

## SECTION I: COMPILING AN EXPEDITION LOG

### 1 Introduction

When undertaking an expedition, it is useful for you to compile an Expedition Log. A log is a record of the expedition.

#### **This section will:**

- a) Explain the function of an Expedition Log
- b) Show what and when information should be collected for the Log
- c) How to compile the Log

### 2 Function of an Expedition Log

The Expedition Log provides a comprehensive record of the expedition that had been undertaken, including routes taken, distances travelled and incidents and situations encountered. This is useful for reflection and learning from experiences. It is also a reference for future expeditions where the same area is used. The Log would highlight possible hazards and danger areas, as well as note down things that no longer correspond to the map, for example, landmarks or structures that may have been demolished or newly erected.



### 3 What and When Information should be collected

To be useful, the log should contain:

- a) Moving from Magnetic Grid Reference - 345676
- b) Going towards Magnetic Grid Reference
- c) Bearing -  $47^\circ$
- d) Brief description of the location - "T-junction"
- e) A simple top-view diagram of the location
- f) Time - in 24-hour format, "1632 hrs"
- g) Prevailing Weather & lighting conditions - "Stormy"
- h) Miscellaneous information - "a pack of stray dogs chased us"

Put these in columns using a pen. If the expedition log is to be kept in a notebook, then use two full pages.

#### When do you make a Logbook Entry?

One rule-of-thumb is to make an entry at checkpoints. However, you may miss out on the "more exciting" events, like getting chased by a pack of dogs. You should try striking a balance between your checkpoints and events that do happen without warning.

More importantly, another set of information that should be included would be specific landmarks that you come across. Landmarks need to be recorded because they will be more "permanent" than events. By recording them, your log becomes a reference for other expeditions in future.



## 4. How to Compile a Logbook

Ideally, everyone should have a chance to make a record in the expedition log. One simple way is to rotate each time the team reaches a checkpoint. When the team is moving from one checkpoint to another, the log-keeper should take note of landmarks and events along the way.

Other members of the team can assist the log-keeper by prompting providing him with the details. Also, you can help him by being patient and carrying his equipment for him.

Keep the logbook protected from the elements by using a plastic bag that has a watertight seal to contain it. Also, logbooks tend to get lost, so keep them in a handy and accessible place.





A few days after the end of the expedition, the team needs to meet up. (You should be meeting anyway, because equipment needs to be maintained and cleaned) You will need to meet firm up details at each checkpoint together, in case the respective log-keepers forget. You may find it useful to refer to photographs you may have taken.



Once the information is confirmed, it should be entered into a new book neatly. Check through once more before handing up to your Officer for inspection.

Time	From	To	Distance	Direction	Remarks	Sketch
1 0700	411427	411454	5"	Down to 1 - Camp	Start of road to	<p>Map. 411453 - 1 - Camp</p>
2 0712	411429	411457	42"	Down to 1 - Camp	Start of road to	
3 0720	411457	411465	20"	Down to 1 - Camp	Start of road to	
4 0735	411465	411477	10"	Down to 1 - Camp	Start of road to	
5 0750	411467	411487	20"	To 1 - Camp	Start of road to	
6 0810	411468	411488	20"	To 1 - Camp	Start of road to	
7 0820	411468					