# BASIC VISUAL TRACKING

## ELECTIVE

Australian

Air Training Corps

Cadet / Instructor Notes

1st Edition, 1st June 2001

# ELECTIVE SERVICE TRAINING

## BASIC VISUAL TRACKING (VTE)

**(21 Periods which includes a bivouac)**

**VTE is for cadets who have completed Advanced Stage and is a non-assessed course. The VTE course is designed to enhance the skills and training in survival techniques that has already been achieved throughout the cadets other stages of training. VTE can also be used in FC and SV training where the identification of animal and human tracks may lead to the possibility of rescue and or the dangers of wild animals in the vicinity.**

**VTE 1 INTRODUCTION** **Period(s): 1**

a. State the principles of tracking

**VTE 2 TYPES OF SIGN** **Period(s): 1**

a. Explain Temporary and Permanent sign

b. Describe Big and Small Top Sign

c. Understand Large and Small Ground Sign

**VTE 3 TECHNIQUES FOR DETECTING SIGN** **Period(s): 1**

a. Understand where to look for sign

b. Understand how to look for sign

c. Explain how the environment assists the tracker

**VTE 4 PRACTICAL** **Period(s): 1**

Construct three date/time boxes side by side.

**VTE 5 ANIMAL TRACKS** **Period(s): 1**

a. Understand the difference in animal tracks.

b. Explain the eating habits of carnivores and herbivores.

c. Understand the animal habits and likely movement times

**VTE 6 PRACTICAL Period(s): 3**

a. Demonstrate the techniques for making plaster moulds of animal tracks

b. Cadets to use Plaster of Paris to search and make moulds of at least three different animal prints.

**VTE 7 INFORMATION GAINED FROM SIGN AND TRACKS**
**Period(s): 2**

a. Understand the following information from tracks and sign

1. Age of track
2. Direction of movement
3. Number in the party
4. Speed of the movement
5. Confident or cautious movement
6. Weapons or Equipment carried
7. Male or Female
8. Morale of the group
9. Food eaten
10. Any Deceptive measures used

**VTE 8 PRACTICAL Period(s): 2**
**Scenarios are contained in Examination Data Base**

a. Staff to lay out a set scenario in soft earth as listed for practical demonstrations.

b. Cadets to move to the layout and from the tracks, glean out the series of events that took place.

c. Repeat a. – b. three times.

**VTE 9 PRACTICAL Period(s): 4**
**Scenarios are contained in Examination Data Base**

a. Two cadets from each group to blaze a trail up to 300 metres long while other members practice techniques of sign detection.

b. Cadets of each group to rotate until all members have tracked someone

**VTE 10 DECEPTIVE MEASURES Period(s): 1**

a. Understand the measures used to hide tracks and trails:

1. Dragging foliage behind
2. Walking in streams and creeks
3. Walking backwards
4. Walking on rocks or hard surfaces

**VTE 10 DECEPTIVE MEASURES (cont)**

5. Stepping in one another's prints to confuse numbers
6. Wearing rags or foliage on footwear

**VTE 11 REVISION** **Period(s): 3**

a. Revise VTE 9 with cadets using deceptive measures to conceal tracks.

**VTE 12 CONCLUSION** **Period(s): 1**

a. Understand the need for continued personal practice

b. Explain how the visual tracker can use his/her skills in FC

c. Explain how the Visual Tracker can use his/her skills in SV

# ELECTIVE SERVICE TRAINING

# BASIC VISUAL TRACKING (VTE)

## VTE 1 INTRODUCTION TO VISUAL TRACKING

**1 Period**

## VISUAL TRACKING

### AIM.

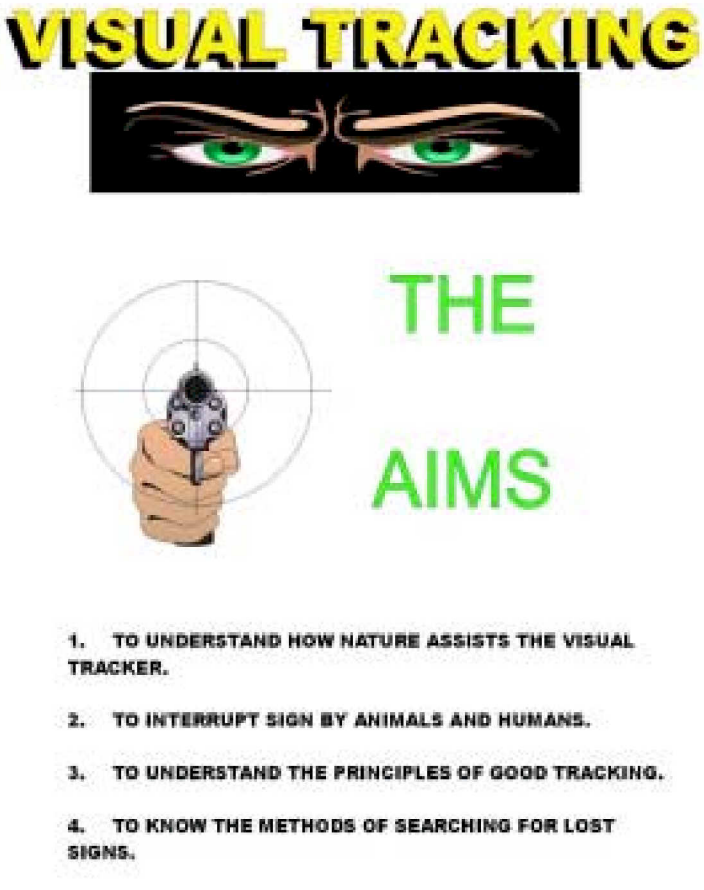
**1001.** a. State the principles of tracking.
b. Explain the types of signs used.
c. Comprehend the techniques for detecting sign.
d. Know the types of information gained from sign.

### EXPLANATION

**1002.** Have you ever wondered how trackers, the ones that you read about, or see in movies, get their information from looking at the ground? In those books and movies the information given seems outrageously unbelievable. In similar circumstances the detective can follow the criminal, the native can follow ancient trails, the hunter can follow the animal or the scout can follow the enemy.

**1003.** In a combat situation, there is an enormous responsibility placed on the scout who leads his or her section into hostile territory.

**1004.** All the members of the section are relying on the skills of the scout to glean information from the surrounding ground and vegetation for early warning.



**1005.** If hunting for wild life then the same principles apply, the difference is that the wild animal is less cunning but more attuned to their senses such as sight, sound or smell. The animal tracker has to take into account the prevailing weather conditions as well as the strength of the animal he or she is tracking.

**1006.** Over the next few days you will be taught the basic principles of tracking both animals and humans. You will come to understand that there is not much difference between the two and after practice you will become quite proficient at following your intended target.