

## CCF training weekend



Last weekend Sgt Berry, Lt Allison and I took 18 members of Gateways and Horsforth CCF to Altcar training camp in Liverpool for a military based training weekend. During the course of the weekend we focused on three sections of the cadet syllabus; fieldcraft, navigation and skill at arms.

The cadets were taught in groups according to their length of service and prior knowledge. In the skill at arms lessons some of the new recruits were able to handle a rifle for the first time, albeit without ammunition, while they were learning the parts of the weapon system and the safety drills associated with the cadet rifle. The older cadets had a refresher course and then many of them were able to pass their weapon handling test during the course of the weekend.

Navigation was taught in a classroom and the recruits were taken through the first few lessons about what is a map, map symbols and using 4 and 6 figure grid references. The older cadets had a refresher on the above and then learned how to use a compass and take a bearing.

In fieldcraft, the cadets were taught how to patrol using different formations and how to retreat safely in the face of an ambush. This involved using wooden rifles to 'shoot' at the enemy, and dropping to the ground and leopard crawling to take cover. Some of these lessons were taught by the senior cadets and they did an excellent job of making them engaging and ensuring everyone was involved.

We were lucky enough to see the sunshine most of the weekend so we didn't get too wet.

Lt Sophie King