

EXPEDITION TRAINING AND SUPERVISION



OVER the last few years, schemes have been drawn up and implemented in relation to camps and holidays, and canvas camps.

Throughout this period, it has been stressed that the schemes referred only to 'static' type events, and separate arrangements would be introduced later for 'expedition' or 'mobile' activities.

As an Operating Authority of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, we are required to ensure the highest possible standard of instruction and assessment of those undertaking DEA expeditions, and the whole pattern of 'expeditions' naturally points to the need for minimum standards of safety and welfare.

A small working party has been considering this matter for some time, and their preliminary recommendations were circulated to every Company for comment. There was a very good response to this consultation process, and replies received indicated a warm approval of the proposals. Various minor suggestions were made, and these have been taken into account in producing the final details of the new scheme.

The following outline indicates what is involved, and these proposals were approved by the Brigade Executive on 3rd March 1990.

New Regulation

As from 1st September 1991 (to allow adequate time for training and assessment before it comes into force) there will be a new Regulation -- 'An Expedition and Outdoor Leadership Certificate at the appropriate level must be held by a leader supervising Expeditions or Explorations.'



The new Certificate

There will be two distinct levels:

- (a) **Standard** For those leaders training and supervising Expeditions within the Brigade's Award Scheme (i.e., up to the Queen's Badge, or DEA Silver Award standards);
- (b) **Advanced** For those leaders training and supervising Expeditions to DEA Gold Award standards (i.e., in wild country).

Structure

There will be eight training 'modules' in the training for the new Certificate



-- Equipment, Lightweight camping and backpacking, Navigation, First Aid, emergencies and safety, Expedition planning and management, Access and the environment, Instructional techniques, and a Practical assessment at standard and advanced levels.

Obtaining the Certificate

When all the necessary training has been completed, and the practical assessment has been carried out, details of certificates gained, and training undertaken, etc., should be sent to the Brigade's Training Secretariat, and if appropriate a Brigade Certificate will be issued.

Expeditions other than on foot

To supervise expeditions other than on foot (e.g., by canoe, yacht, cycle or horseback), leaders should hold a certificate of competence issued by an appropriate association or club, in addition to the Brigade's Expedition and Outdoor Leadership Certificate.

Implementation of the scheme

As already indicated, the new regulation will not come into operation until September 1991, and this should give sufficient time for

those concerned to work for and gain the necessary qualification in the next 15 months and more.

Detailed training notes will be available from this May, and copies, and indeed information about any other aspect of the scheme, may be obtained from the National Training Secretaries in England & Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

Training

The necessary training can be carried out in a variety of ways, and may reflect the leader's experiences gained in other ways, either within or outside the BB. For example, those who have successfully completed a Duke of Edinburgh's Award Gold Expedition will be considered to have completed the first four modules, and those holding qualifications gained outside the BB such as the Basic Expedition Training Award (BETA), YHA Hillwalking Leader's Summer Certificate, the John Burke Scholarship at Glenmore Lodge, and the Mountain Leadership Training Certificate will be automatically eligible for the BB qualification.

For others, training will follow the method whereby each individual will record all the training and experience gained in the subject, and the final assessment (module eight) will be carried out in a practical manner, at national level, by assessors appointed by the National Activities and Training Committees.

As far as the actual training in the first seven modules is concerned, this may be done at a course run by the Brigade at Company, Battalion, District or National level; or at a course run by another organisation or training agency, e.g., Community Education, YHA; or by an individual through distance learning and personal study.

Successful completion of all modules will be necessary before the Certificate is presented.