

## What's Your Tap Code?

Bob Schumaker a former POW created a social network in solitary confinement during the Vietnam War. For three years and through thick walls POW prisoners communicated using a tap code. They created and utilized a system to converse where different finger taps represented each letter in the alphabet.

Despite their captors' efforts to isolate and discourage, they stayed in contact and even gave each other French and music lessons. In the midst of dire circumstances, they were able to strengthen connection and keep their hopes and dreams alive.

**What's the Tap Code on your team?** Who created your communication system? What is it based on? Does it serve the team? Is it inclusive? Does everyone understand and apply the code? How does the way you talk and listen deepen connection?

**Does your Tap Code help keep your team's hopes and dreams alive?** Do you discuss your vision more than once a year? Are your decisions aligned with your mission? Does your vision matter to everyone on the team? Is your mission relevant? Are you aligned?

If these POW's could talk through cell walls under constant surveillance, what can you do as a team to enhance your communication and keep your mission and vision in the forefront during times of challenge?

Answer these questions together at your next staff meeting. Share the story or watch the clip at <http://www.pbs.org/thisemotionallife/topic/resilience> to uncover your team's tap code and make it through tough times with flying colors.

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