



THE CENTRE FOR ARMY LEADERSHIP PLAYING CARDS

By Cpl Wright AGC (RMP) - An Activist's Suggestion

Several sessions were conducted using the cards in differing situations whilst deployed to Oman, Exercise KHANJAR OMAN 19. Throughout the sessions were extremely constructive and beneficial to those talking part. Often, conversation continued after the game had been completed, with participants giving suggestions on how the game could be utilised.

The most significant suggestion was that a set of cards be designed for Private soldiers who are showing potential for promotion. The cards would give discussion points relating to challenges that may arise during the promotion process. This enables future leaders to start engaging in conversation regarding leadership situations and to start developing their own management styles from an early stage.

An excellent opportunity to utilise the cards would be when travelling to and from overseas enduring exercises or operations. The amount of down time when travelling is significant, this is an excellent opportunity to engage with other members of the services and hold sessions with a mixture of ranks from a cross section of trades. These engagements would be informal and rely on the Leadership Activist to give an engaging purpose of the session, explaining the intended outcomes and idea behind the game.

A further opportunity to utilise the cards would be during admin periods of exercises, not necessarily as time fillers but more of a tool to take soldiers minds away from the rigours of the exercise. The sessions could be conducted in quiet areas such as field kitchens, rest areas or accommodation areas. To ensure maximum benefit participants should ideally be volunteers as opposed to made to attend, this ensures maximum input rather than sessions where engagement is minimal.

Following feedback with participants when trailing the card game, it was suggested a formal setting would at times be beneficial. Although it was discussed the limitations of such a formal setting it was agreed that constructive discussions could take place on training courses, platoon training days and Seniors/Officers study days. Such sessions would need to be managed with a clear objective to the session. When conducting a session in a formal setting it was suggested the 'games master' could be rotated to assess individual's capabilities to control a group forum and the direction of any discussion.

In summary, an innovative medium for engaging in leadership discussions based on realistic scenarios in the 21st century British Army. Feedback from participants was extremely positive with many impressed with the standard of professional discussion.

For further information relating to the above please contact Cpl Wright AJ, AGC (RMP) Mil Email: adam.wright106@mod.gov.uk Tel: 01748 872875 Mil Tel: 94731 2875