NAVIGATION SERIES · NAV-05

NAV-05 — Rally Points, Linkup, and Route Contingencies

How a family finds each other again when phones and roads fail.

BOTTOM LINE UP FRONT

NAV-05 teaches a family to reunite after a disaster separates them: three tiers of meeting point, a rule for what to do when someone does not arrive, and alternate routes home. It is not a patrol rally-point drill, and it is not a phone tree; it is built for the moment calls and cell service fail.

WHY THIS MATTERS

A disaster finds your family scattered, not gathered.

A normal weekday spreads a household across work, school, and errands, and the phone call everyone planned to rely on is the first thing a disaster overloads. Families without an agreed meeting point spend those hours guessing where everyone is.

A meeting point only works if everyone picked it before they needed it.

THE THREE TIERS

Tier 1: Primary	A spot just outside the home, used when the house itself is the hazard.
Tier 2: Secondary	A location outside the neighborhood, used when home is unreachable or unsafe.
Tier 3: Out-of-Area Contact	A person outside the disaster area who relays status when family members cannot reach each other.

COURSE LESSONS

1	**Why Families Get Separated When It Matters Most.** Why a disaster is likely to find your family scattered, and why a text beats a call.
2	**Designating Family Meeting Points.** Build a three-tier system so everyone knows where to go and who to report to.
3	**Danger Areas on the Way Home.** Recognize hazards on the route home and treat anything you cannot confirm as impassable.
4	**Linkup When Someone's Missing.** Set a wait-time threshold and a one-searcher rule for when a family member does not arrive.
5	**Route Contingencies for Getting Home.** Plan a genuine alternate route, a hard turnaround rule, and bail-out points.
6	**Capstone: Your Family Communication and Reunification Plan.** Assemble everything into one written plan every family member can find without a phone.

DOCTRINAL SOURCES

MCWP 3-11.3, Scouting and Patrolling	Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps	Origin of the rally-point and danger-area concepts that Lessons 2 and 3 adapt from patrol movement to family movement.