which means everyone follows each other and trying to get the same station and having to wait

3/14/2017 11:09 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Assessors should be aware of skill levels of participants in order to mark fairly. Or training across groups needs to be brought into line with others.

3/14/2017 2:18 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

What about a traditional SAREX but two run simultaneously. 2x IMT, 2 sets of field teams.

3/14/2017 1:22 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

I like the idea of changing it up from year to year and going over cold cases is good for new members that have not been on a real search to see how it may be run.

3/14/2017 12:21 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

dry weather

3/14/2017 11:51 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

I like the rotation of Rogaining and traditional

3/14/2017 11:49 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

a more laid back feel. We don't catch up with other teams and groups other than at searches nice to network and catch up. One main camp site for every one including IMT and support staff with less time restraints getting in at midnight and out at 6am etc not a lot of time to relax and enjoy like minded volunteers

3/14/2017 11:05 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Rogaine style is fantastic as you can learn and practice a wider range of skills than at a traditional style event.

3/14/2017 9:53 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

It was a good event with plenty of learning to be had from all involved

3/14/2017 9:10 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Prolog like a fitness test should be nice to give a kind of order to the teams to book the stations

3/14/2017 8:05 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

The booking system needs some work for next time. There was a lot of issues with teams booking stations and not hearing back as well as their requested time being given to another team. It was worse at the start and got better throughout the event as things mellowed out, but there were still complications with times etc. Some clarification at the start could have helped, explaining that we needed to give an ETA for a station as opposed to requesting a booking time. Some stations could take more than one team at a time which we were not aware of until we were told so at the station.

3/14/2017 5:35 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

booking stations directly with station crew

3/14/2017 5:30 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Most people, I think, will criticise the booking system and the requirement to give ETAs. The main issue I think was misunderstandings with radio comms as to what people actually wanted to know and do. Consequently, better radio comms training might be useful - perhaps even the implementation of a radio operators course - which will probably be an extremely unpopular idea as most people will say they know how to operate a radio.

3/14/2017 2:56 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

I enjoyed the Rogaine style much more than I had thought, however I think this needs to be balanced with traditional SAREX, and the opportunities to work on cold cases etc. It would be great to have combined Police and SAR teams, so everyone gets the opportunity to learn from each other.

3/14/2017 2:30 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Ensure that checking the availability of stations is simple. Lots of radio chatter was dedicated to groups just trying to find a time slot within the available options.

3/14/2017 2:23 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Have some items set up through the course (like a dummy in a tree, a car parked somewhere hidden, a campsite out of the way, etc). The sort of things you may have to look for during a real search, then ask the members to list what they saw. This would run through out the event.

3/14/2017 2:11 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

There was some talk between competitors about having the graded activity stations within a 1 hour proximity of each other to make the booking-in procedure easier, then having far-flung navigation points.

This would allow teams to make the decision to either stay put & grab every training before navigation, or to hit out on the navigation points etc which could ease the congestion found this weekend.

3/14/2017 2:03 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

My two small pieces of feedback to consider to hopefully make the event run smoother - we would have like to see the out of bounds areas fully clarified at the initial briefing i.e. specifically point out that there is only one entry and exit to the IMT. The only other point was there seemed to be a bit of confusion when people cancelled stations etc or changed times. To stop this happening I think a small penalty should occur if people change a booking at a station and that way the teams that are well organised get rewarded.

3/14/2017 1:52 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

A list of the amount of points for each station and nav point for better decision making would have been useful.

3/14/2017 1:45 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

It is partly a learning exercise so if people are doing things wrong e.g. radio/comms terminology then correct them at the time so they learn and so do other teams. Also means your not allowing someone to reinforce incorrect practice for 24 hours.

3/14/2017 1:29 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

The booking system for the stations needs to be reconsidered. While the IMT need to be tested and practiced in using SARtrack, it doesn't seem that SARtrack is designed for the volume of radio traffic going through. Perhaps bookings could be managed by AREC (with an IMT member providing oversight) and SARtrack used only for team updates and non-booking related requests.

3/14/2017 1:02 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Send out a party to look for in the traditional format for next year 2018. Quite happy to go and get lost for you as a member from a North Island group (Tauranga). Regards Charlie.

3/14/2017 12:52 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

change the stations a little from previous years ones

3/14/2017 12:43 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Question 11 Showing 35 responses

Appreciate the amount of work involved in setting up.

3/30/2017 11:36 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Coffee facilities & a heater in the woolshed would've been good.

3/20/2017 8:11 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

No, great effort by the police and everyone involved with organising the event.

3/19/2017 8:58 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Rogain was good to way to run through key competences but as the harries cup is a similar platform, a rogain every 3years would be better for me.

3/19/2017 2:00 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

The terrain next time might be better if it is more varied and requires more adaptability, though this isn't always practical. It would be very convenient if there are two team channels instead of one - that way there can be a general comms channel plus a station bookings channel - the radio traffic was so dense it was often difficult to get a word in with 12 teams using it. The rogaine style offers a far steeper learning curve than a traditional search style, though the two styles are good to use. If I was planning next year's, I'd still prefer another rogaine, since it really drives participants to put in a solid effort with lots to think about and lots of small tasks. The cold-case style SAREX prepares people more for a genuine SAROP, but does not tend to engage people to the same degree.

3/18/2017 10:02 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

None

3/18/2017 4:09 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Better weather?!?

3/16/2017 9:41 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

My answers are from the perspective of the IMT

3/16/2017 9:28 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Whether was very authentic. Well done. Overall organisation was great, I'm sure everybody had a good time and learned a lot. Terrain was pretty flat, and not very challenging navigationally, but if the focus is on the core skills then that doesn't really matter. Overall I had a great time. Thanks heaps.

3/15/2017 9:29 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

The radio operators need to know in advance to field teams calling up what stations are available rather than the teams in the field having to wait up to 20 min to find out if a station is available as these teams are constantly on the move.

3/15/2017 9:11 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

i don't see why we need to do over 40km walking don't think i have ever done close to that on a search

3/14/2017 11:09 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

All rules need to be clearly kept to. Some teams were booking stations before they had completed the current booking. Also radio etiquette should be looked at more closely from the top down.

3/14/2017 2:18 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Better monitoring of bookings would help prevent frustration by field teams.

3/14/2017 1:22 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

I think another way to do it is have IMT book teams in and run it like a search. Teams get sent to start points and the IMT have to work out the best way to have teams attack the course. this way Nav can be built into the course. you would need to have clear rules for IMT and how they book teams in. Eg, Teams can not walk more than 8km in a 5 hour stint. teams can only be moved by ute one time in a 12 hour block. use the start points as the fitness test make it have value not just a walk for the sake of it. Happy to talk more about the concept. Also been part of a mixed team and one of them been police staff was really good it breaks down the them and us walls. Also been able to take my Search dog was great as I learnt alot, it was good for me and my dog and good for other teams to see him out and about. again happy to talk more on the befits we got from this.

3/14/2017 12:21 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

problems around booking stations

3/14/2017 11:51 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

A hot drink at the end of the exercise would have been gratefully received. It was nice to have a policeman in our team. A valuable opportunity to share ideas and break down barriers.

3/14/2017 11:49 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

some of the facilities for stations could have bin better set up for comfort of all better shelter rain sun. The first aid station especially as you could drive to it could have done with better shelter and tarps for ground etc maybe hot water at stations for ration packs to save unpacking and packing cookers as time was short to get round all stations and nav points. congrats on a well run event but with harris trophy being along the same lines i feel a more laid back social event would be good

3/14/2017 11:05 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Il loved it, our team did very well I think in part through having a background in traditional map and compass rogain. I observed teams struggling as they were relying solely on their gps. some training and advice to first plot coordinates on the map, then choose a route, then follow the gps would have helped. Also there was a lot of traffic on the radio channel, a seperate Chanel to request a booking would help. The confirmation could come back through the standard channel though to save having participants needing to monitor both channels though. It was a great location with a range of terrain and a mix of track and of track navigation. I loved the range of navigation questions to complete in the field, that was really cleverly put together. The red zone area around the farm was a little hard to follow and it appeared that the teams who did cut through weren't penalized. Perhaps having tape up to make it clear would be useful if cutting though is going to make the farmer cross. It was fantastic and in hindsight I even enjoyed the slog yo the mountain which was a clever start to the event. Congratulations.

3/14/2017 9:53 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Some kind of participation gifts caps or hats or gloves will be nice

3/14/2017 8:05 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Other than the booking system, it was extremely well organised and executed. Despite the weather my team still had a great time and enjoyed the whole weekend. Thanks to all involved in making It happen.

3/14/2017 5:35 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Decent food after the exercise. Something which provides proteins and nutrition rather than 'old sausages'. Navigation exercise: only coordinates of the points should be provided (no name). To score each point teams would call the base providing its name.

3/14/2017 5:30 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

I think alternating between a rogain type event and a traditional SAREX is a good idea. There is less pressure for teams and more team building in a relaxed environment without a rogain type competition. Cold cases are a good idea as people feel useful and feel like they might find something of actual importance.

3/14/2017 3:06 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

In terms of the Rogain, I think the organisation and the event worked well and was good. However, the event demonstrated very clearly one of the underlying problems with SAR. The professional side of SAR is good. The organisation is well run and the training provided is good. The volunteer side is less impressive and is full of the sort of problems you can expect from amateur organisations. This is the fourth SAREX (second district SAREX) I have been on, and being rogain style the demands placed on members and particular team leaders is higher and highlights these problems. Search and Rescue volunteers are individualists that are competent and self reliant. However, this individualism means that they have little idea how to lead or what leadership is. During SAREXs there has rarely been much mentorship to help develop new skills, little attention is paid to members' physical strength and fitness, even standard hiking or army procedures like a 10 minute break every hour are ignored, meaning that people do not have time to check on injuries, ensure hydration and food - this increases the dangers of injury or deterioration of previous wounds/injuries. Team leaders often do not pay attention to pacing, seem to be unaware of the rate of movement of the team, or take into account the changing nature of terrain and the implications that has for speed and potential injuries, therefore they have unrealistic ideas as to what the team can achieve. This has a deleterious effect on planning and means that strategy employed is either wrong or absent. Given that in the areas where members attend training, they have good skills, a course for team leadership should be introduced because as it is team members are needlessly getting hurt and injured due to bad leadership decisions - this will have an

effect on morale and the willingness of volunteers to participate in training and consequently affects SAR's operational effectiveness. A leadership course should include the following topics: Role of the leader, looking after the team, mentorship, strategy and planning, leading in the field, pacing, decision making, evaluating team capability, goal setting, navigation, map reading and route planning. Poor leadership at a team level has a significant influence on health and safety of team members. Please discuss these issues with the appropriate people within the Police and Land SAR. I believe that this is essential to ensure that LandSAR operates effectively and maintains its active volunteer members.

3/14/2017 2:56 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

The SAREX was fantastic and far exceeded my expectations. We had an injured team member and arranging a pickup was easy and well managed with the Police (thanks again!). One option to consider for a similar event would be two radio channels; either split the teams or have one for comms and one for bookings, as there seemed to be a bit of confusion particularly around the bookings.

3/14/2017 2:30 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Overall a good training exercise. A comms debrief for the teams may be useful as I suspect some teams were operating their radios in an inefficient way i.e inside jackets, holding the radio horizontal and not being aware of obstacles in their signal path (trees, large rocks, metal shelters, etc) This may be able to be addressed at their local training nights

3/14/2017 2:27 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Having the fitness test at the start was a good idea and helped to spread the groups out

3/14/2017 2:23 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

I enjoy a Rogain style as it allows all teams to do every exercise. With a traditional SAREX, you spend the entire weekend just walking and looking at your feet. However, a traditional SAREX is also good as it allows new members to see what a real search is like.

3/14/2017 2:11 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

I like the Rogain for the competitive nature it brings but I do think that it should be rotated with more traditional SAR EX's. While the Rogain does touch on each part of the necessary trainings & methodologies of SAR, a traditional SAR EX allows everyone (especially Probationary members) the chance to see how an actual operation would take place which is also a very valuable training tool. This of course means that my vote goes to a rotational SAR EX setup.

3/14/2017 2:03 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Really enjoyed this event. Participated in Arthurs Pass and great to see the feedback was taken on board this year, I particularly feel that the start was a lot smoother this year than at arthurs pass. Thanks to everyone on the organising team they did a great job at running the stations etc. Cheers

3/14/2017 1:52 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Great, challenging weekend thanks, learnt heaps. Hot food at the end was a great incentive to keep pushing!

3/14/2017 1:45 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Some hot tea/coffee back at base at the very end would have been appreciated (sure i could have got my cooker back out - but easier if its all there and not hard to do?).

3/14/2017 1:29 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Appears to be very complex to run and vulnerable to a really big cockup and annoying a lot of people, although it didn't happen this time. Having said that, the complexity was a good workout for the real thing and so on balance I would say fine tune but don't radically alter the concept. Well done.

3/14/2017 1:22 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Good exercise

3/14/2017 1:06 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Maybe just keep the camp site processing to just that. This year it had an element of tracking in it. It put the teams under pressure to carry out two elements to it where it would of been better to just focus on processing the campsite. Regards Charlie

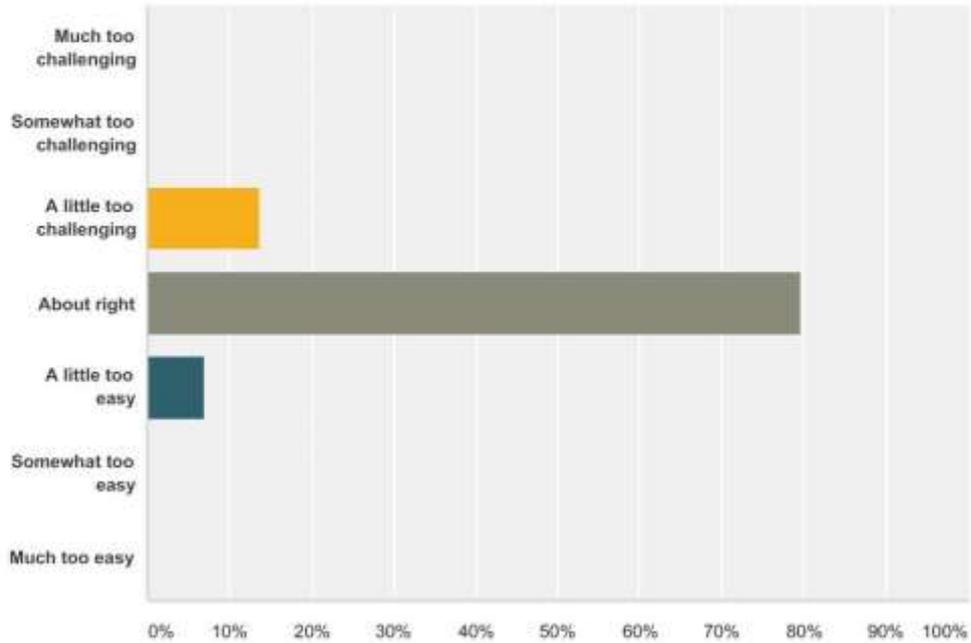
3/14/2017 12:52 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

very happy with the concept of the SAR ex

3/14/2017 12:43 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

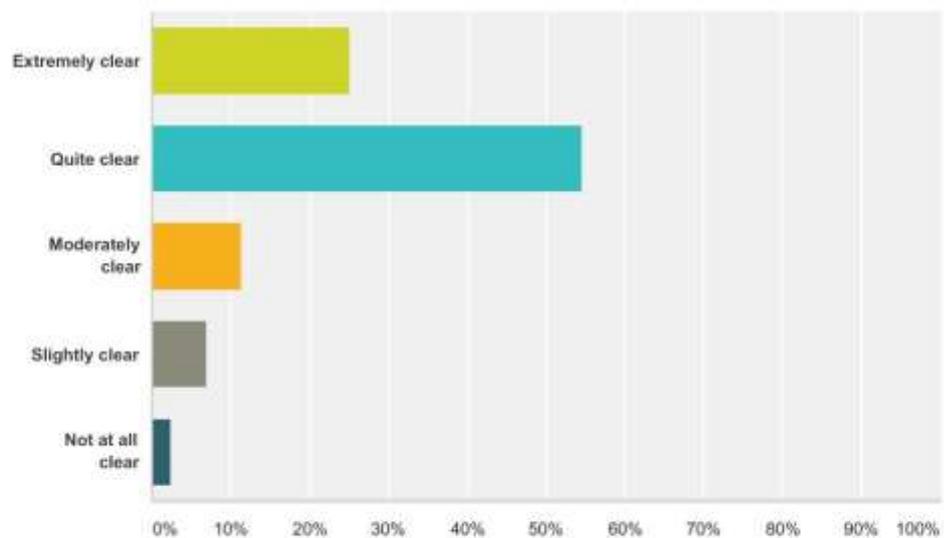
Q1 Was the SAR EX course too challenging, too easy, or about right?

Answered: 44 Skipped: 0



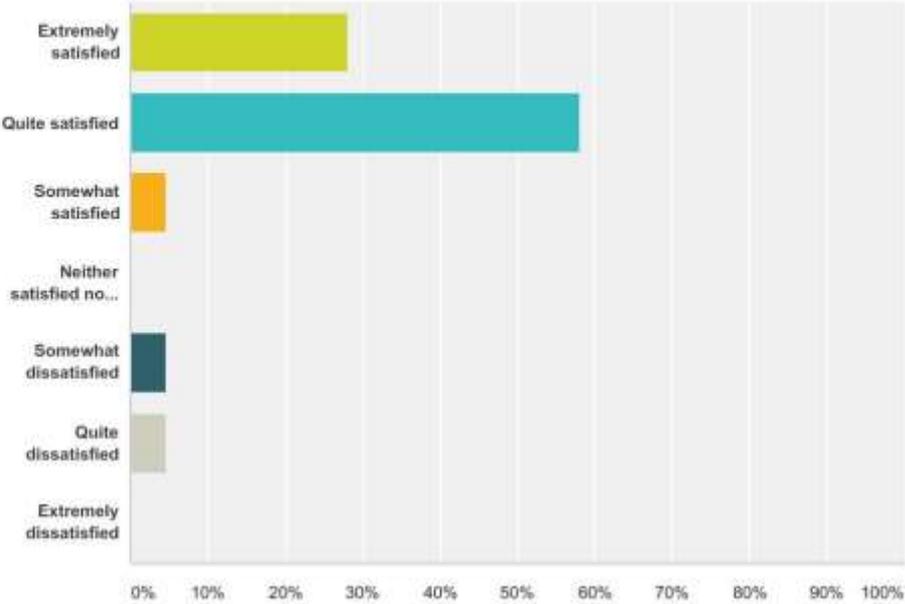
Q2 How clear were the objectives of the SAR EX?

Answered: 44 Skipped: 0



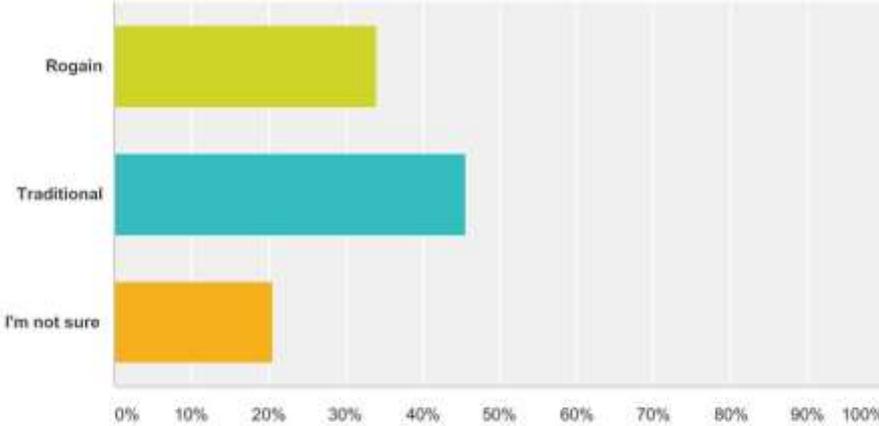
Q4 Overall, were you satisfied with this event, dissatisfied with this event, or neither satisfied nor dissatisfied?

Answered: 43 Skipped: 1



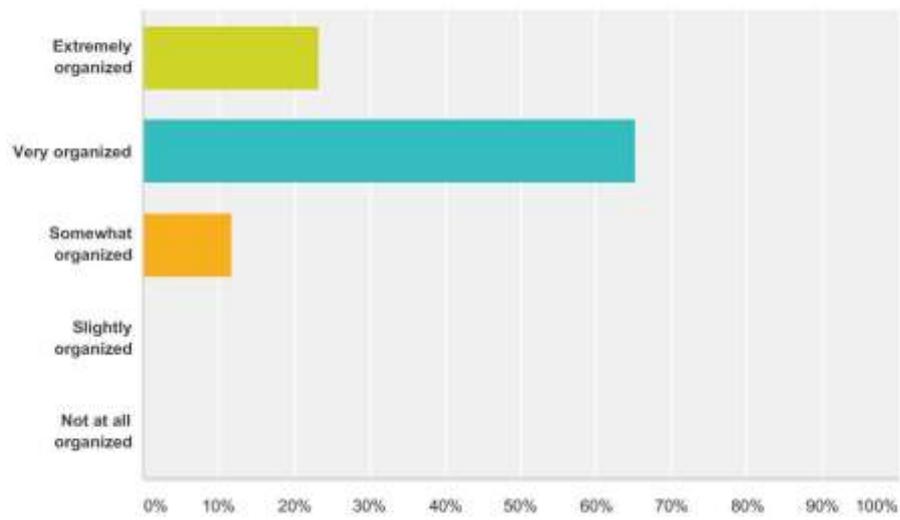
Q5 For next year would you like to see another Rogain style SAR Ex, or a traditional style SAR Ex

Answered: 44 Skipped: 0



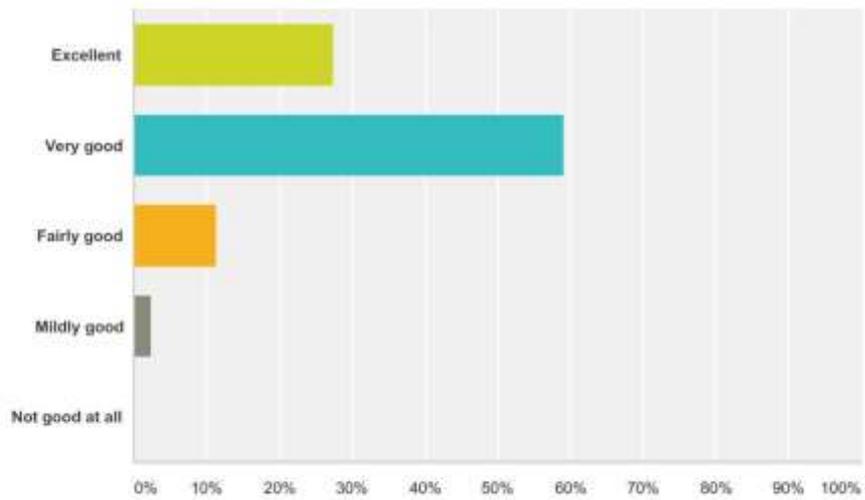
Q7 How organized was the SAR EX event?

Answered: 43 Skipped: 1



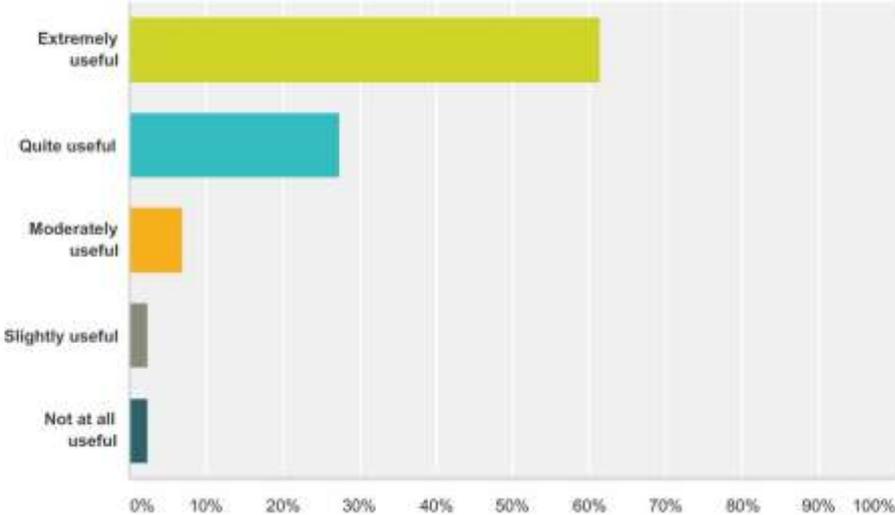
Q8 Overall, how would you rate the Rogain SAR EX?

Answered: 44 Skipped: 0



Q10 How useful for SAR EX training do you think is this style of event?

Answered: 44 Skipped: 0



Appendix D - Results

Oxford	Hakatere 10	828
Christchurch	Hakatere 2	809
Christchurch	Hakatere 5	799
Hanmer	Hakatere 13	665
Timaru Police	Hakatere 7	659
Christchurch	Hakatere 8	654
Christchurch Police	Hakatere 1	650
Rakaia	Hakatere 6	644
Ellesmere	Hakatere 3	630
Methven	Hakatere 9	621
Hurunui	Hakatere 12	577
Christchurch	Hakatere 4	565
Timaru	Hakatere 11	456