

from choke holds and how to disarm an opponent.

At the end of the physical fitness course, the cadet runs the obstacle course for the last time and takes his outgoing test.

As mentioned earlier, one further test—survival—must be passed before the student completes his pre-flight phase.

The survival course, given to officers and cadets, has a three-phase program which includes classroom instruction, field exercise and a three-day field trip to Eglin Reservation in which the students are required literally to live off the country.

The classroom phase, through lectures, demonstrations, first aid and visual aids, teaches the different kinds of survival and the problems involved.

Basic considerations for general health and welfare are keeping yourself, camp and equipment clean, purifying water; avoiding poisonous plants, insects and snakes, and the preservation of food.

It is the objective of the class to demonstrate the methods of improvising survival equipment by the use of natural materials, the parachute, and salvaged parts from the downed aircraft.

The students learn that one of the most useful pieces of equipment is the parachute. An overturned, inflated liferaft can be propped up and used as a lean-to. Or it can be used as a mattress if an overhead shelter is already available.

In addition to the classroom instruction, field exercises in the local woods are regularly carried out. Here, the student demonstrates his ability to build fires for warmth, cooking and signalling, constructs shelters, finds natural food and practices land navigation.

The class learns that there are five basic requirements that the survivor

must fulfill before attempting to travel. These are: You must know where you are; you must have a means of setting and maintaining a course; must have physical stamina; must have suitable clothing and equipment; must have a source of food, fuel and shelter.

In addition to the various classroom and field exercises, the students are instructed on survival and travel in enemy territory, which they also practice during the three-day trip.

The field trip is the first step in the student's career toward formal survival training. It is a proving ground in which he can demonstrate and practice survival techniques.

A low, wooden structure with a sign on the front reading "U. S. Naval School, Pre-Flight Survival Unit" is the starting point of the trip. Here, the students are given their briefing before they begin their long, tough trek through the woods and swamps. They are given a description of the exercise, equipment to be used, and the basic ground rules.

Equipment issued each survivor includes a topographical map of the area, a machete kit, a sheath knife, an entrenching tool, emergency rations to last three days, and a sail needle. Three parachutes and one first aid kit is issued per nine students.

Divided into groups of nine men and an instructor, the students pull out for the first night's camp. Along the way they practice land navigation, basic survival, food procurement and first aid problems.

For safety purposes, the instructor carries with him a portable phone on which he makes hourly reports of the group's progress to the officer-in-charge of the trip.

At the first night's camp, traps and snares are set out to provide for the evening meal, fires are built and sleeping quarters are organized.

One of the strict rules of survival is to keep yourself clean, and to keep your equipment clean. In line with this, the students bathe and shave every night. The instructor inspects the camp, gives a critique of the day's work and briefs the students for the next day.

The second day the student practices cross-country travel by working out a triangular course that encompasses five miles. He travels this course by the use of a compass only.

The third day the instructor monitors a 15-mile hike while the students practice route finding, trail discipline and survival and evasion techniques. In the afternoon the elements divide into three, three-man groups on the return trip and rendezvous at the pick-up point and critique the hike before returning to camp to check in their gear.

Back at the main camp, where they started out three days earlier, the students are given a final critique before boarding the bus back to Pensacola and civilization.

They sleep well on the return trip.

—LT Robert R. Zastrow, USN



WOODSMEN—Cadets learn to survive in wilds. Left: Packs are secured for hike. Rt: Finding the way. Above: Critique.

