



# EHAT Lesson 2.3: Ground Sign Awareness



# Overview

2.3.1 Introduction to GSA

2.3.2 Why Things are Seen

2.3.3 GSA Characteristics



# Terminal Learning Objectives

At the end of this module, the participants will be able to recall the characteristics of sign and understand how recognizing ground sign may be used as a tool to identify IEDs.



## 2.3.1 Introduction to GSA

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# What is Sign?

**Sign:** Any evidence of change inflicted upon the natural state of the environment by the passage of man, animal or machinery.

**Ground Sign** is therefore sign that occurs on or around the ground.

**Ground Sign Awareness** is the understanding of ground sign and the ability to apply it in order to identify potential threats, namely the threat of IEDs or IED perpetrators.



# Why is it Important?



# Why is it Important?



- Most IEDs found using GSA alone
- A skill that require no specialist equipment
- Can be used by anyone
- Can be used in all operating environments



## 2.3.2 Why Things are Seen

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# Why Things Are Seen

## The 7 Ss

- Shape – Familiar shapes recognised easily, Contrast with natural surroundings
- Silhouette – Object silhouetted against contrasted background
- Shine/Texture – Surface that contrasts with its surroundings
- Shadow – Cast/contained
- Spacing – Natural objects are never regularly spaced
- Sudden Movement – The eye is attracted to movement
- Signature – Thermal out put of objects

# Methods of Observation

There are the two methods used to identify enemy locations.

1. Scanning – general & systematic examination of an area in order to detect anything out of the norm
2. Searching – a thorough examination of specific features in the area

Both require concentration & a knowledge of both Why Things Are Seen and the principles of camouflage & concealment



## 2.3.3 GSA Characteristics

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# GSA Characteristics

GSA has six characteristics:

- Disturbance
- Regularity
- Discardable
- Flattening
- Transfer
- Colour changes / Discolouration

# GSA Characteristics

## Disturbance





# GSA Characteristics

## Regularity





# GSA Characteristics

## Discardables



# GSA Characteristics

## Flattening





# GSA Characteristics

## Transfer



# GSA Characteristics

## Colour Change





# GSA Considerations

## General Considerations for GSA:

- GSA is a skill that requires practice and needs to be maintained.
- Environment specific
- “Tuning In”



# Questions for you

What are the six characteristics of GSA?

- *Disturbance*
- *Regularity*
- *Discardables*
- *Flattening*
- *Transfer*
- *Colour changes / Discolouration*



# Questions?

