

## **RC10m 10-Minute Roll Call Training: “Improving Your Memory With Kim’s Game”**

**Topic:** “Using Kim’s Game To Improve Your Memory & Observation Skills”

### **Key Points:**

1. Excellent memory skills can be critical to a law enforcement officers daily activities.
2. There are a lot of simple ways you can work with your team, or a partner, to improve your skills.
3. The name Kim’s game comes from Rudyard Kipling's book called Kim published in 1901. "Kim" is the story of an Irish orphan who grew up in India and was being trained to be a spy by the government's intelligence agency. This spy training involved improving Kim's memory. To do this the trainers showed Kim a tray of gems and other stones and he was allowed to memorize them for one minute. After the minute had elapsed they covered the tray and asked Kim how many stones he saw and what kind of stones and gems they were. He was asked to describe them in detail.
4. Kim's Game training and its variations have been used over the years by many military units, and even the Boy Scouts, to develop memory and observational skills, many of which are still used today by law enforcement counter-sniper teams.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What are you doing to improve your skills in observation or memory? Why would improving our memory or skills at observation help us in our jobs?
2. What are the memory or observational skills we need to improve? Perhaps we could specialize in license plates or peoples faces?
3. Have any of you seen Kim’s Game used in law enforcement or military training, if so how?
4. Can you think of any other ways we could work together as a team to improve our skills at memory or observation?

### **Activity:**

Place about twenty or thirty small objects on a tray, or on the table or floor and cover them with a dark cloth. Use things like buttons, pencils, corks, candy, playing cards, stones, coins, pens, etc. You can also use a photo that you project onto a screen using PowerPoint. Uncover the articles for 30 seconds up to one minute, or project your photo on the screen, then cover them over again or go to a blank slide. Ask the players how many articles they can remember, and mark those numbers down on a scoring sheet. The person who can remember the most objects is the winner. A variation of the game involves removing an object and rearranging the others to see if the players can identify the object that is missing.

### **Follow-up:**

You can also use a PowerPoint of photos of complex scenes from the real world to add realism to the training. The game can also be played out in the real world by looking at a scene indoors, or outdoors, then looking away and writing down all you can remember about the people and objects in the scene. Use the game regularly to improve your memory and your skills of observation.