





Most organizations today that work with young people have been slowly but steadily drained of intensity. Young people need intense, risky experiences to develop and grow. These experiences were once commonplace in America but have been “safetied out” of many lives over the last few decades. The reasons for this are complex and sociological but the effect of an “over-safetied” existence on a young person is significant and very negative. Participating in genuinely intense experiences and learning to take risks and dealing with the consequences is essential to becoming an adult. Resilience is a learned skill. Intense life experiences that are not “over-safetied” help to build personal resilience.



### WHY: The Mackall Competition

*The Association is a Veteran Service Organization. Accordingly, the purposes for which the Association is formed are:*

- A. To **educate members and the public** regarding the history, present contributions and future development of US Army Special Forces (consistent with US security regulations).
- B. To **assist in keeping Special Forces units adequately manned** and equipped for the defense of the United States and the Free World by supporting the establishment of the Special Forces Branch as the premiere combat force within the US Army.
- C. To unite fraternally all persons who are now or have been assigned to the United States Army Special Forces.
- D. To **perpetuate the Special Forces traditions**.
- E. To commemorate fittingly the memory of Special Forces troops who have given or shall give their lives in defense of the Free World.
- F. To forward and promote the general welfare and prosperity of the members and to improve by all lawful means their status and conditions.
- G. To be a source of inspiration and esprit de corps for all Special Forces Units.

# Verbatim Feedback - The Mackall Competition 2018

**From: LeRoy C. Boardman**

Sent: Monday, April 16, 2018 8:55 AM

To: charles.r.perry12.civ@mail.mil

Cc: Gregory S. Skelly; Scott K. Smith

Subject: Mackall Competition

Summary of Competition

BLUFF: Sustain. **This is the type of competition/challenge that needs to grow.** It was a test of functional intelligence not only as individuals but as a team as well. All learning styles were put into play while being physically challenged as well. Most tasks were directly related to what we do in JROTC. And the tasks that were not directly related were task focused on challenging their ability as a team to think deeper and work together.

The folks from SF Chapter 6 treated the kids like royalty. Their professionalism and willingness to work with the kids, to teach the kids, the mentor the kids is unmatched with anything I've seen to date being a JROTC instructor.

SF Chapter 6 asked for nothing in return. This is the epitome of the Quiet Professional.

Comment from our cadet Battalion Commander: **"SGM, there is nothing that I've done in JROTC the last four years that comes close to what we accomplished this weekend, not even JCLC."**

SGM (R) Chris Boardman  
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**From: Kevin MANGAN <kmangan@g.oconee.k12.sc.us>**

Sent: Monday, April 16, 2018 11:39 AM

To: Keith Rutledge

Cc: LeRoy C. Boardman; Earl; Doc McManus (rush40acre@me.com); CSM Lucero (vhombre7@hotmail.com)

Subject: Re: Mackall Competition

Keith,

Have some bad news - after all the SF promotion I wanted to put my packet in.....they said I aged out and they would not let me drive the jeep while the others pushed at the Q course.

Oh well.

**My guys came back highly motivated. The best outcome you want from a well run competition. Honestly kind of amazed at how smooth it ran for a first time thru.**

I have hosted a big meet here. Took a couple runs (years) to refine and get the major kinks out.

Would like to meet with you next week, maybe a time after school, and go over AAR and strategy for implementing your qualification events.

Believe targeting an existing event and adapting as a qualifier may be a good approach.

Appreciate a job well done.

Kevin

# The Mackall Competition

- Modeled on West Point Sandhurst Competition
- Three components
  - Shooting
  - Endurance
  - Civic Engagement
- Engage SFA in mentoring young people
- INTENSE – start to finish – Introduce young people to a challenge that is NOT oversafetied



Mile 14 of The Mackall Competition  
With Walhalla High School – 4 Miles  
To Go – 8 hours into the endurance  
event

*Cadet: Mr. Rutledge, do you do this  
kind of thing in Special Forces?*

*Rutledge: "Well, yeah, mostly during  
the course, but some afterwards.  
It's considerably more demanding  
there and much tougher."*

*Cadet: "That's it. That's what I'm  
gonna do!"*

# Regional Competition



- Three Elements
  - Marksmanship (Air Rifles)
  - Endurance (10+ Miles, 4+ Events, One Leg >3 Miles)
  - Civic Engagement (One Team Exam, Project Presentation)
- One-Day Event Template Provided
- Competition Duration: One Long Day
- January to March Time Slot (Before JROTC Best of Brigade Competitions)
- SFA Chapter(s) Mentor High Schools Leading Up to Competition



# Team Preparation for The Mackall Competition

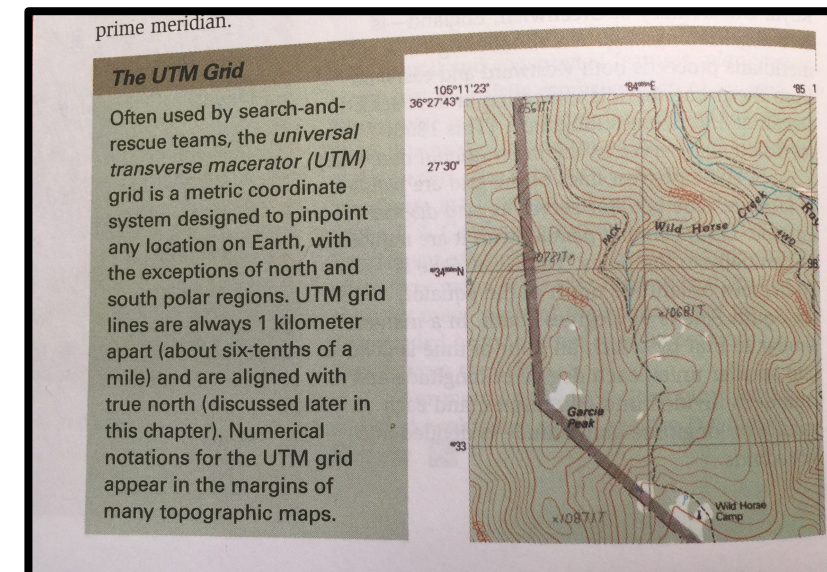


- Master Task List Published with References
- SF Advisor Assigned to Each Team
  - Engage (Start of School Year)
  - Mentor (Students & JROTC Advisors)
  - Guide Training
  - Accompany Team to Competition
- The Mackall Competition is Fun and Demanding
  - Encouraging Environment
  - Fun **≠** Easy
  - Exceeds Skill Level of Eagle Scout
    - Fieldcraft skills
    - Land Navigation skills
    - Medical skills
    - Marksmanship
    - Leadership skills
  - Physical Demands Age-Appropriate but Very Intense

# Master Task List

- Contains All Tasks Tested in The Mackall Competition
- References to Source Page Level
- Five Sources For Skill Tasks
  - Red Cross Wilderness First Aid Handbook
  - Mountaineering: The Freedom Of The Hills
  - Boy Scout Fieldbook
  - Morrow Guide to Knots
  - animatedknots.com (for lashings)

Mackall Competition Master Task List			
Special Forces Association, Chapter VI The Camp Mackall Chapter			
Navigation			
Task Title	Brief Description	Freedom of the Hills	BSA Fieldbook <sup>II</sup>
Map Basics <sup>III</sup>	Terrain Features, Symbols, Legend, Scale, etc.	85-89	175-179
Coordinate Systems	Latitude, Longitude, UTM, MGRS, etc.	84-85,	173-174
	More information on MGRS can be found at <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_Grid_Reference_System">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_Grid_Reference_System</a> . An explanation of how UTM and MGRS interact can be found at <a href="https://www.usna.edu/Users/oceano/pguth/md_help/html/mgrs_utm.htm">https://www.usna.edu/Users/oceano/pguth/md_help/html/mgrs_utm.htm</a>		
Directions	Magnetic North, True North, Map North, Bearings, Headings, Azimuths	94-98	182-183
Compass	A compass is a device for determining North.	92-93	180-181
Navigation	Land navigation is the art and the science of finding your way through any terrain.	83	171+
Pace Count	Pace count is an essential tool for land navigation.		190
Navigate by the Stars	Identify North Star and basic constellations (without a smartphone)		180, 548-552
Measure Distance on a Map	Measure distance to scale and convert it to ground distance.	85	180
Determine Location by Terrain Association	Identify terrain features that you can see and use them to establish your location.	86, 87, 88, 89	188







# What's Next

- Volunteer as Regional Lead Chapter or Team Sponsor Chapter
- Regional Lead Chapter Selects Regional Competition Location and Dates
- Train the Trainer for Regional Lead Chapter
- Select / Engage JROTC (or other) Teams and Advisors
- Engage, Mentor, and Train
- Accompany Team to Competition(s)