

JUSTIFICATION

JOB PERFORMANCE: Captain Michael S. Kearns' performance during the past quarter has been the driving force behind the increased productivity and superior quality of instruction within the Special Survival Training Program (SSTP). He is one of only two officers in the Department of Defense (DoD) qualified to instruct all three courses within the SSTP on a worldwide basis. During the period 1 July thru 30 September, Captain Kearns instructed more than 100 students in the S-V83-A resident course at Fairchild AFB, WA. In addition he presented initial DoD High Risk survival training to over 80 Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) personnel both at Fairchild AFB, WA during night classes and at operational locations. These high risk operators, sitting alert for JCS tasking, were significantly better prepared to survive with honor in a captivity situation as a result of Captain Kearns' instruction. He also conducted DoD High Risk refresher academic and roleplay training for 40 JSOC (Army) personnel at Fort Bragg, NC. This instruction solidified Code of Conduct related principles and further prepared these soldiers to successfully deal with a crisis situation. Captain Kearns, as the SSTP Operations Officer, expertly coordinated 15 training TDYs conducted by mobile training teams (MTTs). These MTTs successfully presented peacetime/hostage training to over 600 high risk students from all US military services at both CONUS and overseas locations. The tremendous favorable impact of this vital training resulted in the formalization of Course S-V91-A, DoD High Risk Survival Training. A user funded course at present, S-V91-A is the first major step toward ensuring that peacetime/hostage policy in DoD Directive 1300.7 will be disseminated to high risk audiences throughout DoD. Captain Kearns was instrumental in preparing OL-FA for the first visit of the Air Force Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Major General Wood. His attention to detail and communication skills with host base SAC and ATC personnel, made MGen Wood's visit a total success.

SIGNIFICANT SELF IMPROVEMENTS: Captain Kearns volunteered his own time, became qualified, and served as duty officer for the USAF Survival School Code of Conduct laboratory during this quarter. His exposure to basic combat survival greatly added to his background knowledge, and his supervision of 40 instructors and 150 students in each class developed his managerial skills. His involvement as the only directorate officer on jump status significantly increased the SSTP credibility with selected operational units from all the services and provided insight into unique problems which could arise as a result of peacetime/hostage detention.

LEADERSHIP QUALITIES: Captain Kearns conceptualized, organized and managed the second AFIA sponsored JSOC Code of Conduct exercise, Bocci Ball, at Fairchild AFB, WA from 7-10 Sep 89. Coordinating JSOC, SAC, ATC, and AFIA manpower and logistics assets, Captain Kearns expertly scheduled all facets of the operation to ensure maximum learning for high risk JSOC operators. A total success, the exercise and Captain Kearns were specifically praised by the commanders from all organizations involved.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Captain Kearns is half way through a demanding master's program in Organizational Leadership at Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA. Additionally, working with HQ USAF/INT and the 3636 Combat Crew Training Wing, he is conducting a pilot study to improve topographic map reading skills of aircrew members while they attend Course S-V80-A, basic survival.