

Question

Hello Jean-Francois!

We have a couple of questions regarding the gear to the course.

First one is that can the Swiss army provide the plate carrier and helmets for finns? The problem is that our participants don't have their own gear and it's difficult to loan them from the military or from somewhere else. It would also be easier if they wouldn't have to carry them on luggage in an airplane. After all, they have a lot of gear already with them so packages will be very large.

Second question is about shoes. So do our guys need some special mountain boots or will regular army boots suffice? If they need special shoes, can you also loan them if we provide the guys shoe sizes.

We don't really have a lot of mountains here so our usual army gear is not comparable to yours :) I heard that Minna has already sent you the information about our participants. The guys that we picked from applicants are familiar with ropes and climbing so they should be somewhat capable handling the course otherwise. Guys had a lot of questions and I would think that they have some more so do I direct them to you, or to this address: s.fellay@sof-sion.ch ?

And by the way, thanks again for arranging this course!

Answer

Hi Arto!

Thank you for your pertinent questions and your interest in ensuring that your detachment is able to carry out the mission!

As far as the quarry platform is concerned, we need a system to attach the laser simulator for the combat sections. We don't need any ballistic plates or anything like that. We recommend a simple harness. But a system for carrying magazines, grenades and other readily available accessories is highly recommended.

Helmets are required for the combat section and for rope abseils. However, we can lend abseiling helmets (approved for mountaineering) to all participants. So if helmets are a logistical problem, don't worry, there will be enough for everyone. I'd just like to remind you that the aim of the course is also for participants to find out whether their equipment is suitable for alpine missions, so take as much as you can from home!

As far as boots are concerned, you need boots that hold your ankles well and are suitable for long walks.

As far as rope techniques are concerned, it's quite simple. We require participants to have no fear of heights and to be courageous. Although we won't be taking any risks in the instruction and participants will always be insured, the better the level the more advanced the instruction will be.

I'm also going to share this Q&A on C3 so that other participants can have this information.