

THE
RANGER
DIGEST III
TIPS, TRICKS & INFO



**A SOLDIER'S GUIDE TO LEARNING
THE TRICKS-OF-THE-TRADE**

Four military-style crests are positioned at the corners of the central frame: top-left, top-right, bottom-left, and bottom-right.

NOTE: COPYRIGHT PENDING

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FOREWORD

Well, here it is... another Ranger Digest Handbook - Part III. How about that, the Ranger Digest does get around in the military. It just goes to show there are soldiers out there who really do care about others, and this book proves it. Because without these tips, tricks and ideas that many of you readers sent me, I could not have put it together so fast. Thanks to all you guys & gals who took the time to write.

I've been asked once, "Why do you waste your time putting these books together? You're not going to get promoted any faster in the Army." First of all, I don't call it "wasting time." Second, I could give a shit less if I get promoted or not, nor if I get any recognition from the Department of the Army. Just hearing from the troops that my books have helped them is rewarding enough. And if you think I'm doing a good job, write and let me know. Because it's your supporting letters and mail that keeps me going.

Some leaders (and readers) may not always like what I talk about nor approve of my tips or techniques. And if you're one of them, too bad! Either write and let me know or don't bother to buy any more of my books. The choice is yours.

But remember this, there are LEADERS WHO CARE, THOSE THAT DON'T, & THOSE WHO SIMPLY THINK THEY KNOW IT ALL. And if I wasn't a caring leader, I wouldn't have taken the time to write these books.

OK, all you Ranger Digest readers and leaders -do you have a good tip, trick or idea that could benefit others in the military? Then why not share that wealth of information with others? Don't let your fellow soldiers learn the hard way. For every tip that you send me towards the next Ranger Digest, I will send you a FREE copy of the book and give you full credit by publishing your name. Provided that I accept it, of course. The rules are:

1. The Tip, Trick or Idea has never been published before and it has not been copied out of any other reading material.
2. To the best of your knowledge, you're the only individual who has ever thought of this tip or trick. And or you learned it from fellow soldier and wish to pass it along to others.
3. The tip or trick must be related to combat survival techniques, improvising or modifying equipment, or how to live more comfortably in an outdoor field environment. Please insure that you enclose a detail description of your tip along with your correct address.

I can't respond back to everyone. But if I accept your tip or idea, you will receive credit and a free copy of the next Ranger Digest handbook. Send your comments, tips, tricks, information, or complaints to:

RANGER RICK'S BOOKS INC.
11 Poppy Lane
West Grove, Pa 19390

And remember, if someone asks where you learned these tricks from, just tell them "MY BUDDY RANGER RICK TAUGHT ME!" Take care for now.

(As of 1 January 94, there is a Ranger Digest I, II, III, & IV)



ATTENTION!! RANGERS

VETERANS OF:

World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Southeast Asia, Dominican Republic, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, Kuwait, Persian Gulf

**Join the
U.S. Army Ranger Association**

If you have been awarded the "Ranger Tab" or have earned the title "Ranger" by serving in a recognized Ranger unit for one year or more, or have served in a Ranger type unit (LRRP, LRP, LRSU) and have been awarded the CIB or CMB you are eligible to join the Elite, Proud, and Growing USARA.

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Send your name and address directly to:

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United States Army Ranger Association, Inc.
Post Office Box 669
Columbus, Georgia 31902-0669
Telephone (404) 576-6630

LEADERSHIP

LOYALTY

DARING

DEPENDABILITY

SPECIAL THANKS

To show my sincere appreciation, I will always dedicate a special page in the Ranger Digest thanking those who took the time to write and send me their favorite tips. After all, without you Ranger Digest readers, leaders and contributors, I could not have put this book together.

It's dedicated and caring troops like these that keep the Ranger Digest series alive. I apologize to those of you who may have sent in an idea or tip, that it was not accepted. There could have been a number of reasons why. Most of the time it's because someone else already thought of it and sent it in. But don't give up, keep those tips, tricks and ideas rolling in. I'm still waiting anxiously to hear from all you "bad ass" Army Rangers, Navy SEALs and 82D Paratroopers.

ILT WILLIAM C. CARTER

ILT JOHN S. WILSON

SFC BILLY R. THOMPSON

SSG PATRICK FINLEY

SGT COREY WOODARD

SGT DALE SHELDON

SGT JOE E. COUP

SPC ROBERT G. WARMACK

SPC JASON WAGGONER

PFC MATTHEW D. HOHMAN

PATRICK NELLIGAN

KEVIN L. SIX

PETER J. EISERT

LUIS CALCORZI

DEVIN A. GILLIS

And an extra special thanks to...

JOHN KOTTAL,
Retired SF MSG

ANDREW D. CHESNEY,
USMC - SPECPURFOR

And my Airborne Cartoonist Friend...

PFC MARK D. MINGO



BDU LAUNDRY BAG AND POCKETS

Submitted by Pfc. Matthew D. Hohman

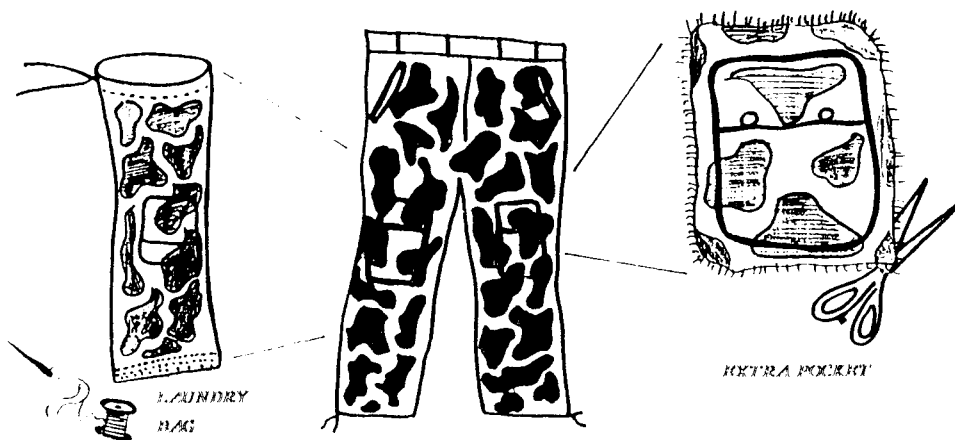
Hey, guys and gals: are you throwing away some BDUs? Not so fast, you can still get some use out of them, or at least certain parts of them....

If you cut off the pant legs at the crouch, they can be made into great little handy laundry bags or a general utility bag.

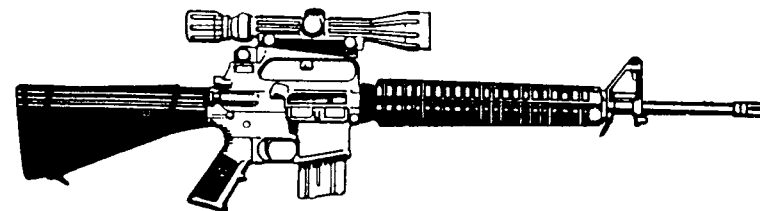
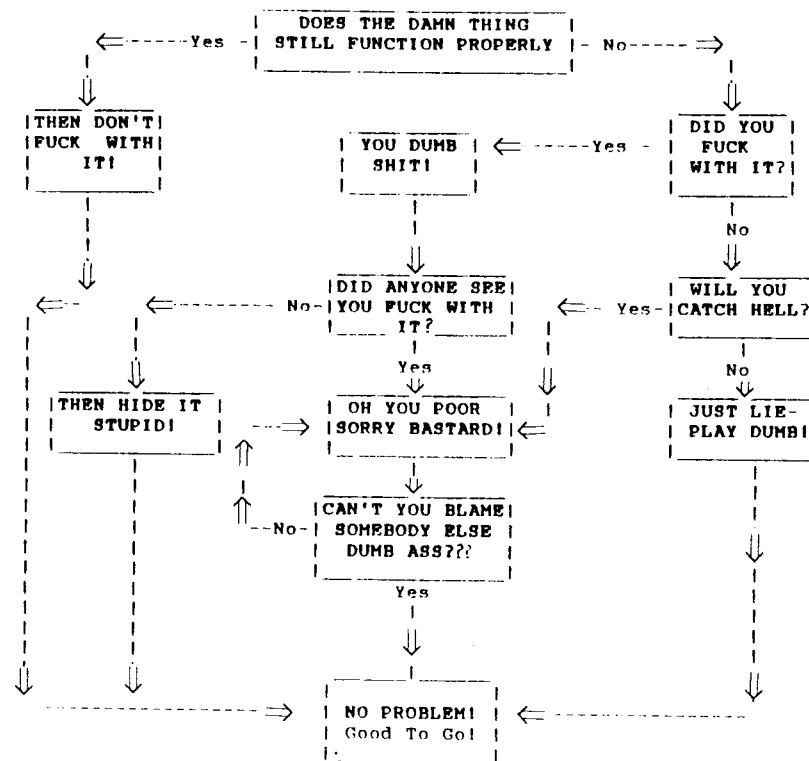
All you do is sew up the wide, cut-off portion of the pant legs, and on the other end add a "draw string" to the bottom seam of the pants and it's complete.

Also, anytime the BDU pants or shirt get too worn out to wear, at least cut out the cargo pocket portion before you trash them. Add a few stitches to the seam edges to keep 'em from unravelling and you can use them as little storage bags. Or have them re-sewn/attached to other items, like the poncho liner, uniforms, laundry bags, etc.

So the next time you're getting ready to trash some uniforms, cannibalize the pockets, pant legs and buttons. Never *just* trash them.



THE SOLDIER'S SOLUTION TO BROKEN GOV'T PROPERTY



\$

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\$ UNIT SLUSH FUNDS \$

A leadership technique that I've often used to develop more pride, team work and esprit de corps among my soldiers, was the use of a slush fund. I knew if I could make them feel a little special about themselves and their unit, I could make them perform better than any other platoon in the company or battalion.

What's a slush fund? It's monthly contributions from soldiers to buy special needs that either the unit or an individual soldier needs or deserves, such as buying some additional equipment, a special gift for someone's departure, or just money for a unit party.

To get troops to kick-in and donate money is sometimes difficult to do, especially those who are either tight with their money (penny pinchers), always broke (irresponsible) or those who are just struggling to support their families.

But there are ways to overcome some of these obstacles and get a sufficient amount of money to support a slush fund, such as having unit raffles, asking spouses to provide a service such as sewing and so on . . .

Never ask or expect a lot of money to be donated at once, and don't accept more money from one than the other unless they are paying in advance. Always select one enlisted (E-1 to E-4) and one junior NCO (E-5 to E-6) to collect, control and spend the money. It should be a volunteer or someone selected by the unit to do the job. The overall keeper of the money should be the one who's the highest ranking in the unit, other than an officer. The keeper of the money is only responsible for securing it, not spending it or doing any of the other duties.

The ones who have the say on where to spend it or what to spend it on are those who donated the money. Normally a 'group rap meet' will air out what to spend it on. You must understand that some members will have a one track mind about what they want to spend it on (such as unit parties and booze) rather than what it should be used for. It must be put to a vote.

Try planning and dividing the up coming months into events that you can foresee, such as holidays, major field deployments, members who are PCSing/ETSing, etc. Once you plan this out, you can take it from there and discuss when to have a unit party, how much to put aside for Pvt. or Sgt. so and so's going away gift, equipment needed for the field and so on. It won't be easy doing this, and I can reassure you that the more members you have, the more difficult it will be to please everyone about how the money should be spent.

If there's ever an argument or problem on what to spend the money on, postpone the decision until everyone has had time to think it over. *Never, never, never* should one person make the final decision on how the money will be spent, regardless of rank or position.

You'll find that a unit slush fund works pretty well and comes in handy at times if you organize and control it properly. You'll see



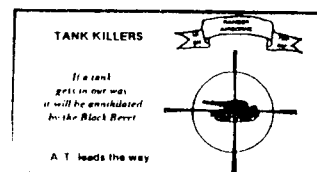
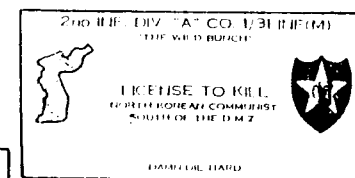
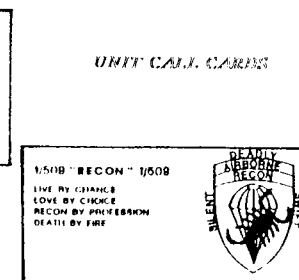
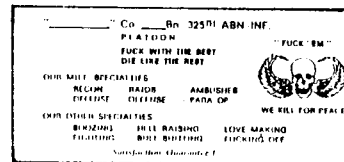
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UNIT CALL CARDS

Another idea I've used to create high morale in a unit was the use of CALL CARDS. These really work very well in small units, especially during field deployments and on war games. Leaving them scattered around after you've hit an objective makes a team or unit feel special about themselves. Some troops even used them on 'bar hopping' missions.

Troops love using them to show off, brag or just to send to their friends and family members. They're not very expensive to have printed, provided that you get a reasonable amount made up. Unit slush funds can help pay for these. It's also a way to make money for a slush fund if you lay out the money first yourself. You won't lose money or be stuck with a bunch of call cards if you follow my advice.

1. First, locate several printing companies by looking in a phone book. Visit these places in person rather than calling on a phone for a price list. Normally they have a book of sample call cards to look over. Never go to only one printing company, go to several to get the best price.
2. Once you have found a reasonable printing company, decide on how many you need to get printed. Average figuring is about 20 cards times the members of your unit (team-squad-plt). Not everyone will buy these, but it will give you a general idea on how many to get printed.
3. Design a few sample calling cards using index cards and show them around to your fellow members. Ask them to also design what they would like to see on the cards. Try to convince them to go along with you and donate some money in advance. If they won't, don't worry. If you have a few good designs that everybody likes, they'll buy them once they see the final product!
4. Once the cards are printed, sell them either at the same price you paid or a little bit more to compensate for the cost and hassles you went through to get them printed. Not too much or you'll be ripping off your fellow soldiers.



7



Recognizing that I volunteered as a RANGER, fully knowing the hazards of my chosen profession, I will always endeavor to uphold the prestige, honor, and high "esprit de corps" of the Rangers.

Acknowledging the fact that a Ranger is a more elite soldier who arrives at the cutting edge of battle by land, sea, or air, I accept the fact that as a Ranger my country expects me to move further, faster and fight harder than any other soldier.

Never will I fail my comrades.

I will always keep myself mentally alert, physically strong and morally straight and I will shoulder more than my share of the tasks whatever it may be. One-hundred-percent and then some.

Gallantly will I show the world that I am a specially selected and well trained soldier. My courtesy to superior officers, my neatness of dress and care of equipment shall set the example for others to follow.

Energetically will I meet the enemies of my country. I shall defeat them on the field of battle for I am better trained and will fight with all my might. Surrender is not a Ranger word. I will never leave a fallen comrade to fall into the hands of the enemy and under no circumstances will I ever embarrass my country.

Readily will I display the intestinal fortitude required to fight on to the Ranger objective and complete the mission, though I be the lone survivor.



82nd AIRBORNE
1st SG

DELTA FORCE
MEMBER



OF COURSE I'VE HEARD OF DELTA FORCE! BUT THAT MARINE CORP HAIRCUT FOOLED ME.... I THOUGHT YOU GUYS HAD LONGER HAIR ???





SURVIVAL KIT ATTACHMENT FOR KNIVES

Submitted by: Andrew D. Chesney USMC,
SPF-UNITAS, 2nd Marine Division

Hey, you survival buffs! I bet you can't beat this Marine's idea of a Survival Sheath Attachment. Yo! Rambo! Eat doo-doo!

Do you own a K-Bar or equal size knife and sheath? Then you're in luck. First, find yourself an expendable parachute flare or star cluster container, three plastic 35mm film containers, 100 MPH masking tape and some small survival items like a mini compass, fishing hooks, string, wire, condoms, mirror, medicines, matches and so on: just simple basic survival items that will fit easily into the containers.

Get a hacksaw and cut the metal container the same length as the outer portion of the knife sheath. If necessary, smooth the edges with sandpaper or a file. Check to make sure the top cover will fit on snug.

Take the 100 MPH tape and first wrap the metal container entirely in tape. Then place it along side the sheath, with the knife inside, and tape it securely to the sheath several times.

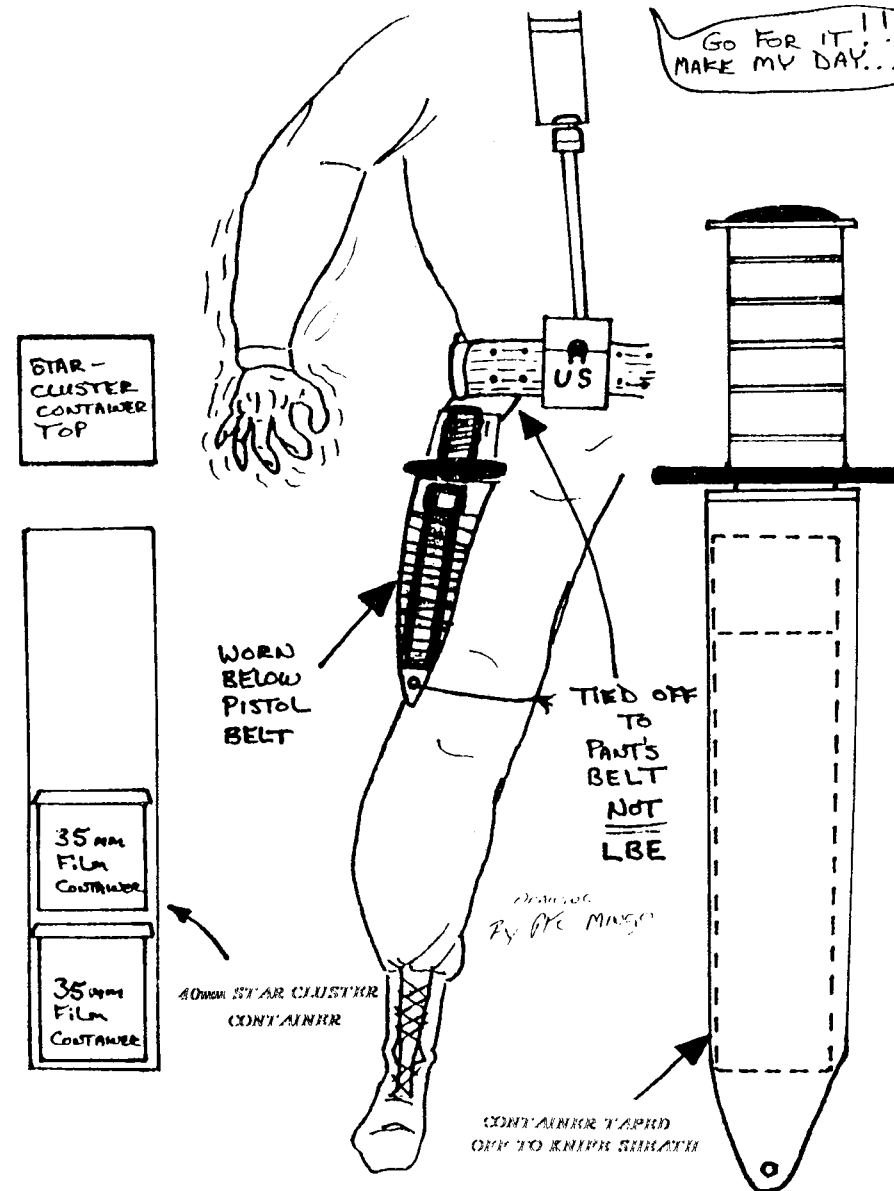
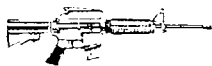
Once you are satisfied that it is taped tight, pull on it to make sure it is very secure and won't slide off. You may want to buy some camouflage tape so it will blend in better with the terrain.

Now insert the 35mm plastic film containers inside to make sure they move around freely. Once you are satisfied, go ahead and fill the containers with your survival items. There is also room inside to store a hacksaw file or two, provided you break them down some. You can also wrap fishing line or string around the film containers to make them snug as a bug (but not too snug).

If the metal container cap appears too loose, either bend it a little or add a strip of tape around the opening rim of the container. If at times the metal container gets banged up or slightly out of shape, just bang it back into shape. Don't expect it not to get banged up on field deployments.

RECOMMENDATION: A survival knife should be worn on the pant's belt and not on the web gear. Chances are, if you're operating in or around water, you may have to ditch your gear in a n emergency situation. If your web gear goes bye-bye, so does you survival knife and kit.

Wear it gunslinger style by adding some 550 parachute string through the loop or link of the knife sheath, and then to the belt so that it rides low and will not be obstructed by the web gear.





WISE TIPS FROM A RETIRED SFer

Submitted by: *Msg John Kottal*
(Retired) U.S. Army Special Forces



Here's a few sharp tips from an experienced SF trooper who asked me to pass them along, and indeed I will.

- (1) **Basic survival needs** such as extra rations, pocket knives, first aid kits, parachute cord, maps and cigarette lighters being kept in your BDU pockets is a smart move. Rationale: if things get tight and the ruck is jettisoned, the weapon and web gear is lost, the basic survival needs are still on the soldier.

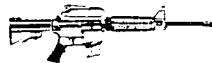
RANGER RICK'S COMMENTS: This is especially important to those soldiers and marines who find themselves operating in or around water or swampy terrain, where chances of jettisoning your equipment is more likely to happen.

- (2) **Foot care and maintenance** is very important to a soldier. Tape sensitive (hot) spots on the feet, or areas where you know you always break out in blisters. Cut and tape some moleskin to these areas prior to the operation to prevent blisters from forming. Use tincture of benzoin (from the medics) before taping the feet and it will keep the moleskin on longer, as well as toughen the feet. Use the standard issue foot powder and massage the feet daily to keep those dogs from barking.
- (3) **Wool socks** are the best for both winter and summer. They absorb sweat the best, pad the feet and don't get clammy when wet. When purchasing wool socks, insure that they are 100% pure wool and not synthetic. When wearing these civilian socks, keep them covered the best you can so that the chain of command will not raise hell.
- (4) **Reserve socks** kept in a water proof zip lock sandwich bag along with an extra can of foot powder, is a great morale booster when you have used up all of your other socks.

Another sock tip not many soldiers think about is using their socks as emergency mittens to keep their hands warm when their gloves become wet and cold. No sense being miserable, just slip a pair of socks over the hands and let the gloves dry out.

- (5) **Butane lighters** when carried in the winter should be placed next to the body to keep them warm. When a butane lighter gets cold, it doesn't work well or last as long as a warm one. So keep it in your pocket!

RANGER RICK'S COMMENTS: Never carry zippo lighters to the field. The fuel will run out sooner than you expect and when it becomes wet it's worthless. Carry a butane lighter at all times whether you smoke or not, and avoid carrying matches for the same reasons as the zippo.

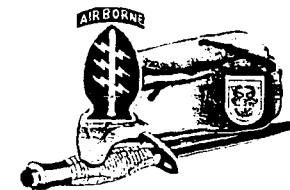


- (6) **Cammy paint, baby oil or mosquito repellent** is a good base to use before putting the paint on, but don't put too much on. Too much baby oil or mosquito repellent will make the cammy paint shine. Use just enough for the job.

Remember to cammy inside and behind the ears, eyelids, neck, bald heads and the exposed upper and lower arms. Cammy *all exposed skin*. And while the Rambo Jungle Killer Stripes look great in the movies, they do little to break up the outlines. The standard military manual way works the best overall.

- (7) **A cotton gilly camouflage net, 2' by 3'**, works great as a scarf and sweat rag and can be used in sniper hides, ambush and fighting positions as well by simply draping it over the head to break up the outline. Or use it to cover and hide you ruck.
- (8) **Extra Canteens** carried on the ruck should always be drank first on a mission. It will lighten the load of the ruck when finished, and if you have to jettison the ruck you will still have a full canteen on you web gear.
- (9) **Weapon magazines** should be loaded minus 2 rounds. 30 rounders with 28 and 20 rounders with 18. This will prevent overloading the spring inside, as each round is fired the spring gains more tension (push power). Minus 2 times will insure that strong tension is in the magazine.

RANGER RICK'S COMMENT: I have heard pros and cons about this mag tip, including the manufacturer's side of the debate. The manufacturer who designed the mags claims the tension already in the mag when fully loaded is more than sufficient. So, I leave it to you old timers, professionals and readers as to how much to load in the mag. I give a "no comment" to this tip.



HOME MADE PACE COUNTER

Submitted by: Sgt. Dale Sheldon

Now, here's a smart idea on how to make pace counters that won't break or make any noise during tactical movements, and cost a lot less than the store-bought ones too.

All you need is about 15 small rubber pipe washers that you can find in any good hardware store. Make sure that the holes are very small, about 1/8 of an inch or so. If they are too large, you bought 15 washers for nothing. If too small, you can modify the holes.

Then get yourself about 3 feet or so of OD green 550 parachute cord. Find the middle of the string and fold it in half. Tie the open ends closed together with a figure 8 knot and keep the middle of the cord marked with a finger or a pen mark. Next, get a small piece of string and tie it temporarily to the middle.

Take 9 washers, one by one, and run them through the string and down over the 550 cord all the way to the knot. They must go all the way down touching the knot and each other. When all 9 rubber washers are in place, tie another knot approximately 3 to 4 finger widths above the last rubber washers you slid down.

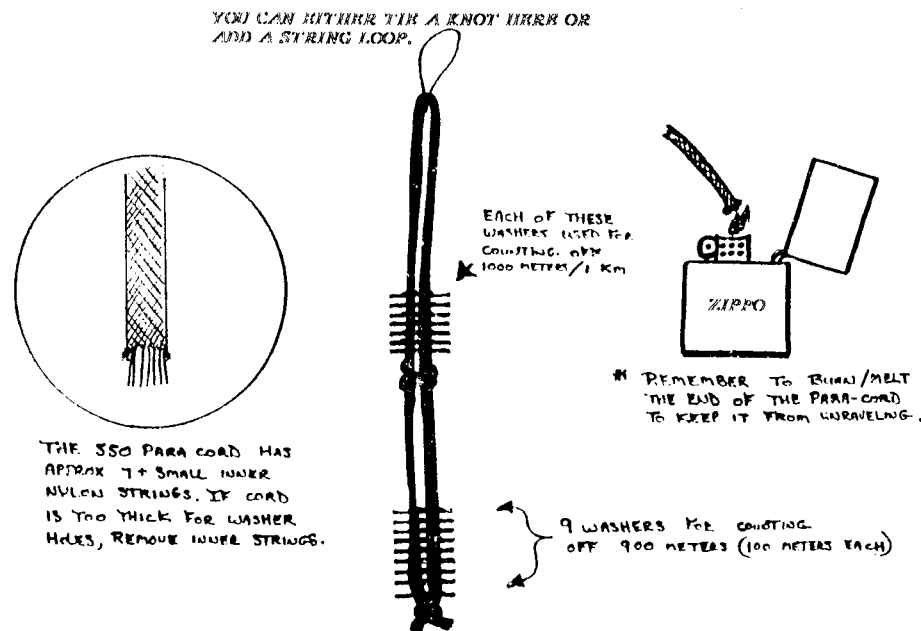
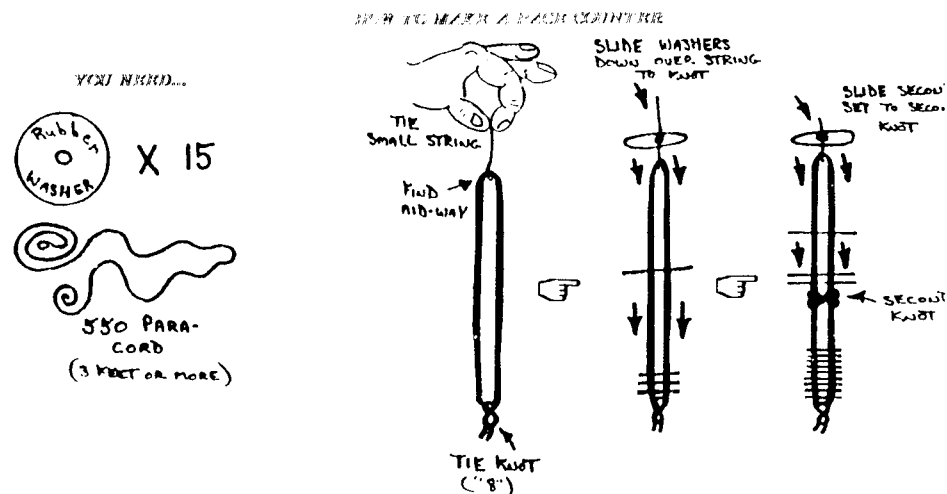
Take the 6 or so remaining washers and slide them through and over the 550 cord all the way to the second knot. Again, they must be touching the knot and each other. Then like before, approximately 3 to 4 finger widths above the last rubber washer, tie in the final knot.

Each of the 9 rubber washers will represent a standard 100 meter pace count. When you have used all 9 washers, 900 meters, you move to the second set of rubber washers. Don't forget to move the 9 washers back to the bottom and start over again. The second set of rubber washers will represent 1 click or kilometer (1000 meters).

Make sure you fasten this securely to your LBE, and remember to slide the washers forward for each 100 meters and 1000 meters you travel.

NOTE: If the rubber washers slide or move around too much, or too easily, on the 550 parachute cord then you either have to replace the washers with smaller ones or add more parachute cord.

You might want to take the cord with you to the hardware store to figure out what size you need.



SPECIAL NOTE: Tie The Pace Counter To Your LBE, Belt, or Shirt. Somewhere Will It Can Be Easily Got At In The Field

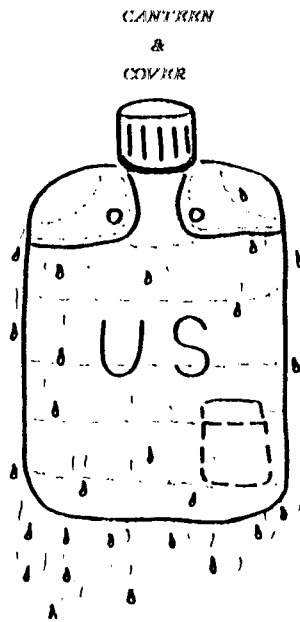
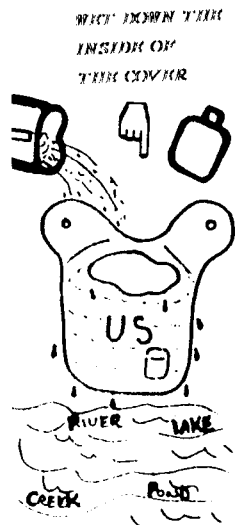
COOL CANTEEN WATER

One time back in 1979 when I was a PSG in the 1st Ranger Bn, we went on one of those month long deployments to 29 Palms, California to do desert training "Ranger-style." It was also my first time in the desert.

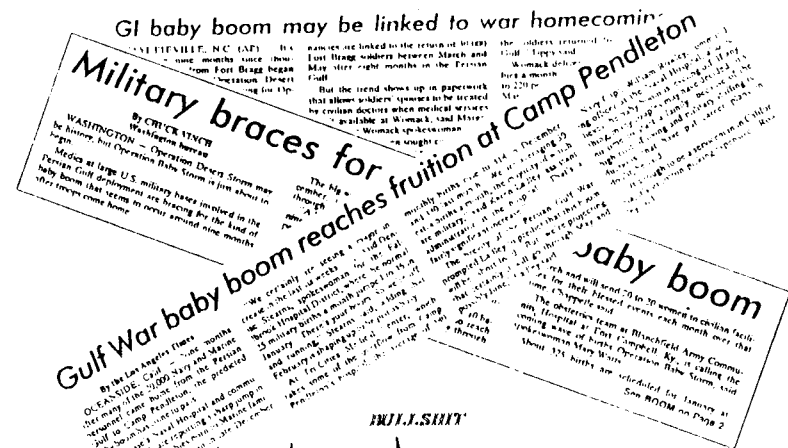
There was a Ranger medic named Doc Donavon who was super sharp and had his shit together. Everyone looked up to him. He was our unit's John Wayne and I mean this respectfully. He taught me a trick about how to keep canteen water cool while in the desert when you have excess water available to use.

The trick is to keep the fur lining inside the canteen cover soaked. The more soaked it is, the longer it will keep cool the water inside the canteen. Of course the length of time will depend on how hot it is outside. This tip will also work very well outside of a desert environment, such as in jungles and forests. When available, use non-drinkable water from creeks, rivers, ponds, etc. to keep the inside of the canteen cover wet.

Oh, and by the way, if anyone should ever run into Doc Donovan, tell him Ranger Rick of the AT Platoon (1st/75th Rangers) said "Hi!"



BABY BOOM



I'll never understand why in the hell newspapers, television and radio (newsmen and journalists) make such a big fuss out of something that is so simple to understand, namely pregnancy and birth numbers (baby boom) reported in the military services after the Gulf War. The formula is simple:

Boy + girl, age 1 = no interests in sex + 13 years = begin to mature and notice opposite sex + attraction + first kiss + hugs - hold hands = affection + desires = passion + 2 to 4 years (+/-) = maturity + relationship * single = sexually active - (?) separation time - sex starved x days x months away - no sexual intercourse + reunited = hot & heavy sex - no condoms/anti-baby pills = produces baby.

The simple and blunt translation is: GIs love to f___ and make up for lost sex time! Period, end of subject!



KEVLAR CAMO BAND TIE-DOWN

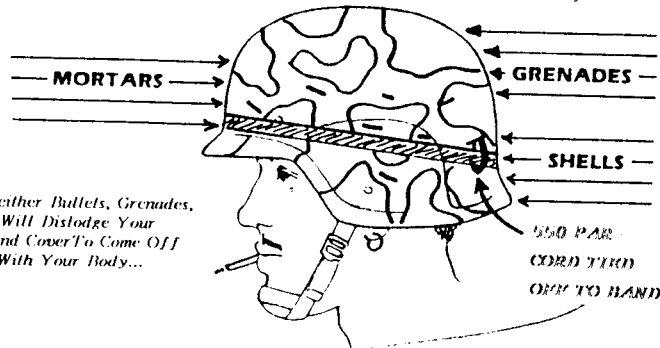
Submitted by Sfc. Billy R. Thompson

How many times have you, or one of your buddies, lost that damn kevlar band on a parachute jump or field training exercise (fx)? Quite a number of times, right? Oh sure, you solved the problem by taping it down with some OD green tape or by using a safety pin. Real tactical looking, right?

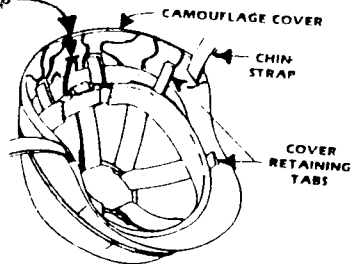
O.K. Rambo, here's a neat trick you can easily try. Get yourself a foot or so of OD green parachute cord, loop it around the camoband itself and either feed it through a slot already in the camouflage cover or make a small hole in the back of the cover and place a small piece of OD green tape over the hole to keep the material from unravelling.

Then run the parachute cord securely through and tie it to the inside helmet harness or straps. If necessary, melt the ends of the nylon parachute cord together. You can also remove the inner nylon strings and use only the outer parachute nylon string cover. This will give it a flatter and less noticeable appearance.

And now with your band securely fastened, you should never have to buy another one, hopefully.



THEN TIED
OFF TO STRAP
OF KEVLAR



18

VELCRO STRAPS

Submitted by: SPC Robert G. Warmack

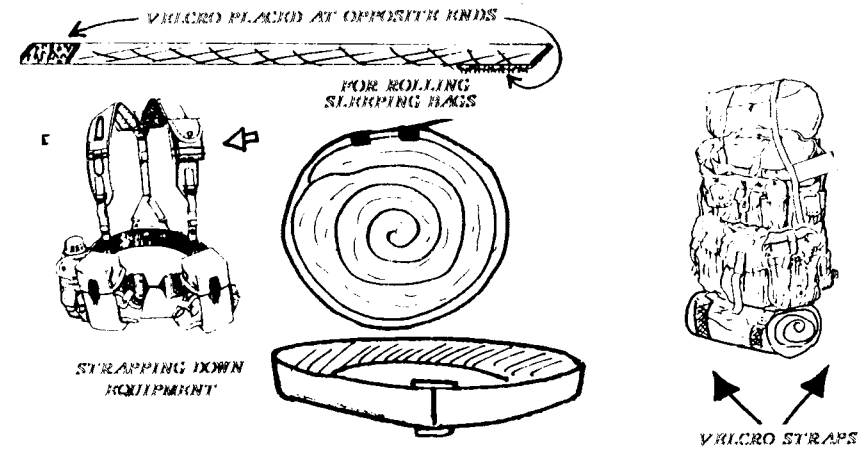
How many times have you fumbled in the night to undo your sleeping bag harness straps or some other straps that have buckles or buttons?

Well here's a solution to that problem. This idea was sent in by SPC Robert G. Warmack. His idea is simple.

- 1st Find yourself a rifle sling, belt or some other type of strap. Buy some velcro from the local mall. You need to have about 12 to 18 inches of both velcro sections.
- 2nd Determine how long you will really need the strap to be. Are you going to use it for your sleeping bag, ruck attachment, pants, etc.? Then cut the length you need by measuring it to whatever you are going to use it for.
- 3rd On opposite ends and sides of the strap, sew in the velcro parts. Why on opposite sides? When you wrap it over or around the item, it will connect or match the other velcro section thus 'grabbing hold'.

If you are going to use it for multi-purpose, you may want to add several pieces along both sides or perhaps the entire length. This will allow you to use the strap for all sorts of uses and equipment.

BAD POINTS: It is very noisy when opening at night in a tactical situation, and the unused velcro that is uncovered will become clogged with pieces of grass or brush.



19



BULLET LAUNCHER CLEANING TIPS

Although I did touch on this subject in my Ranger Digest I book, I need to stress some areas of the weapon a little bit more so that you'll know what to look for and expect when you get ready to turn your weapon in for inspection. Knowing what to look for and keeping your weapon properly clean will surely keep you off your unit armor and leader's "shit list."

One very important thing to remember in cleaning any weapon, is to clean it in the same manner and sequence every damn time. This means don't jump around from one part to another unless it has been properly cleaned, *no half-ass job*. For example, if you start cleaning the weapon at the butt stock, finish at the flash suppressor, or vice-versa.

I've seen idiots go straight to the barrel, the buffer and spring, and then to the bolt carrier and so on. They are doing double work by starting at the barrel and then jumping around to other parts of the weapon. If they go to the flash suppressor, then to the chamber or forward assist area, they are only dirtying the barrel all over again. And they're the same clowns that say "I cleaned it Sarge, really I did!" Wrong! Clean it in a sequence that will keep the other parts of the weapon less dirty while you're cleaning other areas.

- A. Clean all removable parts first, such as the handguards and the bolt and buffer assemblies, and place them off to the side.
- B. Then clean the lower receiver inside the trigger mechanism and magazine well.
- C. And finally, the upper receiver, which will take more time to clean.

Whether you start at the flash suppressor, barrel or rear portion of the receiver is a matter of choice. I personally start cleaning the barrel first, chamber and then the rear receiver. I do the flash suppressor last by cleaning it upside down, or I take it off the weapon entirely, (which by the way is a no-no unless your an armor) so that no carbon falls back into the barrel or chamber. And then I go back over and touch up all the areas one more time to make sure no dirt particles fell back in.

When you're finished cleaning it, inspect it like it wasn't your weapon by going over it with a fine tooth comb. Or switch with a buddy and check each other's. If you find something dirty, don't assume the armor or ol' sarge won't notice it. You'd be surprised how many weapons ol' sarge has inspected in his time and that he knows exactly what to look for.

If you really want to screw with their minds and piss them off, clean it correctly the first time...that drives them nuts and they won't expect it. Really!

If you get in the habit of cleaning your weapon in a particular manner without changing or veering from it, stay with it. You will have very little problems in passing an inspection the first time. Now here are some more tips and areas to look out for:



FLASH SUPPRESSOR: Use a sharp instrument to scratch off the carbon, as the standard chamber/barrel brush does not always work.

BARREL BAYONET STUDS: Wrap a pipe cleaner or a thick string around the circular and square studs, turn and twist tightly to clean.

FRONT/REAR SIGHT: A strong tooth brush is the only thing needed to clean this area. If an excess amount of carbon is found on the lower portion of the sight, watch out! Defective/broken gas tube!

HANDGUARDS: Wipe and brush the indented areas, top and bottom, very well to ensure that they will lock into the metal flanges. If you see excessive carbon build up, spray on any portion of the barrel or handguard - *WARNING* - possible defect/broken gas tube!!!!

HANDGUARD SLIP RING: Move this back and forth. If you hear a grunching sound - that's dirt inside. Use a brush/spray to clean it.

FORWARD ASST. AND MAG CATCH BOT Again, move back and forth. Do you hear a grunching sound? It's dirt, buddy. On the mag catch button, push the button all the way in with a pen or rod and twist the other end slightly. Now it will lock in place and you can clean it better. The forward asst must be cleaned with a brush, Q-tip or spray.

CHAMBER: Use a fairly good, new chamber brush, steel wool or sharp item to scratch carbon from grooves.

GAS TUBE: The protruding portion inside the receiver just above the barrel chamber is the most forgotten area. Use a pipe cleaner, thick string, steel wool and/or sharp instrument to clean it.

EJECTOR PORT: Clean along edges of opening port and cover.

TRIGGER MECH: Clean with lots of pipe cleaners and Q-tips if you do not know how to take apart or remove (armor authorized only). Keep the areas well lubricated for movement and cleaning purposes.

BUTT STOCK AND BUFFER AREA: Use a thick rag to shove inside buffer restraining hole to clean. Make sure you clean out the butt stock water drainage screw hole. Hold this end up to the light and look.

BOLD CARRIER ASSEMBLY: There's a lot of little cracks, corners and indents on this. Pay special attention to the Carrier Key, as this will be a real pain in the ass to clean, and the area where most soldiers fail during inspections. On all the other areas you need to use a mixture of a good brush, pipe cleaners and a sharp instrument, combined with a lot of elbow grease.

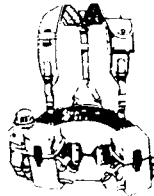
Sharp instrument - can be a nail, tool, coat hanger, or other.
All metal parts of the weapon should be soaking in cleaning solvent until they get cleaned.





LBE MODIFICATIONS

Submitted by: PFC Matthew D. Hohman



I still receive quite a few tips now and then about the best way to modify your LBE. You need to be very careful when you decide to modify or improve the LBE. You don't want to damage it permanently or have any equipment attached to it interfere with your movement ability.

You shouldn't place your flashlight, first aid pouch, strobe light or compass all on one side of your LBE harness. This would not be a smart move. You need to keep all your attached items equally balanced and above all, as much away from your firing shoulder as possible.

Most soldiers wear only their "Hollywood" knife on their LBE firing shoulder as it is flat and causes less interference when bringing the weapon up to the shoulder to fire. Flashlights, strobe lites and smoke grenades cause too much interference.

Pfc. Matthew D. Hohman has a pretty good idea. He purchased some strong thick sewing needles, 20 to 25 lbs. test fighting line (or nylon string) and a pair of needle nose pliers. And with these items, he's able to repair or modify any part of the LBE he sees fit.

One modification tip he suggests is to sew one side of your compass/first aid pouch to the shoulder harness, preferably just the inner edge portion of the pouch. (The non-firing shoulder side, of course!) By just sewing one side, it leaves the pouch on an angle and away from the outer portion of the LBE shoulder harness, thus leaving you room for added items such as your flashlight, strobe light or first aid pouch.

Another tip he recommends is to take a small strap and sew some velcro onto the opposite ends. Then, deciding which is the best location for it on the harness, sew the center of the strap into the LBE harness where it will be most useful such as where your knife or flashlight would be carried. The short velcro strap will secure your items to the LBE so that they will not move around or make unnecessary noise.

And another good tip he suggests is to replace the compass lanyard (string) with OD green (not white) nylon parachute cord. Secure it to the thumb loop of the compass and then run it through the compass pouch drain hole in the bottom of it. Then tie it off to the LBE link or loop.

Be sure that you give yourself plenty of nylon string so that when you are using the compass, you have at least one arm's length of cord. Don't forget to burn to melt the running ends of the nylon parachute cord too.

AUTHOR'S TIP: Try attaching a very small mini "snap link" to the running end of the nylon cord, so you can easily attach it on or off the LBE.

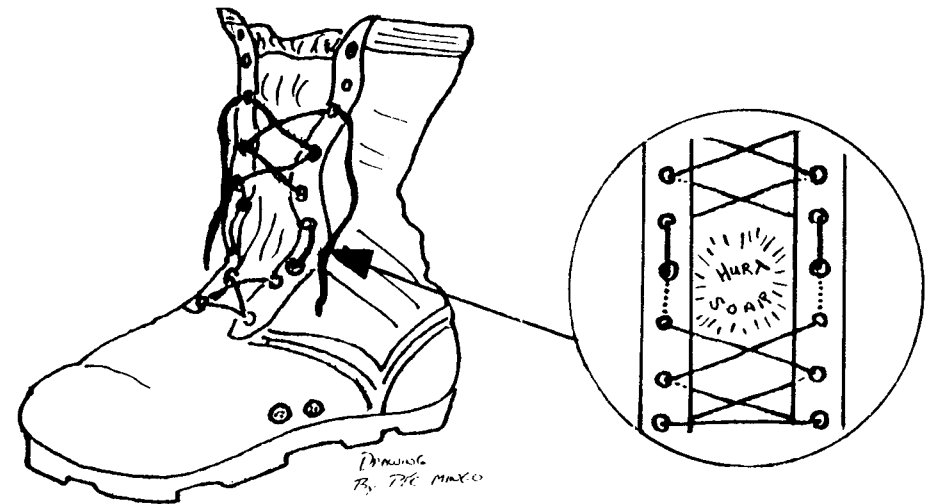


FIELD BOOT LACING

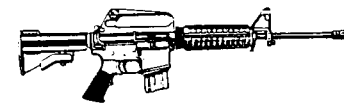
Submitted by: Devin A. Gillis

Do you have problems with your field boots hurting where the laces cross? Particularly in the center portion just below the fourth hole? Well, why not do as Devin A. Gillis does, don't cross that area with the laces, go on to the next set of holes.

Lace your boots as you would normally from the bottom up. When you get to the set of holes where it hurts, don't cross 'em. Just go to the next set of holes and then continue your crisscross lacing. If this isn't the part that bothers you, try another set of holes.



DRAWING
BY THE MAMELO



M60 MG AMMO CONTAINERS

A tip I learned as a young M60 machine gunner was how to modify the ammo carrying cases (bandoleer/metal box) for more ammo storage.

Have you ever tried using the ol' butt pack for a stationary assault/defense ammo storage bag? You're saying, "How in the hell can you assault with a butt pack on your back?" Right? Not on your back, dumb ass! Removed from you LBE or ruck, or course.

Take one or more butt pack, some MRE cardboard (box) and a sharp knife. Cut out long strips of cardboard the same width and length as the pack. Make sure you add a double or triple layer of cardboard to the bottom portion of the pack for reinforcement. Then add a slice of cardboard along the sides and you're ready to fill it up.

You should be able to load the butt pack with a long belt of 200+ rounds, which is much better than the 100 rd bandoleer box. Now, you're ready for action. But remember, it's only used in stationary positions, such as MG defense positions or MG support positions on raids and ambush missions.

If you're a M60 machine gunner assigned to a wheeled or track vehicle, the metal ammo box that attaches to MG mount can also be modified to hold more ammo.

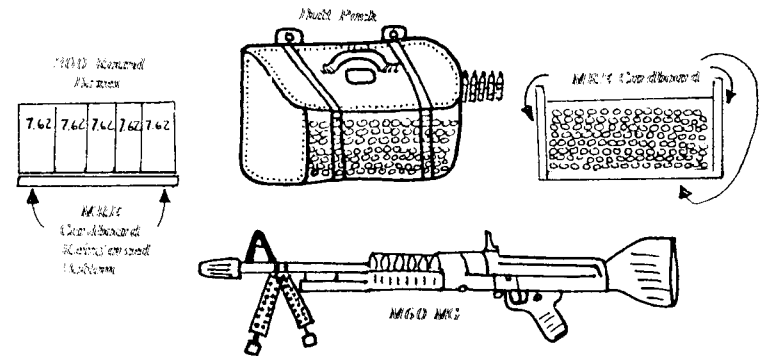
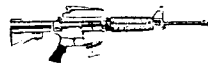
First, get two 7.62mm ammo cans. On the one can, cut or hacksaw the hinged side entirely off. On the second can, cut or hacksaw the 'locking' side entirely off. Get a metal file and smooth off the edges.

Now, to connect the two cut or hacksawed ends together is tricky. The best way to secure them together is to get them welded. Your base motor pool or repair shop can do this, or take them to an off-post shop to have them welded, it will only cost a few bucks.

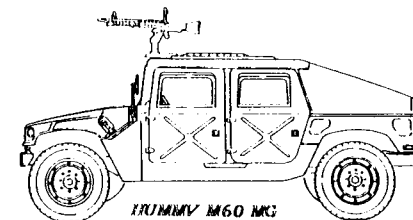
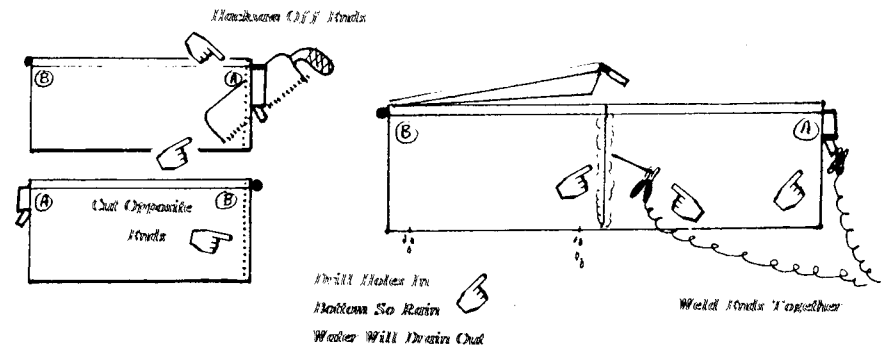
When welding them together, they must be held straight and on line with each other. Weld the outside portion and not the inside so that no sharp or protruding edges interrupt the flow of the ammo belt during firing.

Then attach the one ammo cover to the hinged side and load the baby up with a long 400 round belt. If you wish, you can improvise by attaching or connecting the second cover to the other cover by drilling or wiring it. To reduce the ammo belt rattling noise, add some MRE cardboard between the ammo and the bottom and sides of the metal can.

Another tip for those of you who are machine gunners or leaders in a defense position such as in foxholes, bunkers or buildings is to try cutting and using an MRE cardboard box as an ammo container. Just cut, modify and improvise and use a little imagination for the type and size you really need for your position.



24. M. 7.62mm Ammo Can



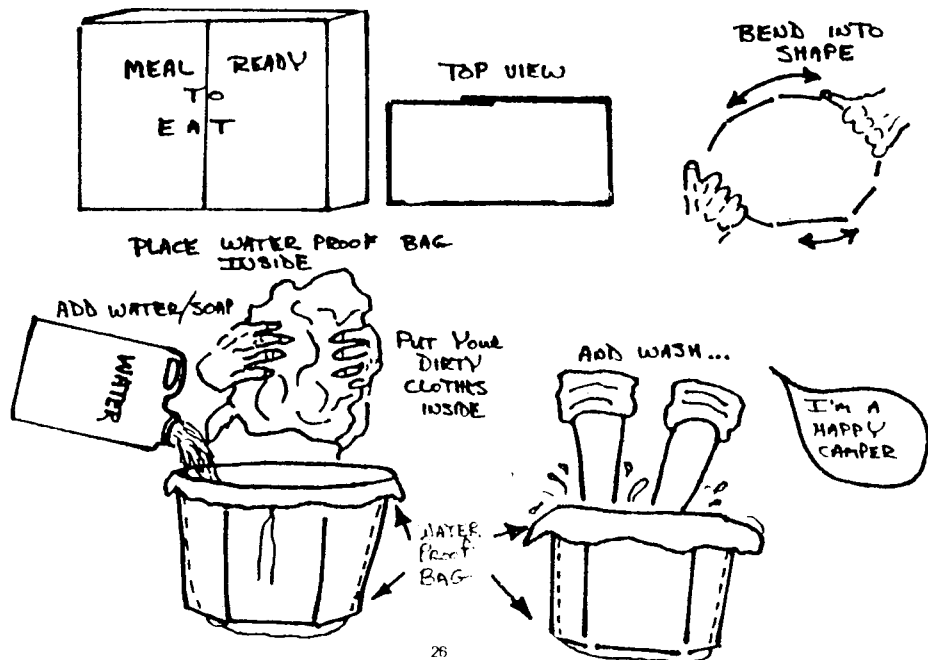
FIELD WASHING MACHINE

Submitted by: Matthew D. Hohman

There are several ways you can wash clothes in the field or rear area when there are no mechanical washing machines around. You can either wear your clothes in the shower or creek (don't forget to soap), wash them in a container (if available) or give them to your unit XO/supply sgt. (good luck if they come back). Or you can make yourself a field expedient washing machine.

All you need to do is get yourself 2 MRE cardboard boxes, slide the covers off of them, grab hold of the covers and bend or fold them until you form a circular or square pattern shape stand. Place one cover over the other either by folding or cutting slits into them, so they will stand up by themselves one on top of the other.

Then place them inside one of the two boxes you have not used yet. Take your OD waterproof bag or a medium size trash bag and place it inside the box covers that are standing up-right. Carefully fold back the ends of the bag over the box covers and secure. You can either cut medium size slits into the box edges and slide the bag's ends into these slits, or secure the bag with 100 MPH tape or a pony cord. Then all you need to do is add water and soap. Use the other box for the laundry you just washed to keep it off the dirty ground.



ANOTHER FIELD WASHING MACHINE

Submitted by: Lt. John S. Wilson

Well, I've heard a lot of neat tips, ideas and field expedient know-how during my military career, but those soldiers who were on Operation Desert Shield and Storm really came back with some great ones. Here's one of them, it's a field expedient washing machine.

Items needed? Just a good ol' military water proof bag, water and soap and, of course, your dirty clothes.

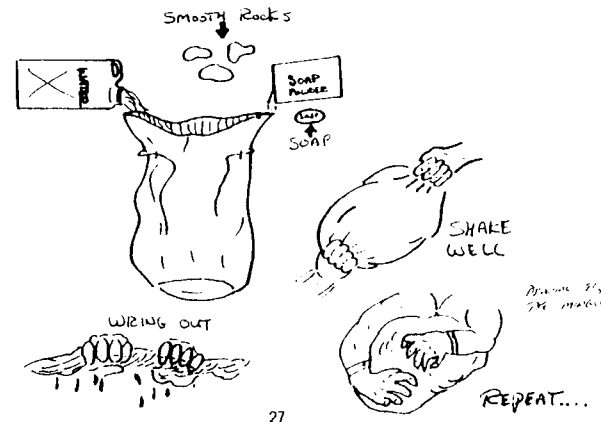
Place no more than one set of dirty BDUs, socks and underclothes inside the bag, add enough water to thoroughly soak the clothes and then add some soap powder. Or if you don't have any, place your bar of soap inside the bag. Hell, it's a lot better than just using plain water...

Twist and tie the bag closed, and then "Shake it like hell, baby!" You need to keep this up for at least 5 minutes or so, squeezing and shaking, squeezing and shaking for the whole 5 minutes. Then let it sit for a few minutes. Empty out the soapy water, wring out the clothes, put 'em back into the bag and add clean water.

Again, shake and squeeze, shake and squeeze. Wait again for a few minutes and empty the water out again and wring out the clothes.

Do this until you are satisfied that the clothes are either clean and all the soap is out. Then hang them up and let them air dry.

If you desire, you can add a few flat rounded stones to add agitation to it, but be careful, you don't want to smack your hand or head. A big no-no is to whack the bag against a solid object like a tree, rock or vehicle. You'll only destroy your field washing machine.





MRE CONTAINERS



Hey, hey, hey! Move over Mcgyver, I'm gaining on you, buddy. I have discovered how to get max use out of those Meals Ready to Eat (MRE) plastic containers.

One night, not too long ago, I was in Turkey on an exercise called Display Determination 1991 and boy, was I bored. Really! Who in their right mind would sit around dreaming up a way to use expendable MRE plastic wrappers? (Except Ranger Rick.)

I know, you're thinking I'm nuts! Right? Yeah, you are. But wait and see what I dreamed up! I came up with several good ideas anyone can do.

MRE WATER BUCKET: To make, all you have to do is be careful in cutting open your MRE. At one end only, cut out half a circle moon through both sides. Cut it nice and carefully by keeping the half circle round and the lower portion of the circle straight. Then remove the cut out plastic from both sides. You should still be able to slide out the food contents if you did not make the hole too small.

If you have a pair of scissors or a Mcgyver swiss knife, it would be much easier to do. But if your knife is sharp and you take your time, you can still do it.

After removing the food contents, you now can fill it with water from a creek or lake and there you have it, a collapsible water bucket that weighs nothing and will fit easily into a ruck cargo packet.

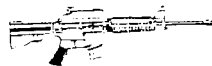
MRE FIELD SLIPPERS: To make these field slippers, you need two plastic MRE packets, one for each foot. First, turn the MRE sideways, now as close to the sealed seam without cutting over it or through it. Cut out a circular pattern about the size of your fist.

Again, make it a clean circular cut, except make it through one side or layer. Remove the cut out portion of the plastic circle and remove the food contents. Try putting your foot (without your boot on dummy), through the circle and inside the wrapper.

It may be a tight fit and need stretching, and be advised, boot wearers above size 9, this MRE slipper is not for you. It's only good for size 9 feet and below. Sorry about that!

MRE WATERPROOF CONTAINERS: This is a simple tip on how to use the plastic MRE packets to waterproof your small items that you carry in your rucksack.

Simply make a clean, straight, even cut across one sealed end of the MRE packet. Make sure you have no jagged edges. Now, you can either leave the package writing on the outside or you can turn it inside out so it won't show. Plus you will have the rough ragged bottom edge of the MRE packet in the inside instead of the outside.



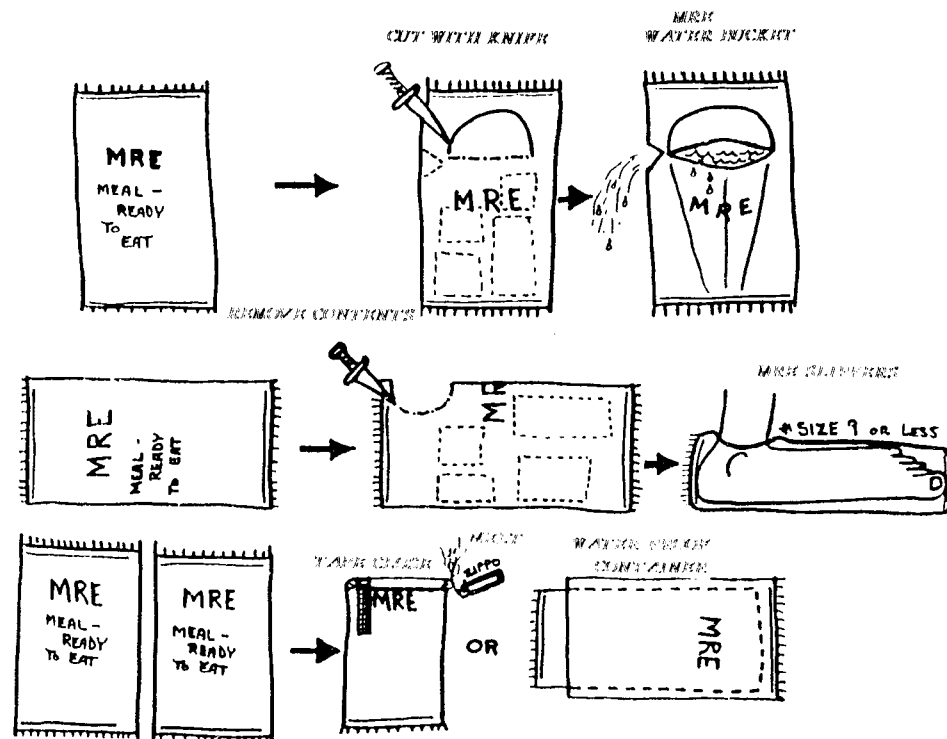
Now, you can either put the articles you want to keep dry inside the plastic packet and fold in the top, or you can go as far as sealing and melting the open end with a lighter.

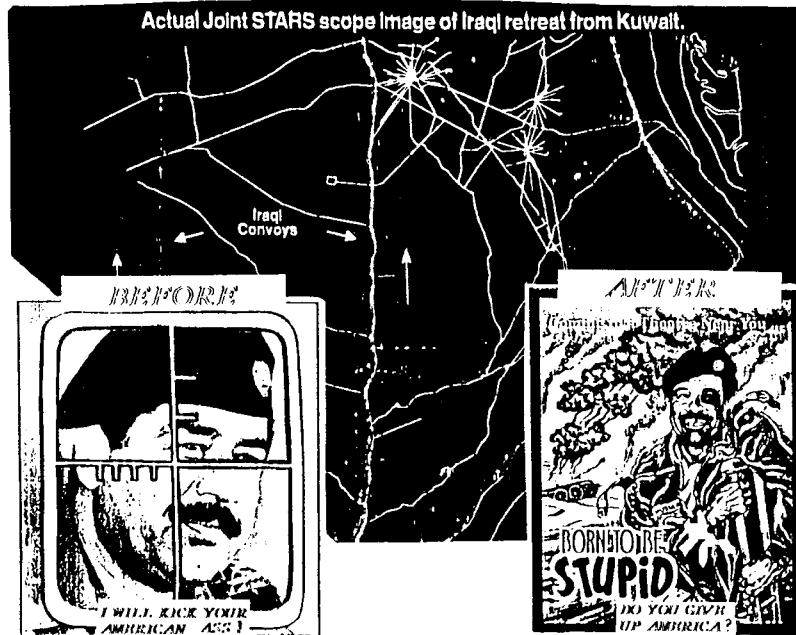
What I prefer to do is either seal it with military 100 MPH tape or take two empty MRE packets and put one inside the other. The open end of the outer MRE plastic packet facing down inside the ruck cargo packet so that if it rains, the water will not run inside the open ends.

O.K. readers! Come on, let's hear it. Were these good ideas or what! Are you now convinced that I'm not nuts? I hope so. But remember this, the first time you try to use this tip, you will no doubt have problems with it. It takes a little patience and practice to master this technique. If only the officers in the tent next to me knew what I did with their stolen MREs...

WANTED: YOUR PLASTIC PACKET/WRAPPER TIPS

They're needed for the next Ranger Digest book (IV). If you have a good tip or idea on other uses - SOUND OFF AND LET'S HEAR IT!





SADDAM HUSSEIN, YOU DUMB ASS. YOU CAN'T HOLD THAT SMALL PIECE OF LAND. FREE THOSE PEOPLE, GET OUT OF KUWAIT, BEFORE IT'S MUCH, TOO, TOO, LATE.

THE WORLD'S AGAINST YOU, THE EMBARGO'S IN PLACE. DON'T RUIN YOUR FUTURE BY HOLDING ONTO KUWAIT.

THE MORE AGGRESSION, THE DEEPER THE CRISIS. FOR THE WORLD IS SUFFERING FOR YOUR INSANE SATISFACTION.

IS IT NOT WORTH THE PRICE TO PAY, TO RESOLVE THIS CRISIS NOT IN HARM'S WAY.

FOR A LITTLE PEACE, WE ALL PRAY AND WAIT. HOPING REAL SOON YOU'LL GET OUT OF KUWAIT.

FOR AGGRESSION IS HELL FOR THOSE TRAPPED IN KUWAIT. BUT WAR COULD BE WORST IF YOU WAIT TOO LATE.

FOR ONE WILL LOSE AND THE OTHER WILL WIN. SO YOU BETTER SERIOUSLY THINK IT OVER HUSSEIN, AND DON'T LET THIS SHIT BEGIN.

DID YOU KNOW...

Kuwait joined the Arab League soon after it became independent in 1961. It joined the United Nations in 1963. The country has given financial aid to several Arab countries through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development. It provides money to help other Arab countries finance Development programs.

Kuwait sent troops to Egypt during the Middle East crisis in June 1967. But these troops did not take part in the Arab-Israeli War. For about two months, Kuwait cut off it's oil shipment to the United States and other Western countries. Kuwait also agreed to pay Egypt and Jordan a total of \$132 million dollars annually to help their economies recover after the war:

Kuwaiti troops took part in the 1973 Arab-Israeli War. Beginning in 1973, Kuwait and other Arab oil-exporting nations stopped shipments of oil to the United States and The Netherlands. They also reduced shipments to the other countries that supported Israel.

Have A Light



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I know you're looking at this advertisement and saying, "What the fuck is that?" If you'll remember back during the Persian Gulf War, we had a terrible time distinguishing between friendly, allied and enemy troops at night. As a matter of fact, we had an awful lot of "Friendly Fire Casualties." But it was mostly the Air Force and the Army Aviators doing all the shooting. No doubt it was very difficult from the air at night to distinguish "friend or foe" on the ground.

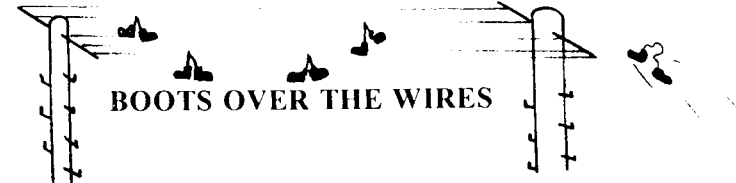
But why wait for the Army to dream up new methods or develop new equipment to protect your ass (or your men's) in that next war or conflict. When all you have to do is invest some money in a new inexpensive device called a "BUDD LIGHT." You can't see the light at night with the naked eye, but with a night vision device, it shines like a candle. For more information on this or a brochure, write to:

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54 DAYS OF LEAVE

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By now I'm sure almost everyone in the Army has heard of the tradition where you throw your old boots over a set of telephone wires just as your PCSing or ETSing. How did it get started? Nobody really knows for sure, but no doubt it had to start from a young unsatisfied soldier who was happy to be getting out

But now it's getting to be very popular, at least for those who are or were assigned overseas. But what's the meaning of it all?

Here are some definitions and meanings (By Ranger Rick)

- A If the boots are painted red, white and blue with stars it means you served patriotically and you are leaving a token of thanks to your fellow soldiers
- B Unpainted boots decorated with condoms and the rank(s) of your most hated or favorite leader means you are saying farewell to the unit and "F--- You" to the leader you adored the most
- C Painted and decorated with all sorts of strange colors mean you thought the unit/Army was really screwed up.
- D Boots that are cut up or sliced mean you really hated the unit or the Army very badly.
- E Unpainted boots over the wire mean you just did it for the hell of it (no class)

If you add a unit patch or crest to the sole of the boots, it identifies that unit in particular. Now for the real challenge. If you toss your boots over the wire:

1. In front of the Company or Orderly room, you get only company level recognition for bravery and your best buddy in the unit must buy you a drink of your choice.
2. In front of Battalion HQs, you get battalion recognition for being gutsy and your section, team or squad must serve you hand and foot at the unit mess hall for your last meal.
3. In front of Bde/Div HQs you're recognized for courage, and you must get treated out to dinner by your fellow buddies.
4. In front of Post/Base Headquarters - Wow- you got some pair of balls, and you get the royal treatment, an all expense paid dinner and a night on the town at the expense of your fellow buddies (who said you didn't have the balls to do it!).

BUT! In order to collect, the rule is - *YOU MUST DO IT WITHIN 5 WORKING DAYS OF YOUR DEPARTURE* and *not* the day or night before you are scheduled to leave. If you violate this #1 rule, you are disqualified and receive no recognition what so ever.

"What? What 54 days of leave? We only get 30 days off a year!" This is what you're thinking, I know! But if you swing it right, you can turn it into 54 days of leave. You're entitled to 30 days of leave annually under the military regulations, right? But you screw yourself when:

A You take the entire 30 days all at once. How?

If you take 30 days of leave at once, you get charged for the Saturdays and Sundays as well. That's 8 days you would *not* normally get charged for if you were not on leave, because you would normally be off those days anyway, right?

B You take your leave during national holidays. How?

You lose a day of leave on national holidays. Try to plan your leave around holidays so that your leave either starts or ends on the day before or after the holiday so you get that additional day(s) off to use.

C You take leave during the Christmas holidays (Dec. 20 through Jan. 3). How?

Everyone is given Christmas and New Years off and most units or commanders like to give their troops an additional day off before or after those holidays. They are training holidays.

And let's not forget the 1/2 day holiday schedule as well. Most leaders (Psg, Pldr, ISG, Cdr) rarely have anything useful for the troops to do during the 1/2 day work period anyway, mostly just PT, clean up and formation. Other than that, it's screw off time waiting to get off at high noon.

So how should you use your 30 days of leave? Very carefully and wisely. Of course, you'll have to talk it over with your family, but try to arrange your leave starting always on a Monday and ending on a Friday. This way you can take advantage of the weekends. If you're not a 'dirt ball' or 'problem child', most leaders (Psg, Pldr, ISG, Cdr) don't mind you spreading out your leave time. Provided you do not take your leave during the times of:

1. Unit field training/exercise deployments
2. SDT/MOS/CTT testing times
3. Weapon qualification/PT test periods

The best way to get max use of your leave time is to take it in five day intervals. By having your first day of leave begin on a Monday and end on a Friday, you gain four additional days off, the Saturdays and Sundays before and after your leave begins and ends. Use up 5 days of leave, get a total of 9 days off! Right? Figure it out!

LEAVE AND PASSES

USAREUR Regulation 630 5, 30 May 1991, is changed as follows:

Remove pages

Insert pages

None USUCOM Form 80

32

(1) Take at least one leave a year of 10 days or more

(2) Take several 3 to 5 day vacations

(3) Be encouraged to use 30 days of accrued leave

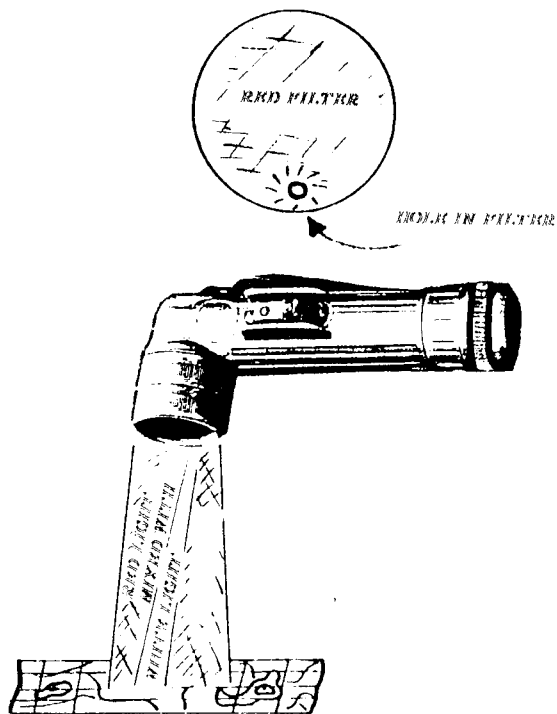
ANOTHER TAC LIGHT TIP

Submitted by: Luis Calcorzi

I mentioned in my past books about tips on flashlights, but here's another idea that was sent to me by Luis Calcorzi.

He says by making a small hole in the lower bottom portion of the red filter with a knife or drill, it increases the amount of light and helps you to see your map a little better without straining your eyes. Make sure you cover the hole with tape to keep out dirt and water.

RANGER RICK'S COMMENTS Be careful when using the flashlight for signalling or using it near known enemy positions. If you forget to plug it - the enemy will see the 'white dot' and plug you!



RUCK COMFORT TIPS

Submitted by: Pfc Matthew D. Hohman

Here's a rucksack comfort tip that's not a bad idea to try. Pfc Matthew D. Hohman recommends that you find yourself a second padded rucksack hip belt either by scrounging or purchasing one from your local Army Surplus Store.

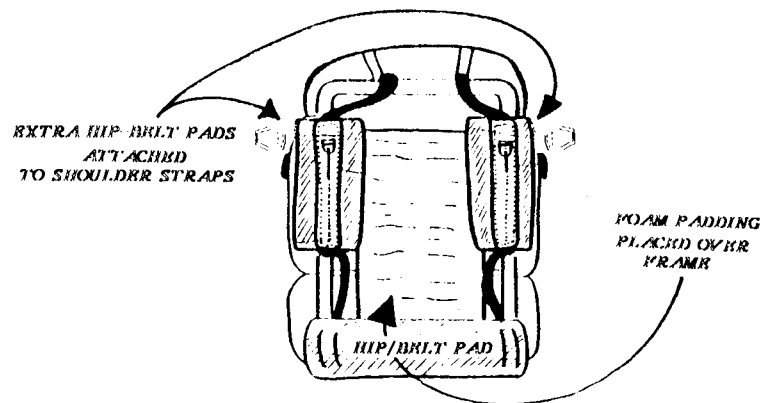
Remove the strap and belt buckle of the 2nd padded hip belt and attach it to the other padded hip belt of your ruck with 100 MPH tape. Don't try to tie it or sew it or you'll be wasting you time. Get the good military OD green tape or good hardware store duct tape and then carefully tape it very securely to the other pad.

If you do not tape it tight, secure and at least several times around, it will either tear, bunch up or the sticky portion of the tape will unravel and cause big time discomfort.

He also suggests that you try adding some foam mattress padding across the metal frame of the ruck. Either wrap it around the center, left and right side of the frame or just one large piece across the entire frame backing. Again, use strong duct tape or military 100 MPH tape.

AUTHOR'S TIP: I have personally modified my rucks by adding the foam pad entirely across the back of the ruck as suggested above. Acquire two rucksack hip belts, remove the belt buckles and just leave the D-rings attached. Then undo the rucksack's shoulder straps and run the strap ends through the extra pair of hip belts, padded portion facing. Then reattach the running ends back to the ruck frame.

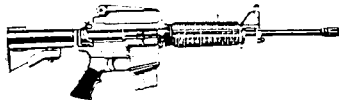
Talk about comfort. Man, it beats the old hard core Army way any day. I know, you hard core Ranger and Delta guys think this is the wimp way, but come look me up when you're 50 years old and we'll see who's back and shoulders are in better condition.





I found these *LAWS OF COMBAT* to be very useful. I have no idea where they came from or who made them up, but I have kept them for years in a book and I truly believe they're worth passing on to others and remembering

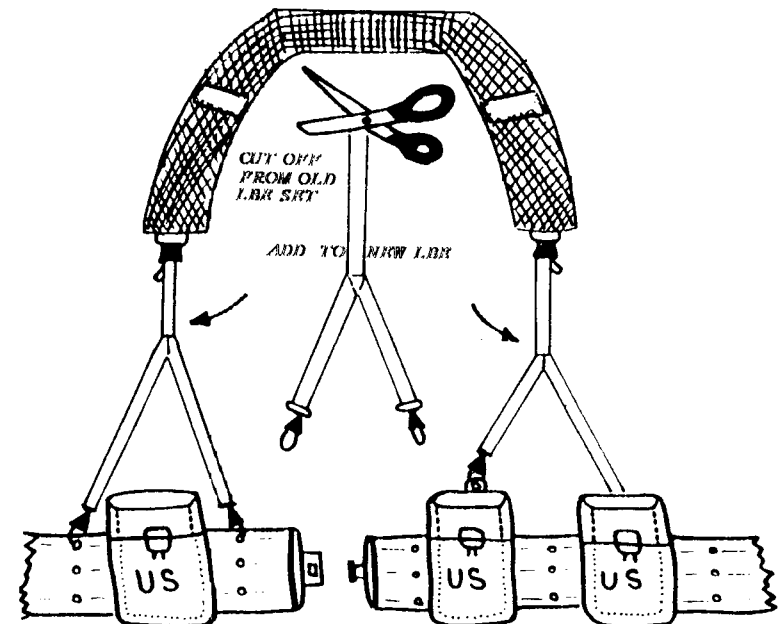
1. You are not Superman, John Wayne, Chuck Norris or Rambo.
2. If stupid things work - then they are not stupid!
3. Try not to look too conspicuous - it draws attention and fire.
4. When in doubt - change your magazine for a fresh one.
5. Never share a fighting position with anyone who appears braver than you.
6. Never forget that your weapon and every piece of military equipment the Army issued to you were made by the lowest bidder.
7. No plan ever survives the first contact intact. Plan for the worst.
8. If your attack is going really well and better than planned...watch out for surprises!
9. Try to look unimportant: enemy snipers look for valuable targets to shoot at.
10. If you are too far forward of your unit's position, artillery, mortar and aerial bombardment rounds could fall short
11. Important things are always simple; it's those simple things that always turn out to be hard.
12. If you are short of everything except enemy, then you are no doubt in combat
13. When you have secured an area...don't forget to tell the enemy!
14. All incoming fire has the right of way.
15. Friendly fire is not very friendly.
16. If the enemy can be seen and they are in range to be engaged. *SO ARE YOU!*
17. Things that must be together to work, usually can't be shipped together.
18. Military radios will usually fail just as soon as you need them the most.
19. Anything you do can get you shot, and that includes doing nothing
20. Firing tracers works both ways, it helps you to see where you are shooting at, and it also tells the enemy where the shooting is coming from.
21. The only thing more accurate than incoming enemy fire is incoming friendly fire
22. Make it too tough for the enemy to get in and you may not be able to get out when you need to.
23. When both sides are convinced they're about to sustain a lot of casualties, they are both right
24. Professional soldiers are predictable. It's those damn 'cherries, new recruits and 2nd Lieutenants' you have to watch out for that will get you killed.



CANNIBALIZE THOSE LBE STRAPS

Submitted by: Ssg Patrick Finley

If you run into someone trashing or turning in an extra LBE/LCE harness strap, do what Ssg Finley did. He found two harnesses and cut off the Y back portion of the strap and then removed or cut off the single LBE straps (off the front) of his good LBE, leaving the links connected. He then replaced them with the Y back straps (from the other LBE) through the links. Then he adjusted and linked them up to the ammo pouch. This enables him to wear four ammo pouches comfortably by having the weight of the ammo distributed equally across the web belt and shoulder straps.



TIE IT DOWN

Submitted by: Sgt E. Coup

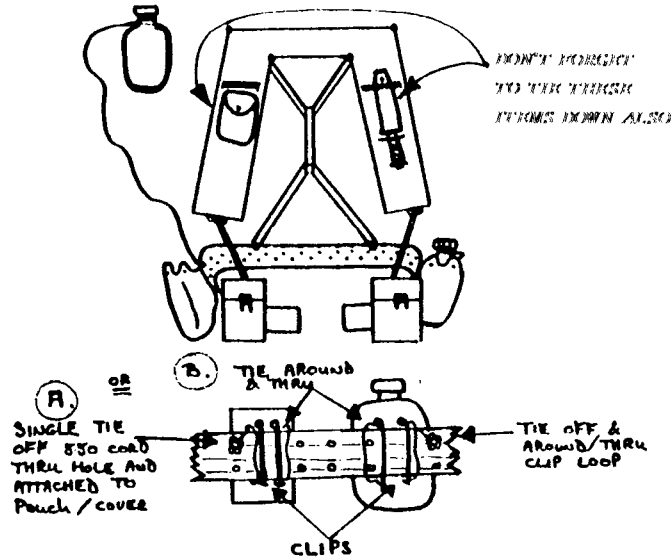
Have you ever lost any military gear in the field, such as your canteen, first-aid pouch or compass? The solution is simple: Tie It Down!

It doesn't take much to figure out how to secure the simplest items. For example, let's take the plastic canteen.

The best way to secure it is by attaching 550 parachute cord to the canteen's neck and the other end to the LBE web belt. Make sure you have at least three feet of cord as too little and you can't reach your mouth, too much and it gets hung up and in your way. Then simply take the tie down and either wrap it around the canteen's neck or tuck it in the canteen pouch.

NOTE: There should be at least one quick release or slip knot tied to one of the ends, either at the canteen neck or web belt so that you can easily remove it in order to fill your canteens at the stream or water point.

Ammo, first-aid, E-tool and compass pouches should be tied down through the pouch link's loops directly to the web belt, and not the metal belt link. You may have to remove some inner strings from the 550 parachute cord so it will pass more easily through the loop or holes. When tying the cord off, if you want to make sure it doesn't untie itself, melt the ends together with a lighter or match.

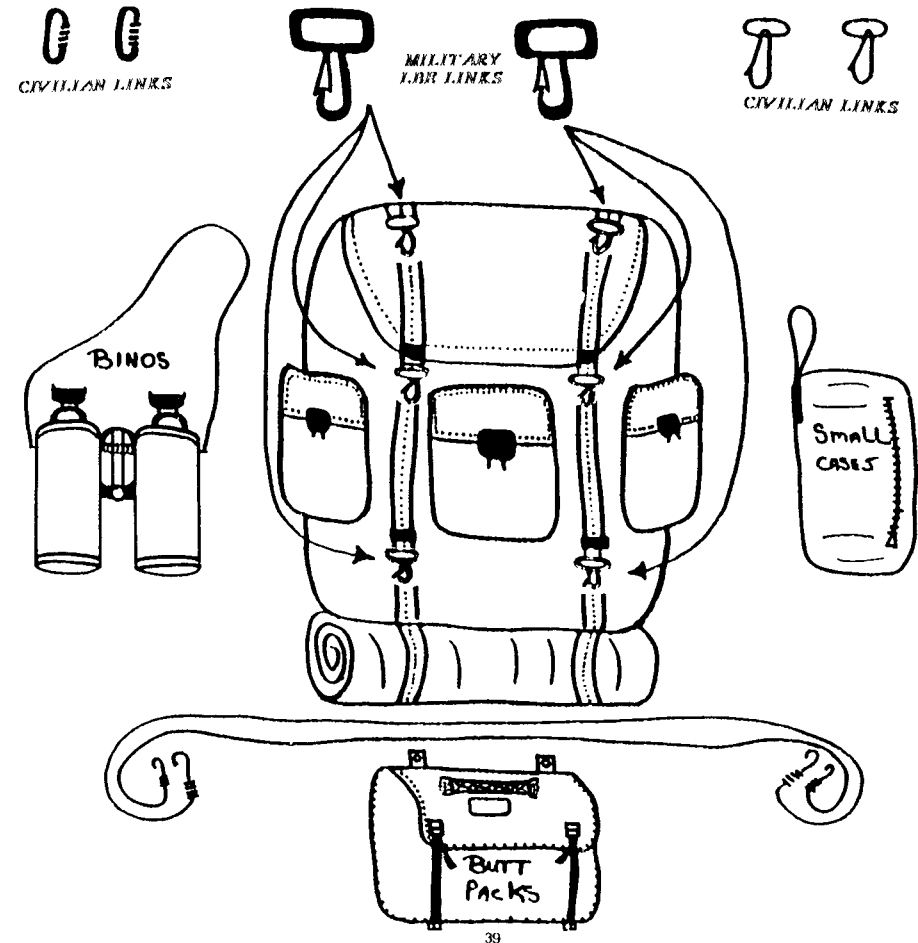


38

LBE SNAP LINKS

Submitted by: Luis Calcorzi

If you modify your LBE suspenders with the 550 parachute cord, don't throw away those metal snap links. Use them for your rucksack as extra add-on snap links. By taking those LBE snap links and tying or securing them to the top part of your metal frame, you can use them to connect all sorts of items, such as your butt pack, binos, small cases, etc. Easy to snap-on and easy to snap-off, but make sure you tape them silent or the enemy will hear you coming.



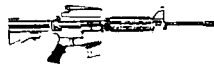
39



SPEAKIN' ABOUT DUMBNESS..

Here's a few dumb questions and myths I noticed about Army life:

1. Why do we have fold down ear flaps inside our BDU hats? We're never allowed to put them down, not even in the winter time. And I have never witnessed any unit yet that allowed their troops to wear them down. So why do we have them?
2. Why do some wives of soldiers assigned to units under Delta Force or Special Forces always tell others, "My husband is a Green Beret or Delta Force member", when their husbands are really just attached clerks, mechanics, cooks, etc. Are they just trying to fool themselves, or you?
3. Why do soldiers steal toilet paper from the latrines? Do we steal it because we want to make sure the real thieves don't get it?
4. Why do we have so many pockets (10) on a set of BDUs and yet we're not allowed to keep our hands in them?
5. Why do Airborne units make soldiers report hours before the time of move-out and then have them wait around for hours doing nothing?
6. Why do some Army units have afternoon and/or evening formation calls when they have absolutely nothing important to put out? Would it not be a lot easier to just inform the Psg's that there's nothing to put out instead of having everyone fall in?
7. Why are female soldiers authorized to carry and use an umbrella and the male soldiers can't? Or why are female soldiers authorized to have pierced ears and male soldiers can not?
8. Why are off-post Army and Navy stores allowed to purchase used and unserviceable military gear from DOD's Reutilization Office and soldier's can't? (Soldiers purchase these items from those same stores and DX them right back into the supply system)
9. Why does the Department of the Army promotion boards insist on using a DA photo and DA 2-1/201 record to identify what a leader's race is? By eliminating the DA photo/ race block, only the best qualified leaders would be selected based on their record, qualifications and accomplishments. The race and DA race quota is bull shit, it's if you meet the standards that counts!
10. Why do some soldiers park their cars in front of NCO/OFFICER CLUBS and risk getting a D U I. from the Base MPs? The on-post MP patrol cars know you're drinking booze in the club. If you step out and get in the car. *WHAM.* they got you!



PONCHO ROLLING

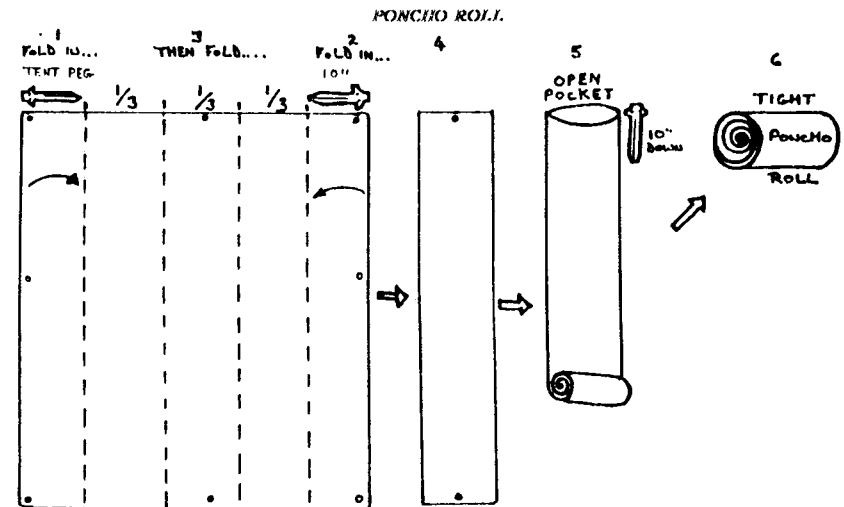
Submitted by: Spc Robert G. Warmack

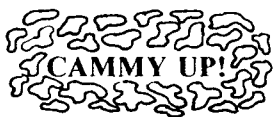
The military poncho when not folded or rolled correctly, is a bulky piece of plastic. It's sort of like trying to stuff an unrolled sleeping bag in a rucksack. It's better to take a little time to practice rolling or folding it than slam dunking it in your ruck.

One rolling technique/tip that Spc Robert G. Warmack sent goes like this:

- 1st Roll out your poncho on a flat clean surface. Then fold in the long sides of the poncho by approximately 10 inches or tent peg length.
- 2nd Fold the long sides into thirds until it is 1/3 in length.
- 3rd Start on one end and begin rolling, not folding, it up tightly and evenly and stop at approximately 10 inches from the other end.
- 4th Fold back and open the end to form an open pocket.
- 5th Roll the main portion into the pocket and tuck in any loose ends. If the rolled poncho appears loose in the pocket, try again. Except, unroll slightly and reroll tighter.

And there you have it, a nice, neat, rolled poncho ready to be attached to your pistol belt or tucked into your rucksack cargo pocket.





There are several ways you can put on camouflage paint. They are:

- A. The Rambo Tiger Stripe Pattern - stripe across face.
- B. The John Wayne Darken Pattern - entire face just blackened.
- C. The Standard Military Pattern - selected areas painted/covered.
- D. The I-Don't-Give-A-Shit Pattern - very little camouflage paint.

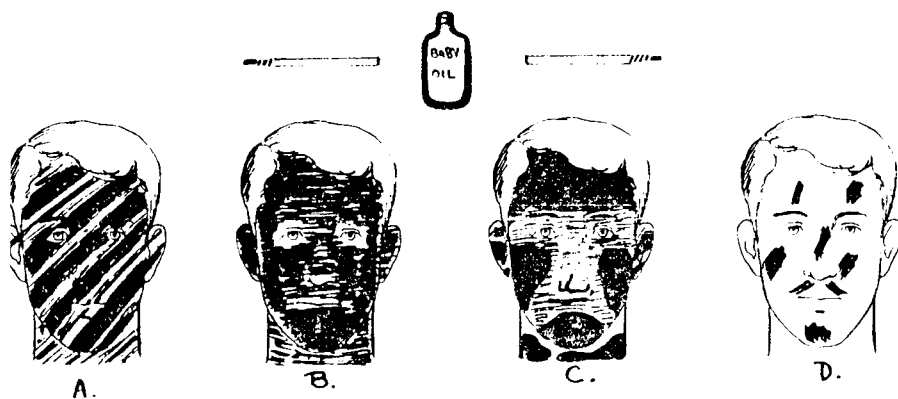
Although hardcore combat vets and military leaders frown on seeing troops using the Rambo pattern, it is a matter of choice, you know. But the choice lies with *do you want to blend in with the vegetation and surrounding, or just look Hollywood?*

A technique you can use to try to break up your camouflage pattern a bit more is to use black, brown and/or green grease pencil. Use the type your supply sgt or cdr keeps in his supply room to mark maps.

First, rub on your face a little bit of baby oil or military insect repellent so the camouflage paint will go on smoother. Then camouflage your face with the standard military paint sticks.

Afterwards, take the grease pencil (green, brown or black) and add a few designs that will blend in best with your surroundings. If operating in wooded areas, make leaves or pine needle designs, if you're in thick grass and weedy areas, draw up and down stripes for weeds or grass. If in rocky areas, draw a rocky pattern.

Just use your imagination, but most importantly, *don't over do it and get carried away*, or you will defeat the purpose. And don't forget to camouflage your ears, neck, hands, arms and exposed skin areas, like most 'cherry' soldiers forget to do.



PCSs & ASSIGNMENTS

Have you ever wondered how to get your assignment changed? You probably have once or twice, or perhaps 100 times but, "How in the hell can you get out of there?" To be blunt, if you just arrived there, you're screwed! DA is not going to waste money shipping you off to another 'Disney Land' kingdom.

But there is a possible out, slight, but possible, and that is to keep your eyes and ears open for announcements asking for volunteers for Ranger/Special Forces assignments through the ARMY TIMES newspaper, DA publications and even your unit AG/S-1 PAC office. You don't need to have a 'bang-bang' shoot 'em up' combat arms MOS to join or be attached to these elite forces.

Now don't get all bent out of shape and say, "Not me man, uh-uh!" Because there are basically two types of volunteers sought:

- A. Soldiers who are needed for a particular MOS (non-combat arms) and would be assigned a supporting role.
- B. Soldiers who are needed, and their MOS is not so important, but who are willing to be trained (or switch MOS) and become an elite member of a Ranger, Special Forces or a Delta Force unit.

Once DA or these elite units announce that they are seeking volunteers, you need to submit your paperwork as soon as possible. Sometimes these vacant positions become filled very quickly, so the longer you wait or stall, the less chance you will have in getting in the door. In order to be prepared...

1. Have your DA 4187 paperwork filled out in advance, except for the date and what you're volunteering for. This way as soon as you see something pop up, you can quickly fill in the rest and get it off (with your Commander's approval, of course.)
2. Keep current your Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) record. It should have been taken no more than 90 days ago. The higher the PT score is, the better. Just barely passing the test is not going to cut it. Then again, you don't need a max score either.
3. Have a current copy of your DA 201 and 2-1 available and make sure you keep it updated too.
4. If possible, try to get a Ranger/Special Forces medical exam. You sometimes can swing it to have one done without having the other paper work.

Other types of documents to have on hand are your SDT, NCOER, Weapon, and Education record/scores.



Be advised that if you do get accepted into an elite unit and you fail the school course or you fail to meet the unit's standards, you're basically stuck there on that military base whether you like it or not. So you could go from one hell hole to another, it's the chance you take.

Another way of getting out of your present assignment is to volunteer for an overseas tour. There are two types of tours, the short hardship tour and the long overseas tour. Places like South Korea and Saudi Arabia are considered hardship tours and have a 12 to 24 month assignment requirement. Whether you want to consider this will depend on your marital status and whether or not you intend to take your family with you.

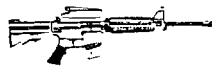
Long overseas tours are places like Germany, Italy or Belgium and have a 24 to 36 month assignment requirement. Again, what you decide may depend on your marital status and if you're taking your wife and kids with you.

You need to check with your unit S-1 or base AG office to see if you're entitled to do an overseas tour. Due to yearly changes in Army regulations, you may have to be assigned to your present unit for a certain period before you can submit a request (DA 4187) for an overseas assignment. Check with your S-1 and if you're not satisfied with their response, go to your AG office for the straight facts.

If you should happen to come down on PCS (Permanent Change of Station) orders and you don't like what you see, you can do what a number of soldiers have done, (including myself) several times. Report to the base/unit you want, regardless of what your orders say. Here's the sequence of events:

- 1st You'll get a notification of a new assignment, usually 4 to 6 months out from your unit S-1 or AG office
- 2nd You should receive your official orders approximately 3 months out.
- 3rd You will start out-processing 15 to 30 days out from either your reporting date or when you plan on taking your leave.
- 4th While you are on leave, and I strongly recommend the *first* week you're on it, go directly to the base/unit you want to be assigned to with your PCS orders and military record in hand.
- 5th Go to the local GI hang-outs (snack bar, PX, etc.) and ask around what is the best unit to be assigned to.
- 6th Report to that unit's Cmd Sgt Major (CSM) and ask him if it is possible to be assigned to his unit, add some 'cheese and spice' to the conversation too. If there are vacant slots, he'll more than likely try to help you out with what you want.
- 7th If the CSM is not around, report to that unit's PAC S-1 officer or NCO (never anyone with less rank) and inquire about the unit's strength. But be advised, it's much wiser to wait for the CSM than to talk to someone from the unit S-1. You could get blown off or bull shitted by those PAC Rats S-1 "clerks and jerks".

If you are not satisfied with the response, or they tell you there are no slots available, just shop around and try another unit or post. Someone will finally get off their butts and want you. Then that unit S-1 through the base AG will send a message to DA and get your orders amended,



changed or disapproved.

Now the drawbacks and consequences:

A. The more rank you have, the better chance you have in getting the assignment you want. The less rank - the less chance! But don't let this stop you, motivation and determination play a big roll in this little assignment technique.

B. If you try to get your assignment changed the last few days of leave you have left, you're pushing it. Because if the base or unit fails to convince DA to change your orders, and it could happen, you'll have that much less time to report to your original assignment.

C. And if you're late reporting in, besides being already absent/AWOL, you've created a very bad first impression and more than likely be tagged the new unit "dirt ball". Plus, you could get an Article 15, Letter of Reprimand or bad counselling statement from the unit commander.

Well, those are the facts. DA and unit leaders sure won't like these tips, but I've done it more than once and so have others, and it does (or did) work.

DA 4187 **APFT**

Army Physical Fitness Test Scorecard
For use of the form see DA 21-20, the amendment to AFMDC

NAME: **TSCHERNE, RICHARD** Social Security Number: **6332** **SM**

| Test One | Test Two | Test Three | Test Four |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Date: 9 FEB 80 | Date: 17 MAR 80 | Date: 17 APR 80 | Date: 17 MAY 80 |
| Age: 35 | Age: 35 | Age: 35 | Age: 37 |
| Height: 5 9 | Height: 5 9 | Height: 5 9 | Height: 5 9 |
| Weight: 183 | Weight: 170 | Weight: 175 | Weight: 172 |
| Waist: 34 | Waist: 34 | Waist: 34 | Waist: 34 |
| Waist-Chest: 12 | Waist-Chest: 12 | Waist-Chest: 12 | Waist-Chest: 12 |

APFT Score: **50**

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, SOUTHERN EUROPEAN TASK FORCE
APO AE 09830

Med Exam Request 1 July 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR: POST HOSPITAL FROM: HEADQUARTERS-HEADQUARTERS COMPANY
SUBJECT: Request A Special Forces/Bomber Physical Be Administered To Private First Class Dore A. Head, 100-10-0000.

1. According to Army Regulation 38-100-10, Paragraph 11, Requester Has A Request For

Milt. DA 201/2-1

Ly Form DA 31

FIELD WATCHES

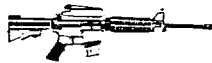
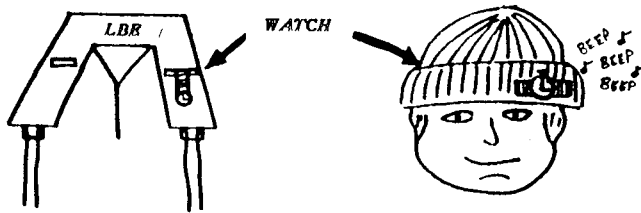
WRIST WATCH ALARM: You should own two different wrist watches, one for regular use and a special one for the field. The watch that is used for the field must be durable and easy to see at night. And most importantly, it should have an alarm built into it.

An alarm watch is pretty important for the field. The most important reason is to wake you up on your guard watch. You can easily fall asleep on guard if you are not careful, and setting your alarm watch to the time you get off will prevent you from ruining the entire patrol's guard watch. Not to mention severe security violations as well.

An alarm watch prevents you from having to depend on the next individual to wake or relieve you when your watch is over or if you should doze off accidentally.

Canadian OCDT J.M. Jasper says, "In the winter when you're in your fart sack fully clothed and crammed in a small tent full of troops, a small alarm watch worn on the wrist can get easily muffled under all that gear. If a soldier is dependent on the watch to wake him for his sentry duty, he'll sleep right through the alarm." A tip he suggests is to place the watch in the ear flaps of your patrol cap, or roll it up in your wool skull cap and wear it to bed. You're bound to hear the alarm go off right next to your head.

West Point Cadet Derrick C. Wright says he finds it much easier to attach his tactical wrist watch to the outside of his LBE in a cold weather environment. When you're wearing all that heavy cold weather gear, it's hard to see your watch on your wrist especially when wearing arctic gloves or trigger mittens. When attaching the watch to the LBE, make sure you use a tactical colored watch with a green or black band. You don't want to wear a bright shining 'shoot-me' watch on the LBE. The face of the watch should always be facing down to prevent the watch's glass or plastic covering from being beaten or shattered.



WE BE AIRBORNE - RANGERS!!
 THAT'S WHO WE BE...(HE!) CAN'T
 YOU TELL...(HE!) You Dumb ASS
 MOTHER.....



SOLDIER'S CHOICE



BASIC ITEMS

US CAV BDE QM QTRM KAUF NEWMANS

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------|----------|----------|----------|---------|
| Boots, Desert HW | \$70 | N/A | \$70 | \$70 | \$70 |
| Boots, Jungle | \$30 | *\$60 | \$30 | \$29.75 | N/A |
| Butt-Pack | \$12 | \$14 | N/A | \$19.75 | \$15 |
| Canteen | \$2 | \$2 | N/A | \$2.5 | N/A |
| Canteen Cover | \$7 | \$7 | N/A | \$7 | \$8.75 |
| Canvas Water Pale | \$7 | \$4.25 | N/A | N/A | \$7.50 |
| Compass, Lensatic | \$40 | \$40 | *\$43 | \$41.75 | \$35 |
| Flashlight, Angle | \$7 | \$7 | N/A | \$7 | \$7 |
| Hat, Camo Boonie | \$12 | \$12 | N/A | \$15 | \$12 |
| Knife, USAF Surv | *\$23 | \$20 | N/A | \$20 | \$20 |
| Knife, USMC Combat | \$25 | \$23 | N/A | \$25 | \$22.50 |
| Knife, USMC K-Bar | \$40 | \$33 | *\$41.50 | \$34 | N/A |
| Knife, Kukri MK3 | \$24 | \$24 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Knife, Rambo | \$90 | N/A | \$90 | N/A | N/A |
| Mirror, signal | \$6-\$8 | \$6-\$10 | N/A | \$5-\$18 | \$6-\$8 |
| Poncho Liner | \$30 | \$30 | N/A | \$35 | \$32.50 |
| Pouch, Aid/Compass | \$3 | \$3 | N/A | \$4 | \$4.50 |
| Pouch, Wpn Mags | \$10 | \$9.50 | N/A | \$11 | \$11 |
| Radio, Hands-Free | *\$50 | \$40 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Ruck, Med-LC2 | \$135 | \$115 | N/A | \$135 | \$100 |
| Ruck, Lge-LC2 | \$135 | \$115 | N/A | \$150 | \$118 |
| Strobe, Fire-Fly | N/A | *\$64.50 | N/A | N/A | \$50 |
| Suspenders | \$15 | \$15 | N/A | \$16.50 | \$15 |
| Tool, Leatherman | *\$50 | \$44.50 | \$43.50 | \$47 | N/A |
| Wrist Compass | *\$6 | \$5 | N/A | \$5 | \$5 |
| Wrist Thermo | *\$6 | \$5 | N/A | \$5 | \$5 |
| Web Belt (LBE) | \$11 | \$10 | N/A | \$11.5 | \$11 |

STATUS/COUNT/SCORE

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| Avail Items Out of 27: | 26 | 25 | 6 | 22 | 20 |
| Most Expensive Items: | *5 | *2 | *2 | *8 | *3 |
| Least Expensive Items: | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Equally Priced Items: | 6 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| Between Costs (+/-) | 13 | 14 | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| Not Available in Store: | 1 | 2 | 21 | 5 | 7 |

US Cavalry: Large selection of both, "Military and Enforcement" equipment. Selling not only standard G.I. gear, but hard-to-find and very unusual adventure & survival items as well.

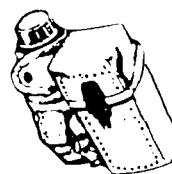
Brigade Quartermasters: Large selection of mixed military, camping, hunting, survival and casual gear and equipment.

Quartermaster: Moderate selection of Sportswear, Adventure and Military clothing and Equipment. Very large assortment of patches, badges, awards and military decorations.

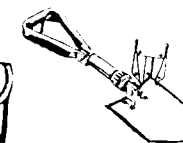
Kaufman's West: Moderate selection of sportswear and Military clothing and equipment. Large assortment of "Unusual/War patches, badges and medals.

Newman's G.I. Supply: Very small assortment

*Note: Prices Quoted above are from Winter/Spring 1992



EXTRA MILITARY GEAR



One of the best investments you can make while in the military is purchasing, or acquiring, an extra set or two of TA-50 combat gear. Owning an extra LBE/LCE, rucksack, poncho, sleeping bag, etc. will come in handy later on for inspections, layouts, guard mounts, ceremonies and so on.

At a minimum, I have always owned two sets of the following:

| | | |
|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Pistol belt | Harness straps | E-Tool w/case |
| Canteens w/cover | Poncho | Canteen cup |
| Ammo pouch | Liner | Rucksack |
| First aid pouch | Kevlar Cover | Overshoes |

The longer I stayed in the military, the more I was able to acquire, or trade for, additional sets of TA-50. Several ways I acquire these pieces of equipment are:

1. **By picking up unclaimed lost and found items no one would answer up to: The rule is "no name - no claim!"**

Of course, if you have 2 or 3 of the same items, you should not hold back and deny a fellow buddy something he is missing. No matter what type of equipment you find laying around unclaimed, never pass it up. Most lazy soldiers will say to themselves when they find something, "I got one of those already, I don't need another one." **WRONG!** Never pass up extra equipment, it could come in handy later on for swapping or replacing your own lost equipment.

2. **By visiting either your company supply room or unit S-4 shop.**

Your company supply clerk/sgt is your best bet. They somehow always acquire extra Ta-50s. Usually troops turn in lost and found items to them first. Again, the rule is 'No name - no claim'. You should always be nice and keep a nice tight relationship with your unit supply clerk/sgt. They can usually square you away on items you are missing or trying to acquire.

A common practice everyone in the Army abuses is the DX/Turn-In of worn and damaged equipment for new or serviceable items. The following tip is what others have done. But, be advised that if you get caught doing it - it's punishable under the military UCMJ.

- If it's worn or slightly damaged - break or tear it more so it will be accepted and not refused for turn-in.
- If you bought it in a surplus store - check it for any type of markings or it won't be accepted for turn-in.
- If you ever show up with extra TA-50 - hide it! They will confiscate all extra TA-50, their rule is 'No receipt - no claim!'





PROMOTION BOARD TIPS

Over the many years I have been in the military, I have seen a lot of good and bad (dirt ball) soldiers go before many types of boards, but only those who displayed good, aggressive and motivated responses were selected for promotion, soldier of the quarter/year, or as #1 soldier of guard mount. Your answers do not always have to be 100% right and on the nose.

Remember you are competing against others and believe it or not, even if you know all the answers to the questions, this does not guarantee that you will be selected. Your appearance, accomplishments, MOS scores, attitude and personality play a big part. Yes, I said personality!

If you have a dull, confused or 'shitty' personality, this will more than likely be spotted and could influence board members to question whether you deserve the promotion or not. Solution? Act aggressive, motivated and change your attitude. It could be the only chance you have against the others.

Simple board questions and responses to give:

- Board Member:** How long do you plan to stay in the Army?
Dumb Response: I haven't decided if I will stay in the Army.
Smart Response: No less than 20 years.
- Board Member:** What is your military ambition?
Dumb Response: To do the best I can in everything.
Smart Response: To take over your job or to be your boss someday.
- Board Member:** You have just been promoted to Sgt. and have just witnessed your best buddy, and E-4, smoking pot inside the latrine late at night. What will you do as a leader?
Dumb Response: I would burn him by reporting it directly to the ISG/Cdr. NCO duties come before friendship.
Smart Response: I would tell him to put it out immediately, think about what he just did in front of me as an NCO and not just as a friend, and that I would wait until tomorrow before I decide what to do. But... he could make it easier on both of us if he would report it himself.
- Board Member:** What is the maximum range of an M47?
Dumb Response: I don't know. (Or guess and give the wrong answer to the question.)
Smart Response: I do not know the answer, but I definitely will remember to look it up after I leave this room.

These are just samples of questions and answers I have heard, there are lots more. Just put yourself in the board's shoes and think what responses you would accept if you were them.



FIELD ENTERTAINMENT

One of the best ways to shake off boredom in the field is to entertain yourself. When I was stationed in Korea and deployed to the field, we had 'Mamason' bring us good food and girls to keep us entertained. We never invited her, she found us and we couldn't get rid of her - not that we wanted to!

But on other deployments that I've gone on we were always able to dig up something to do for entertainment. Particularly with reptiles, insects and animals.

Turkey: It was capturing turtles. We would take a marker or cammy stick and write all sorts of messages on their shells such as "F--- You, GI", "Catch me - Eat me", or "U.S.A. or BUST' I'm Slow but Sexy".

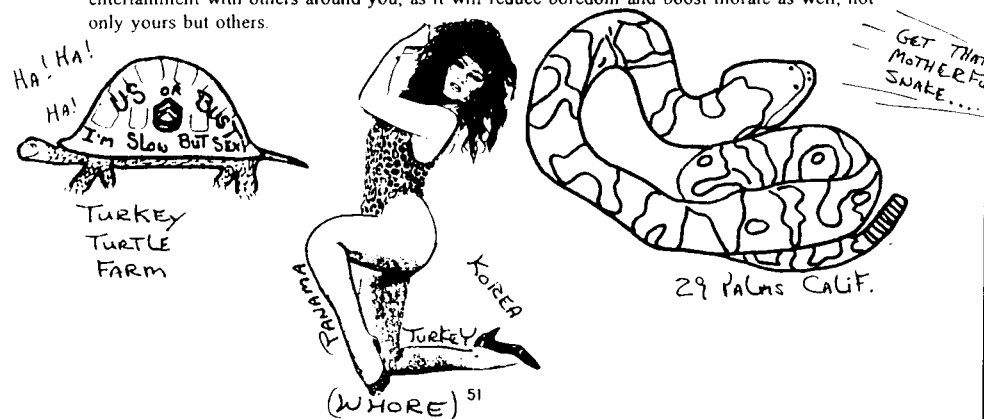
Then we would release them near other units and listen to them laugh when they saw them pass by. We even made a POW camp of tent stakes and put 50 numbered turtles in it and made bets which would escape at night.

Panama: It was playing with the crabs and getting them to fight with each other or teasing them to run backwards.

NTC & 29 Palms, California: We would go hunting towards the evening for rattle snakes. In the day, we captured lizards and put a string around them and walked 'em around. Or tied their tails together and watched them play tug-of-war.

Germany: It was finding wild bores or stray dogs. We would play or tease them. Or we would go hunting or trapping/snaring for wild animals.

What I am trying to show you is that you have to try to keep yourself entertained when you're in the field, just like so many did during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Share the entertainment with others around you, as it will reduce boredom and boost morale as well, not only yours but others.



JOKES...

DAMN THOSE 2ND LTs

An Airborne platoon from 3/325th ABCT was sent to Rome on R & R. The platoon sgt and platoon leader (a West Pointer) decided to go see the Vatican together and hoped to meet the Pope.

Upon entering the church, the 2nd Lt. knocked over the holy water bowl, then walked into several guests, tore the confession box curtain, knocked over the candle rack and broke the church's tour phone that was inside the church.

Just then the Pope made his grand opening and entered the church. He pointed and motioned for the platoon sgt to come near him. The platoon sgt kneels in front of him and the Pope makes the sign of the cross and walks off.

The 2nd Lt platoon leader comes running up to the platoon sgt and says "Wow, you're lucky, you got to meet the Pope and get a special blessing." The platoon sgt gets up and responds, "No sir, I didn't, let's go!" The 2nd Lt said, "What do you mean you didn't? I saw him call you over and bless you."

The platoon sgt said, "Sir, I didn't get blessed... he said (making the sign of the cross) "You, and that clumsy officer over there get the hell out of my church before I have you thrown out!"

WEST POINTERS

Two West Point cadets in a biology class were assigned to do a report on frogs so they went to the nearby river and captured a bull frog. They decided to do an unusual experiment and study the jumping ability of frogs.

They decided to cut off one leg and see if it could still jump. After cutting off one leg, they yelled and the frog was able to jump. The two cadets recorded the findings.

They decided to cut off another leg and repeat the same experiment. With the second leg cut off, the frog still managed to jump. Again, they recorded the findings.

They decided to go even further and cut off another leg and repeat the procedure. With the third leg cut off, the frog was still able to make a weak, but noticeable jump. They recorded it again in their report.

They decided again to cut off another leg and repeat the procedure as before. The frog did not move. They both screamed, but the frog did not move. They fired a blank pistol near it, the frog did not move!

The final report that was turned in - Frogs Go Deaf When They Lose Four Legs.



DOD DOUBLE TALK

DOD GULF WAR DOUBLE-SPEAK: The gulf war not only gave U.S. Forces the chance to test and fine tune our new advance weapons system, but also for the Department of Defense to dream up new military terms so that war, death and destruction would not really sound so bad for the American public to accept. Here are just a few of the current changes:

| OLD TERM/MEANING | | NEW TERM/MEANING |
|--------------------|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| War or conflict | ▶ | Armed situation |
| Bombing | ▶ | Servicing the target |
| Massive bombings | ▶ | Efforts |
| Troops | ▶ | Soft targets |
| Buildings | ▶ | Hard targets |
| War planes | ▶ | Weapon systems |
| Going on a mission | ▶ | Force packages |
| Bombing missions | ▶ | Visiting a site |
| Killed/destroyed | ▶ | Cleansed, degraded, suppressed, impacted, decapitated, took out neutralized. |

O.K. guys and gals, let's see if we can out-do the DOD's in making the following terms acceptable for the American public. Send in your term/meaning for:

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| M16 Rifle | <u>Example: Bullet launcher</u> |
| Machine gun | _____ |
| Grenade launcher | _____ |
| Pistol | _____ |
| Tank | _____ |
| Sniper | _____ |
| Ambushes | _____ |
| Raid | _____ |
| Recon | _____ |
| Move-to-contact | _____ |
| Bunker | _____ |

For each new term I accept, I will list your name and send you a free book. So, come on, let's show these DOD brains we can go a step further. I'll be waiting for your letters.





SPECIAL OPERATION FORCES LEADERSHIP TIPS



Here are some excellent leadership tips that were forwarded to me from an SF reservist in the Atlanta, Georgia Army Reserves. He asked to remain anonymous due to security reasons. They were extracted from two famous Vietnam era SF training booklets called the "B-52" and "B-720." As per your request, buddy....

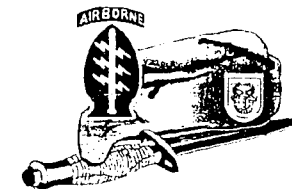
1. NO UNIT CAN TRAIN, PRACTICE, OR REHEARSE TOO MUCH OR TOO OFTEN.
2. JOINT TEAMWORK IS THE KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL MILITARY OPERATION.
3. BEFORE DEPARTING ON A MILITARY OPERATION, TRY TO LET YOUR MEN GET AS MUCH SLEEP AS POSSIBLE. MINIMIZE FATIGUE, AS TIRED TROOPS WILL BECOME CARELESS.
4. IF A LEADER DISPLAYS SELF CONFIDENCE, THEN A UNIT WILL ALSO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN HIM AND THEMSELVES.
5. NEVER HAVE JUST ONE PLAN OF ACTION - HAVE AT LEAST ONE ALTERNATE PLAN TO FALL BACK ON IF THE PRIMARY PLAN FAILS.
6. LOOSING YOUR TEMPER IN FRONT OF TROOPS WILL NOT ONLY EFFECT YOUR JUDGEMENT, BUT ALSO YOUR TROOP'S AS WELL. STAY COOL!
7. DON'T EVER BE AFRAID OR TOO PROUD TO ACCEPT ADVICE AND SUGGESTIONS FROM YOUR MEN, REGARDLESS OF THEIR RANK OR POSITION.
8. TRY PRACTICING HALF OF YOUR TRAINING AT NIGHT SO THAT YOU'LL BE EQUALLY PROFICIENT IN DAY AND NIGHT TRAINING.
9. LEADERS WHO ENFORCE THEIR UNITS TO DO PHYSICAL TRAINING (PT) EVERYDAY, WILL HAVE FEWER HEALTH PROBLEMS THAN THOSE WHO DON'T.
10. LEADERS WHO CONDUCT SEVERAL INSPECTIONS PRIOR TO MOVE-OUT, WILL HAVE FEWER BROKEN, MISSING, OR FORGOTTEN ITEMS LEFT BEHIND.
11. DON'T BE AFRAID TO MAKE "ON-THE-SPOT" INDIVIDUAL CORRECTIONS BEFORE, DURING OR AFTER A MISSION.



12. USE TACT AND COMMON SENSE IN REPRIMANDING A JUNIOR LEADER. WHEN FEASIBLE, TAKE THE INDIVIDUAL OFF TO THE SIDE TO CORRECT HIM RATHER THAN DOING IT IN FRONT OF HIS MEN. THIS WILL ENABLE HIM TO REACT TO CRITICISM AND NOT FEEL RIDICULED OR LOSE FACE IN FRONT OF HIS MEN.
13. WHILE ON A MILITARY OPERATION, STAY ALERT AT ALL TIMES YOU ARE NEVER 100% SAFE UNTIL YOU ARE BACK HOME IN A SECURE AREA.

Now a few of RANGER RICK's personal hard learned leadership tips:

14. IF YOUR TROOPS SHOULD EVER SEE YOU TAKING SHORTCUTS, YOU CAN EXPECT THEM TO DO THE SAME THING WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT, AS YOU SET THE EXAMPLE FOR THEM TO FOLLOW !
16. UNIT "RAP SESSIONS" ARE GOOD NOT ONLY FOR AIRING OUT COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES, BUT ALSO FOR RECOGNIZING AND COMPLIMENTING SQUADS, TEAMS AND INDIVIDUALS FOR DOING GOOD A JOB.
17. ALWAYS BE WILLING TO LISTEN TO AN INDIVIDUAL'S PROBLEM WHETHER IT'S MILITARY OR PERSONAL. SIMPLY BY LISTENING YOU WILL SHOW HIM YOU REALLY CARE, PLUS IT WILL MAKE HIM FEEL BETTER BY GETTING IT OFF HIS CHEST, EVEN IF YOU CAN'T SOLVE IT.
18. IF YOU'RE EVER CHALLENGED BY A LOWER ENLISTED SOLDIER IN FRONT OF YOUR UNIT, TAKE CONTROL OF THE SITUATION IMMEDIATELY BY CORRECTING, REPRIMANDING OR PUNISHING THE SOLDIER IN FRONT OF THAT SAME GROUP OF MEN OR UNIT TO SHOW "WHO IS IN CHARGE."





MUTUAL FUNDS AND STOCK UPDATE

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Alright, listen carefully boys and girls, I'm only going to tell you once.

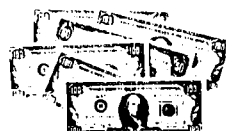
This is your hard earned money:



This is your hard earned money in Savings Bonds, Savings Accounts or CDs:



This is your hard earned money in Stocks or Mutual funds:



Any questions????

Now, I am not a financial expert, investment expert, consultant or millionaire but I do keep up with reliable sources including reading Money Magazine, Changing Times and the Wall Street Journal. I also watch and listen to CNN and business news too. Plus, I would not recommend anyone investing money in anything that I haven't got my own money invested in. I am not like a consultant, as a consultant advises you where to invest your money. They do not necessarily have their own personal money invested there. I work just the opposite, I have money in these stocks or mutual funds.

The top 10 stocks*, based on a initial investment of only \$1,000 that show constant returns over a 10 year period are:

| NAME/Company | From 1981 - 1991 | % RETURN |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------|
| WALTON/WAL-MART | \$ 22,370.00 | 2138% |
| WEXNER/LIMITED | \$ 22,170.00 | 2072% |
| BUFFETT/BERKSHIRE | \$ 15,620.00 | 1462% |
| BLAUSTEIN/CROWN CTRL | \$ 12,110.00 | 1111% |
| WOODRUFF/COCA-COLA | \$ 9,340.00 | 834% |
| DORRANCE/CAMPBELL SOUP | \$ 8,680.00 | 769% |
| ALBERTSON/ALBERTSON INC. | \$ 8,340.00 | 734% |
| DISNEY/WALT DISNEY | \$ 8,070.00 | 707% |
| HEINZ/HEINZ FOOD | \$ 7,100.00 | 611% |
| TURNER/TURNER TV | \$ 5,630.00 | 464% |

* Past performance of any stock does not guarantee the same future results.

\$

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You should recognize some of these companies. They make everyday products you either see in your local stores or advertised on TV. Think about it: do you think they're losers or high risk companies?

Here's a list of some great small investment opportunities *any soldier* can get started in. I only recommend mutual funds that show long time returns, returns that are much better than savings bonds, savings accounts and CDs. There are slight risks involved, but not compared to stocks, as mutual funds are spread out among many different stocks and not just one. This source of information has been compiled from Money, Changing Times, and Forbes Magazine, all very reliable sources. If you don't believe or trust me, check it out for yourself.

*The top 15 Mutual Funds listed below were based on \$1000 invested. All returns are rounded off to the nearest 100 dollars.

| FUND NAME/PHONE # | 1986 91 5 YR RETURN | 1981 91 10 YR. RETURN |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| AIM WEINGARTEN 1-800-392-9681 | \$ 2,800 | \$ 6,400 |
| ALGER SMALL CAP. 1-800-992-FUND | \$ 6,100 | N/A |
| FIDELITY MAGELLAN 1-800-544-666 | \$ 2,900 | \$ 12,000 |
| FIDELITY GROW CO. 1-800-544-6666 | \$ 2,500 | N/A |
| GUARDIAN PARK AVE 1-800-221-3253 | \$ 2,400 | \$ 5,600 |
| JANUS FUND 1-800-525-3713 | \$ 2,400 | \$ 6,500 |
| MERRILL LYNCH FUNDS 1-609-282-2800 | \$ 4,200 | \$ 10,400 |
| NEUBERGER & BERMAN MAN 1-800-877-9700 | \$ 2,400 | \$ 5,400 |
| N.Y. VENTURE FUND unknown | \$ 2,700 | \$ 6,300 |
| PUTNAM VOYAGER 1-800-2258-1581 | \$ 2,700 | \$ 5,300 |
| SCUDDER CAP. GROWTH 1-800-225-2470 | \$ 2,700 | \$ 5,400 |
| STEINROE SPECIAL 1-800-338-2550 | \$ 2,500 | \$ 6,200 |
| 20th CENT GROWTH 1-800-345-2021 | \$ 2,600 | \$ 5,200 |
| 20th CENTURY SELECT 1-800-345-2021 | \$ 2,500 | \$ 6,400 |
| UNITED INT'L GROWTH 1-800-283-4112 | \$ 2,600 | \$ 5,900 |

* Past performance of any mutual fund does not guarantee the same future results.

After looking at these figures and returns, you'll say, "Wow," "Bull shit", "Who cares?", "All my money is going there", and so on, but you know what? Most of you reading this will not even get off your ass to call or write. Those few who do will not invest even when they do get the brochure and application. And those few who do invest will wind up putting *too much* money in and pulling it right back out in less than a year.

The smart move? Make direct monthly deposits/allotments of \$100 plus. You'll never miss it. Trust me!

NOTE: Free Mutual Fund Forecaster available by calling toll free 1-800-327-6720

Investors drawn to mutual funds for convenience, portfolio diversity

United Press International

Building a stock portfolio is a complex, time-consuming, inconvenient process, even for the most savvy investor.

Because of that, many investors have decided to let someone else build a portfolio for them. The result has been a boom in the mutual-fund business.

Mutual funds, in many ways, are like giant investment clubs. They have been around since the 1920s, but came into vogue in the mid-1980s.

Mutual funds now manage more than 58 million customer accounts nationwide, valued at more than \$1 trillion, according to the Investment Company Institute, an industry trade group. Some funds manage more than \$1 billion in assets.

But it is not the bigness of the funds that makes them appealing.

Diversification and professional management are the baits used to hook hundreds of new investors every day.

Funds invest in a range of securities, providing diversity that guards against "betting it all" on one issue. Many investors cannot afford a diversified portfolio on their own, but can get one at a snap simply by buying shares in a well-run mutual fund.

Operated by investment companies, mutual funds are designed to pool the money of investors with common financial goals.

While some funds are sold by brokers and charge a commission or sales fee to open an account, many others — called "no-load funds" — take no payment from shareholders.

Some funds allow individuals to open an account with as little as \$50.

But while it is easy to see the benefits of diversity and professional manage-

ment, picking the right fund is not always so simple.

Considering a mutual-fund investment is a little like going to a Baskin Robbins ice cream shop — except there are hundreds of flavors to choose from instead of only 31 varieties.

As a result, being satisfied with a fund requires understanding its investment goals.

For example, a retired couple looking for stability and minimal risk would be out of place in an aggressive growth fund.

The leading personal-finance magazines — particularly *Changing Times* and *Money* — routinely review top-performing mutual funds, including vital information about investment returns, objectives and where to call for a prospectus.

The explosion in types of funds makes the mutual-fund tables in the newspaper more difficult to read, since a family of funds might have a "high-quality fund" investing in top-rated corporate and municipal securities and a "high-yield fund" investing in junk bonds.

The funds' names may be similar, but their strategies are vastly different.

Investors should always read a fund's prospectus to determine its goals before investing.

Here is a guide to 10 different flavors of mutual funds, with the standard descriptions used by those who operate the investments:

• **Growth funds:** These invest in small companies that pay little or no dividends. Investors expect their capital to appreciate as the companies grow and their stock prices rise.

• **Income funds:** They accumulate high-grade corporate bonds, as well as stocks with a long history of paying dividends.

Investors often choose an income fund for its current dividend prospects, rather than future appreciation.

• **Balanced funds:** Generally these funds try to balance three primary investment objectives: income, growth and stability.

• **Money-market mutual funds:** They are listed separately from stock funds, and are designed to provide current income and preservation of capital without tying up an investor's money. Most money-market funds provide check-writing privileges.

• **Tax-free funds:** These generally buy government bonds, which provide tax-free income. Although these funds typically earn a lower rate of return than funds that buy taxable investments, an investor's tax considerations can make them a good deal.

• **Index funds:** They buy only the stocks of a particular market index, such as the Standard & Poor's 500. Their performance mirrors that of the market in general.

• **Sector funds:** These funds focus on companies in a specific industry, such as health care, transportation or defense.

• **Precious-metal funds:** These invest in companies involved in gold mining, exploration and processing. Their performance is tied more closely to the gold market than to the stock market.

• **International funds:** Generally these funds invest in foreign stocks and bonds. They may follow the same objectives as domestic funds, but pursue their market opportunities overseas for the most part.

• **Social funds:** Funds in this very restrictive category invest only in companies that fall in line with certain social objectives. For example, they might invest only in companies that are considered environmentally aware.

A STORY ABOUT A SHIT HEAD PRIVATE

Once upon a time, there was a dumb private in a far away place called "Grafenwehor, Germany." He was a dumb SOB, so dumb that nobody really liked him. Not his fellow soldiers, Team Leader, Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant nor Company ISG. He was a real smart ass who thought he knew it all.

Then one cold winter day, his company went on a tactical 12 mile road march across the lovely, muddy country side of Germany. About halfway through the road march, approximately 6 miles out, the weather started to change rapidly. The temperature dropped sharply, the rain changed to snow, and the road started to get very slippery and muddy.

With the weather getting worse minute by minute, the dumb private started to fall further and further back behind the company formation. As an excuse, he told his Team Leader he needed to take an urgent shit. So he dropped out of the formation and ran to the nearest woods until the company was way out of sight.

Knowing the unit was now gone, he figured he could take his sweet ass time walking back to base without being hassled, pushed or yelled at to keep up with the company. While walking down the same road as his unit was on, he came upon a large cow pasture that looked like it might be a shortcut back to the base. He decided to take a chance by cutting across the field, hoping it would save him time and get him home sooner.

As he started to walk cross the field, he soon realized that the snow was beginning to get deeper and deeper and much more difficult to walk in. Before long, he started to get very tired and exhausted and knew then that he made a serious mistake trying to cross the field. He then decided to turn around and try to get back on the road.

Due to the heavy snow fall and wind, his tracks were quickly covered over and he soon lost his way back to the road. Feeling extremely weak, he collapsed to the ground. The dumb private thought for sure he was goner and that no one would ever find him in the snow storm.

Suddenly, out of no where came a large herd of cows walking across the field. The dumb private said to himself, "Great, if I don't freeze to death, I'll be trampled to death by a bunch of cows." But the private was lucky, they didn't walk on him, instead they just shit on him as they passed over him.

Feeling the fresh warm cow shit on top of him, the private started to get warmed up again. In fact, he was feeling so much better...he started to laugh aloud at the situation he had gotten himself into.

Then suddenly in one swift sweep, he was grabbed by the collar, jerked and shaken to his feet and given a first class royal ass chewing by his Platoon Sergeant and Company ISG. And when they got him back to the barracks, he was put on latrine detail for a whole week.

The moral of this story:

1. Anyone who happens to shit on you, is not always out to get you.
2. Anyone who happens to get you out of shit, is not always your friend.
3. And if you're warm and happy in shit, keep your mouth shut.





FIELD AMMO

Submitted by: Ssg. Patrick Finley

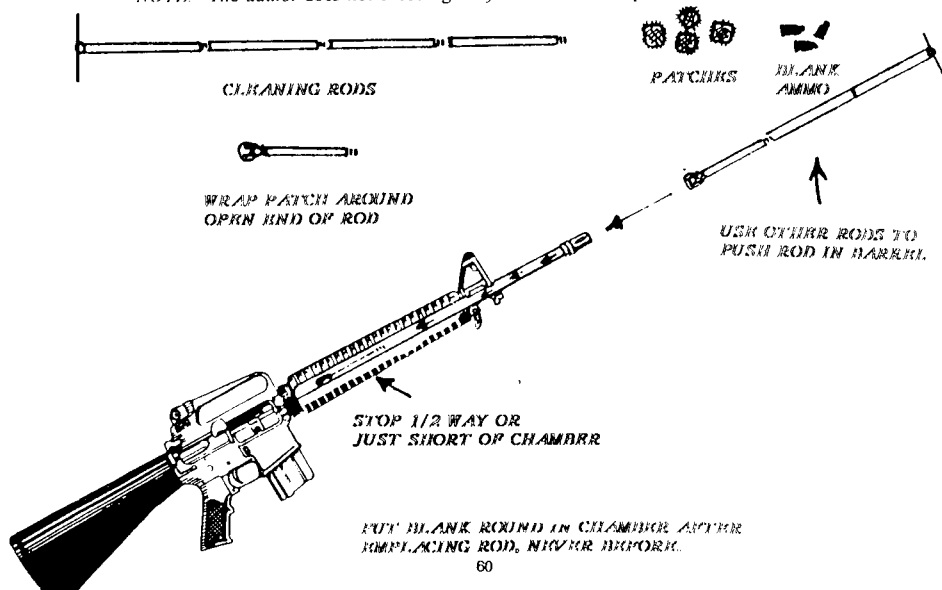
Ssg. Finley says this field expedient game getter was introduced to him a long time ago. All you need is an M-16 rifle, blank ammo, and a cleaning rod. The cleaning rod must be completely straight and not bent in any areas.

First, make sure that the blank adapter is off and the weapon is on safe. Then, take one section of the cleaning rod that will be fired (projectile) and wrap a (condom) patch around it. Force feed/enter the rod down the throat of the barrel through the (pubic) flash suppressor, and not the (butt hole) chamber, with the remaining parts of the cleaning rod. It should fit in so nice and tight, oooh! But if the (condom) patch needs to be smaller, cut it down some. (Sounds like sex, don't it?)

Don't push it all the way down past the chamber or you will have to do it over again. Stop a few inches short of the chamber. If necessary, measure the distance down the barrel with the remaining cleaning rods on the outside. You must ensure that the patch and rod are just short of the chamber and then remove the cleaning rod. The patch and projectile should remain in place.

Hand place one blank ammo into the chamber and, "Be careful, you now have a loaded weapon that can kill animals as well as humans."

NOTE: The author does not encourage anyone to use this tip other than for survival.



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CHEM-LITE TIPS

Submitted by: Corey Woodard and Ranger Rick

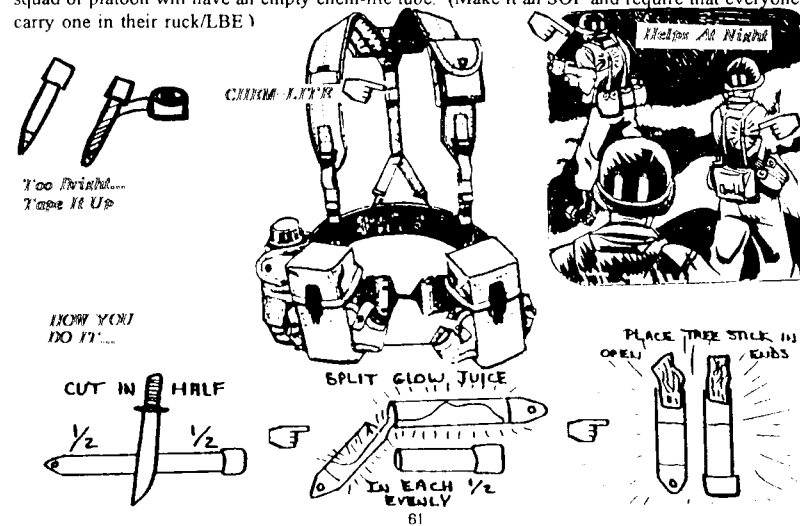
Corey Woodard says, "It's difficult sometimes to see the cat eyes (lum tape) on the back of kevlar, patrol hats and rucksacks while walking through the thick and dark woods at night, especially combined with adverse weather conditions."

A technique he found that works best with his unit is to tape up a chem-lite and just leave a small slit hole exposed in the tape, just so enough glow can be seen. Then tape or tie it to the back of an LBE or rucksack and you're ready to follow the leader.

CAUTION: Make damn sure you only expose enough glowing light to be seen over short or reasonable distances. And never turn your back towards the direction of the enemy. Remove the follow-the-leader chem-lite when it is no longer needed for the mission. Ranger Rick's chem-lite technique is:

During follow-the-leader or choo-choo training movements, cut one of the chem-lites open and put a few drops of this liquid on your men's ruck pockets or the back of their LBE straps. This glow juice liquid will not last long once it is out of the tube, but long enough for short missions.

And, don't throw away those used chem-lite tubes, keep them for future missions. How? Cut them in half and plug a stick in the ends. Then the next time you use a brand new chem-lite on a mission, cut it open and pour some of the liquid into these short empty chem-lite tubes and you'll have several active chem-lites for the mission. Before you know it, everyone in your team, squad or platoon will have an empty chem-lite tube. (Make it an SOP and require that everyone carry one in their ruck/LBE)



61



FIELD BUG CHASERS



Since Desert Shield and Desert Storm, I have read many reports and articles on the problems that our troops had with desert insects. Desperate things were done in trying to get rid of or keep these pesty bugs off of them. Somehow word got out that if you purchased a dog or cat flea/tick collar, you would be relieved of these critters. Boy, when the FDA and the military medical department got wind of this, did shit hit the fan!

For all of you 'cherry' soldiers who just entered the service, and also you experienced know-it-all ol' timers, this is a big *NO-NO*. Why? Because they're extremely toxic and dangerous to humans, that's why, dumb ass! When worn around the neck the chemical is absorbed through the skin. On cats and dogs, it stays on the fur. So the next time one of your buddies recommends or suggests you try this, tell him to kiss your butt and that you don't have an "S"(for stupid) on your forehead.

The standard military insect repellent did work to a certain extent, but it wore off sooner than expected. Commercial products were either shipped in or sent from home. But these sprays and oil rub-ons also wore off after a period of time.

Now after careful researching, I was able to locate a few good electronic bug repellent chasers that seem to really work well.

BELT LOOP MOSQUITO CHASER

Electronically reproduces the sound of a dragonfly, the mosquitos most dreaded enemy. This barely audible sound repels mosquitos and other flying pests within 25 feet. Uses a 9 volt bat. and stands just 2 1/2 X 1 3/8 in size.

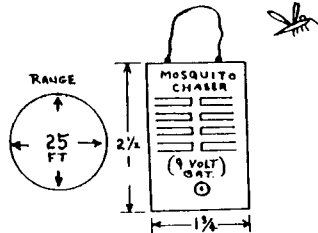
Cat # B3601 \$ 7.98

POCKET MOSQUITO REPELLENT

Tested by Swiss engineers to keep biting insects 15 feet away. Emits a special high-pitched audio freq. that pests can't stand and you can't hear. Weighs only 1 1/2 oz. and only 2 3/4 X 3/4 in size. Takes one AA bat.

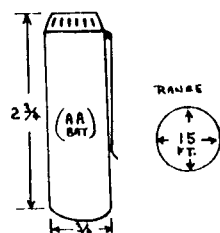
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62

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63

THIS IS A RE-ENLISTMENT POSTER I DESIGNED FOR THE USASBTAF COMMAND. THEY DIDN'T LIKE IT, I DON'T KNOW WHY...





Even though the Vietnam war has been over for more than 20 years, one of the leading concerns that still comes up is:

*WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO ALL THE AMERICAN POWs AND MIAs?
ARE THERE STILL ANY AMERICAN POWs BEING HELD TODAY?
WAS, OR IS, THERE A COVER UP BY THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT?*

My personal opinion is:

I don't, nor ever will believe that all American POWs were released at the end of the war. I strongly believe a percentage of POWs were held as reassurance that we would get out of the war, pay restitution and leave Vietnam.

I still believe there are some POWs being held today, but not that many. No doubt many were executed, some died of diseases and some even committed suicide realizing that their country had abandoned them. This is my personal opinion, of course...

I truly believe without a doubt that some officials in the State Department and the Department of Defense truly know, or knew, what happened to the American POWs/MIAs. Due to our reputation and the creditability of the United States in the eyes of the world, it may never be known.

But, all it will take is for one, only one POW or MIA to come walking out of the jungle or another country and you will see the largest government scandal in U.S. history. And I believe someday this will happen, or I hope it will happen in my life time.

In order to keep the faith, hope, cause and memories of our POWs and MIAs alive, I would like to sincerely encourage everyone of you out there in the military to wear a POW/MIA bracelet on your right wrist. I myself have been wearing one for a long, long time as a gesture of faith that maybe someday one POW or MIA will come home.


U.S. 'knowingly' abandoned POWs, Helms says

Were POWs in Vietnam in '84?

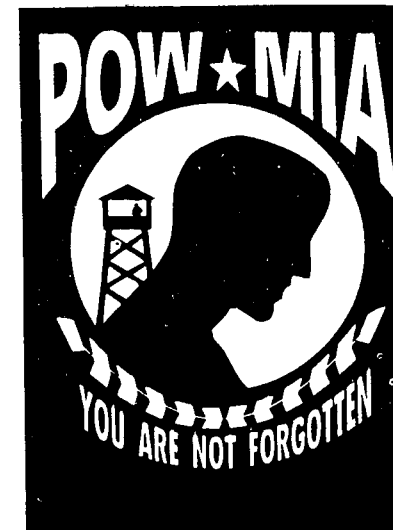
Ex-intelligence officer says there were 436

POWs questioned after war, panel told

MIA-POW effort to accelerate



REMEMBER OUR.....



D. POW/MIA BRACELETS

Over 10,000 of our men who fought in Vietnam are still not accounted for. Keep their memory alive with our very "special" Recognition Bracelets. Each bracelet is selected at random and includes a POW's or MIA's name, rank, home state, branch of service and the date of capture or disappearance. We can only fill requests by branch of service. Sorry, no specific names or home states.

| | | |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 097 41A | Vietnam "ARMY" POW/MIA Bracelet, Red N/A | \$5.95 |
| 097 41B | Vietnam "NAVY" POW/MIA Bracelet, Red N/A | \$5.95 |
| 097 41C | Vietnam "USAF" POW/MIA Bracelet, Red N/A | \$5.95 |
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| 097 217 | Vietnam "USAF" POW/MIA Bracelet, Stainless Steel | \$10.95 |
| 097 218 | Vietnam "USMC" POW/MIA Bracelet, Stainless Steel | \$10.95 |

POW/MIA Flag
Never Forget!

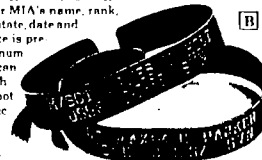
(A) The official POW/MIA flag referring to Prisoners of War states "YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN." Constructed of black oxford nylon with white design, cotton header and brass grommets. Two sizes available. Made in the U.S.A.

| | |
|-------------|---------|
| T3484 2'x3' | \$26.95 |
| T3488 3'x5' | \$36.95 |

Vietnam POW/MIA Bracelets

(B) Worn because many of our brave soldiers are still not home. A POW or MIA's name, rank, branch of service, home state, date and country of disappearance is pre-engraved on each aluminum cuff style bracelet. (You can request a specific branch of service. Sorry we cannot fulfill requests for specific names, hometowns, etc.)

Red.
T6R23 \$7.95



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CODES

I'm glad that a fellow Ranger Digest reader (name unknown) wrote to remind me about using BLACKHORSE I almost forgot about this. What is BLACKHORSE? It's a word used to encode and decode a set of numbers over a tactical radio net/freq when you don't have a military CEOI available. It's used primarily in sending a unit's location (grid coordinates) without the enemy knowing what secret code network you're using. Here's how it works:

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| Word -> | B | L | A | C | K | H | O | R | S | E |
| No. -> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

To use, you simply speak as if you're using a CEOI encode/decode book. Example:

"We will be located at Alpha-Bravo-Echo-Kilo-Lima-Lima-Oscar-Hotel at Bravo-Echo-Echo-Echo." Decoded, it's grid coordinates "31052276" at 1000 hours.

Simple isn't it? But you don't have to stick to just the one word BLACKHORSE, as long as letters in the word are not repeated twice and there is a total of 10 letters for the numbers 0-9 and the '0' is always used as the first number.

Try to make up your own unit code word or words to use. For example: Pathfinder, Rambo sucks, Donkey shit, blackmother. Another technique you can use for encode and decode radio messages without a CEOI is to use the 'Ranger Rick A through Z method'.

- 1st Write out the alphabet on a piece of paper.
- 2nd Pick out a start letter. For this example, we'll use K.
- 3rd Starting at the letter k and directly under it, write in A, then B and so forth until you have used up all the letters in the alphabet. (See below)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Letter -> | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P |

To send a coded message, you simply write out the message the same way you would using a military issue CEOI. Example:

Message: "Bring some beer to the patrol base"
 Coded: rhydw iecu ruuh je jxu fqjheh rqu

To identify and tell the other radio station your encoding and decoding messages, simply say, "message follows AQ". This will let the other station know that you are sending a non-CEOI coded message and that the first coded alphabet letter, A, will begin under the letter Q.

Now, all you need to do is brief your troops on how to use this method.



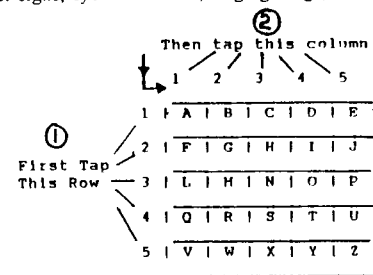
CODES

American POWs during the Vietnam war used a special code and sign language in communicating between each other, whether they were isolated or not. If they could be seen or heard from a distance - they still were able to communicate among each other. How?

One way was through **Tap Codes**, a system that consists of squares marked down in 25 sub-squares: 5 across and 5 up and down with the alphabet letters in the squares. The alphabet's arranged in the square rows and the columns. The letter K is the only letter not used, because it sounds like the letter C.

Taps are used to identify letters. The first set of taps gives the row, after a pause a second set of taps gives the column. The letter is in the square where the row and column meet. A long pause between the taps means the end of the word.

Two taps from the receiver means he got the word or message, a series of rapid taps means he did not. If the code is every compromised or broken, just rearrange the letters. American POWs were able to get the new codes between them by nudging fellow prisoners, finger signs, eye movements, singing songs, etc.



③
 To Tap A Message Such
 As The Word "HELP"...

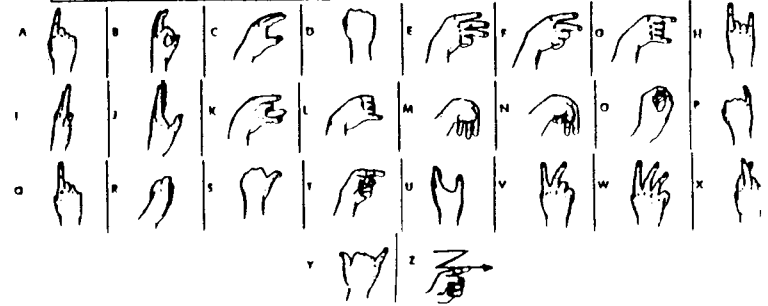
Tap: 1-2.... (2d Row)
 Tap: 1-2-3 (3rd Col)
 For the letter "H"

Tap: 1.... (1st Row)
 Tap: 1-2-3-4-5 (5th Col)
 For letter "E"

Tap: 1-2-3... (3rd Row)
 Tap: 1 (1st Col)
 For the letter "L"

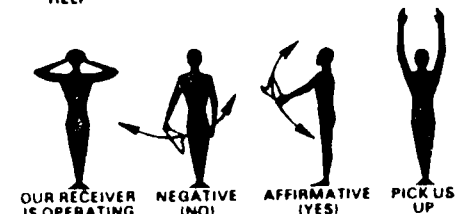
Tap: 1-2-3... (3rd Row)
 Tap: 1-2-3-4-5 (5th Col)
 For letter "P"

Standard Deaf-Mute Language was also another way POWs communicated.



Ground-to-Air Emergency Signals

NEED MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
URGENT



Ground-to-Air Emergency Codes

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| All well | LL |
| No | N |
| Yes | Y |
| Not understood | JL |
| Require engineer (mechanic) | W |
| Require doctor | I |
| Require medical supplies | II |
| Unable to proceed | X |
| Require food and water | F |
| Require firearms and ammunition | V |
| Require map and compass | Q |
| Require signal lamp, radio | : |
| Indicate direction to proceed | K |
| Am proceeding in this direction | I |
| Will attempt takeoff | ▽ |
| Aircraft seriously damaged | □ |
| Probably safe to land | △ |
| Require fuel and oil | L |
| Operation completed | LLL |
| All personnel found | LL |
| Some personnel found | ++ |
| Returning to base | xx |
| Two groups, proceeding as indicated | A |
| Aircraft in this direction | ↑ |
| Nothing found. Will continue search | NN |
| Require answer; drop message | III |

Morse Code

The Morse code was once used to send telegraph messages in the U.S. and Canada. The International code is now used chiefly to send messages by short-wave radio.

| | | | |
|---------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| A | • — | A | • — |
| B | • • • — | B | • — • — |
| C | • • — • | C | • — • • |
| D | • — • • | D | • — • — |
| E | • | E | • |
| F | • • • • | F | • — • • |
| G | • — — • | G | • — • — |
| H | • • • • | H | • — • — |
| I | • • | I | • • |
| J | • — • • | J | • — • — |
| K | • — • — | K | • — • — |
| L | • — • • | L | • — • — |
| M | — — | M | — — |
| N | • — — | N | • — — |
| O | — — — | O | — — — |
| P | • — • — | P | • — • — |
| Q | • — — • | Q | • — — • |
| R | • — • — | R | • — • — |
| S | • • • | S | • • • |
| T | — • — | T | — • — |
| U | • • — | U | • • — |
| V | • • • • | V | • • • • |
| W | • — • — | W | • — • — |
| X | • — — • | X | • — — • |
| Y | • — — • | Y | • — — • |
| Z | • — • — | Z | • — • — |
| 1 | • — • — • | 1 | • — • — • |
| 2 | • — • — • | 2 | • — • — • |
| 3 | • — • — • | 3 | • — • — • |
| 4 | • — • — • | 4 | • — • — • |
| 5 | • — • — • | 5 | • — • — • |
| 6 | • — • — • | 6 | • — • — • |
| 7 | • — • — • | 7 | • — • — • |
| 8 | • — • — • | 8 | • — • — • |
| 9 | • — • — • | 9 | • — • — • |
| 0 | • — • — • | 0 | • — • — • |
| Comma | • • • — | Comma | • • • — |
| Period | • — • — • | Period | • — • — • |
| Semicolon | • • • — | Semicolon | • • • — |
| Interrogation | • — • — • | Interrogation | • — • — • |
| \$ | • — • — • | Colon | • — • — • |
| • • • — | | Quotation Marks | • — • — • |
| • — • — | | | |
| • • • | | | |

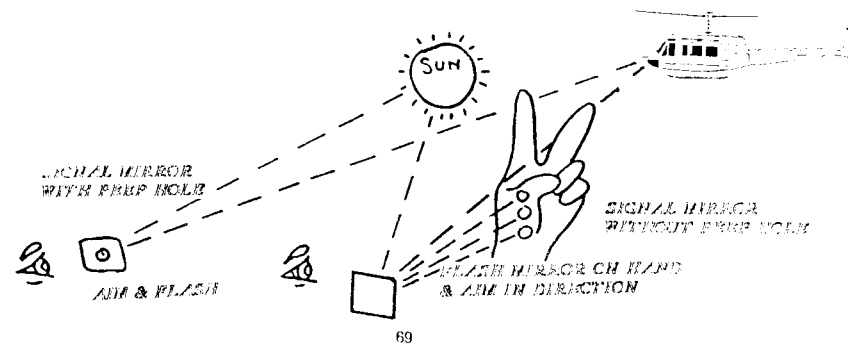
International Morse Code

SIGNAL MIRRORS

Here are a few little extra things that you should seriously consider buying if you really want to survive in the field.

Signal Mirrors: This little item could save your life if you should ever be stranded in the desert, woods, jungle, mountains or even in the water. Regardless if you have a radio or not, you never know when it will come in handy in the field. I have found myself more than once in a situation where I needed to use this little mirror to guide an aircraft to our unit's location due to having no radio contact with the pilot. It was not necessarily because we did not have a good radio, but because someone was not on the correct freq. or was issued the wrong CEOT. To a pilot flying above, it's difficult to locate a 'pin' size individual or location without some sort of signalling device. The higher and faster an aircraft is flying, the more difficult it becomes to spot a "speck of sand in a sandbox" (or so to say). A signal mirror will, regardless of its size make it much easier for a pilot to locate that little speck in the middle of nowhere. Plus, you can use the mirror for other uses such as for shaving and putting on camouflage in the field. Make sure you have a tie-down string attached to prevent it from being lost or dropped. Avoid buying a metal signal mirror, as they will bend or lose their shine for signalling over a period of time due to the dirt or sand rubbing against the surface.

I recommend purchasing the miniature Navy signal mirror with the special peep hole reflecting screen for directing sunbeams directly at targets. But if you should purchase a regular small mirror without the special peep hole, you can still accurately direct sunlight by holding the mirror in one hand near your face and extending the other hand in front of you (see drawing). Tilt the mirror until you can fill your empty palm with the reflected light. Now make a V with your illuminated fingers from the reflected sunlight. Then sight across the top of the mirror and through the V towards the area. Repeat this procedure frequently to make certain that the signal will be seen.





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HOW TO KILL A PARATROOPER (A Descending Enemy Paratrooper)

In over 20 years in the Army, never has the military ever taught me (or you) how to kill a descending enemy paratrooper.

Now don't get this confused with a descending enemy pilot who was shot out of the sky. It's against the Geneva Convention to shoot at descending aircrews who had their plane blown out from under them. We're talking about descending ENEMY PARATROOPERS, SPECIAL FORCES or COMMANDOS who are landing in the vicinity to kick your ass. You know....the BAD GUYS!

Well, after some careful research and looking into what other foreign militaries teach, here's what I found out on how to shoot and kill a descending enemy paratrooper.

The technique is;

A. A descending paratrooper must be within your weapon's Maximum Effective Range. Not max range, "MAXIMUM EFFECTIVE RANGE."

B. Aim your weapon sights approximate two (2) full body length BELOW the target. By giving this much of a lead, the enemy paratrooper (based on the rate of decent) will descend into the rounds.

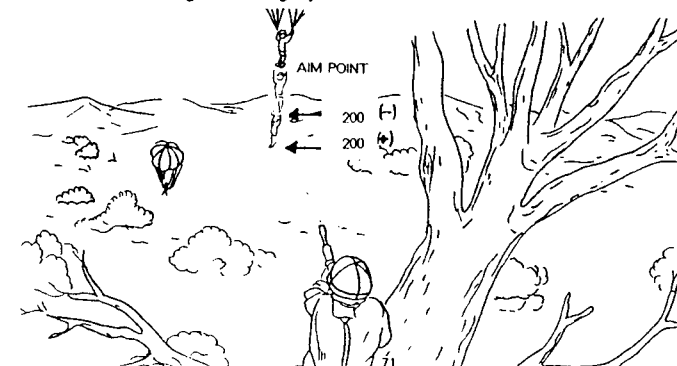
NOTE: This is for descending paratroopers way beyond 200+ meters away. If less than 200 meters, lead the target by one body length (or slightly less) and work your way up by reducing the lead a little at a time.

C. Fire three to five round bursts at the descending paratrooper or until you scored a hit. (Body jerks, goes limb, or you hear a scream.)

D. Shoot the nearest descending enemy paratrooper who is more of a threat to you at the moment.

NOTE: Enemy paratroopers who have already landed nearby, should always be engaged first before they have fully recovered from their landing and have time to engage you.

Maybe you'll never get the opportunity to shoot and kill a paratrooper, but at least you'll know how to do it. And Ranger Rick taught you.





ARMY PT TEST TIPS



When it comes to daily PT exercises, there's no question that some hate it, some love it, some bear with it and some are just gluttons for punishment. No offense to anyone in particular, but the Rangers & Delta Force units are the only ones, in my personal observation and experience, that torture themselves in PT daily. I'm not saying that other units or individuals don't beat themselves as well, but...

Now, I have never been a PT lover! But I have learned to endure and put up with the rigorous hardships of PT. And I have tried many techniques in trying to keep my scores above the average soldier. But the simplest and most common sense tips that have really worked for me, and maybe you, are:

1. Give yourself an additional 15 minute + workout either before or after regular unit PT. And I am not talking about just stretching either. Of course, this will be hard for some to do, but if you get into the habit of doing it daily, it becomes easier.
2. Spend more time walking from place to place on post, when feasible. Yeah, it takes longer to get where you're going, but the additional exercise will do you good.
3. A couple of times during the day, knock out a few pushups and sit-ups to keep yourself loose and conditioned. No set times though, just when you have a few spare minutes, and don't try to kill yourself either.
4. The day before your PT test, (about 24 hours prior) avoid all alcohol and caffeine beverages. You'll sleep and feel much better in the morning. A good night sleep never does any harm. If you wish to exercise sexually with your girl or boy friend, spouse or someone else's honey, knock yourself out!
5. Eat only light, digestible meals 24 hours before the test. Avoid snacks or junk food that contain lots of grease and fat. Fruit (Uugh!) for snacks is highly recommended instead of junk food.
6. On the morning of the PT test, drink a few cups of caffeine coffee or tea to get yourself motivated, awake and motor jump started. Too many cups and you'll be bloated and pissing all over the place.
7. And when possible, try to take a nice long shit just before taking the PT test. Losing a load of excessive weight in your buttock will have a surprising effect on your score.

These PT tips have always worked for me as well as others. Then again, you'll find the know-it-all Rambo cowboys say "Bull shit!" My score? What have my past APFT scores been? Average: Lowest 250, Highest 293. I usually max (100 pts) the 2 mile run and sit-up events, but I'm a wimp on push-ups (points - *CLASSIFIED INFO*). But I have never, ever come close to failing a PT test.



WEAPON QUALIFICATION TIPS



Not everyone in the military can qualify *EXPERT* shooter. You can shoot all day long, read all the books you want on how to shoot well, but the bottom line is either you have it or you don't. It all depends on the '8 steady hold factors' and putting to use what you learned back in basic and advance training.

But, in order to slightly improve your chances of shooting better and hitting the target, you may want to try next time a few Ranger Rick tips before you go to the rifle range to qualify.

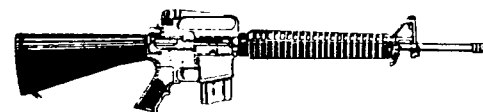
- A. Consider buying and practicing with a BB air or CO2 pellet gun. They will be cheaper to buy and use than a rifle where you will need a rifle range to shoot it, as you only need a good sturdy backstop for BB/Pellet guns.

Although BB guns do not in anyway compare to the real thing, they will help you to improve in some areas such as aiming, squeezing and breathing, which are extremely important in marksmanship training.

- B. Avoid drinking any alcohol (partying) and coffee, chocolate or tea beverages the night before and the day of your weapon qualification. Alcohol and especially caffeine drinks change your heartbeat and blood flow. Avoiding these drinks just before and the day of firing should help you some in avoiding the shakes.

But then again, you will find many Experts and Rambo Cowboys alike say, "coffee and booze never hurt my shooting ability." *IF* and *ONLY IF* you have trouble shooting and qualifying, it's only a technique and recommendation. It's worked for many who have had problems hitting the target. Many professional and competitive shooters live by this little rule. If it works for you, good! If not...

- C. Get a good night's sleep and rest. You can't go wrong with this advice.
- D. While you are waiting for your turn to shoot, practice dry firing, aiming, squeezing, etc. It can only help and not hurt.
- E. Get a thick black magic marker and paint over your front and rear sights, as most weapon sights (bluing) are worn or give off a dull glare in the sunlight. To reduce this, just darken them with a magic marker. If one is not available, try using a match or zippo or bic lighter to darken these areas. But don't over-do it, bozo, and remember to avoid touching the sights or you'll wipe it off.





CARRY A SPOON, ALWAYS!

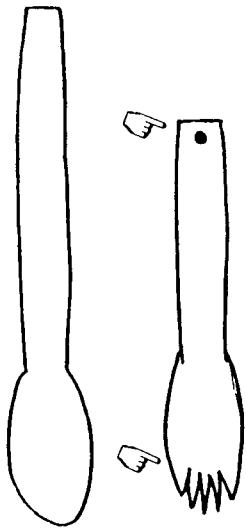
Submitted by: Lt John S. Wilson



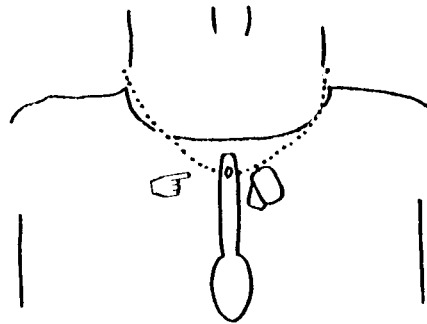
I am going to share the credit of this idea with Lt Wilson, because he reminded me what I used to do with my spoon. He wrote saying he used to catch himself short a spoon whenever he got the munchies for a canned snack. That is, until he wised up and started keeping a spoon in his left shirt pocket "all the time."

Some of my close buddies used to make a hole in their spoon handle and wear it around their dog tag chain all the time. They never ate without it.

Today's MRE spoons are too damn long. I mean really, you can use them as an E-Tool if your metal one breaks. But I solved the problem, yes I did. I cut off the excess portion of the handle that sticks out of the pocket. And went further than that, I even cut slits in the spoon to form small teeth so I can dig in and grab hold of my food even better. Amazing, huh? Are you impressed?



MODIFIED
MRE SPOON



74

"V" METHOD RIVER CROSSING

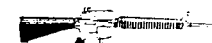
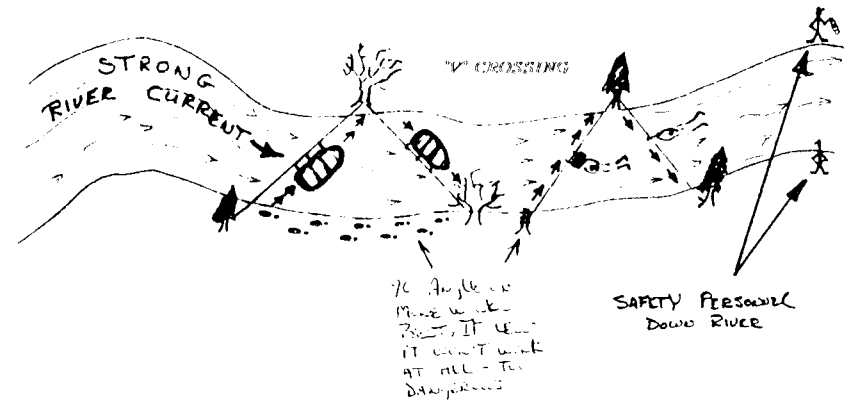
Here's a trick I learned in the Belgium Commando School in 1974, or was it 1975? The Belgium commando School instructors taught us this super river crossing trick.

Due to money constraints in the Belgium military, only the bare necessities that are needed are purchased. So the majority of the time they improvised, and they always come up with a technique for getting things done. Once we had to do a river crossing, in which the water was somewhat fast and rough. To get the rope across the river was standard: you tied a rope to the strongest swimmer and he swam across, just like Ranger School or anywhere else.

Once the swimmer made it safely across the river, and before the rope is tied off at his end, the rope was stretched as far down stream as possible so that the rope lay at an angle from the far side party. The party on the other end must pull on the rope and take up the slack and tie it off securely.

Depending on whether you're using poncho rafts or RBs (rubber boats), all you need to add to it is a snap link, or another rope to the rope. Step off the shore line and let the water current take your boat or poncho raft across to the other side.

EXTREMELY IMPORTANT: Rope must be kept very tight, either just above the water line (no less) or no higher than 1-2 meter above the water. Send across one raft or rubber boat at a time and ensure that you have life guards posted on both sides of the crossing site.



75

THE MILITARY COMPLAINT SYSTEM



AS SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF OFFICERS, DA AND DOD:

- (1) Soldier believes he or she has a complaint or grievance. $\Rightarrow\Rightarrow\Rightarrow$ (2) Inform supervisor and seek a resolution.
- (4) Inform soldier of results of consultation or advice. $\leftarrow\leftarrow\leftarrow$ (3) Supervisor may consult his superiors for assistance.
- (5) Soldier may seek advice or EO rep for resolution. $\Rightarrow\Rightarrow\Rightarrow$ (6) Soldier may file a formal official IG complaint.
- (8) Soldier May: (a) Seek congress inquiry or (b) Seek legal asst/JAG. $\leftarrow\leftarrow\leftarrow$ (7) IG informs soldier of action/results.



AS SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF NCO's:



- (1) Pvt Joe thinks he is being fucked with. $\Rightarrow\Rightarrow\Rightarrow$ (2) Pvt Joe goes to his Tm/Squad leaders to run his mouth.
- (4) Tm/Squad/Psg leader tell him that he's wrong, fucked up or full of shit. $\leftarrow\leftarrow\leftarrow$ (3) Tm/Sqd/Psg leaders privately talk and laugh among themselves about what Pvt Joe thinks.
- (5) Pvt Joe bitches that he's being fucked with, and chain of command refused to help. $\Rightarrow\Rightarrow\Rightarrow$ (6) Pvt. Joe whines, moans and cries to the IG that he has a problem and no one cares nor will listen to him.
- (8) Pvt. Joe write his congressman just to fuck with his chain of command or get shitty legal advice. $\leftarrow\leftarrow\leftarrow$ (7) IG listens with one ear, openly agrees (to shut him up) and tells soldier that it will be looked into.



AS SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF PRIVATES:



- (1) Pvt. Joe doesn't think he was treated fairly by his team leader. $\Rightarrow\Rightarrow\Rightarrow$ (2) Pvt. Joe wants squad leader to over-ride teams leader's decision or punishment.
- (4) All leaders talk it over with Pvt. Joe as a group and try to make him happy. $\leftarrow\leftarrow\leftarrow$ (3) Tm and Sqd leaders feel sorry for Pvt Joe's punishment/problem and it's discussed.
- (5) Pvt. Joe's doesn't agree with outcome of talk, seeks advice from fellow soldiers/EO rep. $\Rightarrow\Rightarrow\Rightarrow$ (6) Pvt Joe expresses his concern with IG, doesn't want fellow soldiers to suffer like him.
- (8) Pvt. Joe writes Mom and Dad about situation, they write their congressman or lawyer. $\leftarrow\leftarrow\leftarrow$ (7) IG reassures Pvt. Joe they will correct the problem immediately without delay.

What did Private Joe really do?

FELL ASLEEP ON GUARD DUTY

What was the punishment he received? - *LATRINE DETAIL AFTER GUARD*



REMEMBER LEADERS...Pvt. Joe Blow 'Sees ALL, Tells ALL, Hears ALL.'

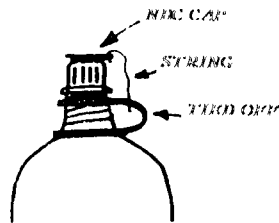
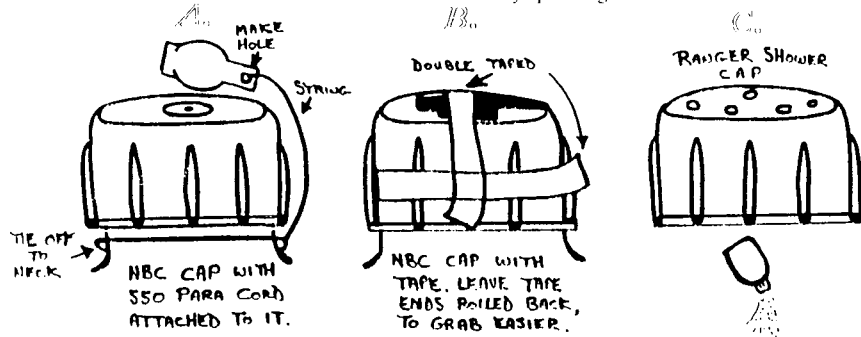


CANTEEN CAP TIPS

Here's a few tips you may want to try out with your NBC or regular canteen caps.

- A. If your NBC cap keeps coming unsnapped or off, cut the connecting plastic stem off from the NBC cap top itself. Smooth the edges, drill or melt a hole through the NBC cap top and canteen cap retainer. Slide a small piece of 550 parachute cord through both holes, cut and then melt the ends of the parachute cord. If the hole is too big, tie a knot at each of the running ends. This will prevent future losses or unsnapping the next time you go to the field.
- B. If you don't want to go through all this trouble, take a short piece of 100 OD green MPH tape and tape the NBC cap top down.
- C. Have you ever heard of a Ranger Bath? It's where you grab a bucket or container of water no matter what the temperature is and wash yourself. Well, if you ever get a hold of an extra canteen cap, try drilling or melting about 5 nail holes in it and use it for a 'canteen shower' when nothing else is available.

Note: The 5 nail holes control the flow of water by spreading it



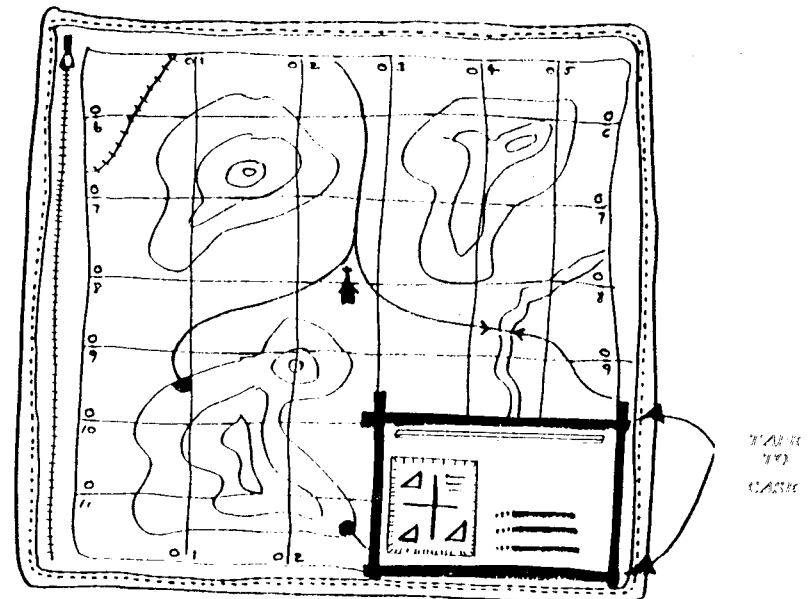
78

PROTRACTOR STORAGE TIP

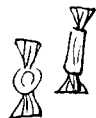
Submitted by: Sfc Billy R. Thompson

Well, here's another tip on how to protect those cheap breakable military map protractors. Get yourself a Zip-Lock Sandwich bag from your mom, wife or girlfriend. Steal some OD green 100 MPH tape and then attach it to the transparent side of the map cover case.

Now you can place your protractor and little marking pens inside the bag without losing it. And as the TV commercial says, "It's in the bag!"

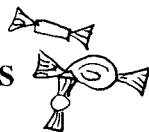


79



SHORT & SWEET TIPS OLD BDU UNIFORMS

Submitted by: *Matthew D. Hohman
and the Unknown Airborne Pathfinder*



Hey! Don't throw away those old BDU uniforms yet! Carefully cut off all the buttons and save the cargo pockets. They can be used as lightweight cargo cases for some small things. Or sew those extra pockets inside your other BDU uniforms and use them as hidden pockets. Try even attaching or sewing them to your poncho liner or sleeping bag cover or even to the outside of your buttpack. And with the left-over material, use as cleaning rags for your weapon.

And those BDU pants... save the legs! Cut off the legs at the crouch (provided they are not too holy) and sew the cut end shut. Use the ankle draw string as is or replace it with 550 parachute cord and you'll have yourself a mini laundry bag, poncho liner storage bag or a field pillow.

You can use the side cargo pocket for storing soap powder, tapes or other useful items. So why waste your money for a big bulky OD field laundry bag when you can easily use one of your old BDU pants that you never use or you're throwing away?

FIELD WASH LINES

Submitted by: *Matthew D. Hohman*

The next time you deploy to the field and you need to hang up your clothes to dry (due to rainy weather or washing time), try finding or borrowing some extra camouflage or antenna poles not being used and make a handy wash line.

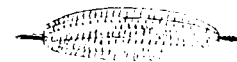
That's right, all you have to do is get some tie down/tape and crisscross the poles. Add some commo wire, rope or string, and you have yourself a field dryer that your entire team or squad can use.

I know what you Rangers, SF, and light infantry troopers are saying, "We don't have any cammy or antenna poles in our unit." Tough on you guys, but for those support and mech units who have 'em - use 'em!

Or just carry a small roll of cord (parachute type, of course) and run it from tree to tree, vehicle to vehicle, etc.



80



CORN STARCH

Submitted by: *Patrick Nelligan*

How many soldiers do you know pour baby or foot powder down their underwear to relieve the discomfort of sweat? Does it help? Some say, "Yeah", "No", "I don't know..."

Well, good ol' Patrick Nelligan has been using his own remedy: it's called *cornstarch*. Yep, that's right, the same stuff our wives, mommies, girlfriends and lovers use in their kitchen.

According to Patrick, it works great! He claims that when you use it in your underwear or T-shirt, it absorbs the hell out of moisture and sweat. Much better than baby powder, and it costs less than most of the powders on the market today.

SLEEPING COMBAT READY

Submitted by: *David M. Davis*

Mr. Davis writes, "You were correct in stating the Army sleeping bag zipper gets jammed at the wrong time (Reference: Ranger Digest 1, page 52). While I was in Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Shield and Storm, the alarm for a chemical (gas) attack sounded off one evening. Had it been the real thing, my soul would have been instructed where to go next. But I did discover a way to resolve it."

"My sleeping bag technique is to lay a sleeping pad or mattress down. Place a blanket or poncho down over the mattress and then lie down with the sleeping bag over you unzipped. And if you have to get up suddenly, kick it off and GO!"

AUTHOR'S COMMENTS: This is an acceptable technique for those who have cots and are located in a support base environment. As for the actual wooded field...not acceptable. Too many little critters will get in bed with you. And if you roll or toss around in your sleep a lot, well, you can figure that out. But still, it's not a bad tip, again, for Support Base Personnel.



81



How do you know if your survival skills are sharp and will work when you need them the most? Just because you read a dozen military and civilian survival books and have seen a bunch of Rambo movies doesn't make you an expert, pal! Practicing your skills is the best way to test yourself. Every time you deploy to the field and you have the spare time, try out your survival skills, by making a field expedient shelter, camp fire, animal trap or just a simple bow and arrow.

One of the most important and ultimate tests in being a good survivalist is begin able to trap or catch your own food. Whether it's game or fish, if you can trap it or catch it - you'll survive the real thing. Don't be a dumb ass and use typical excuses of, "There ain't no animals where I go," "I ain't got the time," etc.

I am not going to give you any survival tips, because there are too many books on the market today on how to survive in the wilderness. But, I will give you this tip: Get off you ass and read these books. And practice what you read the next time you go to the field.

RUCK STERNUM STRAPS

Submitted by: Pfc Peter J. Eisert

Ever had a problem keeping your rucksack high up on your back and shoulders? Or the shoulder straps kept slipping off the shoulders due to the ruck width being wider than your body/shoulders?

Well, Pfc Peter J. Eisert, who enjoyed backpacking before he came in the Army, has the solution. It's called a 'Sternum Strap'.

It's a separate strap connected to the center shoulder straps and goes across your chest. If you tighten it up, it pulls the straps closer together across you chest, thus raising the rucksack higher on your shoulders and preventing the straps from slipping off your shoulder.

Don't worry, you don't need to go out and buy one. A simple 550 parachute cord will work just as nicely. Just tie it from one shoulder strap (left) and wrap it once around the other one (right). Pull tight until it's comfortable and tie it off. Or make a 'slip knot' so you can adjust it. Keeps those shoulder straps inward and the ruck riding high on your back.



I don't know how some soldiers can stand tucking their pants inside their boots. Me, I hate it! Every time I used to tuck 'em in and walk, bend, sit or shit - they'd come out. I even bought extra long BDU pants so they would stay tucked in. But they either still popped out or I felt I was wearing someone else's pants.

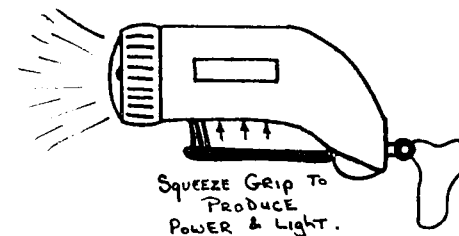
So then I bought a pair of blousing rubbers. They worked, but they also cut off my blood circulation due to only one standard size. Not to mention getting flak from the First Sgt and Csm about wearing them.

The solution: Large (fat or thin) rubber bands. They are more flexible, comfortable, cheaper and you can get them free from your unit Commander, ISG or friendly Supply Sgt at the expense of the American taxpayers. Just kidding. buy a bag at the PX and save.

HAND GENERATOR FLASHLIGHTS

I found this handy-dandy gadget in a catalog, so I ordered one to try it out and to see how durable it would be for field use. And guess what? It works pretty well. It's not expensive, fragile or difficult to use. The only shortcomings are:

1. It's just a slight bit noisy to use in a tactical situation, but not in a non-tactical environment.
2. The hand must always be in a squeezing motion to produce power and light, but you will never need to purchase batteries again for the field.
3. The outside color of the flashlight is yellow, nothing that a little OD paint can't handle. And, oh yeah, you will need to either find a red filter lens cover or take a permanent red magic marker and paint over the clear lens.



FROM:

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4544 19th Court East
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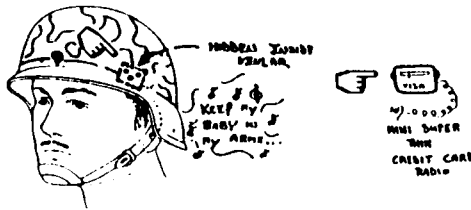
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HIDDEN LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Submitted by: Ssg. Patrick Finley

Ssg Finley writes, "Your article about life support systems was very amusing because I used to have a little credit card radio that I taped inside my kevlar. The ear phones were small and were easy to hide inside my ears due to the ear covering of the kevlar. This radio can still be purchased at most well-known electronic stores. But the batteries are real tiny, like what goes inside a watch. And you may need to carry quite a few extra ones to the field, depending on how often you use it, as they do not last as long as standard AA batteries."

AUTHOR'S COMMENTS: Hey, Patrick! I think your idea is great. But I also think there will be a lot of ISGs pissed off that I mentioned this in my books. You get the credit - I'll get the blame...



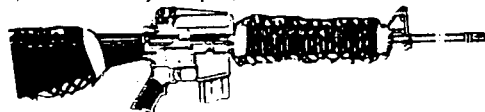
WEAPON CAMMY - NET TIP

Submitted by: Lt Randy Underwood

A good idea you can use to cover up your weapon and ruck is to get hold of some broken up cammy net that is being turned into your unit supply, property disposal office (PDO) or trashed, the kind that is used to cover vehicles and tents. Your supply sgt or unit XO can assist you, if he likes you.

When you get hold of this net, cut out only the pieces and lengths you really need. Wrap or measure the amount and cut it, avoid having too much or doubling it. It will catch on or get caught on 'wait-a-minute veins' and brush. Then simply tape (using green, of course), tie down or rubber hand it to the weapon or ruck.

CAUTION: Make sure you don't cover the working mechanical portions of the weapon such as the mag well, forward asst. ejector port, etc.



84

LBE MODIFYING

I've been asked, "How can you keep the butt pack connected onto the LBE comfortably when you have the 550 nylon parachute cord connected to the web belt?" If you're going to wear the butt pack on your LBE all the time, run the 550 parachute cord through the butt pack hole outlets and then either connect the butt pack by the metal belts or tie it off with 550 parachute cord.

There is one other way: run an extra 550 parachute cord through the back of the LBE loop holes and then run/connect it to the butt pack loop or holes.



550 PARA-CORD



There's only one standard type of tie-down a soldier should ever buy for the field, and that is 550 Parachute cord. It's a little expensive to buy, but it's well worth it. Most unit supply sgts can get this item easily if they get off their butts and order it. It's made of strong nylon and is tough, flexible and can be used for almost anything from boot laces, ruck tie-down to securing bulky equipment to armor or wheeled vehicles. It has a 100 uses in the field. A real soldier (Grunt, Loggy, Driver, Airborne Ranger or a Delta Force Killer) ...never leaves home without it.

Make sure you use the OD (olive drab) green type for tactical reasons, and avoid using the white type. If and only if OD green is not available and you really need to have it, use black shoe polish or some other dark dye or paste and rub it into the cord to take away the white "shoot-me" color.

Anytime you use and cut the parachute cord, get in the habit of always, always melting the ends so they will not unravel and come apart. You can always spot the cherry Rambo soldiers by walking around with this cord unraveling all over the place.

ROAD MARCH TIPS

I've heard pros and cons about if you should or shouldn't wear underwear on long road marches. Some claim it causes skin rash, burns, discomfort, sweating and so on.

Guys and gals, if you wear 'em and they bother you, take 'em off! If they don't bother you, leave 'em on. But one thing I know for sure, that if you wear long underwear in the winter time on those long road marches, it won't be long before you'll be sorry you did. You will sweat like a dog while on the move and freeze your ass off when you stop to rest.

Never wear your wallet in your rear pocket on road marches. The rubbing and motion of your body will cause you discomfort. And if your pants rip on the move, you may not feel your wallet fall out. If you can leave it in your room, do it. If not, secure it in your LBE or cargo shirt pocket instead.



85



FIELD PISS BOTTLES



Today, a lot of units that deploy to the field seem to be dependent on bottled water for field consumption. I guess it's cheaper to buy the water in a bottle than it is to get the company XO or Supply Sgt to fill 5 gallon containers now a days. Or I guess I've been in the wrong units that had extra funds to purchase them.

Whatever the case is, if you're fortunate enough to get hold of an empty water bottle in the field, don't trash it. Save it as a piss bottle for the night, especially if you're in a real cold environment and snug as a bear in your fart sack (sleeping bag to you weekend warriors).

Just pull it inside your bag, whip it in, do your pee-pee and toss it out. Sorry ladies, this is *FOR MEN ONLY!*



As mentioned in my earlier edition of the Ranger Digest I, page 37, Life Support Systems, I failed to mention and emphasize the importance of mini earphones versus the standard wired cushion headphones.

Regardless of the set that comes with your radio, cassette or walkman, buy a very good pair of mini earphones. They are easier to conceal, store, keep clean and they will not break as easily as the wired headphones do. So spend the extra bucks and get yourself a good pair for the field, or you'll be sorry you didn't.

SMELLY WATCH BANDS

I need to pass on a tip for those of you who have field watch bands made out of cloth or leather. I have seen many soldiers who wear the camouflage or OD green material watch bands and refuse or simply forget to clean them. Troopies! If you don't take the time to clean those types of watch bands, they eventually will get dry-rotted and fall apart unexpectedly.

And they will also become real smelly, stinky and may cause you to break out in a rash or skin discolor. And I'm not joking or pulling your leg. Wearing it 24 hours a day, 7 days a week without washing them or taking a shower with them on, is like wearing the same underwear for days, weeks and months without changing.

Leather watch bands will also produce the same smelly stink as well. The rubber/plastic watch band is the best type to wear for the field, as it will not become dry rot nor smelly and can be cleaned a lot easier.

You're laughing about this, right? I'll bet you are. O.K. Rambo, if you're wearing one of these right now like most grunt soldiers do, *SMELL YOUR WATCH BAND AND EITHER TRASH IT OR WASH IT. STINKO!!*



RAMBO COWBOYS & PROFILERS

In the Army, there are several types of soldiers. Those who are, those who aren't, and those who want to be. And if you're not, don't make believe, don't complain to me and don't try to bull shit me.

Ranger Rick (that's me) has come up with a new term for Hollywood soldiers, they are called *'RAMBO COWBOYS!'*

What is a Rambo Cowboy? Usually:

1. An Airborne Paratrooper, Ranger or Green Beret, or a non-combat arms and support soldier who wants to be like Rambo, Chuck Norris or John Wayne but can't be. So they just talk and make believe.
2. A trained killer, weapons expert and hero only in their own minds.
3. Able to talk more shit and try to convince others that they are the best damn soldiers you, he or they will ever meet. Voice gets deeper as rank increases.
4. Walk, strut and move like they're Arnold Schwarzeneger but probably have more shit stains on their underwear than a toilet.
5. Brag of the past, present and what their future accomplishments will be. Exaggerate or Blow Out of Proportion is their best known trade mark.

RAMBO COWBOYS! Are they in your unit or office? I'll bet they are.

DEDICATED TO: THE HEROS OF USASCTAF HQ (CONOPS BR.) 1991-92

Thank you for this new term, without seeing or meeting you guys - I would never have come up with a name for you 'Heros'!



RAMBO PROFILERS!

Can you spot the only natural *non-profiling* soldier in this photo? Guys, if you're going to profile for a photographer or journalist, act natural! Photos taken like this look so fake, even Rambo would be ashamed to be in it. Don't over-profile for a photo.





A FEW MINUTES WITH RANGER RICK



Imagine that the voice of Andy Rooney is reading this column on 60 MINUTES. It'll give it a greater effect on understanding the overall subject.

Did you ever wonder how senior NCOs are selected for promotion? I mean really, what does it take to get promoted ahead of others besides the normal requirement of time in grade (TIG).

Oh, sure, everyone in the Army knows you have to be good and work hard to get ahead. But who really sets the guidance on what to look for in an NCOs record to determine if he or she is ready for advancement?

I know, I know, the Secretary of the Army, through his staff weinies, puts out a letter of instructions (LOI) to selection board members. But who really advises him and his staff on what to look for? The Sergeant Major of the Army? Yeah, I bet he does.

Now, I've been in the Army almost 20 years (this coming February) and heard all sorts of complaints and fairy tales on how promotion boards select E-7, E-8 and E-9s for advancement. But if RangerRick (that's me) was Sergeant Major of the Army today, I'd push for changes to the way promotion boards select NCOs for advancement.

My top 10 Recommended Changes (sounds like the David Letterman show, doesn't it) to the Army's future promotion boards would be:

1. **DA PHOTOS** showing a fully dressed NCO in his nice and neat dress greens would become obsolete. Who the hell cares how he displays his awards on the uniform? And how in the hell can board members really determine if those tiny little ribbons in the photo are on straight or not. Most of the Csms, Cols and Generals who sit on these boards are older gentlemen who probably have bad eye sight anyway.

I would push to make it mandatory that all future and yearly individual DA photos be taken just in their underwear, or maybe in their jockey shorts. No shirt, no pants, no socks or foot gear would be worn, just the underwear. Oh yeah, and panties and bras for the female NCOs too; I don't want any complaints made against me. Then the board members can see who the fat and unfit boys and girls really are. I'd also strongly recommend that the NCOs be standing on a digital scale next to a measuring tape too.

2. **NCOERs** or what I personally refer to as the Non-Commission Officer Erroneous Reports would be changed too. Board members get tired of reading \$ 99 words, and it's too damn time consuming. Besides, these reports are nothing but a contest between the raters and the endorsers anyway on who can B.S. the best in effective writing.

I kinda like the officer's OER myself. There's a shortcut in determining if their worth a damn or not. Have you ever seen their OER? On the back side of the report in the



lower left corner they have a special block with a pyramid built out of cute little soldier. The evaluator just circles the little soldier on where he or she stands overall for promotion. Simple! Officer promotion boards don't have to waste time reading the whole OER, they just turn to this little block of soldiers.

I'd like to see a similar block designed just for NCOs. Something promotion boards can quickly look at instead of reading the entire report. I think it should be a special block showing four comic book figures.

SUPERMAN with the words printed 'Can't touch this' would be for superior NCOs, *SGT ROCK* for good NCOs who meet the standards, *SGT SNORKLE* for improvements needed. And *BILL THE CAT* for ... well, you can figure that one out.

3. **SQT/SDT** would be administered, tested and scored the same way military correspondence courses are conducted, except with a three hour time limit. They would not get issued any notices, study guides, books or manuals until the day of the test. On the command of 'begin' they would first go to the test questions and then be allowed to look up the answers in the manuals.

Oh, I know it's going to be difficult to answer all the 100+ questions in three hours. But if your a good NCO you'll know the answers without the books. I say a score of 85 or better, and no less, is mandatory to be considered for promotion. If you fail to score this or higher, you're barred from promotion for one year.

4. **PERMANENT PROFILE NCOs** must be indicated either on their DA photo or in their 201 File by a band aid. Yeah, a band aid! The more severe the profile is, the bigger the band aid. This way no board members can miss or overlook a profile by mistake. They can see it or feel it on the photo or file.

5. **OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENTS** would be required for all senior NCOs who have 10 years or more in service. If you already completed a tour overseas or you are currently serving on one, you would get credit and preference. If you haven't, tough - you're screwed? And barred from promotion for one year.

If you still want to be considered, you must forward to the promotion board, along with your current DA photo and 201, a DA 4187 requesting an overseas assignment. This way you'll at least have a chance. If you're not selected for promotion, well, you'll have a much better chance next year while you're on your first overseas assignment in Korea or Turkey.

6. **FINANCIALLY PLAGUED NCOs** who have problems such as bouncing checks and letters of indebtedness would be singled out also. I think the same mark that goes on military ID cards for identifying check bouncers should be mark placed on a DA photo or 201.





7.

AWARDS, DECORATIONS & SCHOOLS would be closely scrutinized and in some cases ignored. Why? There's too many complaints coming from the lower ranks about who earned their medals during the Gulf War. I picked up an Army Times a few months ago and saw a listing of the awardees during the war. Between the Silver Star, Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal, all for valor mind you, I counted 1 Colonel, 8 Ltcs, 8 Majors, 21 Captains, 21 Lt's, 1 CSM, 10 SFCs, 19 SSGs, 26 SGTs, and only 51 EMs (E1-E4). How many EMs did we send to the Gulf anyway? Or were most of them on sick call during that 100 hour war?

If you attended a military school, such as an NCO Academy, Ranger, Special Forces, etc., I think the board needs to see a standing list marked down next to the award on your DA 201 file. You know, 5/56 meaning you graduated number 5 out of 56 students. This way the board can see if you really busted your buns in being the best or if you just dragged your heels and passed. And if you did not graduate in the top 50% of the class, you're barred from future promotions, unless you volunteer to be recycled at your own expense. This should increase competition in military schools dramatically.

8. **ARTICLE 15s and LETTERS OF REPRIMANDS** are the first documents that should be viewed and placed on top of the individual's record, not the 2-1, 201 or DA photo. They're important documents and selection boards need to be "greeted first" with these in order to see the overall NCO. How can they be seen if they're tucked away in the Restricted Fiche? Oh no, no, no. what's fair is fair. If you earned them, they should be treated as awards and not hidden away.

9. **ALCOHOLICS** who refuse treatments and continue their religious practice will also be identified on either their DA photo or DA 201 file. Let me see. what stamp symbol should there be for this? I know, a whiskey bottle.

A stamp symbol of a whiskey bottle will let them know he's getting help, such as AA, and a broken whiskey bottle will mean they were alcoholic, received help, and are now cured.

10. **COLLEGE CREDIT** and educational courses would no longer be accepted for self-improvements if the individual failed to maintain an overall minimum grade of 'B'. There are too many NCOs out there taking college courses on and off duty time to avoid their real duties and responsibilities as leaders. They get exempt from duty rosters, details, field deployments and more.

If they are going to take college courses, they are going to earn the grade that will be acceptable. Scoring less will prove they are taking advantage of the school and trying to get over on the system, especially if they take classes that have absolutely nothing to do with their MOS. What in the hell do courses in financial management or data communication have to do with an 11B4 infantry platoon sgt's MOS anyway? Get my drift?

Yep, that's my top 10 list of changes I would recommend the Secretary of the Army

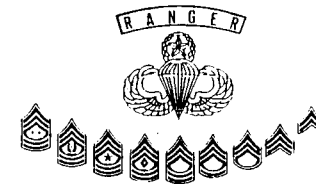


make if I was Sergeant Major of the Army. As reduction in forces continue, we need to keep the very best in and someone has to start to be the 'butt hole'

Relax, my dreams are shattered. Andy Rooney has the job I really wanted anyway. I think I'll just retire from the Army and be a free-lance writer instead

Raye Rick F. Tscherne

Sfc Richard F. Tscherne is assigned to USASETAF, Italy. He is the author of the Do-It-Yourself WO & OP Order, The Squad Leader Cmbt Fld Status Pocket Book and The Ranger Digest





Here's a copy of a letter that I sent out to 200 + CSMs, Cols. & Generals in the U.S. Army (DA and Military Installations across the USA and overseas). Along with the A Few Minutes With Ranger Rick column. Hopefully someone sees my point.



FINAL WORDS FROM RANGER RICK.....

I hope you enjoyed the article I wrote. It was intended to be humorous, and partially serious. It shows how our current promotion system really works in today's Army.

Please don't pre-judge me and think I am a disgruntled NCO, who either did not get the promotion he deserves or is being kicked out of the Army. On the contrary, I have voluntarily submitted my retirement papers after 20 years of service for the following reasons.

1. The Army is changing, and not necessarily for the better.
2. Promotions did play a small part, not because of being passed over but for the way promotion boards are set up to 'supposedly' select the best qualified. They are missing their target. This is not only my opinion, but who am I?
3. To continue writing military related books and be a free-lance writer.

You may or may not have heard of me or my books and articles. I have enclosed a sample brochure of my books. They are sold all over the US and overseas, both on and off military bases. There are also quite a number of my books that have been donated and accepted at many well-known and elite U.S. Army leadership schools.

Why am I writing to you in particular? I am not. In fact, I have hired (at my own expense) a private printing company to mass produce this letter and article and distribute it to all the key military leaders in the U.S. Army. I am hoping I will find the right, caring CSM, Col, or perhaps even General.

To get to the point of all of this: I would like to bring to your attention some changes the Army needs to make in selecting future EMs and NCOs for promotion and career progression assignments. I am urging the Department of the Army to reconsider the way it selects soldiers for advancement. Maybe, just maybe, someone will say after reading my article, "I think we need to re-evaluate and fine tune the Army's promotion and selection system!"

The military, as you know, is rapidly changing. Force reduction is in full swing and future promotions will no doubt be fewer. In order to choose the best qualified soldier, NCO and leaders in tomorrow's ARMY, we need to make it more competitive and keep those "Tumbleweed NCOs" off the ladder of advancement. A "Tumbleweed NCO" is an individual who has not performed to 100% of Army or promotion board standards, but was able to tumble in and get promoted instead of being weeded out.

Who's at fault? You are! Who can make a difference and change it? You can!



Think about it...
Ranger Rick Tolson

RANGER RICK'S RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE PROMOTION/SELECTION SYSTEM* (Weed out those "Tumbleweed" NCOs)

CHANGE #1: The 3 minute (+/-) time limit placed on selection board members to review an NCO's record is totally inadequate. *NO ONE* can determine if a soldier is fully qualified in three minutes, unless you are looking for 'pinpointed' areas such as a college education, special skill qualifications, badges and awards and all excellent ratings on an NCOER (without reading the fine print for justification, of course).

CHANGE #2: Article 15s, Letters of Reprimand and other disciplinary actions should not be placed in an individual's restricted fiche. How in the hell can the overall soldier be seen and the best selected if the restricted fiche is used as a hide away file for wrongdoers?

CHANGE #3: To minimize wasting valuable Army and selection board time and make the selection process a bit more competitive in selecting the very best, a bar from promotion boards should be automatically imposed on an NCO for the following reasons:

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| IF AN NCO (E6 & above) IS ELIGIBLE FOR ADVANCEMENT AND HAS RECEIVED | AUTOMATICALLY BARRED FROM PROMOTION CONSIDERATION |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| DUI | 2 Years |
| Article 15 | 2 Years |
| Letter of Reprimand | 2 Years |
| Family abuse/Alcohol related charges | 2 Years |
| SQT/SDT score of 79% or less | 1 Year |
| Failed a Record APFT | 1 Year |
| Failed Army Weight Standards | 1 Year |
| In Debt Notices/ Bounced Checks | 1 Year |
| Less then "3 Excellence" and/or less than a #2 overall rating on an NCOER | 1 Year |

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| FOR LOWER ENLISTED (E-5 & below) WHO FAIL TO MAINTAIN | AUTOMATICALLY BARED FROM UNIT PROMOTIONS |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------|
| CTT score of at least 80% GO's | 1 Year |
| SQT/SDT score of 80% or higher | 1 Year |
| APFT record score of 180 points or higher | 1 Year |
| Army weight standards | 1 Year |

NOTE: DUI, Art. 15, LOR, Bounced Checks, Family/Alcohol charges same as for senior NCO's.

In addition to the above, all barred years should be recorded on an individuals DA 201/2-1

*REPRODUCTION AUTHORIZED (R.F.T.)





ABOUT THE AUTHOR...

Richard F. Tscherne (nicknamed "Ranger Rick") was a member of the United States Army who successfully graduated from the U.S. Army Ranger School, the French Army commando School, and the Belgium Army Commando School.

His awards include the U.S. Army Ranger Tab, Master Parachutist Wings, Drill Instructor Badge, Expert Rifleman Badge, Jungle Expert Patch, 5 AAM, 1 ARCOM, 3 MSM, 4 Overseas Ribbons and an assortment of other U.S. military medals. His foreign awards include the French Army Commando Badge, the Belgium Army Commando Badge, the Italian Army Parachutist Wings and the German Army Weapon's Qualification Badge.

Ranger Rick served over 13 of 21 years overseas in Italy, Germany, and Korea. His vast experiences there included duties as a Rifleman, Machine Gunner, RTO, Recon Scout, Armor, Cold Weather Instructor, Drill Instructor, Recon Gun Jeep Section Leader, Anti-Tank Squad Leader, Airborne/Ranger Platoon Sergeant, and Asst. Bn Operation Sergeant. He has served in the following units:

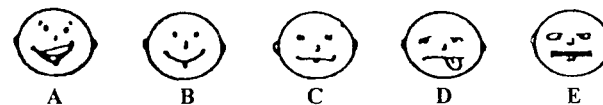
| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1st Bn 87th Inf. (Mech) Germany | 1st Bn 31st Inf. (Mech) Korea |
| 1st Bn 509th ABCT (Abn) Italy | 3rd Bn 325th Inf. (Ft. Bragg) |
| 1st Bn 75th Rangers (Ft. Stewart) | Drill Instr. A-4-3 (Ft. Dix) |

In September 1992, he was selected by DA for advancement to Master Sergeant/E-8, but he refused the promotion and on January 1st, 1993, he retired from the United States Army to live in Italy. His mailing address is:

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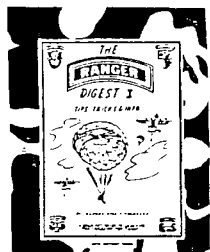
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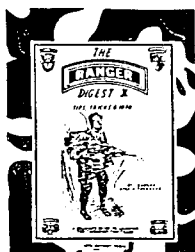


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