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SYDNEY 2014



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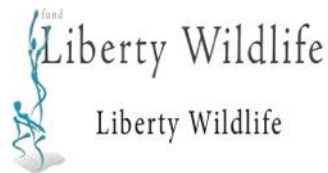
*Parks, people, planet:
inspiring solutions*

REACHING CONSERVATION GOALS THROUGH APPROPRIATE AND ADVANCED FIELD RANGER TRAINING



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Overview

- Field Rangers are at the front line of conservation efforts in Africa
- Field Ranger training has essentially remained the same over decades but advances are now being made to keep up with situational requirements so that new technology, tactical movement and special operations can be deployed in the face of intensified poaching and wildlife trafficking



Basic Training

Technology

Tactical
Movement/Ope
rations

Specialized
Training

Deployment

Field Ranger Application



- The application of the Field Ranger is still to cover the Protected Area whilst conserving and protecting its assets.
- A new philosophy has also been adopted emphasizing the establishment of park and community partnerships responsive to problem solving approaches with a view to combatting illegal poaching, providing protection and upholding and enforcing the law whilst promoting collaborative efforts between all stakeholders.



Field Ranger Equipment



To achieve conservation goals and to maintain the integrity of a Protected Area, the Field Ranger has had to adapt to changing conditions and technology.

Types of equipment applied in current operations:

- Unmanned Aerial Vehicles
- GPS/Smart Phones
- Fixed wing/ Rotor Aircraft
- Night Vision equipment
- FLIR/ Thermal Imaging
- Canine Application



Changing conditions are influenced by:

- Operations becoming more intense
- The need to connect at several tactical levels
- Deployment becoming more dangerous in the face of advanced poaching methods
- Advances in technology and equipment which needs to be adapted and applied
- Qualifications required by Field Rangers including Weapons Training, Man Tracking Skills, Ballistics, Preservation of a Crime Scene etc.

This is further influenced by:

- Different legal statuses of participants within the operations eg. SAPS, DoD, Defence Force, Field Rangers etc.

Basic Requirements which need to be addressed when deploying a Field Ranger

- The need for advanced technology in a continent where resources are limited.
- The application of the Field Ranger which needs to change given that the threat has changed.
- Legal protection for actions taken.
- Training which addresses new approaches and the application of Field Rangers on the ground.



An inspiring solution?

Innovative and effective

- The application of simulators to shorten training time and save cost.
- The correct foundation when training Field Rangers in the basic stages.
- Standardization within the industry.

Evidence of implementation and impact

- Deployment of specialized units in national and private reserves including the Kruger National Park, South Africa.



Applied elsewhere or more broadly

- African Field Ranger Training Services is a division of the Southern African Wildlife College and implements best practice as a learning-by-doing training institution.
- As a SADC institution, the Southern African Wildlife College rolls out training over the entire region and beyond.

What makes this training work?

Components that lead to success

- The training of Field Rangers in their reserves and in compatible terrain allows for assimilation and application.
- Confidence of Field Rangers is raised when simulation indicates successes connected to their application (e.g. Crime scene simulator/ shooting simulator).
- Being at the forefront of Field Ranger training in the region.

Enabling factors

- The ability to select the correct individuals to train and develop.
- Advanced training material developed in conjunction with conservation organizations and operators in the field.

