



Australian Government

DEFSUR004 Erect a survival shelter using natural resources in a survival situation

Release: 1

DEFSUR004 Erect a survival shelter using natural resources in a survival situation

Modification History

Release	Comments
1	This unit was released in DEF Defence Training Package release 1.0 and meets the Standards for Training Packages. This unit supersedes and is equivalent to DEFSU004B Erect a survival shelter using natural resources in a survival situation. • Unit code updated • Content and formatting updated to comply with new standards • All PC transitioned from passive to active voice • PC 2.2 and 2.3 revised

Application

This unit describes the skills required to erect a survival shelter in a survival situation. The individual is not expected to be an expert in building construction, but rather to have the requisite skills and knowledge to identify the elemental threats to his/her survival such as sun, wind and rain, and to establish a survival shelter to provide the necessary protection. The shelter may take advantage of established natural features or may demand stand-alone construction from natural resources. This unit assumes that manufactured resources are not available.

This unit was developed for Defence personnel but may be relevant to others

The skills and knowledge described in this unit must be applied within the legislative, regulatory and policy environment in which they are carried out. Organisational policies and procedures must be consulted and adhered to.

Those undertaking this unit would act autonomously, while performing concrete tasks, in a broad range of contexts which may be highly unpredictable.

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to unit at the time of publication.

Competency Field

Survival

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
Elements describe the essential outcomes	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. Where bold italicised text is used, further information is detailed in the range of conditions section.
1. Prepare resources for erection of survival shelter	1.1 Identify potential threat to personal survival posed by the elements and use natural features to provide immediate protection. 1.2 Optimise survival shelter's siting for protection from the elements and to minimise hazards to the survivalist, taking advantage, where possible, of existing natural resources. 1.3 Collect resources to construct survival shelter to maximise shelter strength and protection, while minimising physical effort.
2. Construct survival shelter	2.1 Construct traditional two-ply string for use in binding and securing. 2.2 Establish survival shelter's framework, taking maximum advantage of the strength of natural junction points such as forks, by using and binding with improvised cordage. 2.3 Protect survival shelter from wind and rain, using shingling (bark sections and large leaves) and thatching (bound grass and bundled grass) for roofing and siding.

Foundation Skills

The foundation skills demands of this unit have been mapped for alignment with the Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF). The following tables outline the performance levels indicated for successful attainment of the unit.

ACSF levels indicative of performance:

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Learning					Reading N/A					Writing N/A					Oral communication N/A					Numeracy N/A				

Performance variables

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Support					Context					Text complexity					Task complexity				

Further information on ACSF and the foundation skills underpinning this unit can be found in the Foundation Skills Guide on the GSA website.

Unit Mapping Information

This unit supersedes and is equivalent to DEFSU004B Erect a survival shelter using natural resources in a survival situation.

Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=6bdbab1e-11ed-4bc9-9cba-9e1a55d4e4a9>

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -

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Assessment Requirements for DEFSUR004 Erect a survival shelter using natural resources in a survival situation

Modification History

Release	Comments
1	These Assessment Requirements were released in DEF Defence Training Package release 1.0 and meet the Standards for Training Packages. • Assessment Requirements created drawing upon specified assessment information from superseded unit

Performance Evidence

Evidence required to demonstrate competence must satisfy all of the requirements of the elements and performance criteria. If not otherwise specified the candidate must demonstrate evidence of performance of the following on at least one occasion.

- tying knots and lashes
- constructing at least two shelters capable of withstanding a vertical or horizontal loading to the framework of 300N; that repels all water when twenty litres is poured along the top/leading edge of the structure to simulate rain; whose tiling and thatching remains adhered to the shelter under wind conditions of Beaufort scale 4 (11–16 knots)
- using and binding with improvised cordage including at least one of
 - animal skins/gut
 - bark strips
 - reeds and grasses
 - traditional two-ply string

Knowledge Evidence

Evidence required to demonstrate competence must satisfy all of the requirements of the elements and performance criteria. If not otherwise specified the depth of knowledge demonstrated must be appropriate to the job context of the candidate.

- priorities of survival
- threats to survival from elements

Assessment Conditions

Competency must be assessed in a simulated workplace environment, including access to an appropriate remote survival area that has suitable natural resources and natural features; and a knife.

Consideration must be given to holistic assessment with other survival units.

While a person can demonstrate the technical ability to construct and maintain a shelter, doing so in a survival situation is crucial. Assessment under simulated survival conditions includes:

- food restrictions
- absence of normal living conditions and amenities
- significant period of time

Refer to advice in the companion volumes.

Assessors must satisfy the NVR/AQTF mandatory competency requirements for assessors.

Links

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