



FCR | 2017

FIELD CRAFT RECRUIT

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FIELDCRAFT (FCR)

8* Classroom Periods + Field Exercise (Optional)

INTRODUCTION – FIELDCRAFT RECRUIT

Fieldcraft is instructed as part of Recruit Stage in order to familiarise recruits with one of the most complex activities they will be asked to undertake in their first year at Squadron level. This familiarisation, and the general principles and skills taught in FCR (equipment lists, safety requirements, expectations of own conduct and responsibilities), are broadly transferable to other AAFC activities and camps with modification (such as packing for a recruit weekend or GST). Fieldcraft also provides a direct and highly effective mechanism to develop leadership, followership and teamwork skills, as well as self-reliance and resilience. These skills are critical building blocks for all cadets, and should be developed from the earliest stage of training.

Sequencing of FC in Recruit Stage further aims to ensure that cadets have an early understanding of the field experience so that they can participate in Squadron level field exercises (bivouacs) at the first opportunity that may become available. Early instruction also allows them to arrange the purchase/acquisition of individual equipment needed for a field exercise – such as sleeping-bags appropriate to expected weather conditions, wet-weather and cold-weather clothing (if not universally provided by the Squadron). This can be done at the earliest opportunity when items may be on sale and/or to maximise time to explore whether items can be acquired second-hand, or on loan from family/friends without the time-pressures of an impending field exercise a week or two away (when a formal JI and equipment list would ordinarily be issued)

INTENT:

Instructors are to *aim* to leave each cadet:

- **confident** with their ability to prepare for a bivouac, assemble their own personal equipment, and erect and live in an individual shelter; and
- **understand** safety and compliance requirements, their individual responsibilities surrounding their own welfare, and the welfare of those around them.

FCR aims to build excitement for future AAFC fieldcraft training in Basic Stage, and reduce anxiety toward what may be a first-time or otherwise anxiety-inducing experience for many cadets.

METHOD:

FCR is best taught using practical activity-based training wherever possible. While PowerPoint slides provide a good basis for take-home notes and to visually stimulate cadets for key theory learning points, tactile learning through hands-on application ensures that cadets have the capacity to undertake skills individually. It further provides the capacity to undertake concurrent 'Competent/Not-Yet-Competent' assessments for practical skills.

Tailoring of instructional methods to an individual cadet's needs may be necessary to ensure the practical outcomes above are achieved with every cadet. Care should be taken to ensure that cadets with less confidence are not missed in larger-group activities or assessments as this may create a safety or welfare liability in the field.

Note – it is expected that many skills taught in FCR (within the minimum times outlines in the period allocation) will require consolidation and revision prior to cadets undertaking a field exercise. This should be factored into pre-field exercise timelines.

AAFC Fieldcraft Training is intended to be conducted as military-like training in an age-appropriate context. The source material, and context in which FC is instructed, is drawn from the ADF (and in particular RAAF) experience and materials.

Instructor Note: It is mandatory to conduct FCR2, FCR3 and FCR4 prior to the commencement of any practical fieldcraft exercise. These areas must be assessed practically where appropriate.

Words in **Blue** are expanded upon in the **Blue Note Boxes**

FCR 1 The Field Exercise Experience

AL: N/A Period(s): 1

- a. **Outline** what a recruit should expect to experience on their first bivouac including:
 1. Areas of Training / Skills Learned in FCR/FCB
 2. Training Serials / Activities
 3. Length and location/s
- b. **DISCUSSION:** Instructor/s are to describe why the AAFC does field training, their own past field exercise experiences, and current / recent field training conducted at Squadron and Wing/Regional level.
- c. Outline future field training experiences available in FCB/P, and SVP/A.

NOTE: This period is about discussing what we do in fieldcraft, what the cadets should expect from their first bivouac, and where fieldcraft training develops over Basic, Prof and Advanced Stage.

This period provides an opportunity for free-flowing discussion and questions, and for the cadet instructor to share their own experience and enthusiasm for field training.

FCR 2 How to Prepare – What’s Needed and What Works

AL:B Period(s): 2

- a. Describe:
 1. The necessity for correct Field Clothing and footwear.
 2. The requirements for safety equipment.
- b. Demonstrate the assembly of different types of military webbing and field-packs, and civilian equivalents (hiking packs and hydration packs) and their uses.
- c. Demonstrate how to correctly pack a military fieldpack or civilian hiking pack for carriage on a **mobile bivouac**. This is to include how to safely distribute weight and load, correct fitting of straps and waist belts, and techniques for packing to ensure waterproofing and rapid access to critical equipment (wet-weather gear, torch etc).

NOTE: A mobile bivouac (that is one where packs are carried during the day from site to site) is selected here as it provides challenges for distribution of load for carriage that do not occur for a bivouac where a bag is dropped off to the cadet at their campsite. If a cadet can master these concepts for a mobile bivouac, these skills can also be applied for a simpler

- d. **ACTIVITY:** Break-down and discuss a typical equipment list and Joining Instruction for a cadet bivouac. Include the requirements, risks and safety expectations around:

1. food – self-catered and ration packs
2. cooking utensils/ accessories
3. accommodation – hutchies and tents
4. sleeping gear – bags and mats
5. clothing – wet weather, cold/hot weather
6. knives & matches/lighters
7. prohibited items

FCR 3 Safety in the Field **AL:** **Period(s): 1**

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|---|----------|
| a. State the AAFC Environmental Management requirements and country code of conduct | B |
| b. Describe the procedure to be adopted if lost, injured or in danger. | A |
| c. State the importance of following instructions in the field. | A |
| d. Outline Fire precautions. | B |
| e. Describe the “buddy system” to be utilized within the AAFC. | A |
| f. Explain the importance of the “buddy system” with regard to welfare of cadets. | B |

FCR 4 Field Hygiene & Food Safety **AL: B** **Period(s): 1**

- a. State the definition of personal hygiene.
- b. Outline the requirements of personal and communal hygiene involving food and water.
- c. Explain the application of the principles of personal and communal hygiene.
- d. Outline potential risks for food allergies, food storage and contamination on field exercises, including risks from sharing rations and non-refrigerated food storage / temperatures.

FCR 5 Camp Accommodation

AL: 2 Period(s): 1+

- a. Demonstrate the erection and dismantling of the Australian Defence Force Shelter - Individual ('hutchie') including both one-person and two-person variants;
- b. Demonstrate the erection and dismantling of individual or two-person tents issued at Squadron level (where available).

This topic is to be taught with a practical demonstration by the instructor (out of the classroom) at home SQN. This topic is normally to be assessed with each cadet assembling either a tent or a hutchie individually, or in pairs, while under direct observation at the SQN prior to cadets undertaking a bivouac or field exercise (See Note).

NOTE: The learning objective here is to ensure cadets can erect the shelter they will be using on their first bivouac with confidence (as this task will often occur under torch light at night).

Both forms of shelter are to be taught by the end of a cadet's first field exercise (and can be done in extra time that may be available on a recruit training weekend).

While individual tents are now more commonly available for issue to cadets, the principles of correct hutchie erection – surface tension, simple knots and lashings, ground selection, drainage etc are transferrable to tents and as well as survival shelters in later training.

FCR 6 Practical Assessment and Examination

Period(s): 1+

A theory examination is to be conducted prior to to Recruit stage cadets entering the field, to ensure competence and knowledge in areas crucial to safety.

*A practical assessment is conducted for all practical skills on a **C/NYC** following the FCR Practical Skills Checklist.*

FCR Ex FIELD EXERCISE (RECOMMENDED)

A field exercise may be conducted (but is not mandatory) to provide cadets with the opportunity of being fully involved with SQN activities and to assess practical components of FCR.

Instructors are reminded that cadets at this stage have had no formal training in other Field related areas. It is recommended that training on a cadet's first field exercise be commenced with consolidation of FCR learning outcomes, and introduction to concepts from the some of the following areas of FCB2 & FCB3.

For example, this could incorporate experiential training and/or observation of senior sections to achieve awareness / familiarisation as a lead-into assessable training in Basic Stage.

- 1. The application of camouflage on personnel and equipment for common conditions.*
- 2. The method of concealment of personnel and equipment.*
- 3. Movement by day and by night.*
- 4. Basic field signals.*
- 5. Section and flight formations.*
- 6. The reason for things being seen*