**Land Scenario Two**

Situation:

* 1 x Male Maori, 38 years old reported missing from an eeling trip.
* Left home two days ago (Wednesday) to walk with two nephews to walk over track and meet his brother (father of the two boys) who had been eeling in the area. They were to assist in carrying the “catch” back home.
* L/P and nephews parted company at the top of the ridge after a slow climb to the top.
* L/P was struggling and indicated to the boys to carrying on he was returning home.
* L/P is a deaf /mute who communicates by gestures and grunts.
* Eeling party break camp on Thursday morning and return to home address, arriving early evening.
* L/P is not at home.
* Family make enquires within their family and establish, L/P is not with any of them.
* It is highly unusual that at least one member of the extended family might know where the L/P might be.

Action to date:

Brother has formally reported the L/P as missing.

Enquires thus far have established:

* L/P is itinerant
* He is well known locally
* He lives in an isolated remote community
* Regularly seen hitch-hiking in both directions along the road from his home.
* Local Police have alerted local community, requesting any sightings.
* The two nephews walking with the L/P have been interviewed by local Police and have established last known point (LKP)
* L/P remains unlocated
* Local SAR organisation is activated late Friday evening
* Search HQ established at Local Police Station.

Ground:

General

* Rugged Remote National Park

Last Known Point

* Remote rugged bush
* Track starts in minor watershed and crosses over ridge into main watershed
* Steep drop-offs either side of track
* Cliffs / Rock faces in proximity of track in some places
* Area littered with “Tomo’s”.
* Eeling camp on large river which reaches back into rugged Headwaters, ultimately drains to the coast some considerable distance away.
* Several access points across same ridgeline downstream of the eeling camp.

Search HQ

* As “crow flies” 10km from the beginning of the track
* 25km by road (95% gravel) to start of track
* 1.5km 4x4 off road track to bridge across river to start of track up spur to ridge.

Weather:

* As at the time of the IMTEX
(Late Summer /early Autumn at the time of the actual search)

Injects (Search Teams):

* Search Team travelling up track from the track start point, confirm clear evidence of more than one person coming down the track.
* No evidence of recent activity at the Shelter / Hut at the start of the track.
* Search Team accessing major watershed downstream of Eeling Camp, report strong smell of decay.
* Search Team dropped off at Eeling Camp report evidence of activity @ campsite and up and downstream of it. There is also evidence of people leaving the campsite travelling back to the start point of the track.
* Search Team reporting strong smell of decay locate body of a male in a Bivi. They seek further direction.
* Search Team at LKP report nothing of significance and seek further direction.
* Police Dog Handler and dog (neither trained in SAR) but accompanied by a SAR member, dropped into LKP.
* Police Delta Team picks up on a scent and follows, direction of travel off to the side of main trail and down side of ridge.
* Search Teams on main track confirm “Tomo’s” present.
* Ops Manager directs that Search Teams will be withdrawn from the Search Area each evening
* Delta Team report trail lost, likely it was an animal as there has been no evidence of human footprints only animal. Seek new task.

Injects (Community):

* Male presents at Search HQ – missing male competent in the bush and would be quite confident of spending extended periods with him in the bush.
* Senior member of local gang presents to Search HQ – L/P is whanau – he offers services of gang to search area between the cliffs and creek / stream. Stating that this would allow trained search teams to go further back into the search area.
* Woman presents at Search HQ – L/P has a fear of water and wouldn’t go near it unless accompanied he wouldn’t attempt to forward creek or river.
* Member of public reports sighting of male answering description of L/P hitch-hiking east, away from where he lives, two days ago.
* Member of community reports presence of an elite section of the military exercising in close proximity to the search area. Given their skill level and reputation they may be able to assist.
* Members of public report sightings of the L/P hitch-hiking west away from where he lives two days ago.
* DAY THREE – Former school teacher of the L/P presents to Search HQ. Teacher states that the L/P in addition to being deaf / mute, he never progressed past primary school. He has the intellect of a 10-year-old. He has been cared for by Whanau since he left school.

Injects (Organisation):

* Joint Forces confirms the availability of one airframe from - RNZAF - 3 Squadron. Requests current Sitrep, anticipated taskings, location and security of the LZ, accommodation and messing arrangements for the Aircrew and Fuel Tanker Driver Airframe will be on site at 0730hrs, Day Two. Search Teams should be available for combined Safety Briefing 0800hrs with first deployment at 0830hrs.
* **Day Two – AM** – of Land SAR deployment - Member of partner agency, presents to Ops Manger and I/C. Concerned about confidentiality and embarrassed that he hasn’t raised his concerns earlier. This person states he was present during the interview of the L/P’s nephew. In his opinion the Police member who interviewed him was demeaning and putting words into the L/P’s mouth. He feels the LKP was more the opinion of the interviewer rather than the young lad who he suspects hasn’t got a high level of literacy least of all the ability to read a TOPO Map.
* **Day Two – PM** – Unannounced visit from the NZ Police District Ops Manager.
* Enquires into progress of the search, expresses concern about the cost of the search teams insertion and extraction each day and queries what the forward planning is with respect to suspending the search.
* **Day Two – PM** – Senior LandSAR member from Auckland offers to “peer review” activity thus far.
* **Day Two – early evening** – Reinterview of L/P’s nephew (after some effort to locate him) reveals the LKP is most likely to be at least 1km further along track from original point.
* **Day Three – mid morning** – Search Team in area of new LKP reports human waste off the side of the track – not exactly fresh.

Lost Party Profile

* Male
* Maori
* 175cm
* Average build
* 38 years
* Deaf / mute
* Scruffy dresser
* Communicates by gesture’s and sounds
* Friendly and non-threatening
* If he wasn’t in the company of family he would be hitch-hiking towards communities either side of his community

Media

* Media Release to Police Website
* Community Newspaper Release
* Local Police Facebook – Missing Person Media Release
* Query from a National Newspaper requesting the opportunity for a position on Defence Force chopper to view Terrain
* Query from TV Channel for position on Defence Force Chopper to view Terrain