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## B2.3 Group Training: Plane Crash Scenario

Facilitator's Notes

### Aim:

This exercise may be used as an icebreaker but it will also enable student groups to discover how they work together; their strengths and how they need to improve.

### Time required:

Thirty minutes as an icebreaker, one to one and a half hours with debriefing, depending on the number of groups.

### Resources:

A room where small groups can form; flip chart or overhead projector plus pens.

### Procedure:

- 1 Give the students the handout of the scenario (p38) and make clear the 30 minute time limit imposed.
- 2 Explain that each group will have five minutes in which to report back and justify their decision. Reporting back is not essential but gives the students the opportunity to explain their decisions. If there is a large number of groups, an alternative would be to record their choices on paper for display.
- 3 Carry out a debriefing of how the group had functioned. The questions you ask will depend upon the learning you want the students to achieve from the exercise but should encourage reflection on their experience.

*Examples - How did they reach their decision?*

*What roles did group members adopt?*

*Did they listen to each other?*

*What have they learned about the functions of a group?*

*What would they do next time?*

See also, [Facilitating a Group Training Session-B2.1](#).

## **Air Crash**

### **The Scenario**

A small aircraft crashes in the shark infested waters of the Pacific Ocean. There is damage to the aircraft on impact with the water which causes the electronic systems within to be damaged. The resulting radio failure means that no may-day message can be sent.

Of the sixteen passengers on the plane there are nine survivors. The location of the crash is approximately one and a half days from the nearest land. The life raft on one side of the aeroplane can be used, however there is only room for four persons in it.

**Your group must reach a decision as to which four persons can enter the life raft. You have approximately 30 minutes to reach this decision before the aircraft sinks.**

The following are the details of the nine survivors.

1 **'Ace' Browning**. Ace was the pilot at the time of the crash and it was his expertise which landed the aircraft in one piece, enabling it to float. 'Ace' received his pilot training and nickname when he was in the Airforce. He is the son of an Air Vice-Marshal and a decorated Gulf veteran. He is a keen golfer and collects theatre memorabilia. Recently, there has been some concern amongst his colleagues that he is showing signs of a drinking problem. He is one of a team of volunteer pilots who carry out mercy missions which drop food and medical aid in places of crises.

2 **Geoff McGraw**. Geoff was returning from a medical conference where he gave a paper on "Re-building Facial Features Following Accidents". He is a recent divorcee with four grown up children. At 57 he owns a plastic surgery clinic in California from which he has made a considerable fortune. Geoff has established a charitable programme which helps children with facial injuries. His hobbies include collecting vintage cars, deep sea fishing.

### **The Butler family - James, Patience and Prudence**

3 **James Butler** is a 40 year old church minister. He has been a missionary in Papua New Guinea for the past 15 years. He is keen to take up the challenge of a new post in Haiti, but has not discussed the move with his wife, Patience, as he is aware that she is anxious to return to the UK and start a career. He is also torn by the wish to spend more time with his two older children. James' hobbies are bridge and fishing.

4 **Patience Butler** (35) did a lot of voluntary work whilst in Papua New Guinea. She established a youth club which developed skills such as orienteering and homecrafts in young people. For many years Patience has wanted to start a career; she has the manuscript of a first book which she intends to take to a publisher. Her book explores issues relating to helping indigenous peoples and their way of life survive the 21st century. She has three children.

5 **Prudence Butler**. Prudence Butler, an epileptic, was travelling from Papua New Guinea to London with her parents at the time of the accident. She is a very intelligent 10 year old girl and shows great talent at music and languages. She has two siblings, a fourteen year old brother and a 12 year old sister who are both at boarding school in the UK. Prudence did not want to take time out of school for this trip but her father felt that it was important that she visit her brother and sister.

6 **Donald Heap**. Donald Heap is a 45 year old married man with two children. He is the Conservative member for Happiburgh and currently resides on the back bench following a brief, but very public period as Junior Minister in the Department for Defence. Donald resigned from this position because of a scandal involving insider dealing. Donald is a self-made man, having made his fortune in sports clothing. He is an Olympic medallist in track events and used his world-wide reputation as a sportsman in marketing his goods. His hobbies include sailing, squash and growing hothouse orchids.

7 **Sam Comfort**. Sam is a 29 year old nurse and a member of Greenpeace. He abandoned plans to marry three years ago and took up a post as Nursing Officer at an Antarctic research station where he carried out work on hypothermia. He got on very well with the rest of the team at the research station and would like to renew his contract and return there. Sam is a very gifted musician, he plays the violin and enjoys swimming and badminton.

8 **Professor Mu Chado**. Professor Chado has been Professor of Microbiology at the University of Barkington for the past 10 years. He has developed an antibody to the HIV virus that has proved successful in combating illness in experimental animals. He is 60 years old and a bachelor. He was physically disabled when he was 30 in a riding accident and has since then been confined to a wheelchair. His hobbies include water colour painting

9 **Philippa Lowes-Harrington**. Philippa Lowes-Harrington is a Performance Director in the energy industry. She is a 50 year old married woman with no children. Philippa spent 12 years in the army and retired at the age of 30 at the rank of Captain. Her hobbies include skiing and collecting objet d'art. She has been involved in negotiations where the Victoria and Albert Museum acquired a number of valuable pieces of British art from Japan and the United State. Currently she is the Chair of a working group which is considering how art may be used to improve inner-city environments. Philippa has recently been diagnosed as HIV positive.

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