

THE COLLECTIVE TASK

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Poetry. Art. Writes Robert Fitterman: "In early 2006, I invited around 20 poets and artists to participate in a collective project; 12 of those invitees took me up on this offer and saw the project through to completion. In terms of purpose, criticality, and guidelines, I tried to say as little as possible; my hope was that the collective itself would discover a purpose along the way without any initial influence. My only framework was that each participant would offer us a 'task' on the first day of each new month and that the participants would respond to any or all of the tasks." Participants include: Tim Davis, Monica de la Torre, Stacy Doris, Robert Fitterman, Sabine Herrmann, Klaus Killisch, Carol Mirakove, Yedda Morrison, Kim Rosenfield, Lisa Sanditz, Rod Smith, and Juliana Spahr.

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE BY EDITOR ROBERT FITTERMAN AND REVIEWER VANESSA PLACE

PLEASE ADD COMMENTS IN THE SPACE PROVIDED

December Task: Juliana Spahr
Search and browse 4,500 news sources updated continuously.

1. The Collective Task clearly explained its objectives. 1 2 3 4

1a. If I read a good review by a good reviewer, I am more likely to "read" the book. Yes No

2. The Collective Task presented information in a way I could understand. 1 2 3 4

2a. If I read a bad review by a good reviewer, I am more likely to "read" the book. Yes No

Collective task management is the process used to identify, assign proponency for, propose, analyze, coordinate, approve, and standardize collective tasks, task performance specifications, and training and evaluation outlines (T&EOs) to ensure consistency of training to the same standard for soldiers, leaders, and units performing the same tasks.

3. The Collective task encouraged participation and treated the reader with respect. 1 2 3 4

3a. If I read a good review by a bad reviewer, I am more likely to “read” the book. Yes No

4. I have learned new ideas and/or skills. 1 2 3 4

4a. If I read a bad review by a bad reviewer, I am more likely to “read” the book. Yes No

5. The amount of information presented was just about right. 1 2 3 4

5a. I frequently “read” a book that I have already “read.” Yes No

6. I could read and process the material clearly. 1 2 3 4

6a. Books are meant to be “read.” Yes No

7. I would recommend the Collective Task to a friend. 1 2 3 4

7a. I belong to a “reading” group. Yes No

April Task: Tim Davis

What is the mainstream, where is the mainstream? How does it work? What or else shall we do about the mainstream? Talk to me.

b. **Minimum essential requirements** for collective task management:

- (1) Approved proponent branch-specific collective task lists.
- (2) Shared collective task list.
- (3) Accurate and comprehensive collective task performance specifications and collective training products.
- (4) Development and implementation of standardized collective and individual training.

Note: The critical collective task lists are a minimum essential requirement output of the mission analysis process and are managed by the

June Task: Stacy Doris
Exemplify torture.

FOR LONGER COMMENTS:

1. What was the most/least effective lesson in the Collective Task?
2. Are there specific activities or readings that you would like more/less of?
3. Did the writers/artists seem prepared and knowledgeable of the subject matter?
4. As a reader, was the workload for reading this book similar to reading other books?
5. In what ways did Collective Task meet or not your expectations?

May Task: Mónica de la Torre
A pin for the many rallies and marches in favor of the rights of undocumented workers reads: TODOS SOMOS ILEGALES.
(All of us are illegal.) Take on the issue.

Collective task management provides the means to ---

Ensure the identification of valid critical collective tasks.

Standardize task-based training and task performance.

Control the identification, analysis, distribution, and use of critical task information.

Standardize training products and materials.

Reduce training development (TD) work and costs.

h. A shared collective task is a collective task that applies to or is performed by more than one type unit, e.g., to units which have different proponents or to different echelon/Table of Organization and Equipment (TOE) units within a single proponent's authority. Since the task, conditions, standards, task steps, and performance measures of shared collective tasks do not change, the collective task is trained and performed in the same way by all units that "share" the task.

i. Shared collective tasks can be used as provided by the proponent or modified by non-proponent users for inclusion in their training products. When modified, the non-proponent user:

- (1) Can **not** change the doctrine on which the task is based, e. g., changing the conditions, standard, or task steps.
- (2) Will assign a task number to the modified task using its own proponent code.
- (3) Will identify the collective task (number and title) from which it was derived.

Note 1: Even minor changes to the task title, conditions, standard, or steps result in a new task which must have a different task number assigned.

Note 2: Non-proponents using shared tasks in their training products will use the task specifications as stated by the task proponent.

I AGREE/DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS:

a. The purpose of “reading” is to introduce new concepts.

b. The purpose of “reading” is to widen your horizons.

c. The purpose of “reading” is to deepen my understanding of the world around me.

d. I do enjoy “reading.”

I have completed my reading.

Yes No

September Task: Kim Rosenfield
Send me 50 dollars.

November Task: Rod Smith
One act.

TASK DEVELOPMENT STATUS

Status	Description
Proposed	A potential critical collective task (title only) identified to or by the Training/TD (Task) Proponent. These tasks are not assigned a collective task number unless or until they are determined to be a critical task.
Approved	A collective task that has been approved as critical by the Training/TD (Task) Proponent. The proponent assigns a unique identification number. There can be only one collective task bearing this number and title. Collective training products are produced by the proponent to provide training on these tasks. These tasks are also listed in the CATS Short-range Unit Training Strategy.
Inactive	A critical collective task that is no longer used by the Army. Inactive tasks are no longer on the critical task list for the TOE/Table of Distribution and Allowance (TDA) type unit. An inactive task may or may not have been superseded by another collective task. Inactive tasks may be used by sister services or by foreign governments in support of foreign military sales. Indefinite storage of all inactive task data is required.