



# Desert Survival Situation™

-  paper self-scored form
-  real-time feedback (RTF)

## TEAM DEVELOPMENT

Warm up the problem-solving and decision-making skills of your teams



**Unlock**  
the secret of  
synergy with  
the original  
team-building  
simulation.

### WHAT IS THE DESERT SURVIVAL SITUATION?

The *Desert Survival Situation*, one of the original group process simulations, is also one of the most widely used training tools in the world. Developed by Dr. J. Clayton Lafferty, the *Desert Survival Situation* places participants in the Sonoran Desert, on a hot August day, where their plane has just crash landed.

### HOW DOES THE DESERT SURVIVAL SITUATION WORK?

Participants are challenged to rank 15 items salvaged from the crash in order of their relative importance to their survival in the situation described by the simulation. Solutions to the *Desert Survival Situation* are developed first on an individual basis and then by groups. Scores are generated by comparing individual and team answers to those provided by Alonzo W. Pond, M.A., former chief of the Desert Branch of the Arctic, Desert, Tropic Information Center of the Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base and author of several books on survival training.

Comparisons between individual and team scores indicate whether teams were able to achieve synergy by fully using and building on the knowledge and skills of their members.

The *Desert Survival Situation* takes approximately 1½ to 2½ hours to complete, including scoring and debriefing.

### APPLICATIONS

The *Desert Survival Situation* can be used as an icebreaker, central activity, pre-test/post-test, or follow-up activity for programs focusing on:

- Building new teams
- Team development
- Problem solving and decision making

The simulation can also be used as:

- An icebreaker for an extended offsite gathering
- A kick-off to a group problem-solving meeting
- A tool for basic survival training

### WHO SHOULD EXPERIENCE THE DESERT SURVIVAL SITUATION?

The *Desert Survival Situation* is appropriate for all audiences.