

SPECIAL FORCES



THE

RANGER

DIGEST VIII

TIPS, TRICKS & INFO

AIRBORNE



BY: RANGER RICK P.TSCHERNE

AIRBORNE



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

AIR ASSAULT



NOTE: COPYRIGHT PENDING



FOREWORD



Here ya go, another Ranger Digest - VIII. More tips, tricks, and ideas than ever before. Hooah!

As long as you guys & gals keep writing, then I'll keep on publishing these handbooks. I might be retired from active duty, but I'm still doing what I like best - teaching & training soldiers.

And not only do I get mail from soldiers, but also from hunters, campers, survivalists, and outdoor enthusiasts too.

Now I know my books are not professionally written. But as I've told ya in previous Ranger Digests, I market only my tips, tricks, and ideas, NOT my writing skills. (But ya gotta admit, I am getting better at this, huh?)

My goal is to teach soldiers what the military doesn't necessarily teach and explain it in layman terms or "soldier talk." But sometimes it's kinda hard to do, which is why I rely heavily on drawings and illustrations.

And although most senior (active and retired) NCOs and Officers disapprove of my books, because they consider my style of writing "provocative & unprofessional," the lower enlisted, NCOs, and officers LOVE 'EM! At least that's what they keep telling me in their letters, no BS.

Personally, I believe the only reason why a senior NCO or Officer would not like my books, is because they're envious and jealous of my accomplishments. And to those of you who are.... "Get Ya Hearts Out!"

Anyway, I hope ya all like this latest edition. And if ya got some free time on your hands, then why don't you drop me a line and let me know what you think of it. Because your tips, tricks, comments, and letters DO COUNT.

Well, that's about it for now, til next time kiddies...

Your Ranger Buddy,

PS: Now don't forget, if someone asks where you learned these tips & tricks from, ya tell 'em... "from my buddy Ranger Rick."

AUTHOR'S DISCLAIMER: The Ranger Digest is a series of training handbooks strictly designed for US military personnel. The author and his contributors cannot be held liable for injuries or deaths caused by the use of any of these tips, tricks, or ideas. You are advised to use them at your own risk.

SPECIAL THANKS

As always, I dedicate a special page to all those who took the time to write in wanting to share their favorite tip, trick, and or idea with me and my readers. And if it wasn't for these caring Ranger Digest contributors, there wouldn't be a Ranger Digest VIII today. Thanks fellas!

RANGER DIGEST VIII CONTRIBUTORS

Major David Oaks	Capt Robert C. Fraser Jr.	1Lt Karl L. Mims
1Lt Jimmy Deak	Ssg Steve Brittan	SP4 Greg A. Banker
PFC Ben Donaldson	PFC Chris Watson	Lee Churchwell
Luis R. Ramos	Dr. David A. Williams	Mike Giles
Chris Ayers	David M. Hamda	Daniel Garcia
F.W. Eickelen	Michael Chase	Paul Gronkowski

AND AGAIN, AN EXTRA SPECIAL THANKS
TO MY RANGER DIGEST BUDDY & ARTIST

AIRBORNE SGT FRANK D. GILLILAND

ATTENTION RANGERS, SF DIVES, DELTA FORCE, & NAVY SEALS!

Hey, where the hell are you guys? Rarely do I ever get any mail, tips, tricks, and or ideas from any of you bad assss. What's the matter, don't ya all know how to write? Con'on, get off your butts and start sharing with us some of your tips, tricks, and ideas. I'm a challenging ya, ya know? Send them to.

EDITOR OF
Army's Operation Order
Southwest Publishing
Ranger Digest, V. 8, 17,
Tactical, Assault Operations



Military Distributors
U.S. Army Ranger
Regimental Commands
Headquarters
21st Infantry
Major Parachute

Ranger Rick F. Techerne
(Ranger, U.S. Army)

1275523333
217-762-2121
PO Box 428 49
The St. Charles Hotel
St. Charles, MO 63076

Editorial Manager
217-762-2121
PO Box 428 49
The St. Charles Hotel
St. Charles, MO 63076

Military Distributors
U.S. Army Ranger
Regimental Commands
Headquarters
21st Infantry
Major Parachute

Or via E-mail:

rangerbooks@hotmail.com

2

WATCH CADDY

BY: RAINE INC.



- *Black Poly-Pro Web
- *2 1/8 in. Universal Clip
- *Full Length Velcro Watch Mount
- *Double Stitch Construction
- *Made in the U.S.A.

The Watch Caddy was designed for the Military & Law Enforcement communities. It allows the conventional time piece to be positioned Anywhere on the person that will support the use of the Universal clip, such as belt, pocket, collar, etc.

The Watch Caddy also allows the watch or watch type accessory (compass/ watch beeper/ calculator/ etc.) to be additionally positioned on any personal piece of equipment, such as back packs, web gear, duffel bags, fanny packs, purses, etc. Providing a Safe, Convenient, Out of the way placement of the conventional time piece or similar item. Available through any Raine Inc. product distributor, or contact by the internet at WRKN4@AOL.COM

use in
Military / Tactical / Law Enforcement / Security / EMT / Outdoor / Field / Sports / Extreme / Industrial / Work / Amputees / Disabled / Everyday

ATTENTION READERS: This nifty device was designed & developed by my buddy "Airborne Frank" D. Gilliland and forwarded to Raine Inc for review. And...well hell, you can see what they thought of it.

RANGER DIGEST VII COMMENTARY UPDATE

Reference to ex-Sergeant Major of the Army Gene McKinney's sexual misconduct charges. As I stated in my Ranger Digest VII - "Ranger Rick Commentary:" (quote)

"He's either going to be charged and prosecuted, or he's going to be allowed to retire with full military benefits. And I'll bet he'll probably be allowed to retire to save face, both, his and the Army's." (See below.)

Well, did I call this shot right or not? You didn't need to be familiar with the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) to see this verdict coming. Not only was this a slap in the face to all the women who serve in the armed forces, but to our NCO Corp too.

Do you really believe sexual misconduct and harassment will now start to disappear in the military? In my opinion, not until the Pentagon starts enforcing the regulations and prosecuting everyone "fair & square" regardless of their rank and or position.

It seems we always hear about the "little fish" getting caught and prosecuted, but rarely do we ever hear about the "bigger fish" (Sergeant Majors, Colonels, & Generals) getting caught, charged and prosecuted for doing something wrong or inappropriate. Ya know?

Why? As I stated in my Ranger Digest VII, "the more rank you have, the more leniency the Army, and also your chain of command, will probably be towards you." Is this fair? Nope! Not by my standards.

But according to Pentagon sources, the services are now revising their retirement procedures for the "bigger fish" so they can't retire early (or unexpectedly) to avoid (or escape) prosecution when they have been suspected of (or done) something inappropriate.

Good news? You betcha! In the past senior officers and NCOs who did something wrong or inappropriate were given a choice. Either retire early with full military honor and benefits, or stand trial and try to clear their names and risk losing everything. Now if you knew you were guilty of doing something wrong or inappropriate, which way out would you take? Get my drift? I knew you would.



AFTER THE VERDICT Sgt. Maj. Gene McKinney, left, is being escorted by other members of the 1st Cavalry Division to the base of the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam.

Army's former top enlisted man cleared of sexual misconduct

DOUG BLYTHE, VA (UPI) — Sgt. Maj. Gene McKinney was cleared Friday of all sexual misconduct charges made against him by an investigating officer at the 1st Cavalry Division. He was convicted only of charging a subordinate with sexual misconduct. McKinney, the former top enlisted man in the Army, said General Craig at the verdict hearing. He found McKinney guilty of sexual misconduct, but not guilty of the charges of sexual harassment, indecent exposure or indecent assault. McKinney had been charged with all 11 offenses, but only three of them were proven.

LATE & OVERDUE RECOGNITION

Just a few of the many, many, African-Americans who served proudly in the United States Army are finally getting the recognition that they deserve. And these two soldiers, STAFF SERGEANT EDWARD A. CARTER and LIEUTENANT HENRY O. FLIPPER definitely deserve it.

A soldier's story of heroism

Edward A. Carter is born on May 26, 1916, in Los Angeles, was the son of a musician. He and his family left the States when he was 5, and lived throughout India and the Far East before settling in Shanghai, China.

There, he studied both traditional and military music. He learned three languages — Mandarin, Russian and Hindi — and also became adept at military strategy. Carter, who is featured in the book *The African American Book of Heroes*, joined the Chinese Army and rose quickly to the rank of lieutenant before being captured. He was only a teen-ager and intimidated him.

His family returned to the United States and he quickly returned to public, studying as a volunteer on the side of the Loyalkers in the Spanish Civil War.

He returned to Los Angeles in 1940, where he met his future wife, Mildred. The next year, he enlisted in the United States Army.

Volunteering daily for combat duty, Carter finally got his chance at some real action. However, there was one condition: at the time, no black NCO could command white units. Carter accepted the condition and was promoted to sergeant.

As a member of the 12 Armored Division, 52d Armored Infantry Company B in March 1945, Edward and his fellow troops were attached to Gen. George S. Patton's 2d Army, and joined in the push to the Rhine River.

On March 25, Carter and his unit were ordered to attack Soest, Germany, a hard stronghold. His tank took enemy fire around 8:30 in the morning. He volunteered to lead three men toward the objective — about 100 yards away. He was shot two times, after two hours. Carter died at the age of 29, a hero who sacrificed himself for his country. He then used the remaining two of his own shells and then he returned.

Less than a month after being wounded, he returned to the battlefield. Carter's superior's orders were repeated and he was immediately put in charge of his own platoon. He received multiple awards, including the Distinguished Service Cross, the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart, for saving the lives of his men, although his name was forgotten.

In 1960, Gen. G. Carter headed a panel that studied the nomination of Staff Sgt. Carter and other black soldiers. They believed that the lack of awards to these soldiers resulted from the contemporary climate of racism.

On Jan. 11, 1977, President Jimmy Carter awarded Carter — who died in 1964 — and his fellow black American the Medal of Honor for their



Staff Sgt. Edward A. Carter in his Wehrmacht uniform in 1941. A letter from Carter to his wife is "The African American Book of Heroes."

dedicated service to World War II. He had by then been regularly listed in *Weekend Post* and *Century* in Los Angeles, was recognized at Arlington National Cemetery and in recognizing troops of the outside world.

More info on the 1st Cavalry Division: www.1stcav.com

* DID YOU KNOW.....

According to the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the "Top 10" common mistakes supervisors & leaders make with their soldiers:

- 10 - Failure to take time to explain why a change is occurring.
- 9 - Failure to share bad news early.
- 8 - Failure to recognize someone's accomplishments.
- 7 - Failure to make one feel like he or she too had a stake in the unit's success.
- 6 - Failure to allow someone the opportunity to fail, (flexibility).
- 5 - Failure to give constructive feedback during rating process.
- 4 - Failure to deal with performance problems of other co-workers.
- 3 - Failure to respond to someone about workplace conditions.
- 2 - Failure to follow "merit system" principles (empowering in prohibit personnel practices).
- 1 - Failure to take an individual's EEO complaints seriously.

1ST BLACK WEST POINT GRAD PARDONED

President Clinton has pardoned the U.S. Military Academy's first black graduate who was court-martialed for insubordination in 1969.

Former vice and cadet Col. Henry O. Flipper was charged after court-martial court-martial with which he had been sentenced was dismissed. He subsequently received the service of a black man on the border and was one of the first blacks who were promoted in the engineering.

Despite the service of the court-martial Judge Andrew General and Flipper had been dismissed because he was black, then President Carter Amber upheld the conviction court-martial. He most wanted in those days, there were no appeals.

In 1994, the Army Board for Correction of Military Records reviewed the conviction and ordered Flipper's military record to show that he received an honorable discharge. But the board concluded it had no power to resign or set aside Arthur's conviction that Flipper was guilty.

On Feb. 18, Carter's 100th anniversary at the White House effectively meaning Arthur and ordering Flipper's military record.

Flipper, who is listed in the *Encyclopedia of African American History*, was the first black graduate of the United States Military Academy.

Flipper graduated 19th in the 18th graduation class of 1876. Subsequently he served on the first black staff in the 10th Cavalry. He died in 1914 in Cuba.

COILED TELEPHONE CORD USES

Submitted By: Mr. Mike Gilles

Here's a neat trick I'm sure you're gonna like, especially if you carry a sidearm, compass, strobe, maglite, small two-way radio, or some other expensive item on your belt or Iba.

Instead of wearing a regular nylon "dummy cord" attached to the Iba, just mentioned so you won't lose an Iba in the field, try attaching something a bit more flexible and retractable.

Go to your local electronic supply store (like Radio Shack) and purchase some "coiled" telephone cord. You know, the type that's attached to a telephone handset; they're not very expensive and they come in different lengths and colors too.

Then visit your local hardware store and purchase a couple of "mini" snaphooks/snaplinks and a roll of thin wire.

To determine how much cord you'll need, hold one end of the coiled cord to where you'll be holding and using the item that you're going to be attaching it to.

EXAMPLE: If you're going to attach the coiled cord to your pistol, then hold the cord in your pistol hand at the "ready/aim position" and stretch it to your belt or Iba where you intend to attach it.

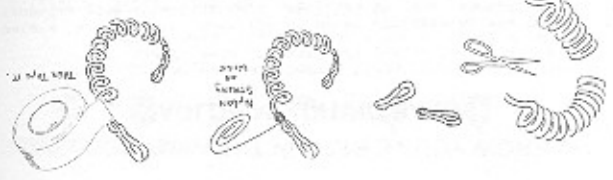
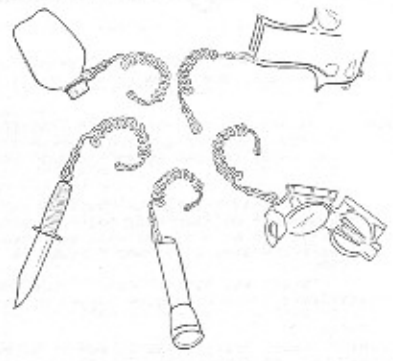
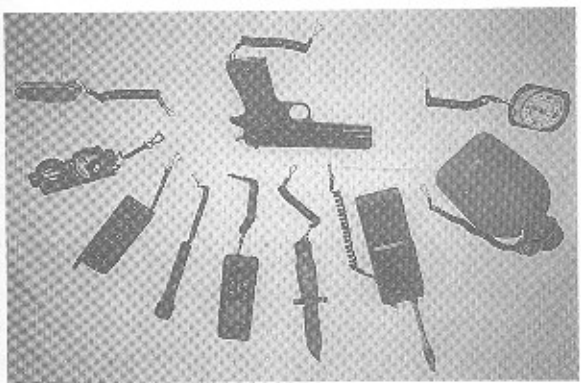
Six (6) inches of "unstretched" coiled telephone cord will "stretch" to an approximate length of 36 inches, which is about the right amount needed for the average person for attaching a pistol, maglite, or knife to their belt or Iba. And for a compass, strobe light, and/or a two-way radio, you'll need about four (4) inches of unstretched coiled cord.

NOTE: The stretch ratio of coiled telephone cord is 1/6, which means one inch of "unstretched" cord will "stretch" to a maximum length of six inches.

Once you've determined how much coiled cord you'll need, cut it down to size and attach the two mini snaphooks/snaplinks to both ends of the cord with the thin wire. (See drawing)

IMPORTANT: Insure you cut the "exact amount" of cord you need, no more - no less. If it's too long, like cotton and nylon dummy cords, it will also get caught and snagged on trees, bushes, and wall-a-minute vines too.

Because these coiled cords come in many different colors, for tactical purposes, purchase only green, sand, or black cords.



MAGLITE MOUNTING BANDS

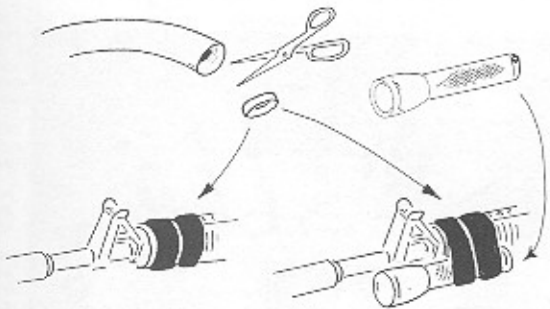
Here's a tip I'm sure you're gonna appreciate. How many of you troopers been attaching your maglites to your weapon with some electrical or 100 mph tape? A whole bunch of ya, right? Just like the way I showed ya in one of my earlier Ranger Digests, right? I'll betcha have.

Well, I discovered an easier method to mount a maglite to a weapon, especially if you don't carry tape to the field.

Now you have a choice, you can either buy a package of "Ranger Bands," or you can make your own from an old bicycle inner tube. If you make your own, you just need to cut the bicycle tube into the sizes that you want 'em, which will probably work out better for you.

Then take these rubber bands and slide 'em over and around the handguard of your weapon, but not just one, several of 'em. Then grab your maglite, place it where you want it, and slide the rubber bands over it.

Hoosh! Now you'll be able to mount and dismount your maglite to your weapon much easier. Cool, huh? I knew you'd like this tip.



YOU KNOW YOU'VE BEEN IN THE ARMY TOO LONG WHEN...



- * You make your newborn child attend the base "Newcomer's Orientation Class" within the first 30 days of his life.
- * You go to a barbecue party and make your family eat "tactically dispersed."
- * You make your mechanic "replace the sandbags" in the floorboard of your car as part of the yearly tune-up.
- * Your kids volunteer to pull "air guard" on the roof of their school bus everyday.
- * Your oldest kids keep calling the youngest in the family "Cherry, Trainee, or Recruit."
- * Your christmas tree is decorated every year with "chen-lites and engineer tape."
- * Your wife gives the command "fix bayonets" every year at the Thanksgiving Dinner table.
- * You make your kids show their "meal cards" at the kitchen door before letting 'em in to eat. Except the oldest, who's on separate rations, you make him pay cash for his meal.
- * Your wife takes a "one knee" security position behind her shopping cart while waiting her turn at the store check-out line.
- * You do all your "back to school" shopping at Army & Navy Surplus Stores, Brigade Quartermaster, and/or the base Military Clothing Sales Store (MCSS).
- * Your son fails third grade and tells everyone he's just a "phase three recycle."
- * Your kids "salute their grandparents" every time they come over to visit.
- * Your kids get an "LES" (Leave & Earning Statement) along with their allowance.
- * You make your kids clear the base "Housing Office" before going away to college.
- * Your kids take turns pulling "security patrol" around your house every night.
- * Your kids have all their "toys and clothes" hand receipted to them.
- * Your wife always conducts an "AAR" (After Action Report) after sex.
- * Your wife calls foreplay before sex "Prepping the Target."
- * Your wife's 3 favorite lipstick colors are "green, loan & sand."
- * Your house has "sectors of fire" sketches posted at every window.
- * Your kids call their mother "HOUSEHOLD 2."
- * Your daughter must "sign out on pass" before going on a date.
- * Your kindergartner calls his school recess "Smoke Break."
- * Your kids call the tooth fairy "Slicky Roy."
- * Your kids first two initials begin with "AR, FM, TM, or DA."
- * Your pickup/car has "your name stenciled" on the windshield.
- * Your kids recite their BECs "phonetically."
- * Your wife keeps "marmit feeding cans" in the china cabinet.
- * Your wife left you and you hold a "Change of Command" ceremony.
- * Your dog's name is "Ranger" and you call your cat "Airborne."
- * Your kids call their sandbox the "Warfare Training Center" box.
- * Your newborn's first three words were.... "ALL OK JUMPMASTER!"

AN MRE PLASTIC BAG SEALER

Submitted By: Michael Chase

Dear Ranger Rick,

There's a battery powered device on the market called a EUROSEALER. It's used for sealing up food so they'll stay fresh while they're in the refrigerator.

Well, I've been using my Eurosealer for waterproofing some of the things that I take to field, such as socks, underwears, t-shirts, etc.

But instead of using regular plastic food bags, I've been cutting up and using the plastic MRE packages, they're a lot more durable. The cost? \$19.99 - \$4.95 for shipping & handling. Available from:



D-MAIL
25 Ford Road, STE 100
Westport, CT 06880-1261
(http://www.d-mail.com)



Re-Seal any bag airtight with EuroSealer™

Finally, an inexpensive and easy way to re-seal unused portions of food! The EuroSealer™ provides an airtight seal that locks in freshness. No more stale snacks or freezer burnt food! Simply slide EuroSealer™ along the edge of any bag and it's sealed airtight. You'll save on storage space and be able to take advantage of buying in bulk. EuroSealer™ is also great for freezing dinner portions, cosmetics and toiletries for traveling and more! Requires 2 AA batteries (not included). As an added bonus you'll receive a FREE AC adapter. EuroSealer™ measures 4 1/4" x 1 1/4".

EuroSealer™ #71666 • \$19.99



HMMM, INTERESTING...

Now here's a few Army Times articles that I found interesting, and I'm sure you will too.

Move up or get out

The Army is doing away with rules that require career soldiers to re-enlist. But it's keeping other rules that force soldiers to be promoted by a certain time or leave the service. Here is a breakdown of these retention control points:

Rank	Total years of service
Private to private first class	Three years
Private/able or nonpromotable corporal or specialist	10 years
Promotable or nonpromotable sergeant	15 years
Staff sergeant	20 years
Promotable staff sergeant and sergeant first class	22 years
Promotable sergeant first class, first sergeant and master sergeant	24 years
Promotable first sergeant and above*	30 years

*Command sergeants major serving in nominated position at the three- or four-star general level may serve up to 35 years.



Survey says...

The following is a sampling of some of the opinions expressed by soldiers surveyed in the 1997 Leadership and Professionalism Survey:

"Honest leaders, from the chief of staff down, keep saying 'We can do it,' and continue to take on contingency after contingency, and one will stand up and say 'No!'"

Lieutenant colonel, V Corps HQ, Heidelberg, Germany

"People are being asked to be self-sacrificing a system that is self-serving. This breeds a culture of cynicism in all ranks. Leaders give service to quality of life and family time."

Captain, U.S. Army Europe HQ, Heidelberg, Germany

"You see a 'don't rock the boat' syndrome in officer corps ... Go to any quarterly training brief and the commander stands up there a few times. He lies in order to make himself look good and in order to get his t-shirt punched."

Command sergeant major, Fort Hood, Texas

"We sometimes bend the truth, especially training, maintenance, quarterly training brief and status report, etc. Commanders report 'I' on the unit status report, and they know the training has not been conducted."

Lieutenant, Fort East, Texas

"As briefings go up the chain of command often see people changing briefings to 'softer' impact of bad news."

Major, Fort Hood, Texas

"I don't know how many senior officers made through the gates that they did. Many are alive and abusive to subordinates."

Lieutenant colonel, Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania

Seven core values, in theory and in practice

The Army has identified seven core values that every soldier is expected to hold. Here are the Army's official definitions of each value, followed by some selected soldiers' definitions in their own words:

- **Duty**
"The sum total of all organizational, civic, and moral obligations." U.S. Army.
"Sometimes, knowing PT gets a little out, but it gets to be part where you make it's something you're going to do." Sgt. Richard Gray, buddy and both see color, Fort Bragg, N.C.
- **Loyalty**
"The correct ordering of our obligations and commitments: the Constitution, Army, unit, family/friends, self." U.S. Army.
"I'd much rather choose my family over the Army, but you don't have that choice in the time you're in the service." PFC Leah Smith, light wheel vehicle mechanic, Fort Bragg, N.C.
- **Selfless service**
"The ordering where the organization comes before the individual." U.S. Army.
"There are times that I want to get off (duty) just like the G.I.s in E-3s. But there are times that I can't do that. There are things I have to do to make their lives better or make the unit look better. My wife is at the point now where she knows the time I come home is whenever I get there." SSGT. Stacey Kibbi, Patrol operator and ordnance mechanic, Fort Bragg, Texas.

- **Honor**
"The complex or set of all values that make up the public code for the Army." U.S. Army.
"When I went down, the battalion commander asked me, 'Did the sergeant (the guy) fire a live round? And I couldn't let it and you, but because I said 'yes, I did,' nothing ever came of it. So that allowed me how far honesty can go." Spec. Matthew Carter, personnel administration specialist, Fort Bragg, Texas.
- **Courage**
"The premier military value that enables us to conquer fear, danger or adversity no matter what the context happens to be (physical or mental)." U.S. Army.
"In Saudi Arabia, for an instant, I kind of froze... Then I thought 'there's no turning back, I'm already here. I just have to get ahead and take it and get it over with.'" Sgt. Michael Franklin, parachute rigging, Fort Bragg, N.C.
- **Respect**
"The regard and recognition of the absolute dignity that every human being possesses; cooperative diversity and compassion." U.S. Army.
"It's when you treat other people the way they want to be treated." Sgt. John Luchini, Patrol fire control weapons specialist, Fort Bragg, Texas.
- **Integrity**
"The sum total of a person's set of values; his private moral code." U.S. Army.
"When you can say what you mean and do what you say, then that's integrity." Spec. Director Davis, administrative specialist, Fort Bragg, Texas.

AMMO CAN TIPS & TRICKS

Once upon a time I needed a few ammo cans, so I went to my nearby off-post military supply store to look for 'em. But after seeing how much they wanted, well, they were a bit too damn expensive for me.

So then I looked through some military mail order supply catalogs, and again, they were still a bit too damn expensive for me. (Yep, that's right, I'm a tightwad.)

So I called up one of those Gov't/Military Property Disposal Offices, which I think today they're called Reutilization Offices or something like that... And I asked 'em when they were gonna have their next sale. And boy was I lucky, they were gonna have one in just a few days - hot dog!

So a few days later off I went to the PDD sale. And as soon as I saw the hand MFIC I asked him, "Hey buddy, have ya got some ammo cans for sale?" And he said, "Sure do."

"Great," I said, "I'll take about five of them."

"Uh-uh, no sir," he said, "sorry, but we sell 'em by the pallet load, and it's either a pallet load or nothing at all."

So I said to the man, "Well, how much is a pallet load?"

And he said, "For 5.56 ammo cans, it's \$20 bucks a pallet."

And I says to the man, "well, OK, then I guess I'll take me a pallet load." (Dunny me, I forget to ask how many came on a pallet).

Well, after I paid the man and he handed me my receipt, he then lead me to the back of the warehouse. And boy, was I shocked to find out that a pallet load contained 100 ammo cans.

So I says to the man, "Hey wait a minute, buddy, I only need a few, not a 100 f----- ammo cans!"

And he turns to me and says, "Hey, you asked for 'em, you paid for 'em, there's no refunds, now get 'em the f--- outta here."

Well, I guess it really wasn't such a bad deal after all, they only cost me 20 cents a piece. But I had to make a dozen trips with my 1982 VW Rabbit to get 'em all home. Not to mention, my wife wasn't very happy to see half our garage filled with ammo cans.

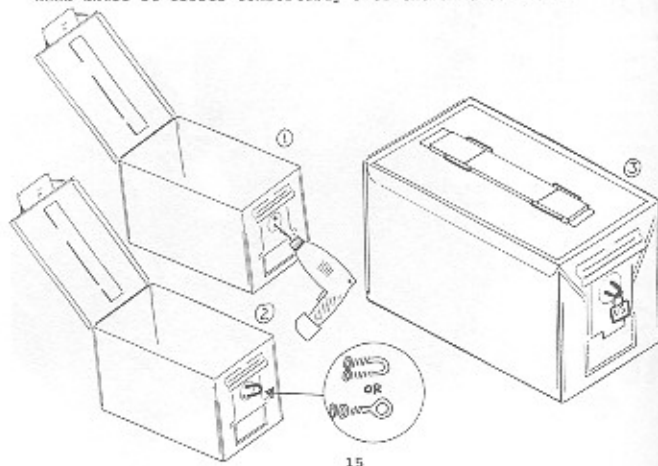
Well, after giving away as many as I could, I still have about 50 left. And so far here's what my buddies and I have used them for:

SECURITY CONTAINER

Now before you can convert it into a security container, you will need to get yourself one of those "loop bolts" with 2-3 nuts and two washers. Measure the "loop" portion of the bolt to the hole that is already in the ammo can latch (see drawing) to make sure it will fit through and over it, which it probably won't. No problem, just take a hammer and whack the "loop" a couple of times to make it narrower so it'll fit through the hole.

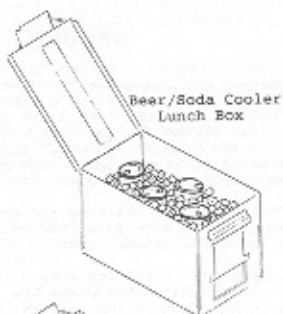
IMPORTANT: Before whacking and making the loop narrower, place your lock through it so you won't make it too narrower that your lock won't fit inside of it.

Then take your drill and make a hole directly in the center of this latch hole and place the loop bolt inside and fasten it in place with the nuts and washers and then test it out. If it doesn't close snugly, just bend the loop bolt whichever way you need until it closes comfortably over the ammo can latch.





CD/Cassette Storage Container



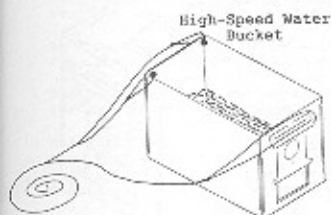
Bear/Soda Cooler Lunch Box



Cleaning Solvent Container



Tool or Fishing Box



High-Speed Water Bucket

16

AMMO CAN ORGANIZERS

Hey! Wanna max out the storage space inside your handy-dandy multi-purpose 5.56mm or 50 Cal metal ammo can? Then purchase a couple of these "Ammo Can Storage Trays." They're great for storing such things as nuts, bolts, tools, ammunition, fishing gear, electrical parts, and more.

They're made of durable plastic and won't shrink, crack, or warp, and the tray handles fold down so you can stack 'em one-on-top-of-the-other. Neat! The cost? \$14.95 for a set of three. Order from:

CHEAPER THAN DIRT
2536 NE Loop 620
Ft Worth, TX 76106-1809

Phone: 1-866-625-3848

WWW.CHEAPERHANDIRT.COM

Ammo Can Organizer



Maximize the storage inside your 50 caliber ammo cans. These stackable trays have adjustable dividers to hold everything. Great for parts, bolts, tools, ammo, fishing gear, electric parts, etc. Heavy duty poly resists oil, won't shrink, crack or warp. Handles on tray fold down to close lid. Set of 3 trays 7AA 014

\$14.97

17

AMMO CAN FIELD STOVES, HEATERS, & B-B-Qs

One of my favorites and mother-of-all-uses, is the "Mini BBQ / Field Stove Ammo Can," or the Infantryman's Poor Man Field Stove. I came up with this idea after reading about a company buying a bunch of old 20mm Ammo Cans, converting 'em into portable field stoves and selling 'em at a real expensive price.

To modify and convert a 5.56 ammo can into a Mini BBQ / Field Stove, all you need is a drill, a small drill bit, pliers, wire cutters, a pencil, ruler, and five (5) "wire" coat hangers.

Take your pencil and ruler and make two straight lines along the two wide sides of the ammo can about 2 and 4 inches below the top edge. Then measure and make a small visible mark about every 2 1/2 inches along these lines on both sides of the can. Then take your drill and make a series of holes where you've made these marks.

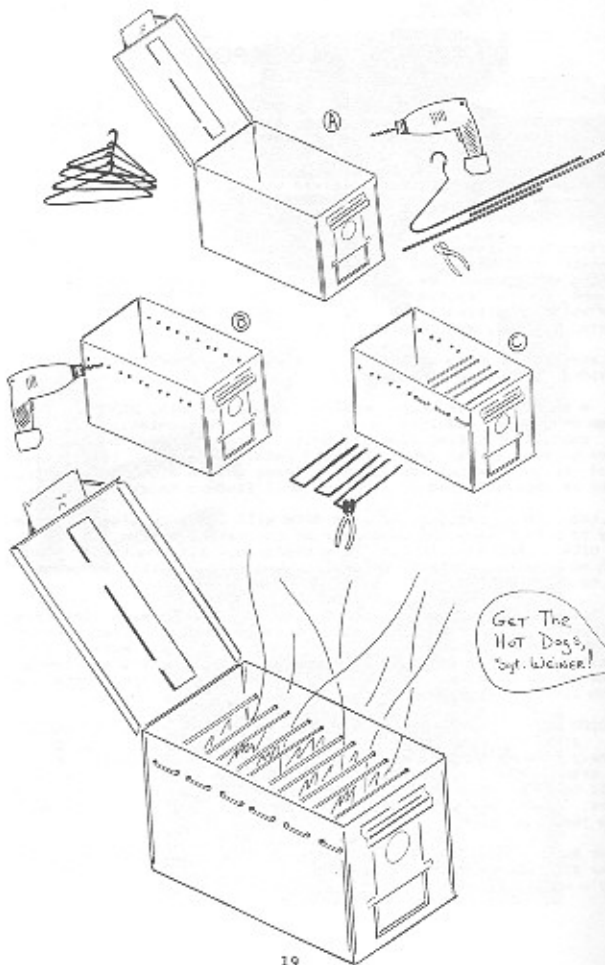
IMPORTANT: As you're drilling the holes, try to make them as straight and parallel with one another as you possibly can so you can easily insert & remove the coat hanger wires (when they're cut, bent, & shaped) from the side of the can.

Now take your wire cutters and snip off all the "hooks" from the coat hangers and straighten 'em all out the best you can with a pair of pliers. Then take one of the wires and run one end through both of the holes (across from each other) in the ammo can and bend the wire over to the next hole beside it.

Place a mark on the wire where it touches the next hole and remove it. Where you've made this mark, now bend the wire over and make it the same length as the other side of the wire. Now test it out for size by inserting it in "all" the holes in the ammo can.

Continue making these rectangle shaped wires until you have filled up all the holes in the ammo can. If they fail to slide easily in & out, then you screwed up (Bozo) and either didn't bend the wires correctly, or the holes were not drilled evenly spaced apart and or straight across from one another. (Dummy!)

When you have finished measuring, cutting, and bending the wires, bend slightly up or down only the tips/ends of these wires so they'll stay firmly in place without moving and sliding around. Now all ya gotta do is get some wood, charcoal, paper, etc and you're ready to do some serious cooking.



A NEW WONDER WEAPON?

hey guys & gals, have ya heard about this new weapon system the Pentagon plans on purchasing and issuing to all the light infantry units in the year 2006? No? Well reel on.....

In the next century american soldiers will be going into battle with a weapon so advanced that it will make today's assault rifle seem as primitive as a 'muskat ball & rifle.'

According to military analysts, tomorrow's wars will be low-intensity conflicts and fought in the streets, alleys, and slums of third world countries. Therefore, they had to develop a new type of weapon system that would not only be capable of winning urban warfare battles, but also in familiar terrain such as forests, deserts, and jungles.

The answer? A weapon system the Pentagon dubbed the "Objective Individual Combat Weapon," or the OICW.

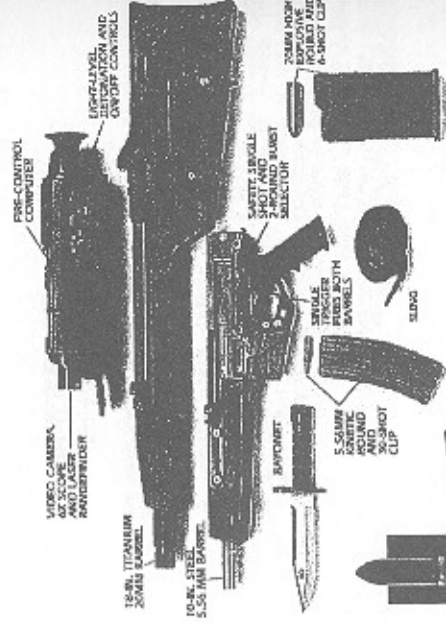
It's a double-barrel weapon system that fires both, NATO standard 5.56mm ammunition and 20mm high-explosive fragmentation rounds. It's capable of firing 20mm air-busting rounds over the heads of hidden targets as far away as a 1000 meters. A single trigger is linked to both barrels by way of a laser guided electronic firing system as sophisticated as what you will find on today's US tanks.

"On tomorrow's battlefield, the OICW will leave no place for the enemy to hide," says the developer of the weapon system. The key to the OICW's success is in its electronic fire-control system, which enables the rifle to determine when it's "smart" 20mm rounds need to be detonated.

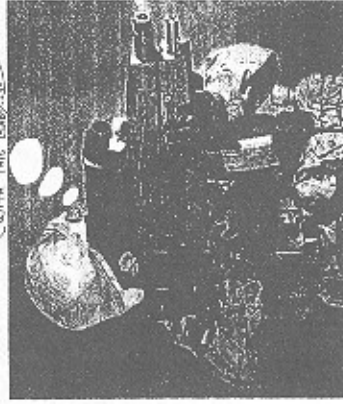
Like today's conventional explosive rounds, these shells detonate on impact. However, they can also be set to explode after passing through a cement or wooden wall and/or a sheet of metal. This capability could be especially useful in third world shantytown slums where many abandoned or pirated cargo containers serve as common living quarters.

The OICW will be able to take out targets that an M16 rifle and/or M203 grenade launcher can do today except with pinpoint accuracy. Which will be important on tomorrow's battlefields as the enemy will be hiding among civilians' popular survival tactic used in urban warfare. And with the OICW's range of 1000 meters, five times greater than today's M16/M203, it will be able to do just that.

Ranger Rick's Comments: With a price tag of \$10,000 (+) each versus \$500 for an M16/M203 rifle, let's hope it works and we get our money's worth out of it.



OH YEA, I'LL BE ABLE
TO BLAST AWAY A WHOLE
BUNCH OF ENEMY BUBBLES
WITH THIS BABY...



A TOILET PAPER FIELD TIP

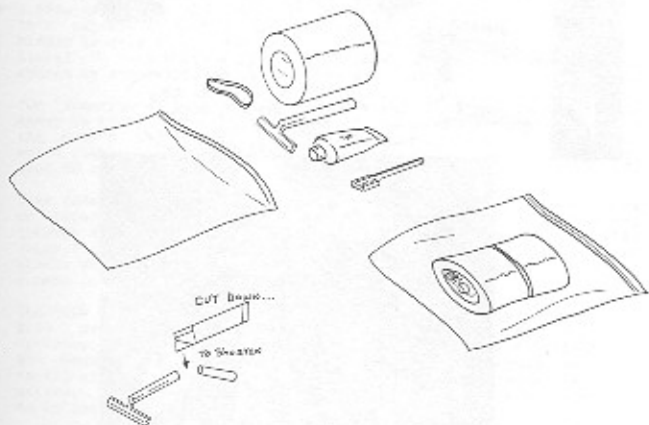
Submitted By: Luis R. Remos (CAP)

Dear Ranger Rick,

I've become a fan of your Ranger Digest handbooks, they not only teach soldiers a lot of useful tips, tricks, & ideas, but outdoorsmen and survivalists too.

For example in one of your Ranger Digest handbooks, the tip on how to convert a BDU patrol cap into a survival cap was a terrific idea. But in one of your other books, I kinda disagree with you on removing the cardboard center piece from a roll of toilet paper before packing it away.

Though it will no doubt make it smaller, compact, and easier to pack away, you can always use this little bit of space to store some of your toilet articles inside of it. Like your toothpaste, toothbrush, razor, deodorant, etc.



22

REPAIRING PONCHOS

Submitted By Chris Ayers

How many times have you turned in a rain poncho for a serviceable one just because it leaked a few drops of water when you used it in the field as a shelter? A bunch of times, right? I'll bet ya have.

Did you have to wait in a line a long time to turn it in? If not, I'll bet when you handed it over to the supply clerk he or she probably asked ya, "So what's f----- wrong with it?" And when you told 'em, "It f----- leaks." They probably said, "I don't see any f----- holes." Right?

Unless, of course, you did what everyone else does today. You took out your trusty ol' pocket knife and made a few more holes so the supply clerk could obviously see what's wrong with it, right? Yep.

Well, it's not that damn difficult to repair a rain poncho today. All ya need is a sewing needle, some thread, and a small tube of "rubber" or "silicone" glue. Yep, that's all.

To locate every single hole or tear in your poncho, hang it on a wash line outside in the direction of the sun. And with the poncho fully open and stretched between you and the sun, you shouldn't have any problems seeing all the pin holes and tears.

To repair small and tiny holes, wipe the area clean and place a small amount of rubber/silicone glue directly on the hole and smear in with your finger. Then go to the other side of the poncho and repeat the same procedure. NOTE: It doesn't do any good to do just one side, you need to do "both sides" to insure the hole is completely closed.

To repair small rips and tears, take a needle and thread and sew it up the best you can. Then wipe the area clean, place some rubber or silicone glue directly on the stitches and smear it in. Then go to the other side of the poncho and repeat this same procedure.

Because rubber and silicone glue can be purchased in very small tubes, always carry some in your rucksack in case you need to repair your rain poncho out in the field.



23

TAC-LITE PRESSURE SWITCH TIP

Submitted BY: David M. Hando

Dear Ranger Nick,

If you've ever used a Sure-Fire or Mini-Maglite Mounting Kit attached to your weapon, I'm sure many times you've been frustrated with the pressure switch always falling off. As the vendor that's provided with these damn kits ain't enough to keep them in place, especially when moving through brush, weeds, salt-grass, and dirt buildings, too.

I got tired of my pressure switch coming off and solved the problem. And so far it's not only worked well, but also for my buddies too. Here's what you do:

a) Go down to your local bicycle repair shop and get some various size inner tubes that they're throwing away.

b) Take a pair of scissors and cut off several short pieces so they look like flat short rubber bands. Then slide them over the hand guards of your rifle or shotgun and/or the grip of a pistol.

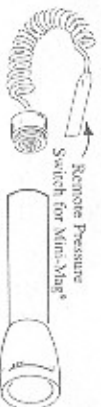
c) Position your Sure-Fire/Mini-Maglite "pressure switch" where you want it and then slide the rubber bands over the entire pressure switch itself or just on the edges of it.

I know you probably think the rubber bands will keep the pressure switch constantly on, but it doesn't. Unless, of course, you're using some real tight and narrow bands or like tube. And if you are, then just mount the bands on the edges of the switch.

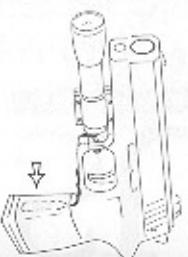
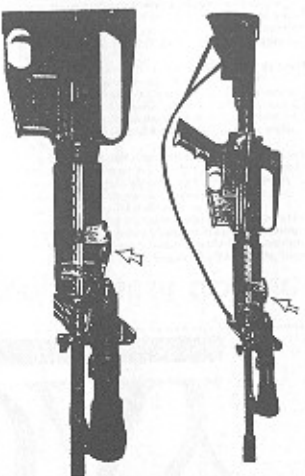
My buddies and I like the smooth, tactical, and professional look, so we cover the entire switch with a 4-5 inch piece of inner tube.

If you want to save the hassles of going down to your local bicycle repair shop and making your own mounting bands, you can always buy a bag of ranger bands from your local military supply store or mail order catalog.

WARNING: Should you decide to use this mounting technique on pistols with grip safeties. Due to the placement of the rubber band around the grip, the grip safety may consistently be in the off and disengaged position. Caution is advised.



24



25

A "RANGER" RADIO RIG

Submitted By: Lee Churchwell

Dear Ranger Rick,

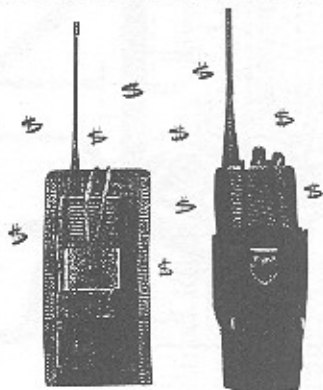
I'm writing for two reasons. First, to tell you how much I appreciate you putting together these Ranger Digest handbooks. And second, to offer you a tip of my own for your next edition.

Whenever I go outdoors I always like to carry my portable hand held CB radio and police/fire/emergency radio scanner just so I can keep up in what's going on in my area.

But I got tired of carrying these radios in my pockets, so I thought about buying one or two of those high-speed radio pouches that the police and fire departments carry their radios in. But when I saw how much they cost, oh man, I almost choked on the price. (Aaugh!)

Being a little short of cash, I decided to make my own. And what I came up with looks pretty much like the real thing, except it only cost me a \$1.

I bought a used M16 30-round magazine pouch from my local army & navy surplus store and modified it by cutting off the top flap and removing the plastic latch clip. Then I added some 550 parachute cord to both, the plastic latch and the nylon pouch and presto! A homemade improvised "Ranger Radio Rig." Check it out.



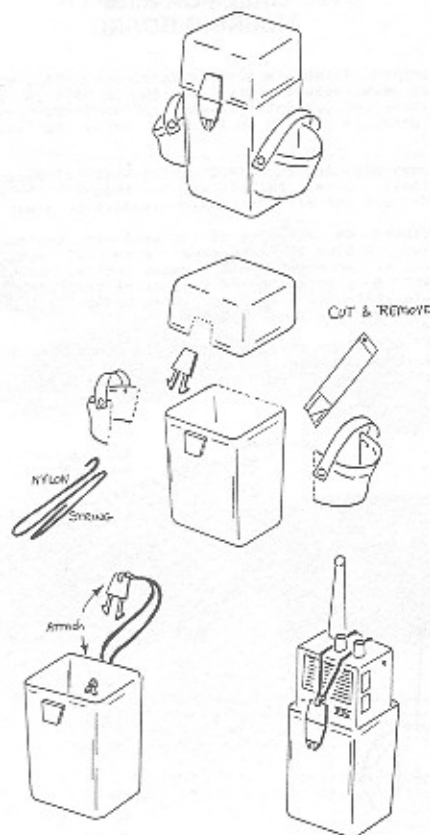
28



New Shoulder Holster for Carrying Handheld Under Arm

A new radio carrier for "Uncle Mike's Pro-Pak" vertical and horizontal shoulder holsters provides a convenient carry of a handheld radio on the outside harness section. The nylon web carrier can be adjusted in depth, width and height to accommodate most radios. Its tie-down strap is equipped with a quick-release buckle, which is extra secure for carrying the radio upside-down.

For a color catalog, send \$2 to Michaels of Oregon, PO Box 1690, Dept. GW118, Oregon City, OR 97045, 503-655-7662.



29

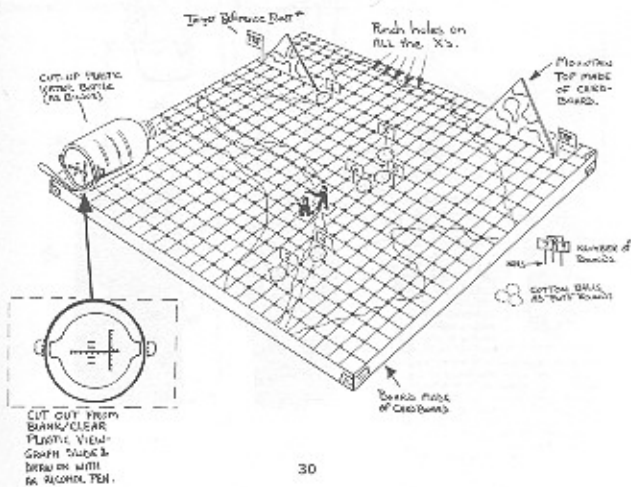
AN IMPROVED CALL-FOR-FIRE TRAINING BOARD

While serving in Bosnia & Herzegovina with MPRI, one of the many classes we were tasked to give, was how to call in artillery and mortar fire. Unfortunately, due to IPOR/SFOR restrictions, we couldn't practice calling in the real McCoy on serb positions, (damn it!).

So what many MPRI instructors did, was use viewgraph slides to teach their class. Except me, I thought it would be too B-O-R-I-N-G and put all the Bosnian leaders to sleep. (Zzzzzzzzz)

So I grabbed me a couple of toy soldiers, tanks, & vehicles, a green, black, & blue thick marker, some 100 mph tape, cotton balls, nails, an empty plastic water bottle, one blank viewgraph slide, and a piece of 4 x 4 regular ol' cardboard and made my own Call-For-Fire Training Board. (Yes buddy, it's called the "Art of Improvising, Modifying, and Adapting.")

Well, it worked so well, not only did other MPRI instructors ask me to make them one too, but so did many of the Bosnian unit commanders. Which I was happy to do, and here's what it looked like.

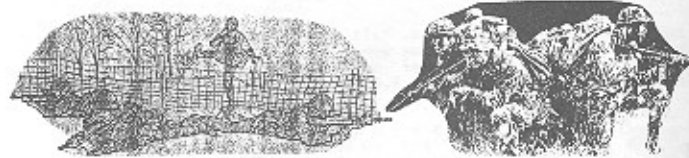


30

A FEW MORE TIGHT 360'S

When operating at night as a small 3-5 man patrol, depending on the terrain and enemy situation, it may not always be feasible to set up a well dispersed 360 security perimeter. Instead, it might be wise to go "tight."

Here's a few "TIGHT 360's" that are commonly used by the British SAS and our American Special Forces and Rangers. (See Ranger Digest V - Pages 84-85 for more tight 360's.)



What's great about these techniques? Well, it enables you to quickly alert and communicate with the person on your left and right in complete silence. One tap/jab - get up, two taps/jabs - stay down, three taps/jabs - enemy approaching.

What's bad about 'em? All it takes is one grenade and or several well placed shots from a weapon with a night device attached to it and "you're history."

31

THE SPEEDHOOK

Here's a neat littin' survival gadget that's available through the DOD supply channels, it's called a SPEEDHOOK. (Ha! I'll bet ya never knew it existed, did ya?)

A fellow by the name of Mr. Andrew J. Pratscher came up with this handy device after he was in a car accident and couldn't enjoy fishing the same way he use to.

And according to an article published in the American Survival Guide. Everytime he tried to set a fishing hook, he was just too slow at setting it.

He says, "I just couldn't move as fast as I use to due to an old car injury. My right shoulder was injured and I had to have some surgery done on it. But some things just can't be repaired to work the same way as they use to."

"I learned how to do a lot of things, but I just couldn't do them very fast, to include catching fish. So out of desperation I started messing around with a few ideas. And through trial and error I came up with a device that's helped me to catch fish the way I use before the car accident, I call it a Speedhook."

The Speedhook works best at catching creppie, bluegills, perch, carp, rock bass, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, wallege, white fish, and catfish.

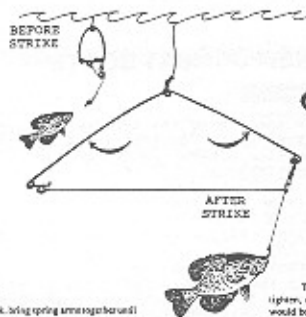
And Mr.Pratscher also says, "all my Speedhooks are assembled by hand and come with a life time money back guarantee." NOTE: There are two types, the Regular Speedhook - \$ 3.50 each, and the Military Issued Speedhook - \$ 6.00 each. To order, contact:

SPEEDHOOK
Dept. ASG, PO Box 11215
Merrillville, IN 46411

Ph: 1-219-398-7806
Fax: 1-219-736-2435
E-mail: szjpl9@netnitco.net

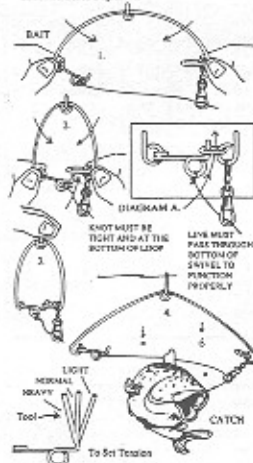


Attention Military Service Members: To order this device through the DOD supply channels, the NSN is #4220-01-3795598.



BAIT HOOK FIRST

To use Speedhook, bring spring arms together until you can push hook into BOTTOM of SPLIT RING. Lock hook. (See diagram A)



To assemble you must bend both hook inward (right), or outward to lower. (See diagram B). Hooks would be used in running water or when Speedhook is set previously. Downward would be used for live fishing or catching very small fish. (Downward would not be used to set.) To replace line on hook, line must be tied against back loop and must go through safety cap inward. (See diagram A)



FAILURE TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS MAY RESULT IN BODILY INJURY. NEVER PICK UP SPEEDHOOK FISHING RIG BY THE FISH HOOK. SPEEDHOOKS ARE TO BE USED TO CATCH FISH. ANY OTHER USE MAY RESULT IN BODILY INJURY. NEVER TOUCH LEADER OR FISH HOOK WHEN SPEEDHOOK IS IN THE SET POSITION.

Purchaser assumes all liability with the use of SPEEDHOOK. Not recommended for children without adult supervision.

Speedhook is illegal in Missouri

GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM

For years I've been putting off buying one of these, at least until they've gotten a bit more "down to earth" cheaper. And when they did, I bought one, a cheapo Magellan GPS 2000 XL.

What's a GPS? It's a self-contained handheld navigational device that uses a series of orbiting satellites to compute your location on earth, whether you're at sea, in the air, or on dry land.

How does it work? Well, each navigational satellite transmits its own precise location. And when your handheld GPS receives at least three different signals from the 24 navigational satellites that are orbiting the earth, it computes your location and transmits it to your GPS receiver.

How many different types of handheld GPS are there? Though there are several models to choose from, if you're in the military and you're planning on buying one, make sure it comes with MGRS. Which stands for Military Grid Reference System. Otherwise you're gonna get stuck with a GPS that you won't be able to use with a US or NATO issued military map.

How accurate are they? The cheap ones are accurate to within 10 (1/-) meters, but the more you pay, the more accurate they are.

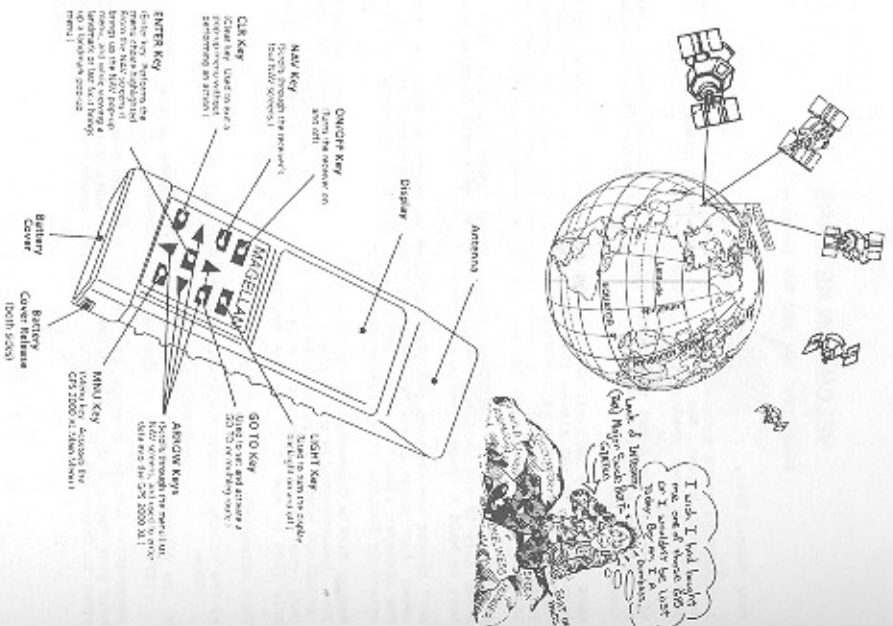
And the short fall? Well, if you think you're gonna be able to move, stop, turn on your GPS to get a "quick fix" on your position and then move on again within a "few minutes," you're wrong. Once it's programmed or initialized, depending on the terrain and weather conditions, it could take anywhere from 5, 10, 15 minutes and even longer for the satellites to compute your location.

Are they worth the money? You betcha! Whether you're an experienced navigator or not, these handheld GPS are pretty handy out in the field, regardless if you're deployed to the desert, jungle, or the arctic circle.

Some other features? A track plotter, which is used for tracking and recording up to 5 different routes, 20 legs, and 200 landmarks, weighs 10 oz (-/-), runs on 3-4 AA batteries for 20-30 hours of continuous use, and comes with 3-5 different navigational viewing screens, plus a lot more other features too. And they're pretty easy to operate, you don't need a college education or a degree in computers to figure out how to work one.

Where do you buy them? From almost any outdoor or military supply store or mail order catalog.

How much are they? Anywhere from \$150 for the cheapos, to as much as \$400 for the expensive ones.



VELCRO ON KEVLARS

Submitted By: PFC Ben Donaldson

Dear Ranger Rick,

I think I've got a couple of good ideas that you can use in your next Ranger Digest. But before I tell you about them, I'd like to pass along to your readers some advice.

If you're serious about your military job, you should invest some of your own money into buying some of the equipment that the Army doesn't provide you.

Here in the Army National Guard we're often asked to do more with less and we're not always issued the latest nor the best military equipment. But if you have your own, well, you'll be much better prepared. Plus, you'll be able to modify it without getting in trouble, as it belongs to YOU and NOT the Army or the state.

Working at night can sometimes be a royal pain in the butt, especially if you only have one free hand to work with because you have to hold a flashlight in the other.

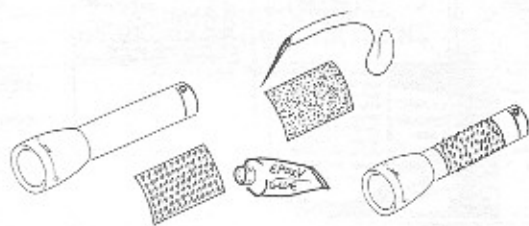
So I bought some velcro and glued a piece of it to my MagLite and sewed the other piece to the side of my kevlar camouflage cover. Now whenever I work at night and need to use both my hands, I just attach my MagLite to my kevlar helmet.

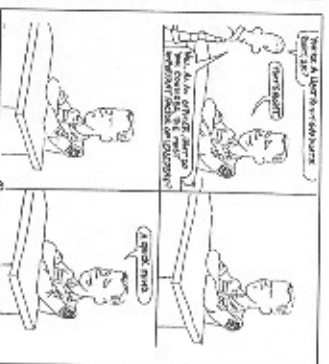
Ranger Rick's Comments: Don't worry about being out of uniform just because you've got a piece of velcro attached to your kevlar camouflage cover. If you're like most soldiers, you probably own two, one for garrison and the other for the field. Naturally, you only need to sew it to the one you wear to the field.

When attaching...

- a) the velcro to your MagLite, make sure you glue it firmly in place.
- b) the velcro to your kevlar cover, sew it either on the left, right, or both sides of the camouflage cover.

IMPORTANT: Before sewing the velcro into the camouflage cover, hold your MagLite up to the helmet with one hand and a map in the other to determine where exactly the velcro needs to be sewn.





Pvt. Murphy's Law

By Mark Baker

ENJOY THESE PVT. MURPHY CARTOONS?

Did you know the cartoonist, Sgt. Mark Baker has his own book called "Pvt Murphy's Law." It's about everyday life in the Army and it's hilarious. At least I'm sure the enlisted and NCOs (and probably not the officers) will get a kick out of it.

For more information on how you can order his book, contact the cartoonist at:

unit300@aol.com
or
rangerbookshotmail.com



M16 PISTOL GRIP STORAGE COMPARTMENT

Submitted By Daniel Garcia

Hey Ranger Rick!

Your Ranger Digests are absolutely great, they've helped me many times in the field, and now I got a tip of my own that I'd like to pass along to your readers.

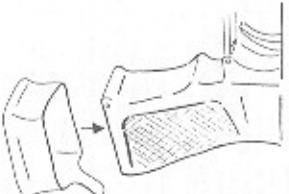
Soldiers can easily convert the hollow portion of their M16 "pistol grip" into a small storage compartment by ordering an old World War II/Korean War M1 Carbine accessory piece called a "Magazine Dust Cover."

Though these dust covers were originally designed to help keep dust, dirt, and sand out of a M1 Carbine magazine. They'll stretch and fit snugly over the bottom portion of an M16 pistol grip so you can store a few little extra items inside of it. Such as earplugs, cleaning patches, a mini bic lighter, and even some survival things, (string, fishing hooks, wire, etc).

TO USE: Hold the M16 rifle upside down and place the items inside the pistol grip and "stretch & slide" the dust cover over the front and back portion of the grip. You can order it from:

Sherlok Marketing & Trading
P.O. Box 6991
Toledo, Ohio 43612
(Cost: \$1.00 each)

Amherst Arms
P.O. Box 1457
Englewood, Fla. 34295
(Cost: 10 for \$5.00)



AR Slowway Pistol Plug

This is an amazing new AR Slowway Pistol Plug that allows you to store your extra magazines in a secure, dry, and protected location. The plug is designed to be an effective alternative to the Slowway Pistol Grip. The plug is made of heavy duty 6061 aluminum and has a length of 2.5 inches. For further information, call 800-378-3787.



HMMMM. WHERE HAVE I HEARD THIS BEFORE?

Not too long ago I received a letter from one of my Ranger Digest readers, and attached to his letter was an interesting article that he tore out of a military magazine.

I couldn't tell which magazine it came from, but it was about an S-4 captain who claimed "he developed" a unique and convenient way to resupply water to the troops out in the field. Check it out.

Water Resupply in the Light Infantry

CAPTAIN W C JR.

One of the most difficult logistical problems in light infantry is water resupply. These soldiers must have water to survive, but they must also carry what they drink. In cool weather, six canteens will last 24 hours. In hot weather, soldiers will drink more than eight quarts in 24 hours, which means they will have to be resupplied every 12 hours. From a battalion S-4's perspective, the difficulty is in making sure water gets to every soldier in a usable package.

When I was a battalion S-4 in the 2d Battalion, 27th Infantry, during a rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center and all of the training for it, I wanted a lot about water resupply.

There are various ways to resupply water in light infantry. One way is to deliver water cans in five circumstances with the logistical package (LOGPAC) the problem with this method is that six platoons and squads are usually spread out and performing missions. There is not time enough to distribute five-gallon cans and collect the empty cans during the short LOGPAC window. Soldiers have to carry them around until the next LOGPAC. Supply sergeants have to bring along at least 82 water cans so they can keep 40 with the company between LOGPACs (not counting ones that will be lost).

A second method is to use 50-gallon bladders during LOGPAC. But it is unrealistic for a company to use them, because all its soldiers must be brought to one location to fill their canteens.

The solution we came up with was to use five-gallon plastic milk containers, the milk bags used in the mess hall. We brought them empty from a milk company. When they 5000 bags cost less than 1800 in Hawaii and should be

even less expensive in other areas. The 11000 bags, which come with a sealed white tube attached, took up the space of a footlocker. To fill a bag with water, a soldier pops the tube off, puts water in, and replaces the tube. To fill a canteen from the bag, he cuts the end of the tube and water streams into the canteen.

We used five water bags for the first time during a brigade field training exercise. The one problem we had to solve was carrying the bags once they were filled. If they were not packaged, they were difficult to carry around and load. We wanted a package that was already part of the supply system and one that could be thrown away.

MRE (meat, ready to eat) boxes fit both of these needs. The support platoon put the MREs in trash bags in the brigade support area before bringing them out at LOGPAC, and then they put the full water bags in the MRE boxes. This worked very well. The boxes are easier to load and are intended to be thrown away when they're empty. When the LOGPAC was delivered, all the supply sergeant had to do was kick out the MRE boxes and the trash bags, which reduced our LOGPAC time.

Once the soldiers had been resupplied, they were able to treat everything delivered at LOGPAC like trash. They left it for pick-up and moved out.

There are some other benefits to water bag resupply. The bag's two-ply plastic will not burst unless it is punctured by a sharp object, and it can be reused. A soldier can put any amount he wants in the bag and carry it in his rucksack like a five-quart bladder.

When the bags are in MRE boxes, they can easily be stinkbombed. They

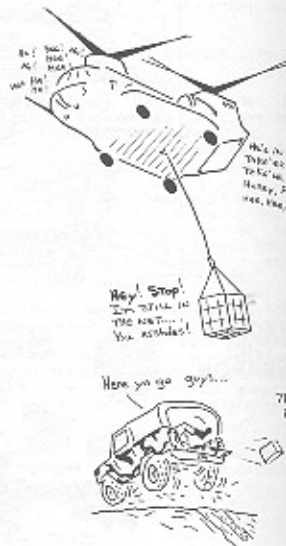
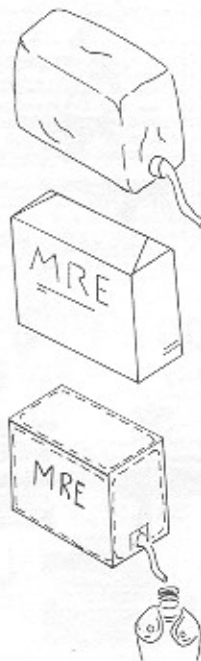
can also be stacked inside aircraft. (We conducted five battalion air assaults in preparation for and conducting our JRTC rotation. We stinkbombed or stacked water boxes with almost every air assault.) The same is not true of water bladders or cans. With water-bag resupply, it is easier to preposition or stock water. When prepositioning cans or bladders, there is always a concern that they will be left behind. With the water bags (at less than 80 cents each), there is no worry about leaving them behind. A unit can preposition bags in two different sites, knowing that only one of them will be used.

My recommendation is that the Army make water-bag resupply the standard for light units. If water bags were made to fit light infantry unit specifications, the resupply process would be easier for everyone and also save money. Anyone who has been to the JRTC knows that many water cans are lost or left behind in the boxes. During unit training, it's the same story. Water bags cost far less and can be reused if necessary, and soldiers can carry empty bags around if they have to. Another saving, both in dollars and in unit effectiveness, is at least occasionally, most of which occur because individual soldiers do not have access to enough water.

Water-bag resupply is the cheapest, most efficient way of getting water to the people who need it most—the light infantrymen at company level.

Captain W C Jr., is assigned to the 2d Battalion, Infantry, in Hawaii. He has served as a platoon leader, a rifle company executive officer, and a battalion S-4. He is a 1980 ROTC graduate of The Citadel.

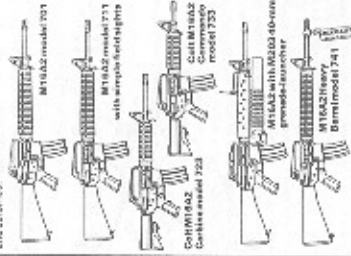
OK, so what do you think? Does it sound familiar? Check out Ranger Digest VI - Page 66-67.



COMMON WEAPONS YOU'LL SEE IN PEACE & IN WAR

The M16 family

The M16 family has grown into a complete weapons system, including light machine guns and sniper rifles.



The AK rifles



EXCEPT
THIS
WEAPON

SOPMOD M4 Accessory Kit



The SOPMOD M-4 Accessory Kit adds a range of specialized devices to the already capable M-4 carbine.

TIPS & TRICKS FROM A NAVY SEABEE

Submitted By: PO2 Paul Gromkowski

Dear Ranger Rick,

I have all your Ranger Digest handbooks and enjoy reading all the ingenuity ways in how to live comfortably out in the field. I have spent the last 6+ years in the Navy Reserve as a Seabee, and like our slogan says, "We Build - We Fight." We spend half our time in the field sharpening our combat training skills and the other half constructing and building things.

Anyway, here's a few of my own tips & tricks that I would like to contribute and share with your readers.

M - I've always hated to feel wet grass, dirt or mud under my feet whenever I got up out of my cot or sleeping bag. So I use the cardboard sleeves that hold the boxes together as a floor mat. I just open them up and lay them on the ground next to and on under my cot or sleeping bag and no more annoying wet grass or dirt.

M - Whenever I deploy to the field laundry time is always a pain in the butt. Especially when you've got to share 1 x washat and 1 x dryer with a hundred or so other guys. So to cut down on the wash cycles and the amount of clothes to wash and dry, I only bring my dark colored clothes to the field. One load of clothes to wash and one load of clothes to dry and I'm good for about a week.

M - In the field and at home clean hands lead to good health. Most colds, viruses, and diseases are spread when it moves from your hands to your mouth, nose, eyes, and or other opening parts of your body. So I always wash my hands before I touch or eat any food. But as you know when you're deployed to the field or to a remote country, it's not always possible to find clean running water for washing. And sometimes there's no water at all except for drinking.

Which is why I always carry in my rucksack or tool box a few small bottles of "gelled alcohol." They're pretty handy to use because you don't need a towel after putting some on your hands, as it evaporates very quickly. And as an added bonus, this stuff is flammable just like Sterno and Traxane and makes an excellent fire starter too. CAN DO!



SIGNAL MIRROR ADDITIVES

Submitted By Sgt Steve Brittain

There's only one side of a signal mirror that is useful, and that's the side with the mirror. And if there isn't any sunlight out, well, you ain't gonna be doing very much signaling with it, are ya?

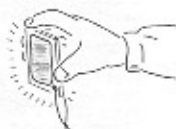
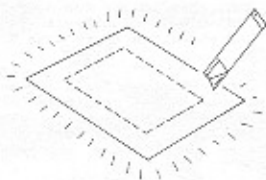
Now the backside of a signaling mirror has no use whatsoever, so to make this "worthless side" a bit more useful, here's what you can do to it.

a) Get yourself some illumines (glow) tape and lay it down on a flat surface and place your signaling mirror on top of it. Then cut out a piece of illumines tape about the same exact size and glue it to the "worthless side" of the mirror.

Or...

b) Get yourself some bright orange paper, acetate both sides, place the signaling mirror on top of it and cut out a piece about the same exact size and glue it to the "worthless side" of the signaling mirror.

Whichever method you decide to use, at least the "worthless side" of the mirror will come in handy for something, either for short-range "day" or "night time" signaling.



48

COMBAT EYE GLASS HEADSTRAP

Submitted By: Major David Oaks

Hey Ranger Rick,

This tip comes from a buddy of mine, MAJOR MIKE STEELE, who's assigned to the 505th Infantry / 82d Airborne Division. Hoosah!

Like a lot of Airborne troops, my buddy wears a pair of those high-speed nylon combat eye glass frames whenever he goes to the field and or makes a parachute jump.

But the cheap black rubber headbands that come with these frames seem to quickly break, melt, and or fall apart whenever they come in contact with military issued bug juice. Well, over a period of time, it can cost you a lot of \$\$\$\$ to keep replacing them.

So what my buddy did to solve the problem was replace his cheap headband with a parachutist's kevlar helmet "retention strap." This strap is already o.d. green, comes with velcro, and can be adjusted to fit on almost any size shape head.

But best of all, it's inexpensive and available in all the AAFES Military Clothing Sales Stores (MCSS). Check it out!



Mag-P Combat Eyewear

Specialty designed for tactical and ground war during sports and field work. Can be worn underneath your aviator goggles. Frame features a soft padded interior. These frames for combat and specialty use only. Frame strongly advised. Designed to meet your personal needs. For more information, call the 800 number or visit our website at www.mag-p.com. MADE IN USA. Model: M-1000.



49

CANTEEN MODIFICATIONS

Not very long ago one of my Ranger Digest readers sent me an interesting letter. He said, "Hey Ranger Rick, wouldn't it be nice if our canteens came with a 'window slit' on the side so you could see how much water you actually have remaining without guessing? It would also make it easier to determine how many water purification pills you need to place inside of it too."

Hmmmm, you know something? He's right, it would be kinda nice.

Well, I put on my ol' McGyver "thinking cap" and this is what I did to one of my own military plastic canteens.

I took a pencil and ruler and drew a straight line down the center of the canteen from top to bottom. Grabbed me a heavy duty sharp razor and made a cut on the left and right side of this penciled line and then cut out this thin piece of plastic.

Then I filled the slit with some "clear silicone," waited until it dried, then tasted it out by filling it full of water. And guess what? Yep, it worked. As I drank and emptied some of the water I could easily see right through the silicone the amount of water remaining. Neat! Cool! Hoah!

Another way you can make this window slit is with a bandsaw.

WARNING: If you've never used a bandsaw machine before, I strongly advise you to find someone who has so they can give you a hand and save you from losing one.

Hold your canteen in the upright position while standing on the opposite side of the machine where you would normally be standing. This is so you can see exactly where you're cutting, which means you will be pulling "towards yourself" rather than "pushing away" from yourself, you know what I mean? Uh?

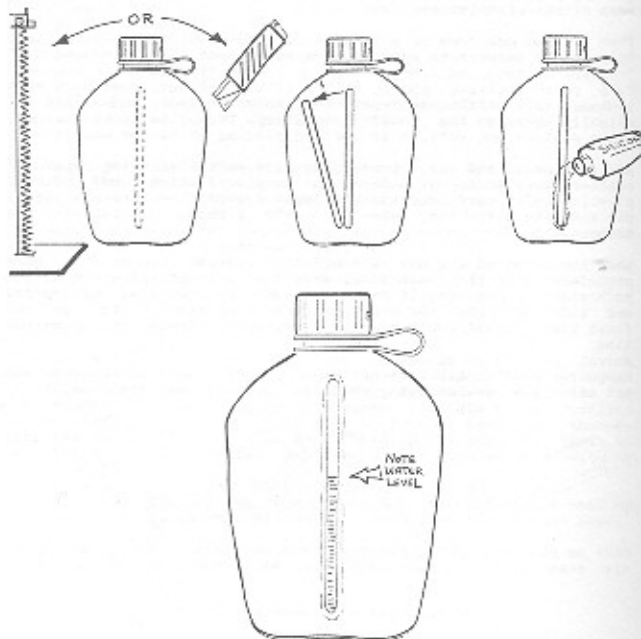
Now when you're done making one cut/slit, carefully make another cut/slit right along side the first one and then remove this piece of plastic with a sharp knife or razor.

Then take some "clear silicone" and carefully squirt it all along and inside this narrow slit. And don't be stingy with it neither, it's better to squirt a lot of it inside than very little at all or it will eventually leak on you. Then take a flat long narrow stick and place it inside and flatten the silicone along the walls of the inside portion of the canteen.

Then wet one of your fingers with some "saliva" (mouth spit) and smooth out the silicone on the outside portion of the canteen so it's just about flat, but NOT completely. If the silicone begins to stick to your finger, this means your finger is too dry and does not have enough "mouth spit" on it, just add some more saliva and you'll be good to go.

Once the silicone is completely dry, fill the canteen full of water to see if it leaks. And if it does, then just add silicone to the part of the slit where it leaks.

Now you'll be able to see and not guess anymore how much water you actually have inside your canteen(s).



WATERPROOFING MAPS

Submitted By: CPT. Robert C. Fraser, Jr.

When regular military acetate is not available, you can always use clear shelving paper made by RUBBERMADE. It's not expensive and it's available in all of the Home Depot, K-Mart, and Walmart department stores.

But before placing it on a map, it's important you remove as many wrinkles as possible. To remove most of (but not all) the wrinkles, take an iron (without any water inside of it) and turn the temperature setting to MEDIUM HOT. Then lay the map on an ironing board and constantly keep the iron moving over it until most of the wrinkles are gone.

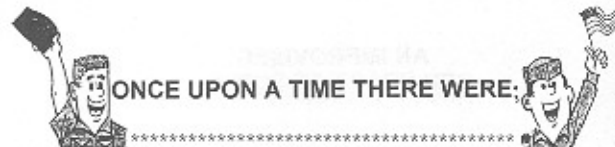
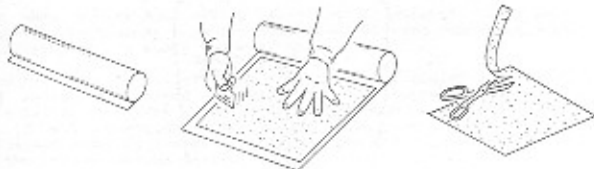
Then lay the map down on a large table and place some scotch tape only on the corners to keep it from moving and sliding around.

Take your shelving paper, roll a little bit out, peel back some (but not all) of the wax paper from the back side and place it slightly beyond the edge of the map. Then slowly, very slowly begin peeling and rolling it out and placing it on the map.

As you peel and roll, press down hard on the shelving paper. If bubbles start to appear underneath, simply flatten them with a plastic credit card. And if this doesn't work, then take a straight pin and poke a few tiny holes into the bubbles to release the trapped air.

When the front of the map is completely covered, repeat this same procedure for the back side. Yep, that's right, ya gotta do the back side too, because it doesn't do any good to just waterproof one side and not the other. So take your time, do it right the first time and you won't have to worry about doing it a second time.

When you're finished with both sides, take a pair of scissors and cut off any excess shelving paper along the sides of the map.



Three 2d Lieutenants died and arrived at the pearly gates of heaven. Saint Peter tells'em, "If you can answer one simple question, I'll open up these gates and let you in."

Saint Peter turns to the first 2d lieutenant (an OCS graduate) and asks, "What is Easter?"

The lieutenant smiles and says, "Oh, that's an easy question, it's that holiday in November where everyone gets together, eats turkey, and gives thanks for..."

"Wrong" interrupts Saint Peter. And he turns to the second lieutenant (an ROTC graduate) and asks, "Tell me, what is Easter?"

The lieutenant says, "I think Easter is that holiday in December when we put up nice trees, decorations, and exchange gifts to celebrate..."

"Wrong" replies Saint Peter angrily shaking his head in disgust. And he then turns to the third 2d lieutenant (a West Point graduate) and asks, "Do you know what Easter is?"

The West Pointer smiles confidently at the other two lieutenants and says, "Yes sir, I most certainly do."

"Oh?" says Saint Peter with a surprise look on his face. "Really? Then please tell me what is Easter?"

The West Point lieutenant says,

"Easter is a Christian holiday that coincides with the Jewish celebration of Passover. Jesus and his disciples were eating at the last supper and Jesus was later deceived and turned over to the Romans by one of them. The Romans took him to be crucified and he was stabbed in the side, made to wear a crown of thorns, and was hung on a cross with nails through his hands and feet. He was then buried in a nearby cave which was sealed off with a large boulder."

Saint Peter, now smiling from ear to ear, is shaking his head up and down in approval when the West Pointer continues on and says..

"And every year this boulder is moved off to the side so that Jesus can come out, and if he sees his shadow, we'll have six more weeks of winter."

AN IMPROVISED CPR PRACTICE DUMMY

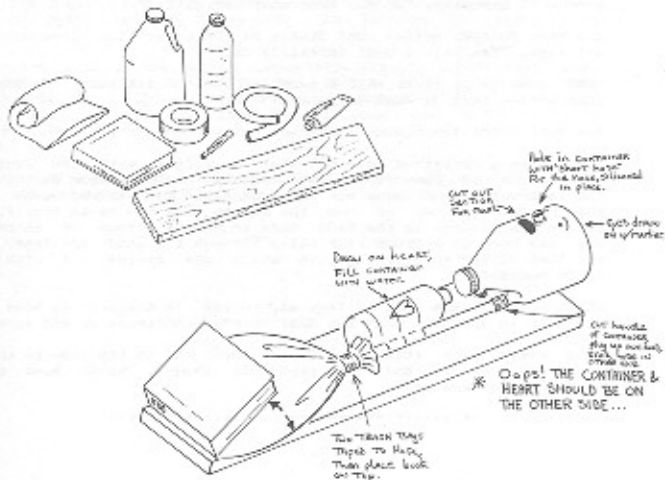
While training one of the many muslim army units in Bosnia & Herzegovina, I became good friends with a bosnian medical officer. And to assist him to teach his soldiers in how to properly administer CPR and Cardiopulmonary resuscitation, I built a couple of practice CPR dummies.

They were made of the following items;

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 x Plastic Water Bottle | 1 x Clorox Bleach Container |
| 1 x Flat Wooden Board | 1 x 50 cm Rubber Hose |
| 2 x Plastic Trash Bags | 1 x Roll of 100mph Tape |
| 1 x Tube of Silicone/Glue | 1 x Black Magic Marker |
| 1 x Heavy Thick Book | |

Though it was very primitive looking, it definitely worked the same way as a real CPR & Cardiopulmonary Practice Dummy.

WARNING: After every use, always wipe the mouth area of the CPR dummy with some alcohol to "prevent" the spread of germs from one-person-to-another.



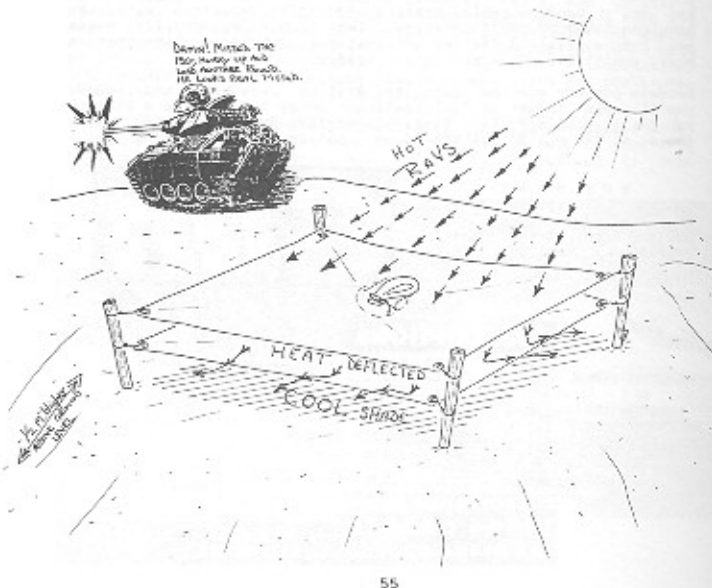
A DESERT SHELTER "SHADE" TIP

Hey, wanna know how to keep a bit more cooler or less hotter out in the desert? Build a double-decker covered shelter with either two ponchos or two poncho liners.

The top cover protects you from the sun's rays, and the second cover deflects the heat from the first cover away from you.

And if you place the floor of the shelter a 1/2 meter "above" or "below" the desert surface, it'll make it a bit more cooler. Try it!

NOTE: Don't have two poncho's or two poncho liners to use? If ya use only one, the higher it's erected - the less heat you'll feel and deflected off of it. The lower to the ground it's erected - the more heat that'll be deflected and felt. Go figure!





GUN MART



Hey Guys & Gals! I just discovered a neat new magazine, it's called "GUN MART." And although it's published in England, you can still subscribe and get it delivered to your home.

What makes this British magazine different from other (American) gun magazines? Well, for starters it contains over 250+ pages of advertisements and interesting articles, and a lot of it military related. From firearms, equipment, books, videos, clubs, to the latest products available on the market worldwide.

It even has a section on military airguns, replicas, and deactivated (non-firing) machineguns that you can purchase without a license. No BS! Ya gotta see the BB guns that look like real M16s, M60s, MP5 H&K, etc. Neat!

Now don't confuse this British "GUNMART" magazine with the American "SHOTGUN NEWS" newspaper, (see Ranger Digest III), these are two entirely different publications. But if you like Shotgun News, you'll love Gummart. It's terrific!

Because payment must be made in British currency, the pound, you'll need to get an "international money order" from a bank or pay for it with a Master, Visa, or American Express credit card. (Note: \$1 USA = 1.70 British Pound, £32.20 = \$19.00). Send To:

GUN MART
Attn: Subscription Dept.
Bradley Pavillion
Bradley Stoke North, Bristol
BS120BQ United Kindon



SUBSCRIPTIONS

	1991	1992	1993
UK	£55.50	£22.00	
EUROPE	£40.00	£28.20	
USA	£48.00	£32.30	
REST OF THE WORLD	£58.00	£48.00	
BFGP	£35.50	£25.00	

CALL OUR HOTLINE NUMBER

01454 620070

FAX 01454 620080

Please send me 12 issues of Gun & Ammo as part of my subscription with the most possible issue free for my changed postal code for £...

Please add my Master Card / Visa / American Express / Debit Account on the card if...

Please account will be debited in the name of monthly Magazine Limited

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Country: _____

Daytime Tel: _____

Evening Tel: _____

Mobile: _____

Send no money now! Please send me 12 issues of Gun & Ammo as part of my subscription with the most possible issue free for my changed postal code for £...

Please add my Master Card / Visa / American Express / Debit Account on the card if...

Please account will be debited in the name of monthly Magazine Limited

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Country: _____

Daytime Tel: _____

Evening Tel: _____

Mobile: _____

THE CONVENIENCE OF A SUBSCRIPTION DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR EACH MONTH

BUY, SELL, EXCHANGE GUN MART



FIELD SPOT LIGHTS



When I was a squad leader and platoon sergeant, I often took my portable car spotlight with me to the field. Really! Where did I plug it in? Into a PRC-77 radio battery. No BS!

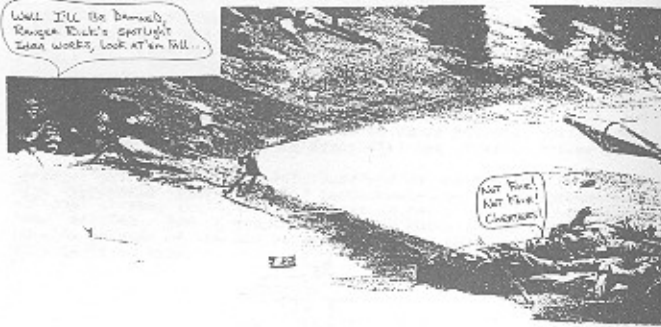
After cutting off the cigarette lighter adapter and removing some of the rubber coating from the end of the wires, I plugged it into the battery's positive (+) and negative (-) terminals. Or I'd remove the battery's cardboard box/cover and attach it directly to the red (+) and black (-) "internal" wires.

Today, because there's several models to choose from, you don't have to go through this hassle. You can buy 'em from 12 volt plug-ins to battery operated and from 50,000 to 1,000,000 candle power, etc, etc.

What can you use 'em in the field for? A lot of things. But we used my spotlight for squad and platoon ambushes, raids, and defensive operations. The powerful light will not only blind and ruin the enemy's night vision (human & mechanical) capabilities, but expose and illuminate their positions too. Which is impossible to do with parachute flares and starclusters without exposing, illuminating, and jeopardizing your own night vision capabilities and positions. Makes sense don't it? Try it and find out.

NOTE: When using handheld spotlights in the tactical mode, position them (and or the user) a safe distance away so your unit remains in total darkness and will not be exposed or draw unnecessary enemy fire. Get my drift?

Well I'll be damned, Ranger Rick's spotlight does work, look at 'em kill...



SOME SMART ADVICE FROM A (RANGER) MEDICAL OFFICER

Submitted By: 1st Jimmy Deak

Submitted By Michael Chase

Dear Ranger Dick,

1) Every soldier should carry two field dressings in his or her first aid pouch along with a partially completed (name, age, unit, etc.) DD Form 1380 Field Medical Card. This will not only help medics to save on using their own field dressings to treat the wounded, but to speed up aid and evacuation procedures too.

2) Every soldier should carry his or her own IV kit, complete with one only carry so many of these kits in his aid bag before running out and needing to acquire some more from the battalion aid station.

3) Every soldier should carry either a "blue" or "red" chem-light medical attention. As it's almost impossible for a medic to determine (at night) from a distance who is and who isn't wounded, a soldier can either pop the chem-light himself (if he's conscious) or another individual can do it for him.

4) Every ISG should carry in his truck or vehicle an emergency backup "Class VIII Medical Assembly Chest" just for his company's use. Items to be carried should include bandages, i.v. fluids, tubing, needles, water purification tabs, hypochlorite, ointment, chloroquine, medicine sunscreen, foot powder, sunscreen, syringes, catheters, and more.

5) Every unit medic or tasked litter team should carry a SREDCO LITTER rather than a POLARIS LITTER. Unlike the polaris litter, it only takes a 2-3 man litter team to comfortably carry and transport a patient.

With the polaris, it's not only uncomfortable for the patient, but for the litter team too. As the straps and carrying handles keep cutting into the hands of the carriers thus forcing them to stop, switch, rotate, and take turns more often.

For more information on how your platoon or company can improve their emergency medical readiness, contact your battalion aid station.



58

Enclose you will find some ideas that my team mates and I have both found to be very useful, and I'm sure your readers will too, especially if they're medics. I wish I could remember the name of the para-rescue operator who provided us these useful tips, but I don't remember.

To take care of multiple patients with gunshot and or major bleeding wounds can be difficult, especially when more than one medic or assistant is managing through your aid bag looking for a particular first aid item.

To remedy this problem, always carry several pre-packaged individual "battle packs" with the necessary items needed to treat bleeding and sucking chest wounds. This way, you can quickly turn then to your on-the-scene helpers so you'll be able to keep your aid bag closely nearby.

Below is a list of the minimum medical items that should be pre-packaged in a battle pack:

2 X zip-lock bags for double bagging & water proofing and as an outer dressing for burns, sucking chest wounds, etc.

2 X first aid field dressing, as in most gunshot wounds, one for the entry wound and the other for the exit wound.

1 X petrolatum gauze bandage, for sucking chest, burns, and penetration wounds.

1 X kerlix roller gauze, for dressing and as a packing bandage.

1 X 6x9 wurt-pad for pressure dressings.

2 X 4x4 cover sponges, IZOLY, more dressing material

1 X tri-angle bandage - for use as a tourniquet or constriction of limb amputations, uncontrolled bleeds, etc.

M-5 MEDIC BAG MODIFICATIONS TIPS:

If you remove the external straps and add a D-ring to the inside pack shoulder straps and to the side mounted set of D-rings on the shoulder straps, it'll make it easier to carry on long distance road marches. Add a couple of M-60 NG cordura ammo cases to the outside portion of the aid bag and you'll be able to carry a few more IV fluid kits.



59

THE MANY USES OF MAALOX

Submitted By: Dr. David A. Williams

One of the safest and best all around medicines to carry to the field is liquid Maalox, either regular or extra strength. And a few of the many illnesses and discomforts it can relieve....

1. Poison Ivy - rub a small amount of maalox on the affected areas and it will neutralize the poison, dry it, and stop the itching within minutes.
2. Jocky Rash or "Great Balls of Fire" - rub some maalox on the affected area and you'll soon be relieved of the burning, itching, and discomfort.
3. Athlete's Foot or "Sweamp Foot" - rub a small amount of maalox on the foot, including in between the toes, and the itching, irritation, and odor will soon be neutralized.
4. Blisters, Scalds, Abrasions, & Cuts - will heal quicker if treated daily with a little bit of maalox, just rub on a small amount and let it dry.
5. Sunburns & Windburns - rub maalox on like a lotion and it will quickly relieve the pain, discomfort, and irritation.
6. Hemorrhoids & Rectal Irritation (Due to Diarrhea) - pour a small amount of maalox on a piece of toilet paper, wipe or rub on the affected area and the bleeding, itching, and irritation should subside within minutes.
7. Feeling Constipated? - take several (3-5) teaspoons of maalox and your stomach should settle down in no time, also works as a laxative too.
8. Got a Cut That Just Won't Stop Bleeding? - put a few drops of maalox on it and cover with a bandaid or bandage.

Ranger Rick's Comments: Attention Readers - Use At Your Own Risk.



50

EMERGENCY PROTECTION

Submitted By: Dr. David A. Williams

Always carry in your rucksack a small bottle of "olive oil," the type that comes with an eye or nose dropper. Because it can always be used....

- a) To prevent foreign matter from entering the eyes and ears should you need to swim or dive in salty or filthy water and you don't have a mask or a pair of ear plugs for protection.

Just place a few drops in the eyes and ears before entering the water and the salt and foreign matter won't stick to the surface of the eyes nor enter the sensitive areas of the inner ear.



- b) Works great for relieving earaches. Simply warm up the bottle of olive oil with a match or lighter, just slightly above body temperature, and place a drop or two in the affected ear. To keep it in place, use a piece of cotton, tissue, and or even a gun cleaning patch. Should it become infected and very painful, just add 1 x drop of iodine to 5 x drops of olive oil and you have an excellent field remedy.



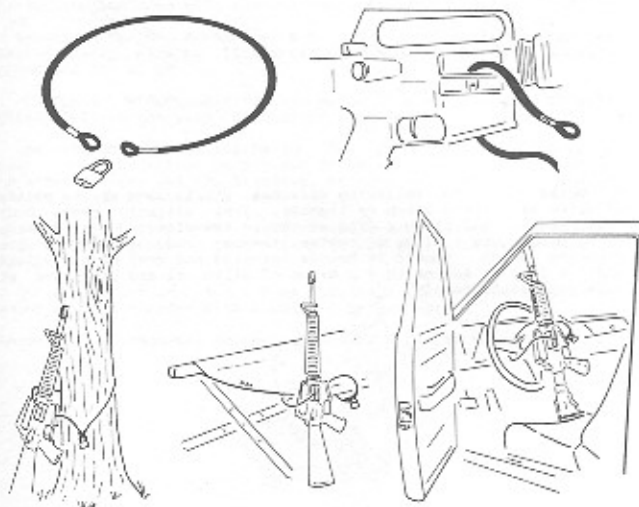
51

LOCK UP YOUR WEAPON

When you're out in the field and NOT on tactical/alert status, does your chain of command always make ya carry your bullet launcher wherever you go? Like to the shitter, chow line, wash area, etc?

Yes? No kidding, so did mine. But what I use to do so I wouldn't have to drag my weapon with me everywhere I went, is secure it. No, NOT at the arms room and NOT with one of my buddies neither, but with a "bicycle cable lock."

Lock the bolt of your M16/M203 to the rear and run the cable through the magazine well and upper receiver dust cover so they can't be separated from one another. And then wrap the weapon and cable around a fixed, non-movable and or not-so-easy-to-move stationary object such as to.....



62



DO I HAVE A SENSE OF HUMOR OR WHAT?



At my last duty assignment in Vicenza - Italy as the US Army SETAF G-3 War Plans Division NCOIC and Operation Sergeant, I got tired of seeing all these damn classified documents come across my desk each day. So I decided to come up with my own official stamp in how they should be classified and filed. Well, this is what I came up with, (see below). Everyone got a big kick out of it (the ESMs, NCOs, Lts, & captains) except my boss (an O-5/LtC) and a couple of field grade officers who worked in my office. (Hmmm, I wonder why?)

CIRCLE YOUR RECOMMENDATION:
1. KEEP / ON FILE 2. SHRED IT
3. BELL TO KGB 4. RTN TO SENDER
5. DONT GIVE A SHIT!

Well, what do ya know about that, another dissatisfied Ranger Digest reader. The second complaint and bad report card rating I have ever received since starting this book series back in the 1980's. Boo-hoo, boo-hoo, boo-hoo. Whaaa!

NO REPLYING TO THIS

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR COMMENTS
 CUSTOMER & READER SERVICE CARD



NAME AND ADDRESS FOR WHAT YOU WANT TO SAY: Some give it to me

NAME AND ADDRESS FOR WHAT YOU WANT TO SAY: Amazn Ego

NAME AND ADDRESS FOR WHAT YOU WANT TO SAY: Stick to the Pointe, Baseline Operations/Tankers JMS
and a side of weakness

NAME AND ADDRESS FOR WHAT YOU WANT TO SAY: Nice (What you?)
Conrad J. (What you?)
 No 29th TD(W) Ft Belvoir, IA 22000

Hey, check out what another reader sent to me, it's titled, "What Those Travel Brochures Really Mean..."

- All the amenities — free shower cap
- Aristocratic — raises reservation
- Gentle breeze — glass/iron winds
- Picturesque — theme park or mystery house nearby
- Carefree notices — laminate service
- Busting metropolis — discussion of hostile locals
- Airy — no air conditioning
- Drink — freebie
- Open bar — all the too subtle you want
- Plush — top and bottom sheets
- Spacious quarters — assembly furnished room
- Convenient — bring bus fare
- Motor coach — bus
- Deluxe motor coach — bus with clean windows
- Urge — no one else would go to the this
- Quiet — nundum
- Worried by Gut Stream — odd
- Soled by the Humboldt Current — hot
- Off the beaten path — people have stopped coming here
- Remote — people never come
- Standard — substantial
- Deluxe — friendly
- Superior — has shower
- Undiscovered — not worth discovering
- Authentic native dishes — inedible but cheap
- Playground of the stars — Regis has my one word here
- If you like being pumpeed — you can get washed in
- Exquisite cuisine — limited menu
- Choice of menu — chicken
- Old World charm — no bath
- Camille trade — no HCS or perk
- San-drenched — and anecdotal
- Tropical — rainy
- Panoramic vista — a long way from town
- Majestic setting — a long way from town
- Optics galore — nothing is included in your price
- Secluded hideaway — impossible to find
- Too numerous to mention — the white tee never seen there
- Prerequisite rooms — already occupied
- Leisurely traffic — tedious bus ride
- Explore on your own — pay for it yourself
- Knowledgeable trip hints — they're foot before
- Nominal charge — outrageous charge
- Done to be different — ignore your common sense
- Mystery tour — regular schedule was canceled
- No extra fees — no extra
- Stopped in history — out and backward
- Tipping is considered an insult — may love to be insulted
- And much, much more — that's about all there is

63

Air Force nominee under fire

Clinton supportive despite claims of errors, deceit

By TOM RALPH
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration is sticking with its nomination of a Florida state senator and former fighter pilot to be Air Force secretary as Republicans question his unimpressive flight history and business dealings.

The Senate Armed Services Committee planned to vote again early next week on the nomination of Daryl Jones, who is currently a Florida state senator. Clinton announced his strong support. "He is a man of proven ability who understands the challenges of public service," Clinton told the committee in a letter. And in a photo message, Clinton told supporters, "We're all supporting Daryl Jones."

An Air Force briefing spokesman Kenneth Jones, charged off charges made against Jones at the hearing. "He has the



full confidence of the secretary," Bacon said.

President Clinton announced Jones last October to replace Sheila Widnall, who resigned.

Witnesses said as an Air Force Reserve pilot, Jones was out of the country on one occasion. How the wrong way on another and damaged his aircraft by attempting the climb out on a runway in low visibility — twice on the same day.

"I was scared. I realized I could no longer fly with him," said retired Maj. Allan F. Britz, a flight instructor who accompanied Jones at Homestead Air Force Base near Miami, later recalled by both the Air

Force Reserve and the contractor working with Jones.

Jones did not dispute his bad flying record but blamed it on his devotion to public service. He stated it would not interfere with his ability to oversee the Air Force.

Republican sources, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said Thursday night that Jones was likely to win majority support of the panel and the Senate despite the controversy. They said a key witness, however, was Sen. John Warner (R-Va.), a senior member of the panel.

Warner, who has been the most prominent critic, could be up for re-nomination. He did not tell supporters whether he would seek to block confirmation.

Jones told the committee Thursday that he voluntarily stopped flying F-16 fighters in 1991 because of his crowded business life. He deplored testimony by his former,

Is this %#@& up or what? Can you believe the ignorance of the idiots who tried to get this guy nominated for Secretary of the Air Force????

Whoever suggested or recommended Mr. Daryl Jones, should be lined up in front of the Viet Nam Wall Memorial in Washington D.C. and shot at sunrise. What the %#@& were they smoking and drinking the day his name popped up, COW MANURE and RUBBING ALCOHOL?

- It's like...
- Nominating an old, cranky, tightwad, and very disliked anti-military geezer to Secretary of Defense. (Oops, we did one time.)
- Nominating a mother who believes in teaching masturbation to young school children to be the Surgeon General of the United States. (Oops, we did one time.)
- Nominating a dope smoking, lying, adulterer, who has never served in the military to be the Commander & Chief of the Armed Forces. (Oops, we did one time. OUCH - we did twice!)
- You'd think by now these damn politicians would learn from their previous mistakes, wouldn't you? I guess not.
- And as I was reading through a Soldier of Fortune magazine, I came across an interesting article written by Col. (Ret.) David Hackworth. Check out what he's got to say.



By Col. David H. Hackworth (Ret.)

Bad Leaders Equal Bad Units

Henry and hallelujah! Daryl Jones, Bill Clinton's nominee for Secretary of the Air Force, got shot down in flames by a brave Senate committee.

John Warner (R-Va.) spearheaded this maneuver, ably backed up by Charles Robb (D-Va.) and Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.). They and other panel members put America's best of public politics and stopped Jones from further supporting an Air Force already under siege.

Senate panel members — where a majority put conscience over cynicism — will catch a lot of flack from politically correct hand-wringers who think alternative action and quotas are more important than putting the right person in the right job when it comes to defending America.

Jones' nomination was by far the worst of a long string of bad Clinton Pentagon appointments: Luc Auer, William Cohen, John Dalton, Sheila Widnall and Togo West — none of whom could lead a frog to a puddle on a hot day.

Jones would have cluttered an Air Force already on the trail because of bad senior leadership, an Air Force trying to do too much with too little and weakened by an exodus of good people walking out the front gate.

Jones' former commander, Colonel Thomas A. Dykes, told the panel, "I believe there are serious questions about Daryl Jones' personal integrity." That is something Jones doesn't exactly dispute. People who have served with him openly call him a liar.

To pump fresh air into a deeply troubled Air Force it needs a strong leader who can take charge, kick butt and clean house. The extraordinary first young folks who serve in our Air Force deserve no less. Warner says Jones was unable to even "imagine those who serve under him."

My computer almost burned up with Jones' honor stories.

- An Air Force colonel: "We're in a steep decline both in operational capability and morale. Putting that self-serving child in charge would have put us into the proverbial 'twisting hole'."
- An Air Force major: "How did he draw four years' flight pay when he wasn't on flight status? If a grant and this story he'd be making license plates at Leavenworth prison."
- A senior Air Force sergeant: "The USAF is in the worse shape than even you write about. Jones would've made it worse. I served with him. His judgment stinks. He's probably got Army products in the BX [Base Exchange] and needs to get to work to buy them."



Col. David Hackworth (Ret.) also writes a syndicated weekly column titled "Defending America." "Hack" doesn't pull any punches and every liberal says so. If your local paper fails to carry his writing, call the editor and let him know you'd like to see "Defending America" on the Op-Ed page. It's syndicated by King Features, 225 N. 45th St., New York, NY 10017.

It's pathetic that a person with a flawed character could ever be considered for such an important national security assignment. But then, as one colonel said, "Look who nominated him."

And this is the rub of the problem. How could Clinton pick someone so manifestly unqualified for the job? Either Clinton's judgment is mad or he's flat doing his best to set up our military for failure.

On the surface Clinton seems to have to defer to our military; he wears the troops' colors, wears military gear and uses a calling card. But when it comes to appointing the guy leadership that could pull the services out of a six-year nose dive, he secretly comes up with liars and liars.

Equally pathetic, Clinton retained silver over CNN's false news programs which denounced every serving American soldier past and present.

Lenny in 1988, Jane and Ted Turner and CNN president Richard Karpis, were out over loyalty to the troops.

I suspect Clinton, who would be "leading" our military in 1995, wants to do that, whether consciously or unconsciously. And that he's managed to accomplish. What he took over as commander in chief in 1992 our news was Down South, among. Now they're a mix of our own-our-our machine, spinning and barely lit to light.

Strong reactions would never know if I heard this is happen. Can you imagine the two-faced former Secretary of the Navy, James Webb, who resigned in protest because Ronald Reagan cut his fleet, saying this about Jones? "He is a man of proven ability who understands the challenges of public service."

But weak Clinton closes down great. And Republican Secretary of Defense Cohen said just Bill Clinton and Cohen are the two guys ultimately responsible for the state of America.

Sadly, never have our defenses been so badly undercut from within.

http://www.hackworth.com the address of David Hackworth's column page.
Copyright 1997 David H. Hackworth
Reprinted by King Features Syndicate, Inc.
Hackworth's best-selling book, "Honor Over Duty," has topped 40,000 copies in worldwide sales.



They can then be used not only to prevent you from catching a bacteria, disease, or virus from an ill or sick patient/casualty. But as an emergency water storage bag, as a tourniquet, or for water proofing small items, and if you cut off one (or more) of the glove's fingers, you can use them as an improvised "dust & dirt cover" for the barrel of your weapon.

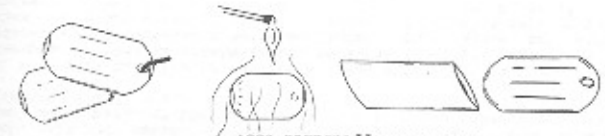
Always carry to the field a pair or two of disposable surgical gloves. You can get them from your unit aid station or from almost any convenient store. They come in vacuum sealed packages about one set per package.

Here's a tip I thought you could use for your Ranger Digest VIII that I use to teach to all my survival school students.

Hey Ranger Rick,

Submitted by: Sgt. Frank D. Cilliland

SURGICAL GLOVE USES



First, find yourself some "heat shrinking tubing" about 1/2 - 3/4 inch in diameter. Cut off two pieces about the same length as a dog tag and then flatten and stretch it on over them. Then hold it over a small flame (match, candle, lighter, etc) until they shrink and become tight around the dog tags. Then grab a small nail and poke a hole through the tubing where the holes of the metal dog tags are located so you can slide through the chain. This method will not only prevent the dog tags from making "clanging sounds," but make them subdued in appearance too.

Submitted by: Sp4 Gregory A. Barker

DOG TAG SILENCERS



THE NATIONAL BESTSELLER

ABOUT FACE

THE ODYSSEY OF AN AMERICAN WARRIOR

COLONEL DAVID H. HACKWORTH

AND JULIE SHERMAN

REBORN AS A VETERAN OF WAR, THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF 'HONORABLE PROUD' AND 'THE HONORABLE PROUD'.



Sign up for Hackworth's FREE EMAIL DEFENDING AMERICA NEWSLETTER

It's your duty, in your voice with no restraint and hopefully will help blow away the Perfumed Princes who are screwing over a once great military force.

Contact Melissa at
Admin@hackworth.com
Or phone 203 628 0288
To find out more information.

BOOK SPECIAL
Hack's books
ABOUT FACE
AND THE VIETNAM PRIMER
HAZARDOUS DUTY

Would make a great addition to any library. We are offering all three books, to include domestic postage. If you want to buy these books separately, you would pay \$88.00. Send your check made payable to Tim Engles Inc., Two Engles Inc, P.O. Box 8210, Greenwich, CT 06831

Some is hardback, which are now out of print and will be autographed by Hack.

VIETNAM PRIMER
LESSONS LEARNED

PLEASE NOTE: This book is available in paperback only. The hardcover edition is out of print. If you are interested in the hardcover edition, please contact the publisher. The paperback edition is available for \$14.95. The hardcover edition is available for \$24.95. The paperback edition is available for \$14.95. The hardcover edition is available for \$24.95.

TIPS FROM AN LT.

Submitted By: 1LT Karl L. Mims

Dear Ranger Rick,

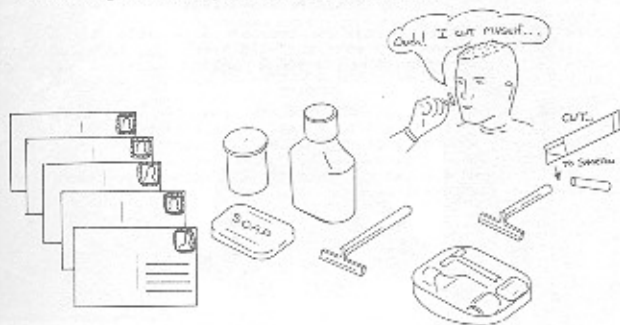
I thoroughly enjoy all your Ranger Digest handbooks. They not only teach soldiers a lot of useful field tips, tricks, and ideas, but they also allow them to share some of their own techniques and experiences too. So here's a few of my own...

1. Before going on a long deployment purchase a package of pre-stamped "blank" postcards from your local post office. They'll not only be easier to pack and carry in your rucksack and or deployment bag, but they're much easier to write home on and mail from the field.

2. When possible, try to acquire as many mini bars of soap and shampoo bottles as possible. You know the type, the kind found in almost all the hotel and motel bathrooms? Then store and carry them in your personal field hygiene kit that's kept in your rucksack. They'll be lighter to carry than a 3 x month bar of soap and or a bottle of shampoo.

Ranger Rick's Comments: Another way you can lighten the load is by cutting the bar of soap in half or less and carrying your liquid shampoo in one or more empty 35mm film containers.

And if you're one of those that like to shave in the field with disposable razors. Try cutting the plastic handles down to size so you can fit several inside your plastic soap dish container along with the cut-down bar of soap and 35mm shampoo container. Talk about compact and light, this'll do the job.



68

AN ANTENNA SET-UP TIP

Submitted By: PFC Christopher Watson, USAR

Dear Ranger Rick,

Something I picked up from one of my instructors at 38A AIT, was how to quickly and correctly set up an antenna. It's not as easy as you may think even for a highly trained individual, as it must be set up in a certain sequence. But thanks to the Army's infinite wisdom, there's no easy way to determine which piece or section goes where, especially when some of them look the same.

So the next time you go to the field and set up one of those OE292, OE-254, etc, antennas. Before pulling it apart and packing it away, wrap some 100 mph tape around all the ends of the pieces and number them in the sequence they need to be assembled with a permanent marker. Start at the bottom, (the base of the antenna), and work your way up.

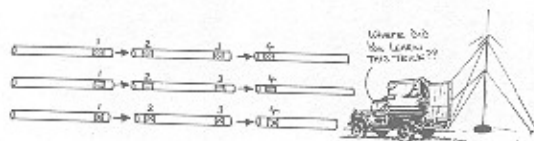
So the next time you or someone else has to set up the antenna, all you have to do is follow the numbers in sequence. It will not only be a whole lot easier, but a lot faster to set up too.

Also, when ever you take down an antenna, be sure to carefully wrap up the tie-down and wires before packing it away. I can't tell you how many times some of us have been pissed off because some lazy a.o.b. before us didn't take the time to untie all the knots and carefully wrap the wires before packing it.

Ranger Rick's Comments: Another technique and trick that I've heard works pretty well is to color code the ends of the pieces.

The Army has about 6 different types of colored marking tape; red, yellow, green, blue, white, and black. You can either mark the ends of the pieces, red-to-red, blue-to-blue, etc. Or mark a particular section of the antenna all the same color and then number them; blue-1, blue-2, blue-3, etc.

NOTE: Never use black tape because it's difficult to see what color it is at night with a red filter flashlight. And use only a medium or fine point alcohol pen rather than a thick magic marker, it'll be a lot easier to see and read the numbers on the tape.



69

CANTEEN WATER HEATER

Yours truly, "ol'Mogyver" has done it again. I came up with another handy-dandy idea, I call it a CANTEEN WATER HEATER.

Now I wonder who's gonna steal this idea and send it to the Department of the Army or to an Army publication and claim it was their idea. Or market and make a profit from it. To name only a few of my ideas that have been stolen from my Ranger Digests...

A. My poncho liner with a zipper - a company that makes and sells 'em calls it a "D---- Liner".

B. My disposable MRE shit box - the Army Times published it in one of their editions back in 1995 and someone else took credit for it. Even though it was published in my Ranger Digest V "years before" they printed it.

C. My disposable MRE water container - as you can see from the previous page, some captain wrote an article to a military magazine claiming it was his idea. Again, even though it was published in my Ranger Digest V years before he got wind of it.

D. My BDU patrol hat with a hidden interior pocket - a company that makes and sells 'em calls it a "M-- P----- BDU Cap."

These were only a few of my ideas that were stolen and taken out of my Ranger Digests. Should I be mad and sad because someone stole 'em? Well, I don't mind anyone using my ideas, nor profiting from them. Provided; (a) they ask my permission to use them, or (b) they mention the source as to where they got the idea(s). And that's all I ask, "give credit where credit is due."

So now, before publishing any of my tips, tricks, & ideas in future Ranger Digests, I forward the best ones to BRIGADE QUARTERMASTER to review. And if they like any of them, I give them permission to use 'em. But as to this day, I have never, ever, profited from any tips, tricks, and/or ideas that my readers have sent to me, NEVER! Nor will I ever take credit or money for an idea that wasn't mine.

Fear not my fellow readers, honesty and integrity are my strongest trademarks, and I challenge anyone, ANYONE to prove differently.

OK, enough BS'ing around, now about my canteen water heater. What you'll need is an "aluminum cigar container," which is what special and expensive cigars come in. A tube of "clear silicone" and preferably an "NBC" canteen cap. But if an NBC cap ain't available, you can get away with using a regular ol' canteen cap instead. Though an NBC canteen cap would be much better to use because it's more durable, etc, here's what ya gotta do to it....

(a) After removing the "inner guts" of an NBC cap, get yourself a drill bit about the same size as the cigar container and drill a hole right through the center of the cap. If you can't find one, no problem, just grab a "round" file and file it out until you can slide inside the cigar container.

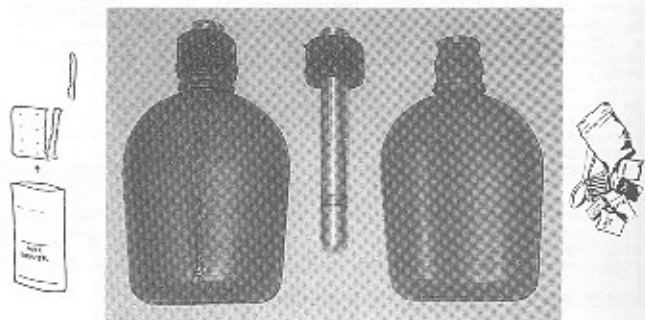
(b) Grab the tube of silicone and seal the cigar container in place inside the cap. BUT! Only squeeze out enough to hold it securely in place. Not too little and definitely not too much, or you won't be able to screw the cap back onto the canteen.

Now all ya gotta do is fill the canteen with water, screw on this water heater, place inside some fuel, and wait for it to heat up.

If you notice, I didn't say anything about "igniting the fuel." Because though I recommend that you only use the flameless fuel from the MRE "food heating packets." As an alternative, you can also use some "crushed" heat tabs or b-b-q charcoal fuel too.

If you do use one of these fuels, to avoid burning and damaging the plastic, the canteen should be completely full of water up to the rim "after inserting in" this water heater. And then place and burn only a "small amount" of fuel at a time. (Ya gotta experiment)

In a military tactical environment where fires are not permitted, the fuel from an MRE food heating packet is the best to use. Why? Because it doesn't give off any smoke or flame. Which means you can use this handy-dandy canteen water heater at a clandestine (ambush, recon, etc) site to make coffee, soup, or hot chocolate without compromising your position. Is this neat or what? Huh?





OK, OK, OK, I know what I said in my last Ranger Digest (VII). But after receiving some nasty letters on how much \$\$\$\$\$ some of you lost during Wall Street's September/October 1998 stock market correction. Well...

As I stated in my previous Ranger Digests, I'm NOT a financial advisor. And past performances of any stock or mutual fund does not guarantee the same future results year-after-year.

But if you're in it for the long haul, I guarantee you're gonna make a lot more money investing in stocks and mutual funds than in CDs, saving bonds, and treasury bills. But if you're in it for the short haul and you're trying to make a fast killing (\$\$\$\$\$). Well, I suggest you try playing the slot machines instead. Or...

If you don't like my investment tips, then do your own research;

INVESTMENT MAGAZINES	INVESTMENT SITES
MONEY	WWW.CNNFN.COM
WORTH	WWW.BRILL.COM
KIPLINGER	WWW.HOOVERS.COM
INDIVIDUAL INVESTOR	WWW.FUNDALARM.COM

I hope most of you didn't panic and cash out of the stock market back in September and October 98. Because if you did, you probably did lose a whole lot of \$\$\$\$\$, right? I'll betcha did.

But if you held on and didn't cash out like everyone else, by December '98 you should have fully recovered all your losses, plus a little bit more. What drove the stock market down? Besides some negative news about both, the US and global economies, PANIC & GREED!

Am I invested in the same mutual funds that I recommend to all my readers? You betcha! Did I lose any money when the stock market took a dive in September/October 98? You betcha! Did I remain in the stock market and recover all my losses? You betcha! Am I still fully invested in either stocks or mutual funds? You betcha!

LESSONS LEARNED? If you own a good mutual fund that's had five years or more of excellent performance. Relax, sit back, and just ride out these dips & corrections. Because when the market does drop, you panic, and pull out...you're only gonna miss the train ride back to "profit land," and I guarantee you will too.

Here's an updated list of the best mutual funds to be invested in:

8 YEAR RETURNS (1990-98) As of Dec. 31, 98

Fund (Symbol)	CATEGORY	% ANNUALIZED GAIN SINCE Aug. 1, 1992	VALUE OF \$1,000 INVESTED*
1. Fidelity Select Home Finance (FSHLX)	SF	32.1%	\$2,370
2. Fidelity Select Biotech (FSBIX)	ST	27.6%	7,080
3. Fidelity Select Computers (FSCPX)	SI	27.7	7,450
4. Fidelity Select Regional Banks (FRBAX)	SR	28.0	7,100
5. Hancock Regional Bank B (HRAK)	SR	27.7	6,254
6. Invesco Intl. Financial Svcs. (IFINX)	SI	26.2	6,871
7. Fidelity Select Software & Comp. (FSCSX)	SI	25.5	6,272
8. Fidelity Select Biotech & Inv. (FSBIX)	ST	25.5	6,927
9. PaineWebber Fin. Svcs. Gro. A (PWFAO)	SF	24.7	6,537
10. Fidelity Select Financial Svcs. (FINSX)	SF	24.0	6,996
11. Seligman Comm. & Inv. A (SUNCK)	SI	24.5	6,950
12. Fidelity Select Health Care (FHECX)	SH	24.5	6,927
13. Spectra (SPECT)	LG	24.2	6,825
14. Alliance Technology A (ALTRX)	ST	24.2	6,280
15. Invesco Intl. Technology (ITIOX)	SI	23.9	6,179
16. Fidelity Select Technology (FSTOX)	SI	23.9	6,185
17. Oppenheimer Intl. St. Inv. & Gro. A (OISAX)	LI	23.5	6,274
18. M&B International Growth (M&BIX)	SI	23.2	6,302
19. Amer. Cent-20th Cent. Ultra (TWCUX)	LG	23.0	6,301
20. F. Royal Price Selects & Tech (FRPST)	SI	22.7	6,475
21. AIM Aggressive Growth (AAGRX)	SG	22.6	6,070
22. Vanguard Spec. Health Care (VSPHX)	SH	22.6	6,099
23. CGM Capital Development (LWDCX)	MS	22.6	5,992
24. FPA Capital (FPCPX)	MS	22.6	5,983

16 YEAR RETURNS (1982-98) As of Dec. 31, 98

Fund (Symbol)	CATEGORY	% ANNUALIZED GAIN SINCE Aug. 1, 1982	VALUE OF \$1,000 INVESTED*
1. Fidelity Select Health Care (FHECX)	SH	38.5%	\$2,975
2. Spectra (SPECT)	LG	32.7	25,067
3. Fidelity Select Financial Svcs. (FINSX)	SF	22.6	23,614
4. Fidelity Magellan (FMAGX)	LI	22.4	24,045
5. CGM Capital Development (LWDCX)	MS	22.4	24,380
6. Fidelity Divers Int'l (FDIVX)	LI	22.1	24,740
7. Davis NY Venture A (DNYVX)	LV	21.4	23,688
8. Alliance Technology A (ALTRX)	ST	21.4	22,640
9. Amer. Cent-20th Cent. Ultra (TWCUX)	LG	21.3	22,181
10. Sequoia (SECOX)	LI	21.3	21,830
11. Guardian Park Avenue A (GPAAO)	LI	21.2	21,334
12. Federated Capital App. A (FCAOX)	LI	21.1	20,887
13. AIM Consolidation A (CSIOX)	MG	20.9	20,688
14. Fidelity Contrafund (FCNTX)	LI	20.7	19,965
15. Putnam Voyager A (PVVAX)	MG	20.6	19,721
16. IDS New Dimensions A (NSDX)	LI	20.6	19,429
17. AIM Wellington A (AWELX)	LI	20.1	16,375
18. United Income A (UNICX)	LI	20.0	16,248
19. SIFE Trust A-I (SIFCX)	LI	20.0	19,109
20. Enterprise Growth A (ENGRX)	LI	20.0	17,427
21. FPA Capital (FPCPX)	MS	19.8	17,228
22. Century Shares (CENIX)	LI	19.7	16,394
23. Washington Mutual Investors (WMSIX)	LI	19.6	17,191
24. Selected American (SALAX)	LI	19.5	17,620

STRUGGLING???

Troops struggling financially

Survey: More than half have money troubles

The survey looked at three basic issues—how often young servicemembers have financial problems; various factors that may or may not be related to experiencing those problems; and what kind of help, if available, they actually get.

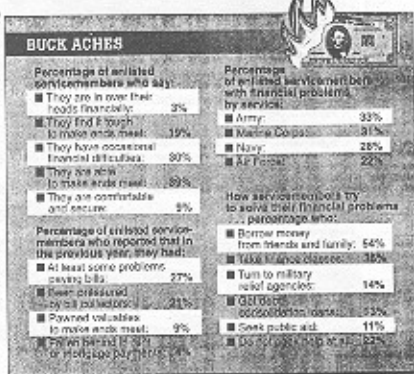
■ About 27 percent of enlisted troops have trouble paying their bills. A similar survey of civilians found that only a percent reported such problems, although an analysis noted that the civilian data, from a survey done in 1991, might be outdated.

■ Twenty-one percent had been pressured by bill collectors in the past year, while 9 percent had ignored or told collectors to help make ends meet.

■ Soldiers and Marines are more likely to have financial problems than their counterparts in the Navy and Air Force. Fifty-one-third of Army troops and 31 percent of Marine reported such problems, compared to 26 percent in the Navy and 22 percent in the Air Force.

■ Enlisted troops with children seem to have a much higher rate of financial problems than those without kids—36 percent vs. 27 percent. Troops with children are also 20 times more likely to have gotten an emergency assistance loan or a loan from a military relief agency.

■ More than half of enlisted troops deal with their financial problems simply by borrowing money from friends and family. Thirty-five percent sign up for financial



management classes, one fourth seek help from military relief agencies or public aid. Twenty-one percent get no help, mostly because they're ashamed to admit the problem or afraid that reporting it will hurt their careers.

■ It's important that leaders create an environment that is supportive of members who seek help," analysts said.

■ They said several factors contribute to the relatively high rate of financial problems among young enlisted troops. They become more independent from their parents at a younger age, and get married and

have children at younger ages than their civilian peers. In many cases, spouses work part-time or not at all.

■ Servicemembers also lack up various resources, especially that civilians don't have and, since they have limited options for choosing where they move, may wind up in high-cost areas that worsen their financial problems, analysts said.

■ On a more positive note, analysts found that the stepped-up operational pace of the 1990s, with its frequent moves and deployments, don't seem to have much of an effect on troops' financial situation.

Ranger Rick's Comments: What the survey failed to reveal was how young service members get themselves into financial trouble. How? Paying off expensive monthly...

Car Loans Credit Card Bills Charge Accounts Car Insurance

Or they spend too much money on...

Impulse Buying Eating out Boozing Gambling Partying

Whose fault is it? Well, if you can't control your own \$\$\$\$, and spend it wisely on only what ya need, then there's no one else to blame but yourself. And the sooner you take control of your \$\$\$\$, the sooner you're gonna be (and stay) out of financial trouble.

PRODUCING WATER FROM EMPTY TRASH BAGS

As I mentioned in previous Ranger Digests, you should always pack and carry a few trash bags in your rucksack and/or on your Iba, as they will always come in handy for something out in the field. And one such use, is for producing water in an emergency "life & death" survival situation.

These techniques are nothing new, in fact, almost every military and civilian survival manual shows you how to make 'em. But what they fail to tell ya, is how much water they can produce in a day, which depends entirely on the type of terrain, climate, temperature, and the sun's ultraviolet rays.

Now if you only have "one" trash bag, you can only use it for "one" water producing method. But if you got "two" trash bags, you can use 'em for "two" water producing methods. "Three" trash bags, "three" water producing methods, etc.

The bottom line... the more trash bags you use, the more drinking water you can produce. Duh! Makes sense, don't ya think? If so, then how come all these high-speed survival handbooks don't teach ya this? Huh?

NOTE: An excellent place to store trash bags, is inside your canteen covers.



SOME FIELD TOYS I KNOW YOU'LL LIKE

As you know from my previous Ranger Digests, I like to go through mail order catalogs searching for unusual products that I think will help soldiers in the field. Well, this time I found me a whole bunch of neat little goodies. Check out this stuff.

FOLDING GRAPPLING HOOK

Now when I was back in the Army, the only grappling hooks that I ever saw, was during MOUT training. And the only units that had grappling hooks, were engineer units. So if we ever needed one, we had to beg or borrow from the engineers. Now, if they would have had these folding grappling on the market when I was in the Army, I would have bought one or two of them for my platoon. It's better to be prepared than unprepared. \$25.00 Order From: TAPCO, P.O. Box 2408 Dept. C83 Kennesaw, GA 30144



Specially Designed Folding Grappling Hook

800 lbs. Rated
Specially designed grappling hook folds down for compact and easy carrying. With a few twists, the 4 carbon steel shanks can be locked into position securing a work asset. Best yet, it is rated to over 800 pounds and serves well 25 ft. or longer loaded rope rig.

SODA CAN LAUNCHERS



AR15
SODA CAN
LAUNCHER
(AR15)

AK47
SODA CAN LAUNCHER
(AK47)

M4
SODA CAN LAUNCHER
(M4)

M16
SODA CAN LAUNCHER
(M16)

SODA CAN LAUNCHERS Made of heavy gauge steel, they stand up to the toughest use. They are designed to launch a full can of soda over a hundred yards away with just a single blank cartridge. Just think of all the fun you could have with this baby on your next FTX. Instead of launch-launching soda cans, try bear cans. Or better yet, remove the top of the can and place inside of it a grenade simulator. \$80.00 Order From: TAPCO, P.O. Box 2408 Dept. C83, Kennesaw, GA. 30144

SODA CAN LAUNCHER

When I saw this little device, I said to myself, "Heeey, this would make a nice field toy." An M16/AR15 soda can launcher that propels a full can of soda over a hundred yards away with just a single blank cartridge. Just think of all the fun you could have with this baby on your next FTX. Instead of launch-launching soda cans, try bear cans. Or better yet, remove the top of the can and place inside of it a grenade simulator. \$80.00 Order From: TAPCO, P.O. Box 2408 Dept. C83, Kennesaw, GA. 30144

WARNING - CAUTION - DANGER
Soda & bear cans when used in this device can be just as harmful and deadly as a bullet. Use extreme care and caution when using this device.

BRIGHT EYES REFLECTIVE TACKS

Here's a nifty little item that will help make your tactical night operations run a bit smoother, a bag of glowing tacks. Whether you gotta lead a column of troops through the dark woods, or you just want to mark off where your unit boundaries or fighting positions are located. Just take a handful of these glow tacks and stick 'em in the trees, bushes, or on the ground. You can even stick 'em in the heels of your boots, a lot easier to see at night than cat-eyes. No one in your unit will have any problems seeing them, can be seen as far as 100 m away. Only \$3.50 per box of 50. Order from: TAPCO, PO Box 2408 Dept. C83, Kennesaw, GA 30144.



BANG MECH TRICK SET

Stay Alert - Stay Alive. What a way to train your troops in teaching them to be careful in what they touch and or pick up out in the field. Better to learn by the sound of bang than the feel of lead, you know what I mean? Just load the bang mech with a loaded cap, set the spring, place a little weight on top of it and wait for a victim. \$5.99 a set (2). Loaded caps must be ordered separately, 95 caps for \$1.25 Order from: TAPCO, P.O. Box 2408 Dept C83, Kennesaw, GA 30144

BANG MECH TRICK SET The Bang Mech Trick Set is a fun and useful training device. It is made of plastic and is easy to use. It is a great way to teach your troops to be careful in what they touch and or pick up out in the field. Better to learn by the sound of bang than the feel of lead, you know what I mean? Just load the bang mech with a loaded cap, set the spring, place a little weight on top of it and wait for a victim. \$5.99 a set (2). Loaded caps must be ordered separately, 95 caps for \$1.25 Order from: TAPCO, P.O. Box 2408 Dept C83, Kennesaw, GA 30144



"WHAT THE FUC..."

SOLAR FLASHLIGHT

Never again carry extra batts to the field, this multi-purpose solar power flashlight also recharges your batts too, (but only 2 X AA's at a time). Only \$19.95 Order from: Major Surplus & Survival, 435 West Alondra Blvd, Gardena, CA 90248

SOLAR FLASHLIGHT

The Multi-purpose flashlight is rechargeable and can power up to 2 X AA's at a time. It is a great way to teach your troops to be careful in what they touch and or pick up out in the field. Better to learn by the sound of bang than the feel of lead, you know what I mean? Just load the bang mech with a loaded cap, set the spring, place a little weight on top of it and wait for a victim. \$5.99 a set (2). Loaded caps must be ordered separately, 95 caps for \$1.25 Order from: TAPCO, P.O. Box 2408 Dept C83, Kennesaw, GA 30144

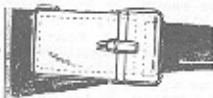


BACK-UP EMERGENCY MAGS ("Oh Shit Mags")

I was looking through a military supply catalog the other day and saw something called a M16 Magazine Stock Pouch. (See below.)

M-16 MAGAZINE STOCK POUCH

Convenient accessory pouch straps on the buttstock to keep spare mag at hand. Fully adjustable with coating being toward the weapon for easy access. Pouchized with Capless Spring-Loaded "sliders". Fits single M-16 30 round magazine. Stock. Made in USA. [EOD/1499]



Used by American Troops in Bosnia!

M-16 Magazine Stock Pouch \$18.99

But it's really nothing new. In fact, during the Korean War many of the troops who were issued M1 carbines use to carry extra magazine clips in a pouch worn around the wooden buttstock of the weapon.

Now according to some old timers, these magazines were not suppose to be used unless they were almost out of ammo. And when they got that low and had to use their reserve magazines, you can hat they said, "OH SHIT!"

Now this M16 magazine stock pouch they're selling on the market, I wouldn't even think of buying and attaching one to my weapon. Why? I'd be afraid of either getting it caught on the weapon's charging handle or on some tree branches, bushes, or wait-a-minute vines.

But instead of buying one of these high-speed magazine stock pouches, why don't ya just attach the magazine itself to the stock. How? With a couple of thick rubber bands made from a cut-up "mountain bike" inner tube. (NOTE: Mountain bike tire inner tube, NOT a regular bicycle tire inner tube, you're gonna need something a bit more thicker and stretchable for this tip.)

These rubber bands will not only hold the magazine more securely to the weapon, but reduce the sound the magazine will make should it accidentally come in contact with something solid, like a tree.

IMPORTANT: When mounting the spare magazine to your weapon, mount it on the side of the butt stock nearest to your stomach. Then stretch the bands over the entire "top and bottom" portion of the magazine so they'll keep out foreign matter and reduce the chances of getting it caught and snagged on things.

RANGER BAND USES

Hey guys and gals, check out the many uses of "Ranger Bands." Did my imagination go wild or what? And if you got a better idea in what you can use 'em for, then com'on and send 'em on into me and I'll publish it in my next Ranger Digest handbook. Hooah!



You can use Ranger Bands for;

- 1) Attaching extra magazines to the butt stock of a weapon.
- 2) As shock absorbers for rifle scopes, (on the ends).
- 3) Better grip and hold of the pistol grip.
- 4) Attaching magazines together side-by-side.
- 5) Grasping & holding firmly a weapon forearm stock.
- 6) Grasping & holding firmly a weapon forearm pistol grip.
- 7) Attaching mag-lites to the forearm of a rifle.
- 8) Waterproofing a radio handset "mouth & ear" piece.
- 9) Silencing the moveable parts of a canteen cup.
- 10) Added protection for binos, making 'em more shock resistant.
- 11) Attaching 35mm plastic "survival containers" to knife sheaths.
- 12) Added protection for cellular phones, cassettes, handheld GPSs, and two-way radios to prevent them from getting damaged.
- 13) For grasping pistols more firmly, (especially when their wet).
- 14) As shock absorbers for compasses, (wrapped around the sides).
- 15) As mag-lite "mouth-holders," (wrapped around the bottom).
- 16) As dog tag silencers.
- 17) For grasping and holding firmly e-tools, tools, & knives.

YEP, ANOTHER RANGER BAND USE

Oh mama, mama, mama. Am I on the roll or what when it comes to Ranger Band uses? Check this @&& out...



I discovered this technique by accident when I went to a ski resort here in Italy and slipped and fell on some ice while wearing my ol' military combat boots. So I had a couple of these Ranger Bands in my pocket (because I use 'em to attach my skis together) and slid them over the bottom of my boots. And guess what? Yep, they worked, I didn't slip or fall on my ass anymore.

But, but, but, be advised this technique is good only for short walking distances on "solid ice" and or "snow & ice." Because if you wear 'em over your boots on a hardball or dirt road where there's some "exposed" rocks or small pebbles. They'll create holes in the (rubber) Ranger Bands and cause 'em to split & rip apart. So if you use this technique, use 'em only for short walking distances, and when you get off the ice - take 'em off. Hoah!

THE TOP TEN...

...THINGS THAT SOUND DIRTY IN GOLF, BUT AREN'T.

- # 10 - "Nuts...my shaft is bent."
- # 9 - "After 18 holes, I can barely walk."
- # 8 - "Wow, you really wacked the hell out of that sucker."
- # 7 - "Mmm-mmm, look at the size of his putter."
- # 6 - "Just keep your head down and spread your legs."
- # 5 - "Mind if I join you in a threesome?"
- # 4 - "Stand with your back turned up and drop it."
- # 3 - "My hands are so sweaty I can't get a good grip of it."
- # 2 - "Nice stroke, you must have been practicing."
- # 1 - "Hold up...I need to wash my balls first."

...THINGS THAT SOUND DIRTY IN LAW, BUT AREN'T

- # 10 - "Have you looked through her briefs yet?"
- # 9 - "He's one hard judge."
- # 8 - "Counselor, let's do it in the chambers."
- # 7 - "Her attorney withdrew at the last minute."
- # 6 - "Is it a penal offense?"
- # 5 - "Better leave the handcuffs on."
- # 4 - "For \$200 an hour, she had better be good!"
- # 3 - "Can you get him to drop his suit?"
- # 2 - "The judge gave her the stiffest one he could."
- # 1 - "Think you can get me off?"

...THINGS THAT SOUND DIRTY AT THE OFFICE, BUT AREN'T

- # 10 - "I need to whip it out by 5."
- # 9 - "Mind if I use your laptop?"
- # 8 - "Just stick it in my box."
- # 7 - "If I have to lick one more...I'll gag!"
- # 6 - "I want it on my desk...NOW!"
- # 5 - "Mmmmmmm...I think it's out of fluid!"
- # 4 - "My equipment is so old, it takes forever to finish."
- # 3 - "It's an entry-level position."
- # 2 - "When do you think you'll be getting off today?"
- # 1 - "It's not fair...I do all the work while he just sits there."

FIGHTING POSITION OVERHEAD COVER

When I first saw one of those new Fighting Position Overhead Covers (FPOC) in Soldier Magazine. The first thing I said to myself was, "Hey, great, more f----- shit for the light infantry to carry, like they ain't got enough stuff already."

OK, yes, big f----- deal. So what if this FPOC reduces or eliminates a soldier's dependency on indigenous material such as logs, plywood, sheets of plastic, etc. And who cares if it can withstand air bursts from a 155mm artillery round and even a direct hit from an 81mm mortar. Do you really believe it's worth carrying to the field and into combat?

I can see it all now....

Soldiers in formation at attention with their rucks on their backs, a weapon in their right hand and their FPOC in the other.

Or a platoon of soldiers moving tactically through the woods with their weapons in one hand and their FPOC in the other. When all of a sudden a burst of enemy fire opens up. "Quick, what are ya gonna do now soldier? Drop it and run, or get behind it?"

Knowing some, they'll probably try to assault through the damn enemy position carrying their FPOC in front of them. Hey, why not? If it can withstand a direct hit from an 81mm mortar, I guess it can withstand a direct hit from a 7.65mm and even an RPG, Right?

I wonder what's going to happen to a soldier that loses one.

Private: "Sergeant, I can't find my FPOC. I could have sworn I laid it down over there, but now it's gone and I've looked everywhere for it. What am I gonna do, sergeant?"

Sergeant: "Now calm down, soldier, relax, take it easy, I don't think we're gonna get hit with any artillery or mortars today. Maybe tomorrow, but not today. In the mean time, we'll get you a brand new one just as soon as you sign this here statement of charges."

I don't know, maybe it's just me. But I believe if you can't carry it in your rucksack or attached to your lbe. Well, it's just another worthless piece of shit that you don't need. I don't think FPOC stands for Fighting Position Overhead Cover, but rather another "F----- Piece Of Crap" that the Army dumped on the light infantryman. Ya know what I mean?



When deployed (above) the FPOC can withstand a direct hit from an 81mm mortar round. Folded (right), the device is about the size of a large suitcase.



BUNGY QUICK RELEASE

Submitted By Chris Ayers

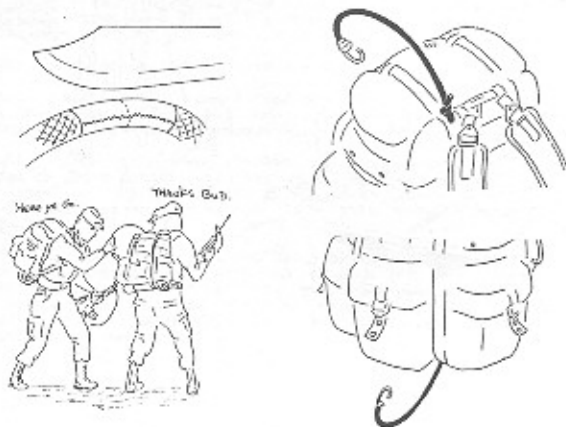
Some bungee cord attached to the outside portion of a rucksack can come in pretty handy for attaching all sorts of things, like jackets, poncho liners, aiming stakes, foam mattresses, etc.

Instead of stopping to open up a rucksack to place something inside, you only have to lift up on the bungee cord and slide it underneath to hold it in place. Hell, even your buddy can attach something to your rucksack while you're still on the move.

There's several ways you can attach a bungee cord to a rucksack. Either by wrapping it around the aluminum part of the frame, or by cutting the bungee cord in half and permanently tying it to the top or bottom portion of the frame.

But before cutting a bungee cord in half, wrap some 100 mph tape around the cord where you intend to cut it. This will prevent the outside material (that's wrapped around the rubber cord) from unraveling. Then burn and melt both the ends where the tape is wrapped to prevent it from further unraveling.

NOTE: Never remove the 100 mph tape from the bungee cord, or the material that's wrapped around the rubber cord could unexpectedly unravel, leave it in place.



86

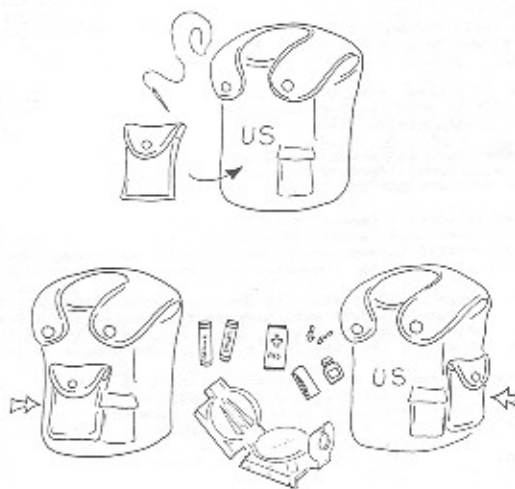
FIRST AID POUCH TIP OR TRICK

Submitted By: PFC Ben Donaldson

Don't have enough pockets to store all your nice-to-have little goodies? Then buy yourself a couple of extra first aid/compass pouches and sew 'em to the side of your canteen covers.

What can ya store in 'em? Extra s--- like first aid dressings, water purification tabs, camouflage sticks, ear plugs, compact emergency space blanket, and whatever else you can think of to carry in 'em.

NOTE: When attaching the first aid/compass pouch to the side of a canteen cover, DO NOT sew it in place along the edges. This will cause the pouch to become too flat, tight, and flush against the canteen cover and you'll lose a lot of the storage space. Instead, sew it in place along the back side where the belt clip is located.



87

A URINAL DIRECTOR FOR FEMALE SOLDIERS

Submitted By: Friedrich W. Bickelen

When one of my readers sent me this tip, I was laughing my ass off and said to myself, "Get the f--- outta here." But after I stopped laughing and read his letter a second time, I said, "Yes, well, ok, maybe he's got a point there."

Points to ponder? How many times have you seen a female soldier squatting in the woods to take a piss? Your answer had better be none, unless of course, you're a female soldier yourself. Unlike us male soldiers, they need a bit more privacy to urinate, you know?

Female soldiers can't just go around a tree or behind a vehicle to take a leak, not without exposing their buns to everyone within eyeball range. So they have no other choice but to go for a long walk away from the rest of us.

If you're assigned to an intergrated/co-ed unit, how many times has your CO or ISG stopped the conveyer so everyone could get out to take a leak? And who were the last ones to come running out of the woods to get back on the vehicles? I'll bet it wasn't a male soldier.

Unless, of course, your ISG erected a special latrine just for the females. You know the type I'm talking about, the kind you set up between two trucks or vehicles with a couple of ponchos.

Well, there's a device on the market today called a "Freshette," or what's also known as a "Female Urinary Director" that makes pissing in the woods for female soldiers a bit more comfortable.

How does it work? A female soldier only has to open her BDU trousers just wide enough to squeeze inside the "trough" and she releases herself through an "extension tube" that hangs outside of her pants like a penis. Convenient for everyone? Well, almost...

If more female soldiers start to use these freshettes out in the field, I'm sure the guys will instead start to go for a long walk in the woods just to take a leak. After all, we'll have a lot more to show and expose than the females will. (Our ding-a-lings!)

This urinary director will not only protect a female's genital areas against unsanitary conditions, such as dirty restrooms and latrines. But it will make it easier for them to urinate in bad weather (rain, wind, & snow) and unsuitable "squatting" terrain.

The cost? Only \$20. Available from: Campor Inc., P.O. Box 700, Saddle River, NJ 07459

Freshette... the Feminine Urinary Director[®]

for females of all ages

Protects against....

- unsanitary restrooms
- wind, rain & snow
- insects
- thorns
- poison oak & ivy
- uneven terrain

Eliminates....

- lab specimen problems
- wheel chair transfer when using restroom

Trough



extension tube



DIRECTIONS: STAND facing the toilet or with your back to the wind. Pull the extension tube outward from the spout until it locks. With your feet apart, move clothing aside enough to place the opening of the trough snugly against your body and proceed.

Minimal undressing... Nothing to wear, empty or replace.

Complete with custom pouch.

Environmentally Sound, Palm-sized, Featherlight and Reusable.



* No Joke, This Product Really EXISTS.



WHAT TO DO WITH THOSE OLD BDUs

When your old BDUs are no longer serviceable due to wear, tear, and discoloring. Instead of trashing them, cut 'em up into long narrow strips and attach 'em to your Iba, rucksack, and kevlar helmet. They're just as good for camouflaging as cut up burlap bags and real foliage (leaves, weeds, etc). Check it out.



Bandits burned when bush said 'freeze'

Four would-be robbers were surprised when a drive-up bank outside a fast-food restaurant turned out to be a shotgun-wielding former Marine dressed out like a bandit.

Dallas Det. Earl Feagill, who had been blending into the strategy for 50 minutes, was staking out a Clemons drive-through window Tuesday night in Pembroke Pines, Fla., after a series of restaurant robberies in southern Broward County.

When the four — who were armed and wore masks — approached the back door, Feagill sprang up, raised his shotgun and ordered them to freeze.

"They were quite surprised," Feagill said. "The disguise was made of burlap attached with silence to a camouflage outfit. He used it in his Marine days and still hangs with it."

"Scottish gamekeepers used these suits to kill their game birds," Feagill said.

Jeans, 19, and three juveniles were charged with armed robbery and resisting arrest. An employee who was charged with armed robbery because she was an accomplice and opened the door for the bandits, police said.



Detective Earl Feagill shows off the disguise he wore when he foiled an armed robbery attempt Tuesday in Pembroke Pines, Fla.

TWO QUART SIDE-PACKS

Submitted By: Ssg. Steve Brittan

For those of you who are assigned to a mechanized infantry or wheeled vehicle unit, I'm sure you'll appreciate this next tip.

Are ya tired of getting in & out and sitting uncomfortably in your track or HMMWV because of that damn f----- butt pack keeps poking ya in your back?

Well, Ssg. Steve Brittan got fed up with it too, so he doesn't wear one anymore. Instead, he bought himself a two quart "canteen cover" and attached it to the side of his pistol belt and carries about the same amount of stuff he would normally carry in his butt pack.

For those of you who like to carry a bit more stuff, buy 2 x two quart canteen covers and attach them to the left and right side of your pistol belt. Not only will it be a lot more comfortable getting in & out and sitting in your track or vehicle, but carrying a rucksack on your back too. Smart idea, uh?



A FEW MINUTES WITH RICK

Ranger Rick's Commentary

Today's topic guys & gals, is on 2nd lieutenants. Hoohah!

Like many platoon sergeants, I've always hated to get a brand new "butter bar" straight outta school. Why? Well, not because they're young and inexperienced, but because we (PSGs) don't have time to baby sit and train 'em the way they should be trained.

Being a platoon sergeant ain't an easy job, ya know? In fact, it's more like being a father with forty-something kids, which is why your troopies call ya the "platoon daddy." And like a real father, you're responsible for their health, welfare, discipline, and training twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. (Waah!)

To become a platoon sergeant you gotta work your way up through the ranks from Pvt/E-1 to Sfc/E-7. Officers on the other hand, become (make-believe) "instant" platoon leaders once they've completed their officer training program and receive their commission. And although they may have completed the required education and training to become an officer, they are NOT yet (platoon) leaders.

Personally, I believe every officer should serve time as an enlisted before becoming an officer. And only after they have earned the rank of Sgt/E-5 and have proven they can lead soldiers, then (if they want) let 'em become officers.

By starting at the bottom they will not only learn to respect and care more for their men, but they'll have done everything that an enlisted soldier has done. From picking up cig butts, cleaning latrines, pulling guard duty, to learning how to become a leader.

Unless you've started at the bottom, you'll never know what it's like to be an enlisted, what it takes to be an NCO, and how to lead "real soldiers." Which is entirely different from leading a group of "classmates and buddies" in an officer training program.

Now let me tell ya about the best G-- damn platoon leader that I've ever had. His name was 2LT GREGORY HIBBERT and he came to my platoon ("C" Company, 1st Battalion 509th Airborne Battalion Combat Team) straight out of West Point in 1962.

Now to be honest with ya, I thought he was gonna be your typical clumsy, inexperienced, think-he-knows-all butter bar. But boy, was I ever wrong about him. He was an exceptional individual, a quick learner, and a fine leader. He wasn't assigned to the platoon a month before picking up the ball and running with it and doing everything an "experienced" platoon leader would know how to do.

Unfortunately, my battalion commander (Ltc. "Nuke" Needham) saw in him what I did. And about a year or so later, he snatched his ass from my platoon and assigned him to another company and platoon that had leadership problems.

92



I knew of another butter bar who's career ended after he failed to take control of a "leadership confrontation" between himself and his Platoon Sergeant. His unit was out in the field for about a month, hadn't slept in 36 hours, and his PSG disagreed with a tactical decision he made. And after unsuccessfully trying to persuade him to change his plans, the PSG lost his temper and screamed...

"G-- damn it, sir, get your f----- head out of your ass and listen to me! I know what the f--- I'm talking about, you don't! You're just some f----- dumbass cherry 2d lieutenant who thinks he..."

Well, this poor lieutenant didn't know what to do after his PSG degraded, embarrassed, and ridiculed him in front of the entire platoon. So he gave in and went with the platoon sergeant's plan.

When they returned to garrison, the lieutenant was too ashamed to report the incident to his company commander. And it wasn't long before gossip and rumors started to spread as to what his PSG did to him out in the field. Finally, his commander called him into his office to find out if all the gossip and rumors were true.

Embarrassed, he confessed the rumors were true. Unfortunately, because his name and reputation was already smeared and ruined in the unit, the commander had no choice but to reassign him, to the mess hall as the unit dining facility officer. And a few months later, he chose to resign his commission and get out of the Army.

What should this 2d LT had done? What an "experienced" leader (NCO or officer) would have done when challenged by a lower subordinate

a) Order the individual to "AT EASE," and if he failed to obey the order, stand firmly and wait until he has depleted his anger and..

b) Order the individual to "STAND AT ATTENTION" and verbally reprimand him in front of the same group of soldiers that he has challenged you in front of. And if he (again) fails to obey your order...

c) Immediately relieve him of his position, explain why he is being relieved, order him to the rear of the formation and report the incident to the ISG and company commander as soon as possible.

The moral of the story? It takes not only experience, but balls to be a good platoon leader. And if you ain't got a pair of balls, then you had better find some, because you're gonna need 'em in place of "leadership experience."

Til next time kiddies...

U.S. Army, Retired (E-7 1/2)

93



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Richard F. Tscherne (nickname "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 & Parachutist Wings, the Italian Army Parachutist Wings, and the German Army Weapons Qualification Badge.

Ranger Rick served more than 13 of 21 years overseas in Italy, Germany, and Korea. His vast experience includes 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 Bn. Assn. Operation Sergeant. He served in the following units:

1st Bn. 87th Inf. (Mech) Germany
1st Bn 508th ABCT (Abn) Italy
1st Bn 78th Inf. (Rangers) HAAAF

1st Bn 31st Inf. (Mech) Korea
3rd Bn 325th Inf. (Abn) Ft. Bragg
Drill Instr. A-4-3 Ft. Dix NJ

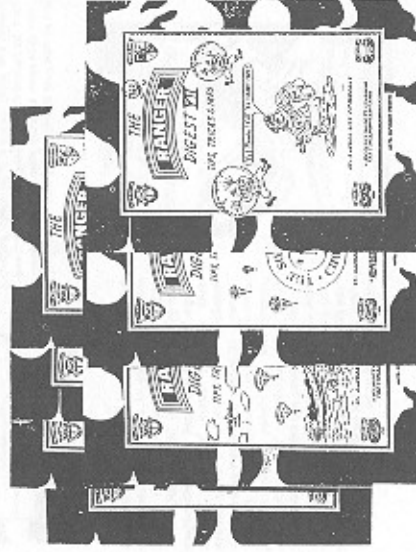
In September 1992, he was selected by DA for advancement to Master Sergeant E-8, but refused the promotion. And on January 1st, 1993 he chose to retire from active duty to live in Italy with his wife and two daughters. His (military) mailing address is:

Ranger Rick Tscherne
CMR # 427 BOX # 1775
APO, A. E. 09630
rangerbooks@hotmail.com

E-Mail:

RANGER RICK'S BOOKS

11 POPPY LANE, WEST GROVE, PA 19380
rangerbooks@hotmail.com
E-mail:
Fax: 1-610-868-4776



THE RANGER DIGESTS Volumes I - VII

A "top budget" series of handbooks loaded with tips, tricks, and ideas on how to live and thrive in a military outdoor environment through field expedient know-how. From how to take a dump in the woods, impress, modify, and improve military & civilian outdoor gear, commercial products to buy, combat survival techniques, restoring field boredom, leadership tips, military jokes, stories, and much more, including tips, tricks, and ideas from other Ranger Digest readers, foodies, survivalists, outdoorsmen, etc. These are NOT your typical boring military manuals, they contain the really important stuff that only experience can teach. Each book contains entirely different information. When ordering, please state which volume. **\$ 5.50 Each**

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED OR YOUR MONEY BACK!

WANTED: Distributors - contact us for your great wholesale prices.

Finally, a pre-printed operation order handbook just for elite leaders. Saves you 80% of the time it would normally take to successfully prepare. Contains mission statements and operation orders for ambushes, raids, recon, and movement-to-contact missions. Including annexes for a patrol base, vehicle movement, aerial and airborne operations, plus a mission and commo OPSKED checklist. Just cover the pages with a clear transparent tape and fill in the spaces that pertain only to your mission with an alcohol or water basin pen. Wipe clean when no longer needed. Fits easily inside a BDU cargo pocket. Used by Special Forces, Rangers, Airborne, and other elite units. Impress your men and superiors on that next military operation. **\$ 5.50 EA.**



Now you can easily maintain an accurate status and accountability of all your men and equipment in just one compact book, and carry it where ever you go. Fits nicely inside a BDU pocket cargo. Very well organized and covers subjects such as daily status reports, training schedules, a evaluation & counseling section, planning calendars, a personnel data & equipment status section, accident and medevac reports and procedures, supply requests, range cards, checklists, and much more. Contains everything you need to successfully lead, control, and maintain a 12 man squad. Just cover the pages with a clear transparent tape and fill in the blanks with an alcohol or water basin pen, wipe away clean for changes and updating. **\$ 5.50 EA.**

The title says it all, a pocket organizer designed for the average soldier. Provides easy access to important information that you would not normally carry on a deployment, and it fits nicely inside a BDU cargo pocket too. With enough pages for recording names, addresses, telephone numbers, appointments, military, family, car, home and financial information. Including a section on how to administer emergency first aid, food & caloric intake chart, a metric conversion table, and lots more. No soldier, enlisted, NCO, or officer should be without one of these organizers. And if you've married, you should own two, one for your wife and yourself. Keep your family and personal life organized at all times and you'll be well prepared for those unexpected emergencies and deployments. **\$ 5.50 EA.**



MILITARY
E\$ 430

RANGER DIGEST #8/BB
00000
7 59968 01747 5