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	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>LESSON PLAN :FC & BC 6</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>FIELD SIGNALS</u></p> <p>Period - Two</p> <p>Type - Lecture/Practice</p> <p>Code - FC & BC 6</p> <p>Term - II</p> <hr/> <p><u>Training Aids</u></p> <p>1. Computer Slides, Pointer, Charts, Black board & Chalk.</p> <p><u>Time Plan</u></p> <p>2. (a) Introduction and Aim - 05 Min</p> <p>(b) Demo and Practice - 70 Min</p> <p>(i) Signals with hand & weapons.</p> <p>(ii) Field Signals as means of giving orders.</p> <p>(iii) Methods to attract attn of troops.</p> <p>(iv) Other methods of inter communication.</p> <p>(v) Field signals by day.</p> <p>(vi) Field signals by night.</p> <p>(c) Conclusion - 05 Min</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>INTRODUCTION</u></p> <p>3. Whenever an individual wants to draw attention or has to pass a message to someone who is away from him, he does so by raising his voice and calling out his name. In olden days, smoke and sound of drum beats were extensively used to pass messages from one village to another. Emperor Akbar had devised a way to know the information of his newly born child. He asked one of his ministers to construct high towers at a distance of one mile from each other. The drum beaters were made to stand on top of the towers and beat the drum in a systematic way. Once when he was at Allahabad, news of his new born son was conveyed to him within half an hour, at a dist of</p>

500 miles. In the army too we use different methods to convey messages which may be used during movement or when static. Today, you will learn one of these methods ie Field Signals.

AIM

4. To acquaint the cadets with the Field Signals used in the Army.

PREVIEW

5. The lecture will be conducted in the following parts.

(a) **Part I**

- (i) Signals with hand & weapons.
- (ii) Field Signals as means of giving orders.
- (iii) Methods to attract attn of troops.
- (iv) Other methods of inter communication.
- (v) Field signals by day.
- (vi) Field signals by night.

(b)

PART I-SIGNALS WITH HAND

6. (a) Deploy Right arm fully extended above head and waved from side to side, palm open.
- (b) Advance Right arm swung from rear to front in 'under arm bowling' fashion.
- (c) Halt Right arm raised to full extent above head.
- (d) Turn About Right arm raised and bent above head.
- (e) Change direction Right arm raised to front in line with shoulder.
Body then turned in required direction.
- (f) Close Right hand place on top of head, elbow to the right.
- (g) Quick Time Right hand raised to line of shoulder, elbow close to the side.
- (h) Double March Right fist clenched, moved up and down between thigh and shoulder several times.
- (j) Follow me Right arm swung from rear to front above the shoulder, in 'over arm bowling' fashion.

(c)

(k)

Last order completed

Right hand to salute, then arm raised in air finger extended.

(l)

Last order Not understood

Both hands, cupped behind the ears.

(m)

Commander to close

Right arm to the side at 45 degrees to the body, first clenched.

(n)

Enemy in sight specific numbers

Both arms waved on sides 'Bird fashion' followed by number, indicated by number of fingers held up.

(o)

Enemy Approaching

Both hands open, palm inwards at waist level, with inwards scooping motion.

(p)

Enemy position suspected

Both hands, first clenched, raised to shoulder level, followed by indication of direction.

(q)

Enemy LMG firing

Right hand thumb down signal.

(r)

Engage Target by Fire

Both hands clasped above the head (boxer fashion).

(s)

Attack

Punching motion with Right or Left hand according to direction of attack.

(t)

Closed to Rendezvous

Close sign followed by both hands clasped in front of body at waist level.

(u)

Infantry obstacle ahead

Both hands crossed in front of body at the waist, palm open downwards.

(b)

<u>Signals With Weapons</u>			
7.	(a)	Enemy in Sight in small number	Rifle held above the head parallel to the ground, muzzle in the direction of the enemy.
	(b)	Enemy in Sight in large number	As per (a) above, but arm moved up and down several times.
	(c)	Advance	Both arms raised to form the letter 'U'.
<u>Signals With Whistle</u>			
8.	(a)	Cautionary Blast	A short blast to draw attention to a signal or order about to be given.
	(b)	The Alarm Blast	A succession of alternate long and short whistle.

(c)	Enemy Aircraft	A succession of short blasts.
(d)	Enemy Aircraft departed	Two long blasts repeated at interval of five seconds.

9. **Field signals as means of giving orders.** Field signals are alternate means of giving orders and control troops when voice control is not possible. Control over troops deployed could be exercised better by field signals than by voice control. There are various occasions when voice control is not possible. They are :-

- (a) Battle Noises.
- (b) Need for silence.
- (c) Intervening distances are too large.

8. **Battle noises.** In war, enemy will be using his small arms & automatics, vehicles & tanks moving up & down, enemy arty firing all round and aircraft flying with high speed. This will always create so much noise that voice control may not always be possible.

9. **Need for silence.** There are certain operations which, by design are carried out in utmost silence, eg:-

- (a) Ambush.
- (b) Patrolling.
- (c) Raid.
- (d) Cordon.

10. **Intervening distances are too large.** There are certain deployments like defences in mountains or defences on a linear obstacle like Ditch cum Bund where the commander and troops are invariably beyond audible distance from each other. Under such circumstances we will have to resort to field signals for communication.

11. **Methods to attract attention of troops.** Before any field signal is executed, the commander has to attract the attention of troops. Methods generally used to attract attention of troops are :-

(a) **A short blast of the whistle.** On hearing the short blast of the whistle, every one looks at the Section Commander, observe the field signal being executed and then take appropriate action. It must be noted that use of whistle to attract attention is used mainly during training of recruits and young soldiers. Also use of whistle is not advisable when we are too close to the enemy.

(b) **A bird call.** Remember a bird call must never be used if it cannot sound realistic. One must also bear in mind that use only those bird calls which are existing in that area.

(Bird calls by volunteer cadets).

(c) Whistle by mouth which is of lower frequency.

(d) Clicks by using tongue.

(e) Clicks by fingers. (These too to be attempted by volunteer cadets)

12. **Other methods of communication.** Besides field signals there are various other means of communication in the Army which can be used depending on their availability. The other methods of inter communication available to us are :-

(a) **Radio.** It is a very effective and dependable means of communication and very useful while on movement. Pre-fixed signals can be used in the form of pressing the presser switch. It is normally used between commanders or from higher HQ to lower HQ or vice versa. However it is susceptible to an interruption and jamming.

(b) **Dispatch Rider.** The dispatch rider may be either on a motor cycle or on a bicycle. They are used to carry highly classified messages like marked maps and sketches or orders.

(c) **Runners.** They can carry verbal/written messages. They are quickest over short distances but where visual inter communication is possible, keep use of runners to the barest minimum. The use of runners should also be avoided for the following reasons:-

(i) To avoid unnecessary casualties.

(ii) To avoid unnecessary movement.

(ii) To avoid unnecessary fatigue.

13. **Field Signals by Day.** Some of the visual signals used during the day are flags and mercury coated mirrors. They are very useful in hilly terrain. Flags are very effectively used by Navy on board a ship.

(a) **Flags.**

(b) **Mercury coated mirrors.**

(c) **Smoke.** We have the smoke ammunition with 51mm Mor, 84mm RL, 81mm Mor and some arty equipment. This could be used to give signals. One drawback is that similar colour combination may be used by the enemy. Even tracers or bursts of fire by automatic weapons could be used.

(d) **Miscellaneous.** Various signals can be improvised and pre-arranged. As a

matter of interest I would like to mention here that terrorists are known to often make successful use of improvised signals. Some of the common signals used by Vietcong in Vietnam and by the terrorists in the North Eastern Part of our country are:-

- (i) Clothes ostensibly hung out to dry.
- (ii) Hurricane lantern, kept in the window.
- (iii) Flashing of torch is used as morse code.
- (iv) Applying various colours/signs on forehead and arms.

14. **Field Signals by Night.** Some of the field signals that can be used at night are :-

- (a) Radio Set.
- (b) Click by fingers.
- (c) Clicks by using Tongue.
- (d) Whistle by the Mouth.
- (e) Use of line bedding.
- (f) Mini Flare.
- (g) Use of blacked out Torch.
- (h) Firing of Weapon.

15. Remember to use the simplest method that will achieve your aim.

CONCLUSION

16. The fighting efficiency of a unit/sub unit depends on sound communication system which helps commanders at all levels to exercise command and control effectively. Every commander must influence the battle by his personal touch which is achieved by good signal communications. At section/platoon level, the commander directly influences the battle by the use of field signals. Victory in battle will come to that section/platoon whose men are conversant and proficient in the use of field signals. Field signals therefore, become a part of movement of a good section/platoon commander. Remember always use discretion while giving field signals. Do not resort to unnecessary movement and noise. Keep the age old maxim (If speech is silver, silence is gold) at the back of your mind.