



M.O.S.T.

McMillan Offshore Survival Training

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From the desk of John McMillan

To Our Friends:

I'm not much of a "board" game player but I could not pass up the game "The Worst Case Survival Scenario" at the local Toys R Us store. I looked at the example question and it was about USCG inflatable life raft inflation procedures. I thought this is for me. I then looked at the other example question and it was how to win if you are in a bar fight. I bought the game!

My initial thought with over 600 survival related questions was "How can they think up so many questions". After my first game, I knew I was on the road to being a Rambo, Tarzan, James Bond and Clint Eastwood, all because of a board game. Building shelters, recognizing signs and symptoms of bites from crawling, slithering animals and diseases were easy. But when they asked 'How do you properly bribe a third world police officer' , I actually knew the answer thanks to 10 years of training in Nigeria.

So, what's the point of this game and how does it relate to safety & survival training. Each question has 4 answers and many of them could be the "right" thing to do given a slight change in the circumstances. I found this to be of interest to my competitor, my 10 year old son who thought he had many "close" answers but not the exact one. Was he slightly wrong and would it have made a real life difference if he was being chased by a mountain lion and instead of fighting back he stayed motionless? After all, it's only a mountain lion and not an Alaskan Grizzly Bear.

Each one of us has an "idea" of what we would do in an emergency situation, whether or not we have had any prior training. We normally rely on common sense, physical strength, luck and the Almighty. Survival is like playing poker. You get a hand to play but in poker you can discard the weaker cards with the idea to enhance the strength of the other cards whereas in survival, you play the hand you're dealt.

Our training philosophy is to enhance our trainees to be valuable playing cards to the other players involved in the situation. It is a job & duty to enhance other people to have them perform and function under stress to a level that statically improves survival chances of the group. People are lifesaving appliance to others involved and each person has something to add to the strength of the team. Even if singing some Snoop Doggy Dog Hits is all one knows, join in and sing along.

Like the board game, safety and survival decisions are based on previous learning experiences and when asked what survivors remember the most, it was their previous training that they relied on.

John McMillan, President
McMillan Offshore Survival Training