

RHINO PATROL AND MONITORING UNITS CAT TIEN NATIONAL PARK VIETNAM

TECHNICAL REPORT 6: JANUARY 2003

Training Course on Intensive Patrol & Data Collection

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**WWF - ASIAN RHINO AND ELEPHANT ACTION STRATEGY
in VIETNAM**



CAT TIEN NATIONAL PARK CONSERVATION PROJECT JANUARY 2003

This report **describes** the results of the Rhino Protection and Monitoring Units in Cat Tien National Park. This work is generously funded by WWF-US through the Asian Rhino and Elephant Action Strategy (AREAS) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. It is executed under the auspices of the WWF – Cat Tien National Park Conservation Project and Cat Tien National Park. The Cat Tien National Park Conservation Project is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Hanoi) and the WWF-Indochina Programme, funded by the Governments of Vietnam and The Netherlands.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In January 2002, patrol based training was provided to the Rhino Patrol and Monitoring Units that operate in the Cat Loc Section of Cat Tien National Park.

Owing to the response shown by these Forest Guards, I was asked to come back to Vietnam to conduct further training of Forest Guards in Cat Tien National Park. Using the curriculum set for the previous course, the training took place between 5th and 23rd November, and the 7th and 24th of January. This report deals with the January training period. The subjects covered included:

1. Rhino Conservation in Africa
2. Navigation and Mapping
 - Map Work
 - Compass Work
 - GPS work
3. Area Coverage Operation
 - Types of Patrols
 - Patrol Techniques
 - Extended Clandestine Patrols
 - Night Patrolling
 - Detection Tactics
 - Response Tactics
 - Patrol Security
 - Patrol Planning
4. Observation Techniques
5. Communications
6. Scene Of Crime and Collection of Evidence
7. Intelligence Gathering
8. Mental Conditioning and Stress Management
9. Report Writing

The training course participants once again responded well to all aspects of the training and produced very good final evaluation results. They should be commended for their enthusiasm and dedication.

Overall the training course could be considered a great success, with all the set training outcomes being achieved.

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The author would like to thank Mr Tran Van Mui, Director of Cat Tien National Park for affording him the opportunity to contribute to the Parks Conservation Programme. The author is also deeply grateful to all the staff for their help and assistance during the training course. Special mention should be made of Mr Hoa (Chief Forest Guard), Mr Phong and Mr Son (translators) for their enormous contribution to the training course. A big thank you to them.

I would like to thank all the course participants for their contributions, their positive approach and their individual attention.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Mr Gert Polet once again for co-ordinating the course. His advice, assistance and support was highly appreciated.

BACKGROUND

Cat Tien National Park, Vietnam comprises of two areas, which since January 1999 were combined administratively to form the current National Park. These areas will be referred to as Nam Cat Tien (which includes the previously separate Tay Cat Tien and Cat Loc).

Cat Tien National Park is the last known refuge of the only population of Javan Rhinoceros on Mainland Asia. It's contribution to biodiversity in the region is enormous and is refuge to a number of rare and threatened species. It is therefore for this reason (owing to the pressure on natural resources in Vietnam) that levels of law enforcement and ground coverage be improved. One of the ways of improving this effectiveness is to train and build capacity of the people responsible for the on the ground operations, namely the Forest Guards .

Owing to my 15 years experience in the field of Rhino Conservation, law enforcement and ground coverage operations, I was asked to present a training course to the Forest Guards. My terms of reference were to:

- Design patrol information forms / reports.
- Conduct extensive field training in patrol planning and techniques, navigation (maps, compasses, GPS) and data collection.
- Extensive training in patrol report writing.
- Ensure that the Rhino Conservation Officer has a clear understanding of his duties in assisting the Forest Guard's in patrol planning and data collection.

CURRICULUM AND TRAINING MANUAL

The curriculum for the training was drawn up from a number of briefs I received from my Technical Supervisor, Mr Gert Polet.

The following subjects were covered in the training course.

1. TRAINING MODULE ONE: RHINO CONSERVATION IN AFRICA

RATIONALE

It is important that the trainees get a sense of where the course presenter comes from as well as a brief understanding of Rhino conservation issues in an African context. It will also give the presenter an opportunity to understand the differences and similarities of his operation compared to those in Vietnam.

This module may also act as an important "ice breaker" between the presenter and the trainees, setting a platform for the training course.

TRAINING COURSE CONTENTS

- Introduction of presenter
- Rhino Conservation efforts in Africa
- Rhino conservation in Hluhluwe Umfolozi Park
- Training course expectations

DESIRED OUTCOMES

- that trainees get an understanding of where the presenter comes from and how similar (fundamentally) our operations are.
- that the presenter gets an understanding of local conditions and expectations of trainees.

2. TRAINING MODULE TWO: NAVIGATION / MAPPING

RATIONALE

Effective patrolling and information gathering requires a thorough understanding of terrain and the accurate location/pinpointing of area coverage, violations and biological monitoring information.

Mapping of rhino signs/sightings and patrol routes can be used to record and pass on information for:

1. Determining rhino distribution in a protected area.
2. Determining home ranges of individual rhino.
3. Determining and accessing ground coverage operations/patrols.
4. Assist in patrol planning and implementation.
5. Determining which areas require specific coverage/attention.
6. Determining long term trends in illegal activities within a protected area.
7. Gathering and transferring knowledge about an area for security, management and research purposes.

TRAINING COURSE CONTENTS

1. MAP WORK

- what is a map
- purpose of a map
- map symbols
- maps and terrain (including gradients)
- grid systems
- orientation of map
- north points
 - true north
 - grid north
 - magnetic north
- four & six figure grid references
- measuring distances

2. COMPASS WORK

- working of a compass
- care of compasses
- using a compass to orientate a map
- using a compass to take bearings from the map and from the field
- walking on a bearing using a compass

3. GPS WORK (GARMIN GPS 12 X L)

- what is a GPS and how does it work
- care and handling of a GPS
- obtaining a position from a GPS
- determining a position on a map from GPS co-ordinates
- going to a way point
- saving way points
- Track Back navigation

DESIRED OUTCOMES

- a. Trainees should know how a map represents a piece of land.
- b. Trainees should be able to identify map symbols.
- c. Trainees should have an understanding of what contours represent.
- d. Trainees should know how to locate positions and patrol routes on a map.
- e. Trainees should be able to orientate a map to match physical terrain.
- f. Trainees must have an understanding of all three north points.
- g. Trainees must be able to provide four figure and six figure grid references.
- h. Trainees must have a clear understanding on how a compass works.
- i. Trainees must be able to take compass bearings.
- j. Trainees should be able to walk on compass bearings.
- k. Trainees should have an understanding of how a GPS works.
- l. Trainees should be able to operate a GPS to determine their position.
- m. Trainees should be able to save a way point and be able to return to a way point.
- n. Trainees should be able to obtain co-ordinates from a map and use these co-ordinates with a GPS to get to a point.

3. TRAINING MODULE THREE: FIELD PATROLLING / AREA COVERAGE

RATIONALE

*This module outlines the importance of effective ground coverage in a protected area, especially in respect to protecting and monitoring an endangered species such as *Rhinoceros sondaicus annamiticus*. The module is designed to cover all aspects of area coverage operations and aims at improving the Forest Guard's effectiveness and readiness in the field.*

COURSE CONTENTS

The following subjects will be covered in this module:

1. Patrolling
 - a. Types of patrols
 - b. Patrol Techniques and Search Patterns
 - b. Extended Clandestine Patrols
 - c. Night Patrolling
 - d. Detection Techniques
 - e. Response Tactics
 - f. Patrol Security
 - g. Patrol Planning
2. Observation Techniques
 - a. Observation Skills
 - b. Use of Binoculars
 - c. Surveillance Techniques and Tactics
 - d. Observation and Listening Posts
3. Communications
4. Scene Of Crime and Collection of Evidence
5. Crime Scene Management
 - a. Gathering of Evidence
 - b. Intelligence Gathering
6. Mental Conditioning and Stress Management

DESIRED OUTCOMES

- a. Trainees should have a good understanding of the importance of effective ground coverage in a Park such as Cat Tien.
- b. Trainees should have a good understanding of effective patrol types / techniques and strategies.
- c. Trainees should be able to effectively plan and conduct patrols (including extended patrols).
- d. Trainees should be able to operate observation and listening posts.
- e. Trainees should have an understanding of gathering intelligence and information.
- f. Trainees should be able to manage a scene of crime and to be able to collect evidence / information effectively from it.
- g. Trainees should be able to produce detailed reports from area coverage (patrolling) operations.

4. MODULE FOUR: REPORT WRITING AND FORMULATION OF PATROL INFORMATION SHEETS

RATIONALE

To conduct a workshop session with Forest Guards members to design a “user friendly” Patrol Information Sheet and to ensure Forest Guards members are able to effectively / accurately report on all ground coverage operations.

COURSE CONTENT

- the need for field reports
- workshop to design a patrol information report form
- Forest Guards members to be taught how to fill in the form
- practise filling the form in

Once the curriculum had been drawn up and approved, a training manual was compiled (refer to appendix 1). This manual was translated into Vietnamese and supplied to course participants prior to the course. The staff responsible for the translating should be commended for the effort they put into the Vietnamese copy of the manual.

The training manual was designed to assist with the language barrier and provide trainees with useful reference material for the future.

TRAINING STYLES AND METHODS

Training was conducted in both the classroom and out in the field throughout the course.

Classroom sessions included theory, workshops and group work. The emphasis on these sessions was to impart and share knowledge with each other and not simply follow what was written in the manual. Course participants were encouraged to participate and contribute at all times. The presenter made sure that confident individuals did not dominate these sessions and less confident individuals were given equal opportunities to contribute. Group work presentations were presented by different individuals on a rotational basis. Real life case studies were discussed through out the course. Field practical sessions were carried out and were designed to:

- put theory into practice
- reinforce the theoretical components of the course and enhance the learning process.
- provide regular breaks between theoretical sessions.

TRAINING PARTICIPANTS

The following people participated in the course.

1. Dinh Cong Long
2. Thai Ngo Duc
3. Dang van Toan
4. Bui Van Long
5. Nguyen Trong Hieu
6. Pham Thanh Nhan
7. Nguyen Van Manh
8. Le Van Tinh
9. Ho Ba Thang
10. Nguyen Van Em
11. Le Van Trung
12. Dinh Ba Kha
13. Ho Thai Nguyen
14. Nguyen Van Hoang
15. Nguyen Van Binh
16. Vu Van Hoan
17. Nguyen Manh Cuong
18. Nguyen Minh Phung
19. Ho Nhat Dan
20. Nguyen Thanh Son

GROUPS

1	2	3	4
Hieu (Leader)	Duc (Leader)	Manh (Leader)	Kha (Leader)
Tinh	Binh	Nguyen	Long
Nhan	Long	Thang	Dan
Trung	Toan	Hoang	Em
Son	Hoan	Phung	Cuong

TRAINING PROGRAMME AND TIME TABLE

January 7	Introduction / course expectations
January 8	Conservation in Africa
January 9	Map reading
January 10	Compass Work
January 11	Patrol Theory & Practice
January 12	Patrol Theory & Practice
January 13	Patrol Theory & Practice
January 14	Patrol Theory & Practice
January 15	Patrol Theory & Practice
January 16	Observation Techniques
January 17	Observation Techniques
January 18	Time off
January 19	Time off
January 20	Intelligence Gathering / Scene of Crime Management
January 21	Stress Management / Arrest Procedures
January 22	Report Writing / Revision Work
January 23	Evaluation Exercise / Closing
January 24	Depart

TRAINING COURSE EXPECTATIONS

My expectations for the course were to:

- See development in trainees
- See participation
- See assistance and team work
- Extend my knowledge / experience
- See good discipline throughout the course

I asked the training group to give me their course expectations. They were as follows:

- We want to know more about patrolling
- We want to know more about conservation in other Parks
- We want to learn more about arrest procedures
- We want to develop and manage Vietnamese Rhino
- We want to learn more about other rhino species
- We want to learn more about navigation
- We want to learn more about intelligence gathering against violators
- We want to learn more about patrolling techniques
- To learn more about report writing
- Hope to gain more technical equipment for training
- To learn from lessons and learn from the trainers
- Wish to transfer the knowledge learnt during the course to other forest guards

EVALUATION PROCESS

Owing to the size of the training course the evaluation process used previously was not used. Instead a formal evaluation was conducted to test whether or not the set course outcomes were achieved. The evaluation was made up of three sections, namely oral, written and practical examinations.

Assessing individuals was obviously important, but so too was assessing the training methods and course content. Throughout the course I checked that all participants were responding to my style of training by evaluating set exercises.

TRAINING COURSE REPORT BACK

MODULE 1: CONSERVATION IN AFRICA

The training participants were given a talk on the presenters experience and his area of responsibility in South Africa. This talk was well received with a number of pertinent questions being asked.

After the talk the participants viewed the video " Rhino War", where they were tasked to conduct a SWOT analysis on the law enforcement strategy in the Zambezi Valley. The presenter emphasised the importance of continually accessing law enforcement operations / strategies to remain ahead of violators.

Zambezi Rhino Poaching

- **Strengths**
 - Committed staff
 - Well equipped staff
 - Staff work hard
 - Well trained staff
 - Good communication systems
- **Weaknesses**
 - Large patrol area
 - Many kinds of violators
 - Staff living conditions poor
 - Many illegal weapons
 - High human pressure on the Park
 - Reactive strategy
- **Opportunities**
 - Good support from Government / strict law enforcement
 - Good support from international organisations
 - Good legal system
 - Modern equipment
 - Viable rhino population
 - Large deep river
 - To get support from local people
 - To get support from other countries governments & authorities

➤ Threats

- International boundary / no influence in other country
- No weapon controls
- People are poor around the Park
- Increasing human population
- Poachers are aggressive
- Increase in poaching pressure
- Wildlife product market

The presenter showed the videos “100 years of Rhino Conservation” and “Game Park – Good Fences”. After the screening of the videos the participants were asked to divide into their groups and conduct another SWOT analysis on what they observed.

Game Park

➤ **Strengths**

- Staff well equipped
- Park is rich in biodiversity and viable populations
- Good information gathering networks
- Well trained staff & committed to work
- Good & professional patrolling techniques
- Forest Guards have been given good powers from Government
- Conservation programmes are good
- Good co-ordination between law enforcement & community extension

➤ **Weaknesses**

- High poaching pressure / poachers are aggressive
- Large areas to be patrolled
- Law enforcement can act negatively on neighbour relations
- Not being too involved in community development
- Although the Park has been around for a long time, poaching still takes place

➤ **Opportunities**

- Get interest from other law enforcement
- They have access to update technology
- They have good information gathering network
- Get support from Government and NGO's
- Get support from the community
- Take advantage of information given by communities
- Good equipment

➤ **Threats**

- Demand for rhino horn
- Conflict between community & wildlife
- People around the Park have little understanding of conservation
- People around the Park are poor
- There is a ready illegal market for wildlife products
- Violators are aggressive & dangerous
- Local people sometimes hide violators

MODULE 2: NAVIGATION AND MAPPING

MAP WORK

This section was well received by participants and at the end of this section they understood the following:

- the purpose of maps
- what map symbols represent
- map scales
- terrain, including cross section drawings
- grid systems and how to obtain 4 x 6 grid references
- map orientation
- the 3 north points
- measuring distances on a map

COMPASS WORK

In this section the presenter covered all aspects of compass work with the course participants, except the calculation of magnetic declination. The presenter found that the magnetic variance with grid north in Vietnam is very small and owing to the level of accuracy required in Cat Tien National Park, deemed it not necessary to cover this section. All participants did exceptionally well in this section and showed a great deal of enthusiasm in the practical exercises.

The following subjects were covered during the course:

- workings of a compass
- types of compasses
- points of compasses
- use of compass
- orientation of a map using a compass
- using a compass to take a bearing
- walking on bearings

COMPASS BEARING EXERCISE

The presenter tested the participant's practical ability of taking a compass bearing by giving them a point to give a compass reading.

Dinh Long	37°	Ho Thang	38°
Thai Duc	37°	Nguyen Em	35°
Dang Toan	37°	Le Trung	37°
Bui Long	Absent	Dinh Kha	38°
Nguyen Hieu	38°	Ho Nguyen	38°
Pham Nhan	39°	Nguyen Hoang	36°
Nguyen Manh	36°	Nguyen Binh	35°
Le Tinh	39°	Vu Hoan	39°
Nguyen Cuong	37°	Nguyen Phung	37°
Ho Dan	39°	Nguyen Son	38°

The answer was 36°. All the answers given were within an acceptable range.

The groups were then sent out on a 5 compass bearing march. They were evaluated on how close they could get to the presenters end point.

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Tinh	Pinh	Nguyen	Long
Nhan	Long	Thang	Dan
Trung	Toan	hoang	Em
Son	Hoan	Phung	Cuong
3m off	10m off	3m off	2m off

MODULE 3: FIELD PATROLLING / AREA COVERAGE

PATROLLING

Types of patrolling

The presenter gave a lecture on the six different types of patrols and set a couple of group tasks.

Task 1.

Groups asked to define the advantages and disadvantages of “daily routing patrolling”.

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
GROUP 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> To obtain information immediately <input type="checkbox"/> Able to respond immediately to a problem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Violators will get familiar to this type of patrolling <input type="checkbox"/> Difficult to move into areas far away from base
GROUP 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Good to observe violators in a certain area <input type="checkbox"/> Patrol members may get to know area well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The staff may develop bad habits <input type="checkbox"/> Patrol members may use the same route <input type="checkbox"/> Violators can avoid patrolling team
GROUP 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Can observe well <input type="checkbox"/> No complicated logistical support required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Cannot patrol the entire area intensively <input type="checkbox"/> The violators can easily detect the patrolling team
GROUP 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Easy to gather information from the area <input type="checkbox"/> Can identify problems immediately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Easy for violator to detect patrols <input type="checkbox"/> Patrols can be easily compromised

<p>PRESENTER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Can target specific points of high violation areas □ Operators become extremely knowledgeable of areas around their bases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Patrols tend to use same route □ Predictable patterns used by patrol □ Patrol bases can be easily monitored by violators □ Cannot penetrate isolated / far areas of operation □ Cannot intensively patrol areas far from the base
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Task 2: Groups asked to give advantages and disadvantages of extended patrolling.

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
<p>GROUP 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Have more time to patrol an area □ Can gather more information in an area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ More costly and more planning required □ Requires good health of patrol members
<p>GROUP 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Entire area can be patrolled and controlled □ Easier to maintain secrecy of patrol. Violators will not know about patrolling times and positions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Patrol will have to stay overnight □ Impact on patrol members health (malaria etc.)
<p>GROUP 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Entire area patrolled – more information collected □ Opportunity to observe the area more efficiently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Heavy equipment needs to be carried or dropped off □ Patrol can be compromised
<p>GROUP 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Get to know activities of violators throughout the patrol area □ Can combine all types of patrolling – receive diverse information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Requires good planning □ Requires good health of patrol members
<p>PRESENTER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Get into area that cannot be accessed by daily patrols □ Longer stay in grey areas □ Areas can received saturated coverage □ Easier to operate secretly □ Patrol members cannot be distracted by home comforts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Physically demanding

PATROL TECHNIQUES

The Presenter gave a lecture on patrol techniques and set a number of tasks for the groups:

Task 1:

Groups were asked to give advantages and disadvantages of single file formation.

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
GROUP 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Suitable formation for all types of topography □ All patrol activities easily controlled 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Can be easily observed by violators and less observation is carried out □ A single route is followed
GROUP 2 Good protection when attacked	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Violators can easily escape □ Collect information only on one search line
GROUP 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Easy to apply and suitable to all types of topography □ The speed of the patrol can be fast 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Not much information collected □ Limited observation
GROUP 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Easy observation of violators □ Easy to obtain information from an area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ A lot of spoor left behind □ Possibility of noise created as people are close together
PRESENTER <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Good flank coverage □ Section Leader has good control □ Reduced chance of members getting separated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Patrol members tend to bunch □ Poor point coverage □ More prone to follow paths etc.

Task 2:

Groups were asked to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of extended line formation.

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
GROUP 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Easy to arrest violators □ Collect more information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Difficult to maintain formation in thick vegetation □ Difficult to see hand signals
GROUP 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ More information can be collected in one area □ Easy to arrest or catch violators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Difficult to maintain formation □ Difficult to see hand signals

GROUP 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Wide observation due to many search lines ❑ Quick response when encountering violators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Patrol speed is low and only applicable in some terrain ❑ Difficult for patrol leader to control patrol
GROUP 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Members work hard during patrol time ❑ Collect more information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ The formation can be easily broken ❑ Less effective communication
PRESENTER <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Difficult to detect due to spacing ❑ Improved coverage of terrain ❑ Members more observant ❑ Good frontal coverage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Difficult to maintain in dense vegetation

SEARCH PATTERNS

The presenter gave a lecture on search patterns and their application in Forest Guard work. The group was responsive to the information given.

The following patterns were described:

- Baseline search
- Fan search
- Contour search
- Riverine search
- Bouncing search
- Circular search

HAND SIGNALLING

The Presenter gave a lecture on the importance of operating silently and demonstrated how to use different hand signals to communicate. The group participated well during the practical exercise.

PRACTICAL PATROLLING

The entire day was spent practising patrol techniques and search patterns. I was impressed with the level of progress of the participants. By the end of the day they resembled professional patrol operators.

PATROLLING EXTENDED CLANDESTINE PATROLS

The Presenter gave a lecture on the need and purpose of extended clandestine patrolling.

The groups were asked to give the definition of extended clandestine patrols and essential elements that make up extended clandestine patrols.

Definition and elements of Extended Clandestine Patrols

Group 1

Definition

Extended clandestine patrolling is patrolling to maintain a presence in an area without violators, local people and the forest guards being informed of the patrol.

Elements

- Team members must be in good health
- Have appropriate equipment
- Keep the patrol a secret, during and after the patrol

Group 2

Definition

To maintain a presence in an area without poachers or those who are suspected in illegal activities knowing about the patrol.

Elements

- Maintain secrecy
- Have appropriate equipment
- Carry out planning of operation

Group 3

Definition

Secretly to find out information, the tracks of animals, the terrain and only the person who joins the patrol, knows about the patrol. No one else from the area is aware of the existence of the patrol.

Elements

- Members of the patrol are experienced
- Equipment should be adequate, convenient and have good logistical support.

Group 4

Definition

To perform the presence in the area without attracting attention from anyone else, with the exception of the patrolling team.

Elements

- To have adequate staff for patrolling
- To keep it a secret
- Enough equipment for the patrolling group

The presenter then gave a lecture on effective extended clandestine patrol procedures.

The participants were then asked to get into their groups and produce a list of equipment required to operate extended clandestine patrols.

LIST OF EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

Group 1

Good health	Compass	Water
Boots & socks	Map	Medicines
Insect repellent	Food / provisions	First aid
Firearm	Radio	Firearms
Knife	Torch	Cooking utensils
Personal equipment		GPS

Group 2

Firearm	First Aid Kit	Water
Knife	Insect repellent	Torch
Map	Food	Cooking utensils
Compass	Tent	
GPS	Hammock	

Group 3

Tent	GPS	Map
Hammock	Rifle & ammunition	Compass
Cooking utensils	Torch	Clothes
Food	Knife	First Aid kit
Fire maker		

Group 4

Rifle & ammunition	Medicine	Food
Compass	Insect repellent	Knife
Map	Tents	Cooking utensils
GPS	Hammocks	
Torch	Clothes	

NIGHT PATROLLING

The Presenter gave a brief lecture on the importance of night patrolling in protected area management.

The participants were asked to divide into their groups and workshop what important equipment was needed in order to successfully carry out night patrolling.

Group 1

- Firearms
- Shoes
- Insect repellent
- First Aid equipment
- Water
- GPS/map/compass
- Binoculars
- Equipment for concealment
- Flashlight
- No reflective equipment

Group 2

- Firearm
- Insect repellent
- Medicine
- Map/compass/GPS
- Flashlight
- Knife
- Water
- Shoes

Group 3

- Firearms
- Flashlight
- Water
- Shoes

Group 4

- Firearm
- Flashlight
- Water
- Baton
- Handcuffs
- Raincoats

PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVE NIGHT OPERATIONS

The participants were asked to workshop what principles were important when operating at night.

Group 1

- No smoking or talking
- Use cover for concealment
- All round observation
- Make sure all equipment is non reflective
- Move and walk carefully and quietly
- Use hand signals
- Limited use of torch
- Weapons & equipment must be quiet

Group 2

- Members must be physically fit
- Obey the instructions of team leader
- Assure secrecy and patrol distance
- Knowledge of area of operation
- Learn hand signals
- No smoking / talking allowed
- All round observation

Group 3

- No smoking / talking
- Obey instructions of team leader
- Do not light fires
- Ensure that you are fully equipped

- Limited use of torch
- Do not patrol for more than 7 hours
- Have a good knowledge of area of operation
- All round observation is necessary
- Use of hand signals
- Check firearm & ammunition prior to patrolling
- Know sounds of different weapons

Group 4

- Members of patrol must have strict discipline
- You must know how to use illumination effectively and when necessary
- Team members must be focused and conduct all round observation
- Talking to be done only when necessary
- Prepare weapons and illumination

DETECTION TACTICS

The presenter gave instruction on the following:

- detection zones
- detection points
- detection indicators

The presenter shared a number of case studies with the group. The presenter then asked the participants to share their experiences with detection of illegal activities with him.

RESPONSE TACTICS

The presenter gave a lecture on response tactics and the need to have a pre planned "standard operating procedure" in the event of an emergency or incident.

The participants were then divided into their groups and asked to prepare a "SOP" for Procedures and logistics in the event of a forest fire.

PATROL SECURITY

The presenter gave a lecture on patrol security and were given instruction in the following strategies:

- coded patrol information system
- patrol briefings
- patrol operations

The group was then asked to workshop a coded patrol information system, that could be used in Vietnam's protected area. The groups all participated well throughout the coded patrol systems.

PATROL PLANNING

The presenter gave a lecture on the importance of patrol planning and went through the four phases of planning, namely:

- Briefing phase

- Planning phase
- Implementation phase
- Debriefing

The lecture was well received by participants.

SECTION TWO: OBSERVATION TECHNIQUES

OBSERVATION SKILLS

The Presenter gave lectures on the following topics:

- Factors that make objects visible
- Area reconnaissance
- Judging distances
- Factors that will influence the appearance of an object

A practical session was held in judging distances. all the participants seem to have grasped the concepts of this section so far.

USE OF BINOCULARS

The Presenter gave a practical on the use and care of binoculars. All the participants were given the opportunity to set a pair of binoculars and use it correctly.

SURVEILLANCE TECHNIQUES / TACTICS

A lecture was given on the important aspects of surveillance, including the operation of listening posts and observation posts.

PATROL OBSERVATION TECHNIQUES AND EYE SHARPENING EXERCISES

An entire day was spent practising observation techniques with the participants in the field. A number of eye sharpening exercises were completed by the groups.

The participants took the exercises seriously and showed a willingness to put theory into practice. They provided some pleasing results, particularly in the light that the test exercises were extremely challenging.

PRACTICAL OBSERVATION POST OPERATION

The Presenter set a practical operation exercise for all the groups. All four groups took the exercise seriously and showed a good understanding of techniques previously learnt in the classroom. All debriefing reports were concise and well detailed.

SCENE OF CRIME AND COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE

During this section the Presenter gave instruction on the following:

- Crime of Scene Management
- Gathering of Physical Evidence at the Crime Scene.

Practical exercises were conducted on a mock scene of crime.

The group resembled a highly professional police crime investigation team and paid a great deal of attention to detail. It was extremely pleasing to see them take the exercise so seriously. All phases of crime scene management were followed and evidence was very well collected and presented.

INTELLIGENCE GATHERING

The participants were given a lecture by the presenter on principles and operations of informer networks. The lecture was well received, with participants asking a number of good questions.

MENTAL CONDITIONING AND STRESS MANAGEMENT

A lecture was presented on the following:

- mental conditioning and stress management
- body alarm reactions
- physical reactions to the adrenaline rush
- mental reactions to stress
- counteracting stress in a dangerous situation

This was well received by the participants who once again asked some pertinent questions.

ARREST PROCEDURES

The participants took part in a practical session on take down measures and arrest procedures. This was enjoyed by all and much improvement was shown by all participants at the end of the 4 hour session.

MODULE 4: REPORT WRITING AND FORMULATION OF PATROL INFORMATION SHEETS

The Presenter gave a brief lecture on the need for accurate report writing and introduced a patrol report that was produced during the previous course.

The report was well received by all participants, who also expressed the need for such a reporting structure. The participants then practised filling in the forms.

TRAINING COURSE PARTICIPANT EVALUATION

Evaluation of the course participants took the form of a written, oral and practical examination (refer to appendix 2). The results of the evaluation were as follows:

	GROUP NUMBER	SOP'S EXERCISE (20)	OBSERVATION: GROUP (20)	OBSERVATION; INDIVIDUAL (15)	EVALUATION: WRITTEN (34)	EVALUATION: ORAL (7)	EVALUATION: PRACTICAL (10)	TOTAL POINTS (106)	TOTAL %
Dinh Long	4	18	19	8	30.5	5	10	90.5	85%
Thai Duc	2	17	17	7	32	6	10	89	84%
Dang Toan	2	17	17	10	28	5	10	87	82%
Bui Long	2	17	17	10	34	5	10	93	88%
Nguyen Hieu	1	18	19	10	33	6	9	95	90%
Pham Nhan	1	18	19	8	29.5	5	9	88.5	83%
Nguyen Manh	3	18	19	10	32.5	6	10	95.5	90%
Le Tinh	1	18	19	8	33	6	9	93	88%
Ho Thang	3	18	19	7	32.5	6	10	92.5	87%
Nguyen Em	4	18	19	8	30	5	10	90	85%
Le Trung	1	18	19	9	32	5	9	92	87%
Binh Kha (2 nd)	4	18	19	10	34	6	10	97	92%
Ho Nguyen (1 st)	3	18	19	11	33.5	6	10	97.5	92%
Nguyen Hoang	3	18	19	8	34	6	10	95	90%
Nguyen Binh	2	17	17	9	33.5	6	10	92.5	87%
Vu Hoan	2	17	17	10	33.5	6	10	93.5	88%
Nguyen Cuong	4	18	19	8	31	6	10	92	87%
Nguyen Phung (3 rd)	3	18	19	9	34	6	10	96	91%
Ho Dan	4	18	19	9	34	4	10	94	89%
Nguyen Son	1	18	19	9	34	6	9	95	90%

I was extremely happy with the final results of all participants. It showed that all the participants had taken the training seriously and that revision prior to the evaluation was undertaken.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Having been afforded the opportunity to work with the Forest Guards, I would like to make a number of recommendations. These are as follows:

- Senior Management Staff (ie Deputy Chief and up) should have an understanding of elements of the training provided.
- Standard Operating Procedures need to be compiled for Cat Tien's law enforcement and area coverage. Contingency plans should also be drawn up for security / emergency incidents.
- Owing to the recent shooting incident, there seems to be a reluctance from the forest guards to carry firearms. This is of great concern to, as firearms are a great deterrent to violators, especially those that carry illegal firearms. Forest guards need to receive correct training and become confident in the safe use of firearms.
- That follow up / revision training be given to Forest Guards members.
- Forest Guards also require specialised training in arrest procedures and the use of minimum force.
- That the Training Manual produced for this course be supplied to all the Forest Guards.
- That the Senior Staff ensure that strict noise discipline is maintained on all area coverage (patrol) operations.
- That the Park Authority consider developing a full time instructor to continually train the Forest Guards in all aspects of their work. It should be noted that training not only builds capacity, but is very important for motivation.

CONCLUSION:

I believe the training was a great success and that the individuals who attended the course benefited. For me it was a privilege to have been able to assist these men on their huge endeavour of protecting Vietnams natural resources. To them and all the other staff at Cat Tien, I would like to wish them all the best of luck with their very difficult task. May the staff of Vietnams Protected Areas continue to develop into effective and efficient law enforcers.