Value Modeling Distance Learning and Implications at West Point

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Abstract: Over the past decade, the Army has increasingly relied on online training as a medium for conducting training. Unfortunately, a culture has developed around distance learning in which many leaders accept and value reports of completed training, rather than the quality of its execution. In order to identify the source of this culture of acceptance and indifference, this study surveyed one hundred cadets at the United States Military Academy. A systems engineering approach was then used to value model online training and analyze trends between its various value measures. Based on the survey results and value modeling, online training is valued at a quarter of the ideal score. Additionally, a Spearman rank test for correlations showed that the length of time spent on training is not tied any of the other training objectives. These findings suggest that there is significant room to improve online training and its value to units, thereby reducing the ethical fading in its execution.

Keywords: Value Modeling, Online Training, Ethical Fading