

The Character of our Canadian Military History Program

The Legacy of War and Munition Disposal

- All Conflicts -

Learning Objectives:

- ✚ Summarize the human cost of 20th century wars.
- ✚ Describe at least 2 ways in which the modern Canadian Forces adhere to the Law of Armed Conflict.
- ✚ Evaluate which traits are most important for an effective bomb-disposal team to embody.
- ✚ Demonstrate the traits: communication; cooperation; courage; resilience; responsibility; thoughtfulness.

Character Traits Explored:

Cooperation, Communication, Courage, Resilience, Responsibility, Thoughtfulness, (+Problem Solving)

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**CONNECTING
CANADIANS
TO THEIR MILITARY
HERITAGE**

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The Legacy of War and Munition Disposal

Overview: This module explores how past wars still kill or injure people today. Canada's involvement in Afghanistan, Korea, WW2, and WW1, will be presented with a focus on the Iron Harvest from WW1 undetonated shells. Legacy of War ends with each group 'diffusing' their own unexploded 'dud' munition in a fun, yet challenging, problem-solving activity.

History Learning Objectives

- ✚ Summarize the human cost of 20th century wars.
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- ✚ Evaluate which traits are most important for an effective bomb-disposal team to embody.
- ✚ Demonstrate the traits: communication; cooperation; courage; resilience; responsibility; thoughtfulness.

Character Trait Development:

Cooperation, Communication, Courage, Resilience, Responsibility, Thoughtfulness, (+Problem Solving)

Total Time: 30-35 minutes

Group Size: 5-6

Age: 11 +

Space: Large indoor or outdoor area

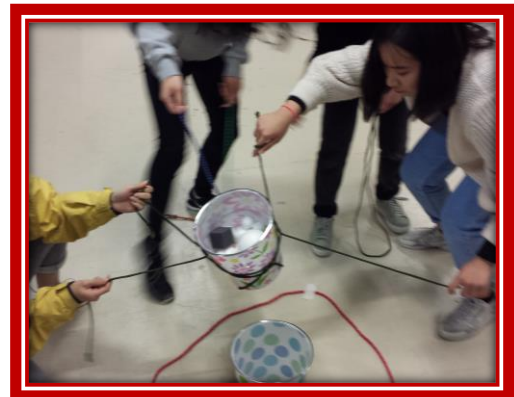
Materials (per group):

Part A- PowerPoint: "*Legacy of War*"

- laptop with internet and projector

Part B- 2 munition shells (aka small buckets/garbage cans)

- 2 ropes, 5 m long (to mark a radiation/explosion zone)
- 1 bungee cord loop (that will tightly fit bucket)
- 8 pieces of cord (with different lengths ranging 1.5 - 3 m)
- 8-12 balls, etc. OR water (acts as the faulty munition)
- Optional: red herring items



Note: it is highly recommended that the Munition Disposal activity is presented, and the equipment tested with an experimental team before being formally presented to a group. Why, you may ask? The physical characteristics of the equipment have a huge impact on the activity's degree of difficulty e.g. the rope length needs to create a large enough "No Go" zone (1-2 m diam.), the width of the bucket lip, etc.

Key Vocabulary

casualty: a person lost to injury, death, or their whereabouts are unknown

Entente: the allied Britain, France, and Russia during the FWW (and later Italy)

Central Powers: the allied Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and the Ottoman Empire during the FWW

pandemic: sickness or disease that is affecting the population over a large area

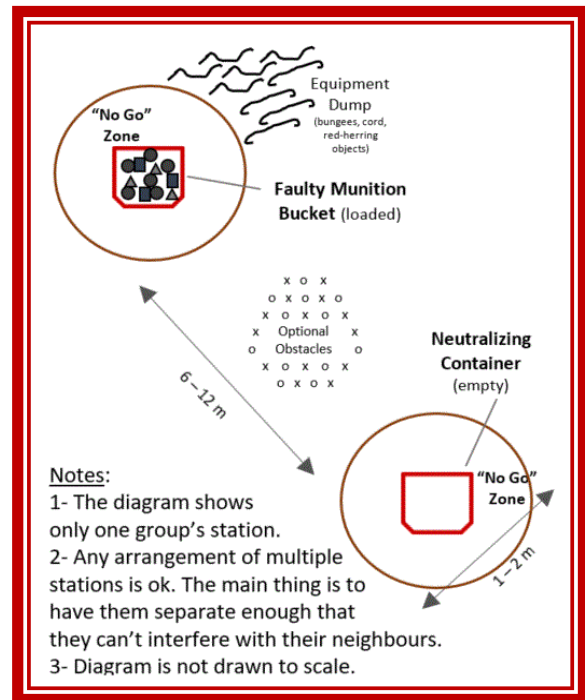
dud: something that fails to work as it should; a shell that fails to explode after firing

ordnance: military weapons with their equipment, ammunition, etc.

neutralize: to make incapable of action; to counteract; to nullify

Preparation (for the presentation and activity):

- For part A- POWERPOINT:
Setup laptop and projector for presentation of “*Legacy of War*”
- For part B- Munition Disposal ACTIVITY:
 1. Place the buckets approx. 6-12 metres apart.
 2. Create a No-Go zone around each bucket by laying the rope in a circle on the ground.
(Note: the larger the No-Go zone and the distance between the zones, the greater the exercise’s difficulty).
 3. Fill one bucket with the balls (if indoors) or the water (if outdoors). The filled bucket represents the ‘munition’ to be moved and disposed of.
 4. Place all of the other equipment (cords, bungees, optional red-herring items) immediately outside of the zone with the filled bucket (the ‘munition’).
 5. Optional: place obstacles between the two radiation zones.



Directions for Presenting the Module

A- PowerPoint Instructions:

(5-10 min)

Present the PowerPoint “*Legacy of War*” slides 2-10 and follow the speaking notes as necessary.

B- Munition Disposal Activity Instructions, Rules, and Roles:

(10-15 min)

1. Present slides 12 – 13 from the PowerPoint “*Legacy of War*” and follow the speaking notes as necessary.

OR

2. Invite the participants to come and stand beside a station that has already been set up and explain the rules as shown on slides 12 – 13. (The visual cues at hand during this rule description will facilitate a better explanation by the facilitator and will lead to a better understanding of the directions and the rules by the participants.)

The main point to communicate is that the participants will be practicing the skills required by a team to be successful, for example, a bomb disposal team will require being adept at all 6 character traits.

3. **Clearly explain the following Rules to the participants (2-3 min):**

A- The goal is to neutralize the faulty munition by **pouring** the contents of the bucket into the neutralizing container in the “Safe Area” using only the equipment provided. Placing the filled bucket inside the empty bucket does not qualify; the contents must be poured.

B- The faulty shell will explode if not transported within 20 minutes.

C- There are 4 “No Go” zones. Two are inside the cylindrical plane above and below both rope circles. The other two are inside the cylindrical plane above and below both buckets. Think of these areas as “mustard or chlorine gas” zones that extend into the air above both the roped areas and the buckets. Anyone that ventures into that area will suffer severe injury or even death.

D- Breaking the plane of any “No Go” zone with an appendage (hand, arm, leg) will result in you losing that body part for the remainder of the activity. If a head breaks the plane: instant death and sitting out the remainder of the activity.

E- Touching the bucket or the contents within will result in immediate death and sitting out the remainder of the activity.

F- Any partial spillage of water or balls will result in the death of your team. Complete spillage will result in the annihilation of your neighbourhood.

G- Failure to complete the task or spillage of the entire contents will cause the death of your teammates and your neighbourhood.

Beginning the Activity:

4. Explain to the participants that this is a 2-part activity. For the first part, called Group Planning, each group has 3 minutes to discuss and design a plan of action **without touching the equipment**. Once the 3 minutes is up, Part 2 begins, and each group has 10 minutes to complete the task.
5. Direct the participants to begin **Part 1- Group Planning** (3 min).
6. After 3 minutes, direct the participants to begin **Part 2- Activity** (10-15 min).

Notes for the Facilitator regarding **what to watch for** during the activity:

(i) Early in the exercise, someone will get overconfident, forget, or will push the limits on the “No Go” zones or rules. Heads especially, seem to wander easily into contact with the plane. In that case, the facilitator should immediately enforce a penalty: significant injury or death!

(ii) Over 90% of groups quickly spill the bucket contents. The facilitator should allow them to start over and any dead or injured group members to be reinstated, but they all should suffer a penalty (1-minute timeout, 20 pushups and sit-ups for each group member, etc.).

(iii) This is a moderately difficult activity, particularly for younger participants (12 yrs. or younger) and some groups will require some coaching in the moment. This activity should occur after the group(s) has already had opportunities to work through basic teamwork and communication issues.

(iv) Evaluate the equipment as it is being used. Perhaps buckets with a smaller rim lip is needed? Maybe the rope demarcated “No Go” zones are too large. Or maybe the balls are too light making the bucket too easy to intentionally tip.

(v) Solution- see the note in red text at the end of this document (page 5).

C- Scoring:

The first group to successfully complete the exercise wins.

Options for increasing/decreasing difficulty:

1. As previously mentioned, red-herring items can be added to the equipment kit, obstacles can be placed between the munition and the disposal bucket, the weight of the items in the buckets can be made heavier or lighter, etc.
 2. The facilitator can be more or less lenient on enforcing breaches of the “No Go” zones.
 3. The facilitator can give add or reduce time as necessary.
 4. The facilitator could also split the group into “Leaders” who can talk, but can’t touch, and “Workers”, who can touch, but not talk.
 5. For surprise excitement, place baking soda in the neutralization container and vinegar in the nuke container to create froth when the pour happens.
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Debrief

Questions and Prompts: Note: There is one main debrief within this presentation (slide 14). **(5 min)**

Debrief Key Idea 1:

The importance of everyone on a team pulling together in the same direction toward a shared goal:

- Ask: *Was your group successful? Was there any spillage (Were there any injuries/lives lost)?*
<Cooperation, Communication, Resilience, Thoughtfulness can be explored here>
 - Ask: *How well did your group cope with this challenge? Which skills were required for successful completion?*
<All Traits can be explored here>
 - Ask: *Did your group have a leader? If so, what was it that made that person an effective leader? In that case, how did the rest of the group work? If your group didn’t have a leader, how were you able to coordinate your work together?*
<All Traits can be explored here>
 - Ask: *What did you learn from this activity and how could your new understandings and skills be applied to future situations?*
<All Traits can be explored here>
-

Solution:

Note: the participants may create other functional solutions.

1. Hook the bungee ends together to make a loop (Note: critical to have appropriate length bungee. See #3).
2. Tie the other cord lengths, spaced evenly apart, to the bungee.
3. Have everyone grab their own cord and step outward- they are trying to stretch the bungee larger so that they can move it over top and around the bucket.
4. Once the stretched bungee has been lowered around the bucket, the group members release their pull pressure on their cords and allow the bungee to tighten around the bucket.
5. Lastly, they can lift the bucket, carry over to the neutralizing container, and then dump in the contents. (The group may have to start again and save a piece of cord that can be used to pull against the bucket base to enable a dumping action).