

# CSCA Technical Training News Sheet

No 2

October 1998

## YOUR QUALIFICATION

### Is it worth the paper it is printed on ?

It is a condition of all Joint Service Adventurous Training Scheme (JSAT) qualifications that personnel are required to keep themselves up to date with modern techniques and be aware of current safety related matters.

There are a number of *qualified* Service cavers who initially gained their qualification as a Unit Cave Leader (UCL) or Army Cave Instructor (ACI) over 10 years ago. Since then there have been a number of advances and improvements in caving techniques and unless new skill are learnt and old skill regularly practiced people abilities will decline, even to a level that could be unsafe.

### Periodic review of caving qualifications

At the moment there is no requirement for Joint Service Cave Leaders or Instructors to undergo any form of periodic qualification re-validation or reassessment, nor is there a requirement for them to undertake any form of refresher course. This is not the case for civilian qualification which have to be reviewed every 3 years.

### CSCA Recommendation

One of the important roles that the CSCA has is that of helping to maintain safe and highly competent cave leaders and instructors in the armed forces. This can not be achieved simple by insisting that all qualified cavers are members of the association, nor by the association issuing safety related information in its newsletters.

The CSCA Technical Training Committee strongly recommends that ALL Cave Leaders and Instructors who wish remain active in the sport and retain a valid meaningful qualification should receive some form of continuation training every 5 years. This training should be recorded in their logbook. When some one has been inactive for a long period of time it may be necessary to conduct a reassessment of their qualification.

The Land Command School of Adventurous Training and the CSCA Technical Training Committee will work together to provide this necessary training.

## New for 98/99 2 day refresher courses

The Land Command School of Adventurous Training have allocated a number of 2 day courses for personnel to return to the school for either repeating any assessment module that they have failed or for attending refresher courses. These courses are not just for caving but for all the adventurous training activities conducted at the school. However, the School will support whichever activity people request, staff levels permitting.

**This is the first time any AT Center has offered this facility and we should take full advantage.**

Course dates		
6 - 8 Dec	24 - 26 Jan	28 Feb-02 Mar
9 - 11 Dec	27 - 29 Jan	3 - 5 Mar

If you wish to attend a two day refresher course or receive SRT self rescue training contact the School and discuss your requirements.

### CSCA Skills Workshops

The Technical Training Committee intends to run Leader and Instructor skills workshops and refresher courses during the major meets e.g. Easter and AGM. It is also possible to arrange training at other convenient times. So let the Technical Training Adviser know what you require well in advance and he will endeavor to help.

**Remember you are responsible  
for keeping your qualification  
valid.**

**It is knowledge, skill and good  
judgement that makes a Leader,  
not a piece of paper**