

LESSON FOUR PRACTICE EXERCISE

Read the following situation through then answer the questions at the end.

The Green 14

For a couple of weeks after SSG Rock's unit arrived in the Middle East it set up operations in the marshalling area. It was just a short distance from the seaport where the unit's equipment was expected to arrive. They stayed in tents in the marshalling area while the ship was unloaded and the unit gathered up its equipment. As soon as all of the equipment is unloaded from the ship, transported to the marshalling area, inspected and repaired (if necessary) the unit is to load up and conduct a tactical road march to its new field assembly area.

It is now early December and the prevailing winds are cold and from the north. AFEES has distributed mail order catalogs and a lot of the troops are placing orders to send gifts home for the holidays. The unit was working about 18-20 hours a day while in the marshalling area. Each battalion had a roving guard force as well as stationary guard posts. Every night the battalion had a SDO, SDNCO and duty driver as well as the Officer of the Guard, Sergeant of the Guard and guard force.

When SSG Rock's unit deployed it carried enough radios, batteries, antennae and field phones to establish communications within the battalion. They also had enough equipment to ensure communications with their higher headquarters which was about 6 kilometers away.

As luck would have it SSG Rock was the SDNCO the fourth night in the marshalling area. At 0512 the duty driver, PFC Hernandez, received a radio message from SGM Jackson, the Brigade Operations NCO (the Op Pop). The SDO was out checking the vehicle park and SSG Rock had run over to the mobile kitchen trailer to get some coffee. The radio conversation between SGM Jackson and PFC Hernandez follows. We have eliminated the encoding/decoding and authentication to speed the lesson up. The unit's secure comms equipment has not arrived yet.

"Whiskey 37, this is Raider 37, over."

"Raider 37, this is Whiskey 37 Delta, over."

"Whiskey 37 delta, this is Raider 37, prepare to copy Green 14, over."

"Raider 37, this is Whiskey 37 delta, prepared to copy, over."

"Whiskey 37 delta, this is Raider 37, Green 14 follows:

line a. Quebec 4 whiskey

line b. HF 2748 1785

line c. HY 3451 8987

line d. 150630Z Dec

line e. NLT 141430Z Dec

line f. additional information: The following schedule will begin effective immediately. It will continue through 2400, M plus 33. All critical facilities will be manned at a level of at least 80 percent during the period 0530 to 2030 on weekdays, except holidays. They are to be manned at a level of at least 50 percent from 0600 to 2000 on weekends and holidays. All other facilities will be manned at a level of at least 50 percent on weekdays, except holidays. The normal work schedule will be followed for noncritical facilities on weekends and holidays. The 25th and the 1st are holidays. I have declared the 26th a training holiday. The 2d is a normal duty day, however commanders may continue to authorize overnight passes to the USO center in Sahal Reawd. I want this delegated to the company level but I want the battalions to keep a formal pass roster and provide a copy to the Brigade S1 every day by 1700. Only verified Red Cross emergencies will be used as a basis for emergency leave back to CONUS during the holidays. Emergency leaves can only be approved by the battalion commander. Finally, we will be on a half-day schedule during this entire period. So long as manning is maintained at the levels I discussed with you earlier, personnel may work either half-days or one-day-on and one-day-off. I will leave that up to each supervisor. If you haven't any questions, get this out to your companies immediately.

End of Green 14, how copy over?"

"Raider 37, this is whiskey 37, good copy, over."

"Whiskey 37, this is raider 37, roger, out."

Answer the following questions.

1. The exchange of information has three important parts, what are they? _____,
_____, _____.

2. Which of the three parts caused the confusion in the Green 14? _____.

3. PFC Hernandez scribbled the message down as fast as he could on a scrap piece of paper. How does SSG Rock know that the message PFC Hernandez wrote down was exactly what SGM Jackson sent?

4. How do you ensure that important communications are received and understood by the intended receiver?

5. Do you think PFC Hernandez really wrote down every word? How can he be sure that he got the entire message correctly?

6. How can SGM Jackson be absolutely sure that the message was correctly received by the duty driver?

7. When SSG Rock got back from the kitchen trailer PFC Hernandez immediately showed him the message. SSG Rock was glad to see the duty driver take the initiative and copy down the message. There was only one problem, SSG Rock couldn't make out half of the words. But with PFC Hernandez's assistance SSG Rock copied the message neatly on to the DA Form 1594, the SDO Log. What should SSG Rock do next?

8. What would have been a better way for brigade to get this message out to the battalions?
