



HEADQUARTERS  
CIVIL AIR PATROL, TEXAS WING  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY  
P.O. BOX 154997

# General Operations Plan

## Standard General Operating Procedures for

### Texas Wing Ground Team Competition

**19-21 February 2010**

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Group V HQ. Hanger  
Stinson Municipal Airport (SSF)  
8500 Mission Road  
San Antonio, TX 78214

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Texas Wing Headquarters  
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Director of Emergency Services





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1. **General**

a. Type of Training

During the weekend of 19-21 February 2010, Texas Wing Operations will conduct a ground team competition called the Ground Team Challenge. This activity, authorized by Headquarters Texas Wing, is under control of Operations/ES Training, Texas Wing, and is hosted by Group V. The activity will be held at Group V HQ, Hanger, Stinson Municipal Airport, using facilities on or near the Airfield. This program will be based upon the U.S. Army "Best Ranger Competition."

1. The primary purpose of this activity, as approved by the Director of Operations, is to provide ground teams the opportunity to practice and compete with other teams using their ground search and rescue skills. This activity will also increase individual and team camaraderie.
2. The specific objectives for the ground team challenge are:
  - a. Provide cadet and seniors the opportunity to compete against other ground teams to see who are "The Best" in TXWG.
  - b. Provide cadets and seniors the opportunity to practice ground team skills in a life-like stress induced environment.
  - c. Increase camaraderie among ground teams.
  - d. Allow ground teams to see how other teams operate.
  - e. Provide a place for the exchange of ideas regarding training and standards.

b. Location

Group V HQ. Hanger  
Stinson Municipal Airport (SSF)  
8500 Mission Road  
San Antonio, TX 78214

c. Primary dates & times

19-21 February 2010

Additional aircraft and vehicle movement on 18 February 2010 and 22 February 2010.

Sign in will be conducted 1700-2000 hrs on 19 February 2010.

d. Alternate dates

None

e. USAF funding

\$2000 to be split with air, ground, mission support and misc. mission expenses. Mission expenses shall be defined as any reasonable expenses (copier paper, ink, batteries, etc.) that are deemed necessary to perform the mission.

f. Mission Symbol

TBD

g. Air Force Mission Number

Pending

h. OES Training Number

Not applicable

i. Project Officer/Contact Person

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Project officer - Ground Team Challenge  
Major Sean Crandall  
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j. Initial Reporting Times

19-21 February 2010

Additional aircraft and vehicle movement on 18 February 2010 and 22 February 2010.

Sign in will be conducted 1700-2000 hrs on 19 February 2010.

Inbound sorties for aircrew, mission support and ground teams will be coordinated in advance by the Project officer and Asst. Project officer and will be recorded in WMIRS.

2. **Notification & Application**

a. Notification of event

Primary notification is through the TXWG Yahoo Group. This exercise is published on the Texas Wing Calendar. This Operations Plan will be published in WMIRS and on the wing webpage. All unit commanders will be responsible for ensuring maximum dissemination of the activity information.

b. Qualification requirements

Attendees shall be active CAP members with a CAPF 101 or SQTR marked for SAR/DR or any advanced specialty qualifications. No members without General Emergency Services qualification will be allowed to sign in and participate in the ground team challenge. Participants must have all prerequisites done in advance in order to earn points for their teams.

Cadets

Be C/SrA or above

Minimum 14 years of age

Complete CAPT 117, Part 1

Bring a complete 72 hour pack and be able to carry all of the equipment

Physical Category I (must pass CPFT upon arrival)

Senior Members

Complete Level 1/ CPPT

GTM-3 or higher

Complete CAPT 117, part 1

Complete 72 hour pack and be able to carry all of the equipment

Physical Category I (must be able to complete senior physical assessment test upon arrival)

Staff / Judges

- All judges must be Texas Wing Evaluators - minimum GTM-3.

- Non-Eval staff will be used to provide logistical, medical, communication, and administrative support.

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- Medical qualified personnel - Basic first aid, EMT, Paramedic, RN, MD, etc are encouraged to apply.

c. Exercise capacity

Minimum Number of Teams: 4

Maximum Number of Teams: 20

d. Exercise enrollment procedures

Initial application by TXWGF 31A for cadets and seniors (Staff and Teams)

Participation Letter from each participant's squadron commander needs to be included.

Applications will be sent to the project officer.

Send to:

Major Sean Crandall

1025 Mesquite Wood Court

Brownsville, Texas 78526

Or email at: [CAPTXSC@aol.com](mailto:CAPTXSC@aol.com)

Or fax at: 866-208-0133

Include all team applications in one envelope or fax. Include team name on top of the ground team leader's application.

Wildcard applications may be sent individually to the project officer.

Fees (\$20.00 per person) must be paid with application. Fees include food, awards and t-shirts.

List the T-shirt size in the upper left hand corner of each form.

Applications must be received in a complete package with fees and participation letters NLT February 10, 2010. Squadrons wishing to observe the competition for the purpose of training may do so by following the same application process.

### 3. Exercise Description

The Ground Team Challenge will provide competition between Texas Wing ground teams to determine the best ground team in Texas Wing. The competition will test each team member's ability to perform skills required for their level of ground team certification. Teams will also be evaluated on ability to work as a team, esprit de corps, and their ability to perform the missions.

- Each team will be comprised of 4 members (two must be cadets).
- Each team will have a qualified ground team member with a CAP driver license. We prefer that you bring your own van. If you are unable to do that contact the project officer who will assist you in finding a van. Your fuel costs are covered in a CAP van.
- Each team will have a qualified ground team leader (cadet or senior).
- Teams comprised of all cadets must have a senior chaperone.
- If members are unable to develop a team within their squadron or group a wildcard team will be organized by event staff.
- All teams will report with all 24hr and 72hr gear per the National Emergency Services Curriculum Project.

### 4. Training Objectives

The primary objective for the Ground Team Challenge is to:

- provide teams provide cadet and seniors the opportunity to compete against other ground teams to see who are "The Best" in TXWG.
- Provide cadets and seniors the opportunity to practice ground team skills in a life-like stress induced environment.
- Increase camaraderie among ground teams.
- Allow ground teams to see how other teams operate. Provide a place for the exchange of ideas regarding training and standards.

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The tasks within CAP task guides will be used to score ground teams in addition to other items noted in this document.

**5. Flight Operations**

a. Aviation resource requirements

Fuel and aircraft services are available from local Fixed Base Operator, (FBO) at each Stinson. The IC or his/her designee will reserve each aircraft in CAPERS for this exercise.

b. Mission sorties

- i. Exercise Briefing – Air exercises will support the ground team’s simulated search and rescue, disaster or HLS incidents to the greatest extent possible. Air/Ground coordination is to be expected and communications expertise will be stressed.
- ii. Crew composition – Each aircrew will have a qualified Mission Pilot with a scanner and observer. Scanner and observer training may be conducted as long as the primary mission of GT coordination is accomplished.
- iii. Routes/grids/targets – Detailed information for required tasks will be determined by the Competition Staff.
- iv. Divert airfields and mission recall procedures – Airports to be used in the event the primary airport becomes unusable due to adverse weather, runway closure, etc. will be identified on each CAPF 104. Methods of recalling or diverting airborne aircraft will be briefed to each aircrew.
- v. Flight line operations – Flight line service at Stinson will be provided by the local FBO, or by qualified CAP members, or trainees supervised by a qualified CAP member.

c. Outbound/Inbound sorties

Inbound/outbound sorties are approved by the Incident Commander or their designee.

d. Flight scheduling

IC staff will assign sorties. Air Ops will track departure times, void times, post flight assignments, and maintain the flight tracking and status boards.

f. Flight management procedures

Flight tracking will include the posting and maintenance of the flight tracking board in a visible, central area for use by ICP personnel and use of CAPSTAR. Air-to-air and air-to-ground communications will be maintained and will include ops normal calls, and code word event calls. Communications made and received will be posted or updated on the ICP situation board.

g. Mission intelligence

IC staff will collect and disseminate scenario information and will process aircrew debriefing information.

h. Flight operations/safety considerations

Event Safety Officer will cover all safety points included on the Safety Briefing Sheet during their briefing, including the safe operations by aircrew personnel in the performance of their flying duties and line personnel in the vicinity of aircraft that are taxiing or parked with their engine running.

**6. Ground Operations**

a. Ground operations/resource requirements

All CAP vehicles must be equipped with appropriate communication and D/F receivers.

b. Description of ground team activities

Ground teams will be briefed on off-road operations, private land access procedures, target

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placement, aircraft signaling, ground-to-air communications, aircraft vectoring, air-to-ground coordination, graded skills and use of local law enforcement.

c. Composition of ground teams

A qualified ground team leader, cadet or senior will be on each ground team. They will carry hand-held radios, L-pers, first aid kits, as in an actual mission.

d. Ground Sortie Management

Ground sorties will be tasked, tracked and managed using CAPF 109. These sheets will be integral to the briefing, execution, scoring, and debriefing of all sorties. Ground sorties are released only at the direction of the staff and timed for scoring.

e. Ground team management procedures

The exercise will include posting and maintenance of the ground team tracking charts. Ground team communications will include ops normal calls and radio event calls. All sorties will be entered and tracked on the status wall. Radio communications will be a part of the scoring.

f. Ground operations safety considerations

Safety briefings will be provided to ground team personnel. Adherence to safety briefings will be reflected on your scores.

g. Fuel Receipt Tracking

The IC or designee for the school will ensure that fuel receipts are captured for each sortie for inclusion in the final exercise package to be sent to TXWG HQ by the IC. Vehicles will be refueled following each sortie or reasons for not refueling will be noted on the CAPF 109.

7. **Communications**

**If needed**, All aircraft will operate on Air 1.

Aircraft will perform standard reports, including:

- Radio check before taxi,
- Time off ground, time in grid (if applicable)
- Time out of grid (same)
- Time on ground,
- Ops reports normal every 30 minutes.

If available, as a backup, each aircraft will have on board the SPOT tracker which will be monitored by computer at the aircrew school.

**All ground teams** will operate on CC1.

All ground teams will perform standard reports, including:

- Radio check before departure
- Time arrived at designated location (if applicable)
- Time RTB
- Time back at staging area
- Ops reports normal every 30 minutes.

If available, as a backup, each GT will have on board the SPOT tracker which will be monitored by computer at the ICP.

ISR frequencies for each ground team will be assigned on site.

8. **Cadet Participation**

Cadets may participate in any areas where age, qualifications and CAP regulations permit as outlined above.

9. **Safety**

**SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT**

a. All CAP emergency services operations involve some degree of risk. Participants must be alert and careful when operating aircraft or ground vehicles.

b. Safety briefings will be incorporated during various phases of this challenge.

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- c. ORM should be conducted during all phases of this exercise. Remember that ORM is a "living procedure" that must be constantly monitored and re-evaluated in order to have the greatest benefit. Specific forms for air and ground must be completed and attached to CAPF 104/109. Completion of forms will be graded.
- d. A Participation Letter certifying that the participant has the latest safety information must be submitted to the project officer prior to the event.

**10. Staff Requirements**

Staff / Judges

- All judges must be Texas Wing Evaluators - minimum GTM-3.
- Non-SET staff will be used to provide logistical, medical, communication, and administrative support.
- Medical qualified personnel - Basic first aid, EMT, Paramedic, RN, MD, etc are encouraged to apply.

**11. Uniform Requirements**

Primary uniform for all ground teams is the BDU Uniform or appropriate field uniform for seniors. All members will need to have a complete 72 hr pack and be able to change to a complete 24 hr pack according to the ground team task manual.

All cadet students must report in BDU's. Staff will report in BDU's. Students shall not have a need for any other uniforms other than BDU's, **NO BLUES WILL BE WORN OR NEEDED TO BE BROUGHT WITH YOU.** All BDU's will have proper rank insignia and patches IAW 39-1. This will be an item for judging.

BDU Uniform will be primary uniform Students must have all patches and insignia, BDU hat, brown T-shirt. T-shirts will not have non-CAP related material printed on them.

Headgear for staff will be black baseball style caps with the appropriate ground team badge insignia attached to the front of the cover. The headgear will be entirely comprised of fabric. No mesh style caps authorized. Staff T-shirts will be black. Staff and students will wear BDU's for graduation.

Per CAP regulations orange vests will be worn once dismounting from vehicles during all Field SAR activities

Helmets will be worn during all evolutions where directed or indicated.

**12. Administration**

- a. Sign-in and procedures  
Sign in will be conducted 1700-2000 hrs on 19 February 2010.
- b. Credentials  
Only members with an active CAP membership may participate. Participants must meet the minimum requirements outlined in paragraph 2 b above. E-Services will be the primary method for checking ES qualifications.

**13. Facilities**

The activity will be held at the Group V HQ Hanger, located at the Stinson Municipal Airport (SSF) San Antonio, Texas and using facilities and/or field training locations on or near the airport.

**14. Logistics**

- a. Billeting  
**All ground teams** will bivouac inside the hanger.

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b. Messing

Will be provided by support staff.

c. Medical

First Aid will be handled on site. Emergency medical contact will be initiated through 911. Non emergency medical issues will be handled at the local hospital which is Southwest General Hospital, 7400 Barlite Boulevard, San Antonio, Texas 78224, 210-921-2000.

**15. Military Support Requirements**

None

**16. Other Agency Involvement**

None

**17. Public Affairs**

a. Internal

This exercise will be publicized using the Operations Plan on the Texas Wing website. The PAO will be assigned by the event commander.

b. External

News releases to local newspapers, radio and TV media will be made by the Public Affairs Officer or project(s) officer.

**18. Contingencies**

a. Disaster or REDCAP

The exercise may be suspended or terminated and CAP resources reassigned, only at the direction of an active REDCAP Incident Commander, Texas Wing/CC, or Texas Wing/LO; otherwise, exercises are expected to continue as planned.

b. Adverse weather

Adverse weather will not normally cause termination of the exercise. The Ground Team Challenge will continue unless life threatening weather conditions exist. Participants are required to bring wet weather gear. Flying may be temporarily suspended due to weather.

c. Mishap

In the event of a mishap, the Safety Officer will immediately notify the Incident Commander. The IC will ensure all reporting actions are taken, including briefing of the Texas Wing/LO, Texas Wing/DO, Texas Wing/CC, and Texas Wing/DOS or ADOS. The IC and TX WG HQ will determine the impact of the mishap on continued conduct of the exercise.

**19. Awards or Complication Certificates**

Every participant will receive a completion certificate. First place teams and individuals will receive plaques. The "Best Team" will have their names placed on a plaque at wing headquarters.

**20. Judging**

Rules of the competition are purposefully placed throughout the Ops Plan in order to force participants to read the Ops Plan carefully. Questions on requirements and rules may be directed in writing to Major Crandall NLT February 1.