



THE ALIEN POD

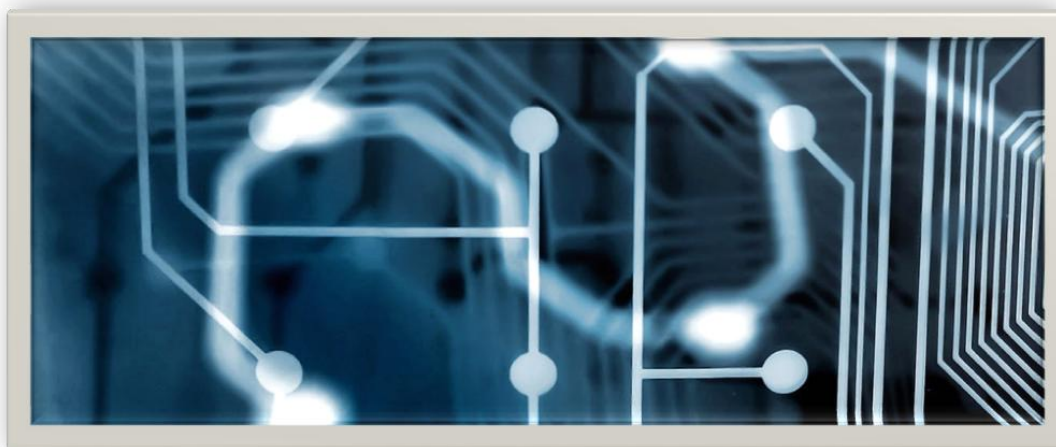
An Explanation

16 January 2012

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Introduction

The Alien Pod is a high adrenalin team hide and seek activity which relies heavily on communication and listening to others and working under time pressure to solve a number of puzzles.



What is the Alien Pod?

The Alien Pod is a device that has been left by a malicious alien wishing to cause harm to the human race. A team of crack Crime Support Investigators (your team) have the mission of finding the pod and solving clues to deactivate it before it lets off a dangerous nerve gas. If the gas is released everyone in a 100km radius will be affected and total memory loss will take place. Using the skills in your team you must work out the location of the pod and then carefully solve the deactivation sequence without triggering the release of the nerve gas. Do you have the skills? Have you got the confidence to take on the challenge?

This is a high adrenalin role play activity where the team is unsure of what they will face. As the activity unfolds they will be introduced to equipment which hinders their ability to communicate including cumbersome biological warfare suits, gas masks and two way radios. This is designed to create a more realistic experience whilst adding natural barriers to communication which the group must overcome.

The activity is split into 6 areas:

- Risk assessment / health & safety
- Navigation skills
- Planning & preparation (includes a skills audit - who does what during the activity)
- Active problem solving
- Teamwork
- Feedback and review

The purpose of the activity is to assess individuals reaction to a situation outside their normal experience. Facilitators will review the activity and draw on lessons learned.

This is an experiential learning opportunity where there is space for lots of personal observations and learning.

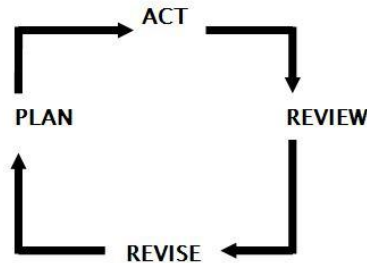
Because a level of trust is needed amongst the team this activity works particularly well in a residential environment. If it is to be done as a standalone project it is recommended that a build up teamwork session takes place beforehand, to establish ground rules etc. It is ideally suited to those whose teamwork skills need to be developed as it builds on the need to listen and communicate effectively within a team.

Ideal numbers for this group are 3 teams of up to 8 people. There are no age restrictions

The training approach used

The emphasis of the programme is to provide a supportive, practical and fun learning environment for the group. The programme will be designed to provide the education and opportunities to understand and develop interpersonal and team skills.

The event will work through the experiential process described in the cycle below.



The exercise will be reviewed and participants invited to examine critically their collective and individual effectiveness. This typically provides individuals and teams with further stimulus and direction to practice new approaches.



Possible Learning Outcomes for Students

- Teamwork
- Leadership skills
- Confidence building
- Effective communication
- Innovation - using quality equipment to encourage learning
- Creativity
- Positive attitude - motivation, energy
- Using initiative - reacting to working in a live environment
- Organisation and Planning - prioritising task, managing time/workloads
- Decision making and problem solving
- Leadership

Conclusion

The Alien Pod is a unique medium for individual and team development in a fun and exciting way. Can you save our species and life on Planet Earth?