

ActivExpression Implementation Aids Assessment, Motivation and Collaboration at the Army's Initial Training Centre (ATC), Pirbright

Background

The Army Training Centre Pirbright (ATC) delivers phase one training for troops who are joining the Army Air Corps, the Royal Artillery, the Royal Corps of Signals, the Royal Logistics Corps, the Adjutant General's Corps, the Royal Army Medical Corps, the Intelligence Corps and all female adult entry soldiers.

All new recruits are put through a fourteen week programme which is known as The Common Military Syllabus (Standard Entry). The programme encompasses, Fieldcraft, Skill at Arms, Fitness Training, Qualities of a Soldier, Military Knowledge, Battlefield Casualty Drills, Individual Health and Education.

The Challenge

The Chief Instructor CI (Trg) Lieutenant Colonel John Whitchurch SASC has been in charge of overseeing the training implementation of The Common Military Syllabus at ATC Pirbright for the past two years. On arriving at ATC he realised that the means of assessing recruit's understanding was inefficient and time consuming:

"Our method of assessing recruits' understanding was an arduous process; each recruit would fill in a form at the end of each course; which had to be marked individually. All the paper forms then were scanned and added into our TAFMIS system. This was exceptionally inefficient in terms of time taken to gather the recruits' data and there was very little opportunity to give the recruits feedback."

The Solution

Lieutenant Colonel Whitchurch had heard of Promethean's ActivExpression, Learner Response System, via Captain Ben Holden, an Army Teacher Trainer, who had been trialling thirty two handsets.

ActivExpression is the latest in handheld response devices. The system enables the trainee to respond to questions asked by the instructor via text, multiple choice, Yes / No, True or False, Sort in Order, Likert Scale, and the revolutionary self-paced learning application, whereby questions will appear on the handset one after the other, enabling the teacher to have real time analysis of questions which the trainee got wrong.



To test if ActivExpression could be used within the confines of an Army training seminar; Lieutenant Colonel Whitchurch invited Chris Barlow, Director for LEB Partnership, to come and take a demonstration with 150 recruits. Each recruit was issued with an ActivExpression handset and asked to reply to questions, which had been compiled specifically for the demonstration.

From the exemplar demonstration Lieutenant Colonel Whitchurch could see the power that ActivExpression could yield for instant feedback and assessment.

“Straight away I could see the potential for ActivExpression to be used in our training of recruits. As the questions were asked, the recruits could all answer very quickly, with instant analysis of what percentage had responded correctly or incorrectly. The instructor could immediately see which recruit had or had not understood the question asked and adapt the training accordingly”

As a consequence of this demonstration, Lieutenant Colonel Whitchurch procured ActivExpression for the ATC.

Development

The success of the initial purchase of five sets of ActivExpression has resulted in the Initial Training Group (ITG) procuring a further thirty-two sets, supplied via LEB Partnership Ltd for the training centres at Winchester, Basingbourne, Harrogate and Pirbright. ITG realises that the recruits have to be evaluated, motivated and assessed using the latest innovations in training technology to engender the best results for a modern Army.

Lieutenant Colonel Whitchurch has been thoroughly impressed with the support received via LEB and sees the relationship as a partnership:

“From the outset, LEB Partnership Ltd has proved to have exceptional product knowledge of Promethean’s ActivExpression system. Following the procurement of the sets they have given us outstanding service including on-site training, which, has been tailored to our specific requirements.”

The implementation of ActivExpression has meant that the ITG can now validate training delivered to recruits instantaneously, with automatic collation of the data, which saves time and ultimately money. They are also using ActivExpression for confirmation during lessons. This and the use of the systems during validation have proved to be motivational to the recruits as they are engaged in the seminars.



ARTD Staff Leadership School

For further information or for an onsite demonstration of ActivExpression contact:



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