

d. After each Raider Team has been given five minutes to tie their Swiss Seats and to prepare their rope by either back laying the rope or coiling the rope. **THE SWISS SEATS AND AUSSIE KNOTS WILL BE CHECKED BY THE COACHES PRIOR TO BEGINNING THE ROPE BRIDGE. THE ROPE MUST BE FLAT ON THE GROUND WITH NO LOOPS OR TWISTS, or MARKINGS THAT MAY ASSIST WITH TYING THE KNOTS.**

e. When crossing, **only three Raiders** will be clipped onto the bridge rope with the Swiss seat at any one time. While crossing each **Raider is not required to have one leg/foot** in contact with and over the bridge rope. The bridge will not be disassembled until the last Raider has crossed and safely unclipped on the far-side.

4. CONCEPT: Upon arrival at the bridge site, the Team will enter the holding area with their bridging equipment and wait for further instructions from a guide or judge. Teams will receive a safety briefing and be given the Task, Conditions and Standards for the event. When a lane is clear, the Team will then move to the preparation area, be given a site orientation and begin the 5-minute cross preparations, for tying Swiss seats and to prepare your rope. “Time Start” begins the exercise/event. “Time Stop” ends the crossing/event, the Team then gathers their equipment, is given a short debrief and proceeds to the next event.

#### 5. BRIDGING PREPARATION, CONSTRUCTION, CROSS, & DISASSEMBLY:

##### a. Preparation:

(1) The first and last Raiders can tie either an **Aussie Seat** (around-the-waist harness or a Swiss Seat. The Aussie seat rope is double wrapped around the waist and tied off with a square knot with overhand safety with a minimum 4-inch pig tail on each side. The snap-link is then clipped around all coils of the harness. The remaining Raiders will tie Swiss seats with snap-links to aid in transporting themselves across the rope bridge. The snap-link is centered on the body and closed over all the rope parts with the gate facing up and away from the body. The seat must be snug.

(2) The 120-foot bridge rope is uncoiled and either stacked in a coil or is back laid on the ground.

##### b. Construction: The following steps can be taken simultaneously but all steps must be completed.

(1). Step One: The Far-Side Raider ties an end of the line bowline w/overhand knot or figure 8 and snaps in before crossing into the stream (dead zone) and is belayed across the stream (no figure 8 across the body). Belaying involves a stationary Raider managing and controlling the bridge rope as the Raider crosses the obstacle. Too much “slack” is to be avoided to sense the movement of the crossing Raider and to ensure an immediate safety response.

(2) Step Two: When the Far-Side Raider reaches the far-side, he/she moves to the anchor point, detaches the snap-link from the harness, wraps the bridge rope around the anchor 180 degrees and “temporarily” secures it by closing the snap-link on the bridge rope.

(3) Step Three: On the near-side, approximately 3 Meters from the near-side anchor, a wireman’s knot or figure 8 slip knot on a bite is tied into the bridge rope, using a wooden, metal, plastic stick/implement or 2 snap links (**Mandatory**), to aid in the disassembly of the knots can be used (**Transport Tightening System Pg. 7-15 Fig. 7-10**) for securing the nearside. Inserting the stick/implement is accomplished by placing it into the upper wing above the butterfly of the knot (upper bight of the wireman’s knot). The stick/implement may not be used as a speed tightener. The fixed loop formed in the knot must naturally lie toward the near-side anchor. The fixed loop is placed into the two (2) snap-links with gates opposed Pg. 5-5. The remainder of the bridge rope is routed around the anchor point and through the snap-links.

(4) Step Four: When the bridge rope has been passed through and been secured by the one (1) locked or two (2) snap-links in the wireman's knot or figure 8 on a bite, the far-side Raider now detaches the "temporary" snap-link and pulls the wireman's knot or figure 8 on a bite out from the near-side anchor point approximately 5 to 6 feet and then secures the bridge rope to the anchor with two round turns and two (2) half hitches on a bight w/4" pig tail, or tensionless anchor knot ensuring the knot is at least waist high or higher.

(5) Step Five: The Raiders on the near side tighten the bridge rope with their pull team. The rope is tightened until the two (2) snap-links clear the dead zone area. The bridge rope should be tight enough to prevent crossing Raiders from contacting the stream. The transport tightening system is then secured to the anchor using a round turn and two (2) half hitches on a bight w/4" pig tail. The half hitches do not have to pass around all ropes between the anchor point and the wireman's knot or figure 8 on a bite.

c. Crossing: The Raider will face the bridge rope with his/her left or right shoulder toward the far-side anchor and clip onto the bridge rope. The Raider will then rotate his/her body under the bridge rope and pull with their hands until they are across the obstacle. No more than three (3) Raiders will be on or clipped into the bridge rope at any one time. No part of the body or equipment may touch the obstacle (dead zone) when hooking up or getting off the rope bridge. **(Do not touch the boundary marker or any part of the obstacle)**. Raiders are not required to have one leg or foot in contact with bridge rope if the cadet is clipped into the rope.

d. Disassembly:

(1) When the last Raider has crossed and unclipped from the bridge rope the far-side anchor may be untied while the Near Side Raider disassembles the transport system on the near-side. He/she can tie a bowline w/overhand in the end of the bridge rope or uses the existing Wireman's or Figure 8 loop and secures the snap-link on his/her waist harness. The bowline may be tied during construction or crossing. The Near Side Raider is then belayed across the obstacle by Raiders on the far-side.

(2) Once the Near Side Raider is across, all knots (the wireman's knot or figure 8 on a bite and bowline knot) will be removed from the bridge rope. When the Team leader is certain that all knots are out of the rope, equipment, Raiders are accounted for, and the obstacle has been cleared he/she will call "TIME". No individual equipment needs to be removed nor do any Swiss seats/around-the-waist harnesses untied and removed.

6. SCORING: The score earned by the Team will be the total time based on the time for the crossing plus any penalty time. The fastest time is first etc. (See Score Sheet B-7)

7. PENALTIES: 30 second penalties will be assessed for violations of the following rule, except as otherwise noted.

a. Equipment/Preparation/Inspection Penalties:

(1) The Raider Team not having as a minimum 1 - 120-foot-long X 7/16-inch diameter static bridge rope, 10-Swiss seat ropes 12 to 15 feet long X 7/16-inch diameter, 14 – snap-links if not using a stick, or 1 – stick/implement and 12 snap links (1 stick takes the place of two snap links to aid in the disassembly of the knots).

(2) Failure to properly coil or back lay the bridge rope.

(3) Far Side and Near Side Raider fails to tie an around-the-waist harness (Aussie Seat) secured with a square knot w/overhand and snap-links with the gate up and away from the body and attached to all coils if not using a Swiss Seat.

b. Construction Penalties:

(1) Far Side Raider fails to secure the bridge rope to his/her waist harness with a figure 8 or bowline knot w/overhand and snap-link. The use of an improper belay.

(2) The Far Side improperly belayed across the stream. There should be little “slack” in the bridge rope.

(3) Far Side Raider fails to “temporarily” secure the bridge rope with a 180 degree turn around on the far-side anchor and reattach the snap-link from his/her waist harness to the bridge rope before calling secure.

(4) Failure to tie the wireman’s knot or figure 8 on a bite the Team must retie for safety– safety stop, time continues to run. The wireman’s knot must naturally lie toward the near-side anchor and both ends should exit opposite each other without any bends, the loop formed in the wireman’s and figure eight on a bite knot must not be less than twelve (12) inches in length, and the gates on the snap-links must be opposed and form a X when checked.

(5) Failure to secure the bridge system on the far-side or near-side with two round turns with two (2) half hitches on a bight– DQ.

c. Crossing Penalties:

(1) Not mounting (clipping into) the bridge rope with the shoulder facing the far-side anchor, and then rotating under the bridge rope to cross or mounting before all bridge knots are secure.

(2) More than three (3) Raiders on the bridge rope or clipped into the bridge rope at any one time. Disqualification.

(3) Each Raider who enters and touches the obstacle with his/her body this includes members on the far and near-side attempting to assist Raiders who are crossing. Any equipment that the Raider loses in the obstacle while crossing or mounting and dismounting of the bridge will result in 30 second penalty per occurrence.

(4) Parts of the uniform/equipment dropped into the obstacle on the cross.

(5) Less than eight (8) Raiders crossing on the rope bridge disqualification.

d. Disassembly Penalties:

(1) Near Side Raider fails to secure the bridge rope to his/her waist harness with a figure 8 or bowline knot w/overhand, or transport knot and snap-link. The use of an improper belay.

(2) All knots do not remove from the rope 1-minute penalty.

e. Other:

(1) Safety issues – clock runs while corrected.

(2) Sportsmanship – profanity, abusive or unethical conduct – 60 second penalty and possibly disqualification.