

NOTE COPYRIGHT PENDING



FOREWORD



Here you go...another Ranger Digest Handbook, No# 5. Yea, I know this one took me a little more time to put together, but I finally got it out. And if this is your first copy, be advised there's still four other books you haven't seen yet, Ranger Digests I, II, III, and IV. All live books are entirely different from one another, I never repeat the same tip or trick twice unless someone has a much brigaier idea on how to do it better.

Ever since I first started putting together these handbooks way way back in 1986, I have never, ever received a single complaint from anyone about them. That is...not until this past summer (1994).

I received a letter from a very concerned Sergeant complaining about my style of writing. And according to this NCO, I'm (quote) "preaching the 'vils of the U.S.Army to the troops..." (Unquote). He also stated that he would never again buy or read another Ranger Digest ind ook. My immediate response back to him in a letter war..." It is oddy, that's your loss, NOT mine!"

Once again, I me reiterate to all you readers, leaders and soldiers out to the real purpose of these Ranger Digest Bandbooks. And that is to teach you how to improvise, modify, adapt, and sure the in a combat related outdoor field environment. And if some a Close tips and tricks have helped out and or your unit, then I has a cocomplished my mission in teaching my fellow soldiers how to be their job better.

To if you have the blem with this or accepting the way I teach it brough my style of writing, well tough shouth, "Tright POOP!" As lave ated begins in all my other handbooks, "I can't satisfy bryon and tran't even try." And if you don't like my books, and of it buy' and

ancourage eac of everyone of the to pass along as many of mae lips, to the and ideas as possible, not only to your fellow idler and by the but also to your unit leaders too.

sho d you will to drop me a line or two to let me know how my a firicks on helped you or your unit. Please, by all means, so. enjoy ag from the troops, so if you got the time, of you tips, which, comments or complaints to:

RANGER RICK'S BOOKS
C/o Ranger Rick
11 POPPY LANE
WEST GROVE, PA.19390
TEL/FAX:610-369-4778

ol, in it's about the for now, at least until next time. Remember, some one should sk where you learned those tips 5 tricks from, tips tell's boy Buddy Ranger Rick 7 ught Me!" Clae for now.

Your Ranger Buddy,

The The Tass



SPECIAL THANKS

As in all my Ranger Digest Handbooks, I always of credit where credit is due by dedicating a special page just to a. Because if you took the time to write, the least I could do it hank you by mentioning your name and forwarding you a free copy I the latest Ranger Digest Handbook. Right? But it seems to me like the list of contributors is getting shorter and shorter. And I don't really know if it's because your all running out of frech ips, tricks & ideas, or your all just too damn lazy to send the:

Anyway, congratulations to the following ${\rm Rac}_{\rm co}({\bf r})$ Digest λ contributors for a "Job Weil Done."

2LT JASON A.JUNKENS

SSG CRAIG MARTS

SGT RE S S. WEDDEL

SPC PETER KUKHARSKY

SPC CHRIS C.RUSH

CHEGY .M. BENDER
SPECIAL M. COMPTON

SPC W. PACER MILLER

SPC BRADELY NELSON RICHARD SEAULES

LUIS C LCORZI

SFA MIKE TIPTON
DAVID H. MELE

SSG DeHALD MUMM

MIKE LINER

And a very special thanks to my military cartoon and at in italy

STEFANG POZZER (POPY)

And to all you other Ranger Digest readers and contributors who may have sent me your favorite tip, trick or ideals and they were not accepted for this edition. Don't give up, keepeen sending them into me, because I can't keep the Ranger Digest at less alive and going without your help and support.





ATTENTION!! RANGES

VETERANS OF:

West War E. Korea, Vietnam, Southeast A. J., Dominican Republic, Lebauon, Grenada, Panama, Kuwait Persian Gulf

Join the

U.S. E my Ranger Association

If you have been marded the "Ranger Tab" or have earned the title "Ranger" he served in a renognized Ranger unit for the year or more, or have served in a langer type unit (LRRP, LRP, he he) and have been awarded the CIB or CMB you are eligible to join the litte, Proud, and Growing USARA.

You your member lip application packet

Sand your name and address directly to:

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Unit: States Army Ranger Association, c.
Post Office Box 669
Columbus, Georgia 31902-0669
Telephone (404) 576-6630

RSILL

LOYALTY

DARING

DEPENDABILITY



Every so often got asked, "Out of all your lips and thicks the are in your Road. Digest Handbooks, which one is our favorite?" Well, to be perf thy honest, It's kinda hard to arrow it down to just one, I mean really. But, if I was going t gl some important advice to a new recruit or soldier who just easy ed the Army, it would have to be a these particular topics & subjects.

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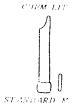
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RANGER DIGEST UPDATE...

I'm ashame to say that I have made a few "bo-bce" in my last two Ranger Digest Handbooks, thanks to a few readers and leaders in the "Complaint Dept" pointing this out to me...

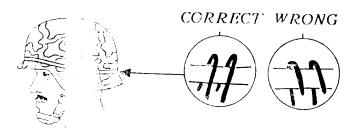
Ranger Digest III - Page 61 "Chem-Lite Tips": On this page, 1 showed how to make two chemlites out of one. This information was correct, but instead of taping and attaching it to the outside portion of your LBE strap. A reader pointed out that it should be partially taped up and placed on the "inside portion" of the LBE strap or just under the top flap of a rucksack pocket. Even though this will greatly reduce the glow, it can still be easily seen by those following from behind. Less chance of the onemy seeing it if a soldier she is happen to turn around accident liv.







Ranger Digest TT - Pages 54-55: "Coat Hanger Handset Attachment": These pages slow a radio handset being attached to a kevlar helmet band / a piece of coat hanger wire. The "hooks" on the bent coat hang ire should be facing "in" towards the kevlar cover, NOT and away as it shows. In alleching it in this manner, it will bow you to "hook and unbook" the wired handset attachment will n head instead of two.





EANGER DIGEST UPDATE: LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS

In almost everyone of my Ranger Digest handbooks (I, II, III, IV), I've always talked a little bit about life support systems. You know, portable radios & cassette recorders for the field...

Even though I'm retired from the Army, I still take my little life support system with me wherever I go. Whether I'm camping, hiking, biking, walking, picnicing or just laying around on the beach here in Italy. And living on a military retirement pay check here in Italy is not so easy, the price of batteries cost about double than what you would pay for them back in the USA or the PX.

Well, to help save money (for pizza and wine) and to get max use out of my life support system, I bought me two thinks - a Solar Energy Power Panel and a Solar Battery Charger (RD# 11 Page 59).

But that's not all, I also bought me one of those small, compact pocket size AC-DC Universal Power Adaptor & Convertors. So no matter where I am (US or Europe), I can plug in my radio-cassette into both, US current (120 volts) or European current (220 volts). It has seven voltage settings (1.5, 3,4.5, 6,7.5, 9, 12 volts) so that it can be set to fit your life support system's power input.

Now your probably wondering why I'm mentioning al! this shit, right? Well, if your assigned to a "High Speed Low Drag" Airborne, Ranger, SF, or Marine Corp unit. Then no doubt your one of those selected few who finds himself being deployed several times a year to those far away exoctic places such Africa, South America, Somalia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Haiti, etc.

And if your like me, no matter where you go, you will always want to take your life support system with you wherever you go to keep from going crazy. But the question always comes up... "Where in the hell am I going to get the power to run it?" Well, if your smart, you'll do like I did and purchase a few of these hi-speed Items. And carry them with you wherever you go so that you won't be without power.

Another neat little item that I bought Just for the hell of it. and that was a "4-Way Power" AM/FM Radio (Note: does not come with cassette). You can either run it on 2 X AA Batteries (standard or rechargable), Solar Power, Hand-Crank Generator Power or you can plug it into a 110 volt house power outlet. If you use it in the hand-crank generator mode, you will only need to crank it for a few minutes and it will run for several hours on it's own.

Not only is this life support system lightweight and compact, it also fits nicely inside a BDU cargo pocket, LBE ammo pouch or ruck pouch. And it's not even at all expensive, around \$35.00 bucks.

NOTE: When you purchase a life support system, I'd highly recommend that either you make or buy yourself a shock-proof, water-proof case for it just to be on the safe side.



ORDER FROM: Brainstorms 8221 Kimball Ave Skokie, IL. 6007 - 2956. TUUT

RANGER POW PRUSIK CUFFS

Submitted By 2Lt Jason A. Junk

This LT writes, "Instead of trying to find some .OW Flex Cuffs or cable tie-down bands from your unit. My Range buddy from 2nd Bn 75th Rangers taught me how to make apair of "Po- Prusik Cuirs" out of some 550 Parachute Cord. It's not only a locasier to find and use, but their reusable too.

First you'll need approximately 5 feet of 850 F "achite Cord. Once you have this, make yourself two sets of "prus; knots" on each of your thumbs and then run the running ends o through each of the loops (See Brawing). Then c tumbs from the prusik, insuring the prusik knot together as Possible, take the slack out of the itself. The comple knot on the running end prevent it - m unraveling, and presto! You set of "reus... " POW cuffs.

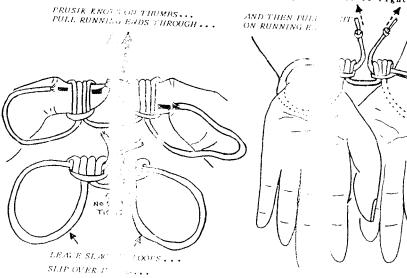
the cords back efully remove the emain as close ots and the cord t the cord to have yourself a

To use, simply clace hands through the loops, a ends of the is and stop when you hear your POW will be '/e to get out of these cuifs, up' screwed up is dishit do it right. To remove. between the . . 'k knot and cord and alide the

tight on the oner scream. No of course you ce your fingers ⇒s apart,

EXTREMELY IMPORTANT: Make sure the two prusit close toget in as possible, failure to do this POW being at 2 to move his hands more freely from

ots remain as l result in the alt to right.



PP7

OR SLIDE OFF IF DONE CORRECTLY)



SPECIAL GRERATION MYTHS, THEORIES, & FA

rices Markes



individ is who volunteer to be assigned to or Spe. I Forces unit, don't do it becaubecause heir different. There are several t

Airborne, linger, it's different, but a of volunteers....

A One Y. . Volunteer - is an individual who the Ar and accept a Military Occupation either; recruiter or he himself choose.

lunteered to join Specialty (MOD) that

Double 's sunteer - is an individual who volved end to join the Army and so jump out of airplanes, he's an assertion Paratrosper.

Triple Similar - is an individual who volunteemed to fin to Army, its out of airplanes (Airborne) and to become all or an elite K ger or Spacial Forces soldier.

Quadrup: Volunteer - is an individual who is attered to junctive Army, jo just of airplanes, become a Ranger and then a Special Forces: idder or a member of belta Force.

Now there's a big difference between "bot g" a highly rained either scidier and being "assigned" or "attached" to an elite unit. If you have not attended nor successfully graduated from the course, then YOU ARE NOT qualified to say your "Airborne, Ranger, or SF." Those that do say this when they themselves know for a fact they are not qualified, are just fooling themselves....

On the other hand, I don't believe Airborne, see or SF qualified soldlers should be bragging, hooping and held ing what they see in front of those that aren't. The bottom are, shouldn't be bragging, and those that in it shouldn't be making excuses for why they're not." him one or the other violates this principle rule in the presence of the other, it usually escalates from a battle of words to i in-acuffs. At least the ones that I've seen and been in myself a few times.

The worst thing that could happen to an Airberne, Ranger or SF trooper is to get his ass kicked by a non Airberne, non-Hanger or non-SF trooper. If another qualified trooper of the same qualifications kicks his ass, well, it's pressy such accepted and forgotten about by the next day. But if it's the other way around, 0h-0h...

TELLET !



Now every time I've seen a non-Airborne, con-Ranger, or non-SF croper get his ass kicked by a qualified one, the usual excuse at I have heard the individual or his friends comforting him comes. "he kicked my (or his) ass because he was a Ranger or Inratrooper." If it happened the other way around, then they'd say, "I got my ass kicked by that LEG because I was too damn drunk and tired...."

The fact of the matter is, it doesn't make a dawn difference if the other fella is Airborne, Ranger or SF qualified or not. If you get your ass kicked in a fistfight, the bottom line it's because you were the weaker opponent, period!

Airborne, Ranger and SF troops are no doubt a special breed of men. But one thing that they all have in common, and that is they are willing to risk 'beir lives leaping out of "perfectly good airplane" and land right in the middle of a fight.

On the other tood, regular combat arms troops such as (non-airborne) into ry, artillery, and armor units operate more in larger so lessed begin most of their battles usually heading in one direction. At then there's the good of non-combat arms cusport guys. They do what they do host, which is supporting all those other types of units while softime on the side lines could find and list ring to how the war's going on CNN. But to be fouthful, with ut these support guys, mone of us could deploy nor fight a betting arrany long. And that's the Cod's truth! NO BS!

Filess year a ouble or triple volunteer, you'll never know what it really is like to be a "super trooper" or to be among a special breed from, but it's definitely not for everyone. In very unusual to flood a viduals who may have distended and gotted from an elite course of ly to never to be assigned to on then I was assigned to 15 ft. 75th Rangers (HAAF) back in 1878-2.

Theke-Balleve-E agens; were soldiers only intrached"(not assigned) to the Ranger last lion and were not q all in nor school trained.

Panta-BerRange of mere soldiers assigned to the Ranger Battalion who have not yet attended Ranger Sonov . Out were waiting on a school slot or led in to attend.

TabuMearing-Randors office soldiers (mostly of licers)who graduated from Ranger those but were assigned so here else in the Army and have never been estyped to a Ranger free Airborne) unit.

Tobool-Rangers; were coldiers who graded in rom Ranger School, have NEVER EVOIS become assigned to a Research, but somehow ended up as an Instructor at the (Ranger) so the cold.

The I Rangers; the solutions who have graduated from Ranger School and are assigned to Ranger Battalion. Takes are "Real Rangers."

And these are The board facts, believe it or not ...



WHERE TO PUT YOUR KEYS DURING PT

Submitted By: 2Lt Jason A. Jenkins

Lt. Jenkins writes, "If you work out everyday and you don't know where to hide or secure your room or car keys during company PT, I think I have the solution."

Go to your installation's Military Clothing Sales Store (MCSS) and purchase a set of those elastic velcro blousing strips. Then....

- A. Cut off the middle section of one blousing strip.
- B. Place velcro on the other end.
- C. And then sew the other three sides to the other strip.

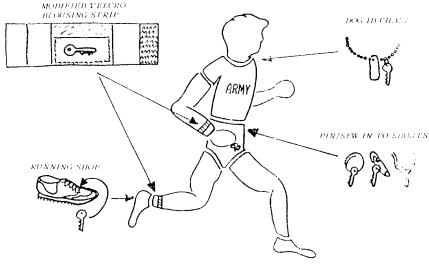
Now you have a neat little pocket to secure your keys and you can wear it either on your les or arm. Neat huh?

Ranger Rick's Commonts: Worried about losing, wis/lacing or where to put your keys during PT? Make an extra set of keys and call them your "Special PT Keys." Then simply secure them to one of these...

RUNNING SHOES - Just lace the key through the tennis shoe string itself, if you got two, attach one to each shoe.

RUNNING SHORTS - Using a medium size safety pin, attach the key to the inside portion of the elastic waist band.

DOG TAG CHAIN - Either run the key through the chain, or place it between the two metal ID tags or plastic dog tag containers.



WET SOCKS?

Walking around in the field with a pair of wet socks on ain't too bad if your in a hot weather environment, but if it's a cold one...

Personally, the only part of my body that I cannot stand having to get cold are my feet. As long as my feet are warm and dry, I could sleep "buck maked" laying in the snow. I'm serious! My penis could freeze and fall off for all I care, but as long as my feet are warm..."I'm a happy camper!" But if my feet get cold, that's it, I wante whine, I wanta cry, I want out, period!"

But luckily, live been able to overcome these little hardships simply by using some common sense. If my feet got cold, I would just keep'em moving by walking. If they were wet and cold and we were it going anywhere for a while, then I would do one of the follow (2)

PULL BOTN & FOLD - 1: I wanted to save on dry socks, I would then "pull fown and fold" the wet ones that I was wearing. When the lower bettom portion for sock gets sweaty and wet due to a foot movement, usually the apper portion of the sock remains dry. So by pullic the upper paid of the sock down to the dry portion, you still ave a helf pair of dry socks yet to wear. This seems to work; ity multime taking out in a sleeping bag for the night, when a wake up to ack morning - you'll have dry socks. How? You's them to the sock down to the dry portion, you still as a dryer and dry time a . This will, fourse, depend on how wet they are and how long; stay in your fact sack to allow them to dry.

Have y ever hand of that old saying... "It's better to put on a pair of clean dry soons with wet boots than to keep on wearing wet ty socks." Who the i--- came up with this myth? Wet socks, dry so socks." Who the i--- came up with this myth? Wet socks, will become the tools soon as you put back on the wet pair of boots. It must have been a Marine that came up with this theory after storm! a lew too many beaches. (Don't forget to change your socks.

BAG IT Another way of keeping your feet warm and dry "IF" your not are anythere for awhile. And that's to put some plastic trash as over your feet, after you wipe'em dry and put on a pair of dr ones, of course. Be advised plastic trash bags will cause your for the sweat if you do a lot of moving around. And if they sweat, then Chey'll become wet, and if they're wet again, then they'll become order around. But if you stay in one place and don't move a cound too much and you leave your boot laces untied and open, are feet mill remain a lot more warmer and comfortable too. When a start to Inel'em getting chilly and cold again, take'em off, defending feet and the trash bag), massage'em and then they're to loke on.

DRY PANT DOWN
WET THE T



1.0

RIFLE LASER & POINTERS

I enjoy scanning through catalogs and magazines in a arch products that I think a soldier can use in the rie 3. If don't do it, I sure don't think the Army will. And you have the Army if to doesn't cost at least a million bucks, they won't buy 3. And if there's an easier way in doing something, the Army wants jou to do it the hard way. Am I right or wrong?

Well, I've been reading a little about these weapon laser sights lately. You know, a device that looks some along ke a little flashlight and hooks up to a weapon. When you turn it on, it shines or "beams" a little red laser dot and when ver you place this "red dot," it's where your supposed to hit. That is f the laser lock on sight is properly seated onto a weapon and concectly sighted in, of course. I'm sure you've seen these being police SWAT teams in your old neighborhood or on iell vision.

The other day I picked up a couple of gun catalogal, st to be how much these babies cost. Oh, only a few hundred labely, that it all. Out of my pocket reach and I'm sure it's out of your too.

Well, I just so happen to be looking through a disc ont computer and office supply catalog too. And guess what I is und II, ide of it? A device called a LASER POINTER. It projects a red lase become on a screen or wall to draw attention to an audient of the compact, cheap, and runs on only 2 X λ batteries.

Now if you take this little device and attach it to your Mirifle, you will then have an improvised weapon laser ock-consight. Don't you think it will work too, I think so. It were that the same range or power as the real McCoy, but close abought According to the advertisement, it can beam the last root. Souphundred yards. You'll only need it for short langes a night anyway for close-in fighting and house clearing operations. Better than using a flashlight, right?

How are you going to hook it up to your weapon? I'd a rong' recommend that you wire or tape it to the underside of the orear stock. Of course, you'll have to play around with it a litt a bid to get it "fairly" zero'd in.

Another place you may want to try to install it, and that's either on the Mi6's sight handle itself or actuch it to an Mi8 Riflo Scope Mounting Bracket. Now, which result you prefer to pay, more than \$200 for the real thing, or just \$80 (+/-) for an improvised one?





WEAPON CLEAR RECORDS

If you've even thought about becoming a Dri i instructor, don't expect very man, weekends off. Your Nonline princity is to train "Joe" trainee, if you have a wife and hi's, to y're 2nd priority.

So, every time we returned from the liftle large, I always made sure I took along my electric drill to lips; degree weapon cleaning process. The faster my total nees cleaned, the farier I could put them total need are get home to the wife. What I wid was put a clean and attached it to my driftle form of degree "minus" the handle part and attached it to my driftle counting the degree one trained drill ail the platoon's weapon be real.

If you should try this hi-speed clee $^{\prime}$. $_{\rm Z}$ to inique, insure to drill the barrels at SLOW speeds, No $^{\prime}$ AST! anning the drill at very high speeds through the barrel with the barrel Run it slowing through the chamber, bore, & $^{\prime}$ a surressor, NOT FAST!

When using a drill, put it also in reverse general at times. If your drill does not have a reverse itch, then start drilling from the flash appressor to the chamber, then change directions by going from the chamber to the lash suppressor. This will insure you get will the dirt and carbon lat in those hard to get little places, and at the same time return the brush hairs back in it's original form.

REMEMBER: YOU MIGH USE THE DRILL AND LIGSH IN BOTH DIRECTIONS AND AT A SLOW SPEEDS OR YOU'LL DAMAGE THE MEAPON BARREL and BRUSH.

Another way to clean your weapons more quickly is to buy a can of (spray type) careouretor cleaner from the relocal autoparts store. It's an excellent carbon and dirt to over and cleaner, not only for car engines, but also for weapons and well. You won't believe how incredibly hast this stuff will cleaner. No BS!

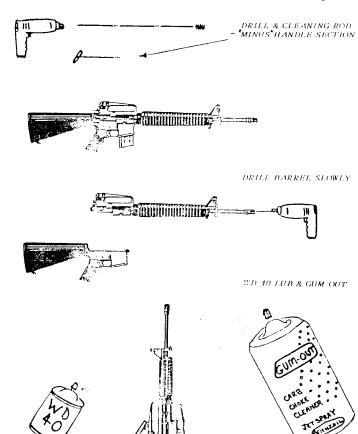
To insure a good cleaning, first spray or dip all your internal weapon parts (bolt, buffer, etc.) in either commercial "WD 40" lubricate & cleaner, or some G.I.weapon cleaning solvent. Let it soak for a few minutes, scrub with a brush or rag and then blast this stuff off with either "AAFES carheretor & Choke Cleaner" or another carburetor cleaner called "Gua-Gut."

I've used this stuff for years and I can just about guarantee that it will not only IG clean a weapon, but clean it up very quickly too. I highly suggest that you use this carburetor cleaner for only internal use and NOT for the outside of a weapon. The reason for this is, if there are any parts of the weapon where the "bluing" is scratched or worn down to the bare metal, it will immediately oxidize and rust up right in front of your eyes.



I'll bet the first time you try a can of this carburetor cleaner stuff, you will probably say, "Hey Ranger Rick, why in the hell didn't you mention this earlier in one of your other books." I did bozo, briefly, in the Ranger Digest I....

CAUTION: When working around any kind of carburetor cleaner, never, ever smoke nor lite up a cigarette, Extremely Flameable & Dangerous



15

RINSE

SOAK

BUTT PACK MODIFICATIONS

Submitted By Spec. Bradley Nelson

"Whenever I wanted something out of my butt pack," (pecialist Nelson writes."It was such a hassle and a pain in the aus to open and close it. Only because of the long straps and metal :elt buckles."

So one day I got fed up with it, I took out my knife, cul the damn things off and replaced them with a set of plastic backles—called FASTEX FASTENERS.

Now all I have to do is just reach behind, press, open ad close my butt pack, no more problems or hassles. It's not only a lot easier to take things out and put'em away, but it's also a lot quicker too.

Ranger Rick's Comments: A great idea, especially if you happen to have one of those old butt packs with the long a raps and metal buckles. But in looking through a few military stappy catalogs recently, I see they have already started to make that packs with these Fastex Fasteners. If your butt pack or other military gear does not yet have these hispeed fasteners, you can purchase them separately from any well known hiking & camping supply store or catalog. One such place is called CAMPMOR (810 Rollo IT N., P.O. Box# 997~D. Paramus, N.J. 07653-0997).

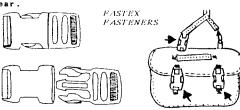
A few other modifications and improvements that i i.e. a pursonally made to my LBE and Butt Fuck

A. I had fastex fasteners sewn and attached to the two short hook-up straps on the butt pack itself and also to the end of the LBE harness "Y-strap" where the metal links go. To le, these were a "pain in the ass" too. They either made little "c inking" sounds during night movements, and or they dug into your back whenever you put on a rucksack. Ouch!

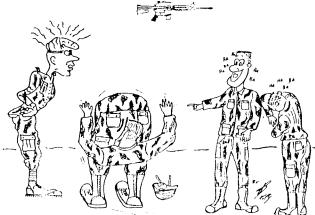
B. I also had two fastex fasteners added to the top portion of my LBE harness. So that if I wanted to, I could wear the butt pack higher up on my back rucksack style.

There's no doubt these hisspeed fasteners are heady and have an assortment of uses. The only drawback is "mear & tear" and overloading your butt pack with too much weight. If and or when this happens, they will pop apart unexpectly. When wasing fastexs fasteners, periodically inspect them for serviceability and wear & tear.

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"I'm Trying To See II From Your Point of View, Sir..."



RANGER R. K'S MULTI-PUR. O. R. ALL WEAT - ER PONCHO SHELT LR

In my first Ranger Digest randbook, I showed you the five basic poncho shelters that most troops erect when they go to the field. Each type of shelter serves a different purpose, which of course, depends on the type of weather and climate your operating in. But one special shelter that I forgot to show you, is the Mother Or All Poncho Shelters, it shelled the "Multi-response All Weather Poncho Shelters."

The only bad thing about : Sing this shelter, in the, it takes a lot of extra work and time to build. But it's well worth it if...

- A. Your going to be in o. location for a long period of time (48+ hrs) and the west or is really shitty. dincy, Rainy, Snow,)
- B. You have plenty of 55. Para-Cord or WDI Commo Wire and a very good "holeless" poncho.

NOTE: If your not going to use 550 paramoord or commo wire, then you better make sure you using something that is equally strong and will withstand a lot of twisting and siretching without breaking.

OK, once you have these it ons, here's what you do.....

Step 1: Find yourself $\times X$ good strong sticks just a little bit longer than the length of the poncho. Not too thick and not too thin.

Step 2: Lay open your placholdown on the grocks, place all four sticks along the sides of the poncholend-to-end for aling a large square frame. With the remaining two sticks, you can either criss-cross them in the coller of the square so that all four ends of the sticks rest on the corners of the square. Or you can lay them across the center of the square so that the ends rest on the long sides of the square.

Step 3: Take some tie-dow, and wrap it loosely product the corners of the sticks and where the sticks crisscross each other. Don't waste a lot of tie-down could or wire, just enough so it wraps once or twice (X style) around both ends of the sticks and then tie it off with a good but "lose" sturdy knot.

Step 4: Once all 6 λ sticks—are loosely attached to one another by the down, take 4 = 6 smaller λ thinner sticks (approximately 8" in length) and place them underneath—and between the tie down.

Now for you good of country "farm boys," just twist these smaller sticks like your tightening loose barbwire on your farm. And for you "city boys," twist these sticks like your putting a tornique on a bleeding gang member's arm who just got stabbed or shot. Twist the small sticks until it tightens & locks securely in place

if your tie-down should break while tightening, then you screwed up and used the wrong shit, dumb butt! As I stated before...USE 550 PARA-CORD or WDI COMMO WIRE, It's stronger and will withstand alot more twisting and stretching.



Step 5: If you twist and hend the "tie-down sticks" slightly over toone side or at an angle, it should hold in place and not unravel or untie itself. But if you are having some difficulty, then simply take another piece or cord or wire and tie the small stick down and in place.

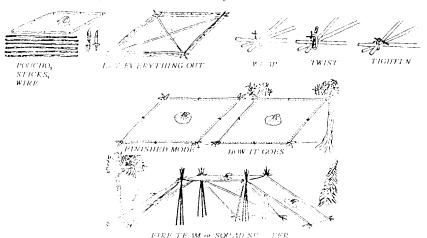
SUGGESTION: It you find it easier to the down the four ends of the sticks first and then the down the other two supporting " λ " sticks separately, then do so. The only advantage this has is that it makes the pencho frame more sturdy. The disadvantage? The use of more tie down cord or wire.

Step 6: Take the "head cover" of the poncho and tie it securely closed. Once you have done this, take the poncho and place it over the square frame and tie it down. Now all you gotta do is lash and secure the frame to a nearby supporting tree(s).

What? You win't got any trees nearby? Oh Shit, What are ya gonna do now? Quick! Jumo through your ass and panic...

Relax. No Problem! Just find yourself six more sturdy poles—about the same length as the poncho and stand three of them side-by-side teepee style. Then wrap some tie-down cord/wire around the upper portion of the poles to hold them in pixee. Do the same with the second set of toles too. Now open both of these sets of poles—so they stand—pon their own. Locate where you want to erect this shelter, place—the tee-pee poles in place—and then lean the poncho frame onto the poles and tie it in place.

All this may seem like a lot of hassien for just one lousy poncho shelter. But I your going to be in one condition for a period of time and the weather is definitely "esty and shifty." Then no doubt this per has chelter is for you.



1



SOF RUCK TIPS

Submitted By: Ssg.Craig Marts



"If you take care of your ruck, your ruck will tall are of you."
Easy words to say, but not many will do it. Mood if not all of
you will probably treat your rucksack like it's a ce of shit.
And then when it does finally fail apart on you'll bitch
about the hassles of having to go turn it in for a cone. Right?
But, If you take a little bit of time to per a some simple
preventive maintenance on it, you'll minimize, are "wear &
tear."

Ssg Craig Marts, a Special Forces trooper, sent 1 few of his favorite SOF rucksack tips. He says, "rucksack f. tend to wear pour self some OD green or camouflage 100 mpm that can be found in almost any hunting/sporting goods store. then simply wrap the tape not only where it shines, but al. ound all the other parts of the frame too.

Need to attache a few more items onto the outs. If your ruck? Take a sling (weapon, 2ql canteen or other type and golde it through the lower rucksack "snap keepers" and con attach it either to the frame itself or to the lower ruck sour. "buckle" (see drawing). Then take up the slack by tighten up to strap, this will not only allow you to carry more items on your tack, but it will also tighten up any loose bulky items you have taken on the outside or the inside of the ruck. Such as your E to a conteens.

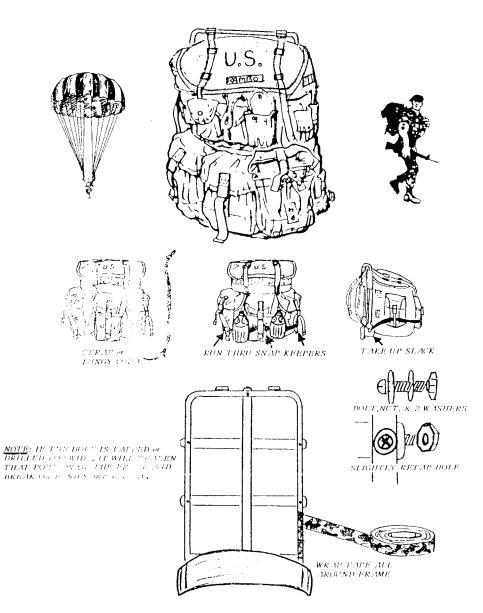
With the heavy loads we're required to carry in the rivets that keep the rucksack frame together sometime. It would not us. When this happens, we don't turn them back in for the woone, we just redrill the hole and replace it with a nut to the way, appears to make the rucksack frame a bit the interplace it was before, it even lasts longer too.

NOTE: If the bolt is too long or sticks out, cut a file it down to size so it's "flush" against the bolt itself. A trightening the nut to the bolt, DON'T tighten it too tight whose it starts to "Bend in" part of the frame. The more the frame is bent, the weaker it will come.

When your M17 Mask Carrier is no longer ser, able, before turning it back in for a new one, cut-off and re. ω , the leg & waist straps. These straps can then be reused for intaching small items to the rucksack such as your E-tool, canteen, ope, bino's, night devices, etc.

Ranger Ricks Comments:On my ruck, instead of rushing a strap through the snap keepers, I always ran an extra clastic bungy cord" through it. It not only kept my E-tool and canteen from bouncing around on the outside, but I was able to rinde and attach a few other item to the ruck as well. Saves the humbes of always having to tighten up the strap.





TENT POL! MODIFICATIONS

Submitted By Ssg. Craig A. Marts

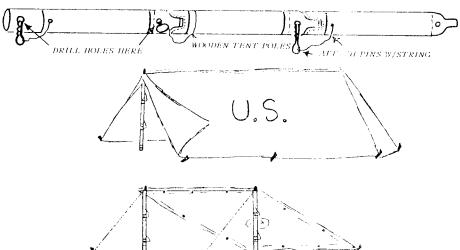
Hey Ranger Rick!

I'm writing to share a few more tips and tricls wit you, hopefully you can use them in your next Ranger Digest Candbo k. I sure hope you keep on publishing these books, as I look forward to learning something new from each and every one of them. Most of vode tips δ tricks are so common sense and simple to do, it's hard to believe how easy we overlook them.

Have you ever had a hard time keeping your 3 X pince Worden Tent Pole set together in the field? You know, for such tatags as erecting a pup tent or poncho shelter? Well, the solection to this problem is simple.

First, find or buy yourself a couple (3) of cutter pins or used grenade pins & rings. Second, put all a cee that pole pieces together and then drill a couple of small heas about the same size as the pins at the "top and bottom" port on of each tent pole (see drawing). When drilling the holes, floure the holes are drilled "exactly" the same distance apart in each pole, so that when you pop them together it won't make a difference which one one is first, last or in the middle.

Should you screw up and make a mistake in crill g these holes, then simply mark and number the poles $1\cdot 2\cdot 3$ so that you'll be able to put them together more easily in the field.



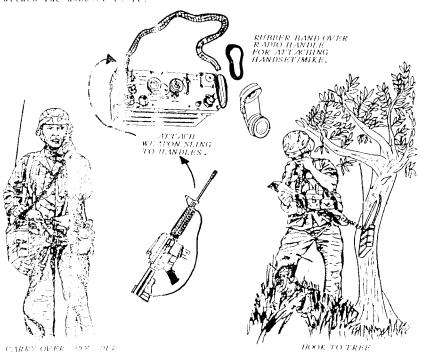
RADIO TIPS & TRICKS

I've seen a lot of leaders and radio operators carrying the PRC-77 radio unnecessarily by the handles, 1'm talking about during non-tactical situations, of course. Such as on rifle ranges, convoys, check points, guard duty, CQ/SD duty, etc.

When you don't need the entire radio pack and straps, get yourself an M16 or M60 weapon sling and Just connect it to the two radio handles. It'll be a lot easier carrying it slung over the shoulder than carrying it by the handles, especially if you gotta carry some other stuff in your bands.

If your going to use the radio in a stationery position, carry along an extra strap, belt or bungy cord so that you can attach it above the ground and to a nearby tree or pole.

Don't know where to attach your handset to prevent it from bouncing around on the ground? Take a piece of string or rubber band and just wrap !! around the radio's carrying handle and then attach the handset to it.



23

CODED MATRIX BLOC

Submitted By: Sag Donald "Manabo" M

Hey Ranger Rick,

I'm an E-6 combat engineer with over 8 yea of military experience. I use your Ranger Digest handbooks to .lp teach my soldiers how to use the greatest tool they hav o overcome an obstacle..... their BRAINS!

To help cut down on radio transmitions, our well uses a CODED MATRIX SYSTEM to help send messages. It's nothing ...re than a set of blocks containing pre-written words or mossages you would commonly use on a military operation. The table can be as large as 14 X 12 blocks leaving 26 squares for each letter of the alphabet. And another 168 empty "blank blocks" for filling in whatever you need to write inside of them (See sample on next page). Of course, depending on the type of unit your assigned too, each table matrix needs to be tailored for every mission or operation.

But before you can successfully use this matrix system, you must first fill in all the empty blocks across the entire top and left side of the page with a letter. Do Not Repeat None O: The Latters! Then fill in the words and or messages inside the blank blocks.

TO SEND A CODED MESSAGE - First, locate the word(s) or message you want to send, then write down the letter that appears to the immediate far left and directly above it. You send a message as so. (Note: See Matrix Chart On Next Page) Example;

ENEMY CROSSING ROAD GRID 521052

WHEN RECEIVING A CODED MESSAGE - Locate the first - tter on the immediate left side of the table, then find to second letter across the top portion. Where these two letters and columns cross each other is where you will find the coded word or message. Example;

AMBUSH ENEMY IMMEDIAT LY OZ. PI KH

For security reasons, and just like a military CEO1, you need to change the 26 blocks containing the 26 letters of the alphabet every so often. Maybe not as often as a military (EOI (every 24 hours), but at least every few weeks or so or until you suspect it has become compromised. Then simply just rearrange the 26 letters of the alphabet, NOT THE OTHER :68 BLOCKS.



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ENLIST E CALL HOME!

Technology has no doubt c. - a long way, and are we lucky to be living in the age of ad ce telecommunications. Really! To give you a fine example...

Do you remember a Clint F wood movie called "Heartbreak Ridge?" There was a scene in it whose Clint and his (Marine) Recon Platoon were trapped inside a bidding on the Island of Grenada. Their radio was shot up, but the hanaged to find a telephone in the building and call for five support. What was funny about this scene, is that the call his placed all the way back to the US with the use of a credit call hid then relayed back to the FDC on the island.

As hard as this may see to believe, it actually did happen, No Bullshit! Except it was a surmy unit and NOT a Marine unit.

Now the last time i was the in the good of USA (Jan-Feb. 194), I bought me one of those charge of \$100 portable cellular telephones to carry around with me on the road. It was pretty handy and not at all that expensive. Of rourse, depending on the time of day and where you were calling from and to. The average cost per minute of air (talk) time was any divide from seventy-five cents to \$1.50. Monthly service charges and only \$30, not including air/talk time.

Well, have I got a great of for you if you've got the time, money, buddles, and your of ling to try something new. Why not get a few of your platoon budders together and buy yourselves a small, lightweight, compact ceiler telephone just for field?

Oh, I know your probably '. Thing and saying to yourself, "Get the F--- outta here." But series sly, it's not a bad idea. The more guys that chip in to buy a cellular and split the monthly service charges, the cheaper it'li .e for everyone. As a general rule, everyone must pay for their own individual calls.

To figure out exactly what everyone will owe, you just simply wait for the monthly cellular are ephone bill to arrive. It will not only tell you the date, true, and the number that was called, but how much each individual call costs too.

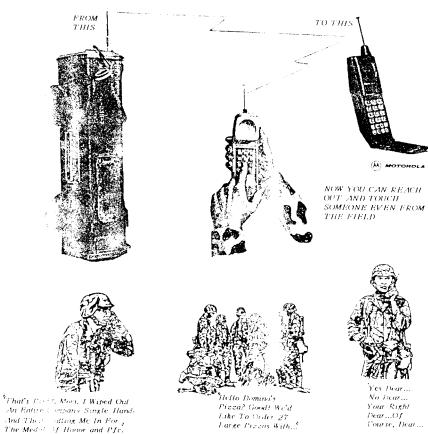
i know exactly what your and question is, "How in the hell are we supposed to recharge conductant batteries out in the middle of nowhere?" Well, most pock cellulars have two ways they can be recharged. You can either plug them directly into your household electrical outlet (110 volta), or into a car's 12 volt cigarette lighter, with the proper anded adapter, of course.

Now before you even think about hooking up a cellular telephone to a military vehicle, first find out what the vehicle's power output is. It the voltage and amps are not compatible, you will "burn up" your cellular telephone. Den't risk burning up your cellular or vehicle without first finding out what the vehicle's battery power output is in "amps and volts."

NOTICE TO CO's, ISGs, PSGs, PIDRs

Purchasing One Or Mere Cellular Phones For Your Unit Could Be The Ideal Morale Boston You Need The Next Time Your Deployed Away From Home. EORDS TO THE WISE: For safety purposes, take your cellular telephone and vehicle information to a good electronic expert or repairman and ask him what needs to be done to hook it up to your particular military vehicle. DON'T EVER TRY TO RIG A CELLULAR CELEPHONE TO A MILITARY VEHICLE ON YOUR GWN.

An alternative solution is to purchase several cellular telephone batteries and recharge them just prior to deploying to the field. Having a cellular telephone at your linger tips in the field could not only be a great morale booster, but a great way to make a few extra bucks on the side too. Think about!





RANGER RICK'S ARROW FORMAL ON

While waiting to be evaluated as a patrol leader in the Florida phase of Ranger School back in 1978, a lot of fe low students before me were failing their first graded Ranger patrol. Most of them failed because they were wasting too much lime crossing "linear" danger areas, not reacting properly to "unsupected" enemy encounters, and not meeting their TOT (Time On Target).

We were only 3 days into this phase and all 6 Ranger students before me failed their patrols, and we still had another 9 days to go. It appeared the odds of me passing my first patrol were not in my favor. If I was going to improve my chances of passing, I had to come up with plan. Because for some odd reason, these basic Infantry/Ranger tactics that we were using just idn't seem to work very well for us here.

Now, I ain't got no college education, nor have I ever been interested in reading books about great military leasers such as Rommel, Patton or Napoleon. But one thing that i've always had, and that's a lot of common sense. So if these basic tactics were not working, then it was time to adapt, modify and try something new. Which is how I came up with the "Arrow Formation."

It was nothing more than one squad leading in a wedge formation followed by two other squads in a file formation on each ends of the wedge. The platoon leader, platoon sergeant, their RTOs and supporting weapons (MGs & ATs) were pre-positioned inside the arrow. This formation gave us 360 degree all around security, better reaction time to unexpected enemy encounters and allowed us to "punch through" danger areas much more quickly. Here's how it worked.

Let's say we encountered some enemy to our front, the lead squad in the wedge formation would either continue to ras alt and fight through the enemy. Or hold in place and wait for the left and right flank squads to either roll up the sides and or break off and assault the enemy from another direction. If we got hit on our flanks, the flank squad that was in contact could either assault, hold in place or wait for the other squads to roll up the sides and assault the enemy from another direction.

When we encountered linear danger areas (roads, creeks, trails). we either moved right through them as an entire platoon in a "leap-frog" manner, or had the lead squad clear the far side first before the rest of us crossed over.

When stopping for a rest break or to set up a patrol base, since we already had a modified 360 degree "moving" security perimeter. the only thing left to do was to halt the platoon and preposition or adjust the support weapons.

Well, to make a long story short. Even though I met my TOT, moved quickly through all encountered danger areas, and repelled all unexpected enemy encounters by Ranger School standards, the instructor didn't want to pass me. According to him, I failed to



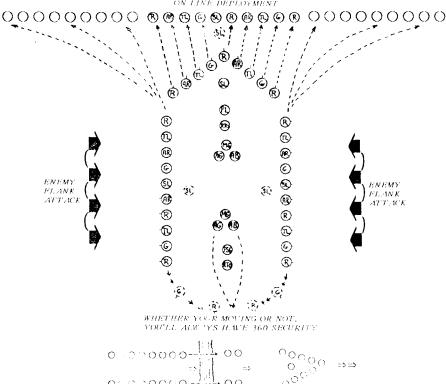


use proper Ranger & Infantry School approved tactics. So he decided to let a Ranger Review Board determine if I violated anything or not.

Even though they ruled in my favor, I was warned not to continue to use this type of formation while going through the remainder of course, But after I graduated from Ranger School and many years there after, I continued to use this arrow formation. My basic military philosophy on this is, "just because it's not taught in any school or written in any training manuel, it doesn't mean you can't try something new." As the old saying goes, "If it's stupid, but works - then it must NOT be that stupid.



ON LINE DEPLOYMENT



MINI MAGLITE DELICITYS

The ol'military issued angle flashiight is ac ordered, Mosses used the same type to check on his inimals below onk on his Ark. It's too heavy, too bulky and it's a big pain in the sess to carry and or hook on an LBE or rucksack. The Army spec is billions of dollars on hi-speed, lightweight gizmos and gortex clothing and equipment, but not a penny on a better made rilitary flashlight. Don't you think it's about time the Army shit cannomit? I do!

A neat little handy-dandy flashlight that a lot or soldiers and leaders seem to be buying and using for the field aday are those "MINI MAGLITES." Their a little bit expensive, but think their well worth it. Their waterproof, durable, lightweight, made of resistant anodozed, and operate on only 2 batteries. If you purchase the right one, it should have an adjustable light beam so that you can focus it from a tight little spot light to a wide light.

The battery weight (AA) of a maglite weighs nothing compared to the bulky batteries (D) of a military angle flashlight. According to my little kitchen scale that I used to see what the weight difference is between a D and AA size battery. One D-size battery weighs 6 ozs, and one AA-size battery weighs 1 oz. This means 6 X AA batteries equal the weight of one D size battery. If you carried 12 X AA size batteries, it would equal the weight of 2 X D size batteries. Hell, in my military mind, this alone beats out the old military angle flashlight hands down.

If your a tightwad and don't want to spend money on commercial AA batteries, no problem. Just hit up your of'unit commo or supply sergeant for them, their known as military "BA 3058/U" batteries. Why spend the money when you can get'em FREE from Uncle Sam, right?

I like the maglite flashiite better not only because it's compact, lightweight and durable, but because it also uses the same size batteries as my "life support system" (radio-cassette). When I can't get hold of any military BA 3058/U batteries, I just use my commercial bought "Rechargeable Batteries" along with my solar battery charger (RD# II Page 58). Why carry several different types of batteries to the field when you can get away with Just using one type.

Another useful thing about this Min-maglite flashlight, and that is it can be attached to your weapon (via tape) and used as a mini weapon spot light to help you to see better at night. Such as searching a POW or a dark room in a building. Try holding or attaching that military angle flashlight onto your weapon while searching a dark room or POW, worthless.

You can find these Mini-Maglite flashlights either in your Military Clothing Sales Store (MCSS) or local off-sist military & camping supply stores. When purchasing a maglite, insure you also buy a red filter lens for tactical situations too.

TAPE PIECE OF FOAM MATTRESS FOR ATTACHING TO WEAPON

ADJUST ABLE LIGHT WIDE LITE TIGHT LITE $\subset I$ LIT UP SIGHT SCOPE SIGHT WE APON FOREARM



This next tip is state for field use, it's strictly for garrison. Have you ever he think they would think they would then they would dry boots & gloves agle to more quickly than just letting the single formula to the strictly for garrison.

1. HAIR BLC. ... ERS: Although this method will take — little bit of time, it's ω . . I quite effective. Just open up your gloves—and blow dry'em dry — the hair blower.

NOTE: Most hair ow dryers have an automatic sairy cut-off switch. If a ow dryer is held too close to the i am, it will force the hot off. Back into the blow dryer causing it of overheat and automatical shut off until it cools. If the one, your using from the item and your drying.

2. HOUSE HEATE : No matter what type of a Leating system you have in your house, I riment or barracks, you con still dr. your boots & gloves more in Aly if you follow these simple tips.

a. When dry! ...oots, open up the laces, roll down the sides and stretch out the ingues. If your drying gloves, turn them inside out. This will allow the heat and air to circulate much more freely inside it e tight areas where it takes longer to dry.

b. When placing nots and gloves near a radiator or blower system, keep the opening portion facing towards the heat.

c. Rotate and \cdot we the items around every so often to insure each area gets the party equal amount of drying time.

3. LAUNDRY DRYSH: Although this method is the quickest way to dry wet boots and gives. Insure you....

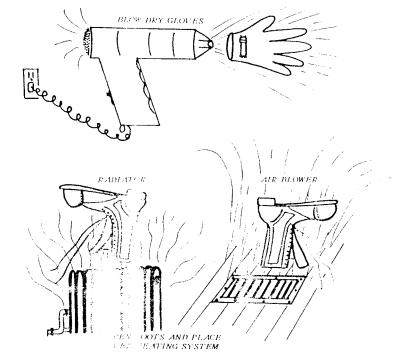
a. Keep the two sature setting on medium or personnent press and never set it to high or you will cook and damage your boots & gloves.

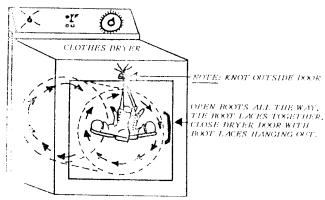
b. Always roll he sides of the boots down and the them in place with the boot $\operatorname{st.}$ ag.

c. When dryin — I boots and gloves, don't try to speed up the process by $tur_{n,i}$ — up the heat, dry them gradually.

d. When placing ots in the dryer, don't just toss'em in, hang them on the door of the dryer by the bootlace (See drawing). This will prevent the from tumbling and banging around in the dryer and driving you arts listening to it.

Note: If your loots and gloves do become stiff and brittle, this is because you district listen to what I said above and you over cooked them. Univertunately, it's too late to do anything about it now as the damage is already done. Eventually over a short period of time, the boot stitchings and seams will tear apart when you least expect it, like during a field exercise or road march.





** NOTE: IF YOU HEAR LOUD THUMPING SOUNDS, MOVE LAMP ENOTS LOWER SO THAT THE BOOTS DO NOT TORCH THE REVOLVING PORTION OF THE DRYER, 33



NBC PROTECTIVE MAS AS



Not too long ago I read in the newspaper about size third all Guard and Reserve NCOs complaining that their unit was so fort of funds that they didn't even have enough money to replace their broken NBC Protective Mask Carriers. Nor the detergent to clean them. It seems that due to the drawdown and the cost of these real world mission deployments (Somolia, Rawanda, Haiti, etc). Furth that would normally be used to help train units or replace repair their broken equipment was being diverted to help pay the mosts of these humanitarian missions and deployments.

No doubt they have a legitimate complaint, but less inoblems they are having with their NBC protective mask carriers of enems to us grunts. If your assigned to an infantry or enable. Arms unit, you know it's not unusual to turn-in and replies your old worn & torn NBC mask carrier for a new one at least ones or 'wice a year or so. If you go to the field on a regular mont by 6.3 is, no doubt you'll probably beat the hell out of your eq ipment much more often than those that don't go so often. To help on come some of these mask carrier problems, here's a few sin lettps and suggestions I'd like to pass along to you that I use to do.

- 1. Acquire a second "worn & torn" NBC Protective Mall Castier and use it strictly for field training exercises (FT.). This way you'll have one good carrier for inspections, real world deployment missions and pos/ets turn-ins. And a sace ! "beat up" carrier used atrictly for the field or FTXs. This way you'll save yourself a lot of hassels when it comes time to cleaning and turning it in later on.
- 2. It's pretty easy to acquire a second "wore & turn" mask carrier, Just ask your friendly NBC NCO for a defective carrier that he's throwing away. When you get it, repair and replace those ol'fuc--- up metal anaps by searing in a strip of veloco into the carrier flaps (See below).
- 3. Should your carrier metal closing snaps break or pop apart on you in the field. Or you just want to make sure your carrier stays closed more securely so that you don't lose your mach and wind up signing a "Statement of Charges" for it. Take the carrier leg strap that hardly anybody uses and wrap it tightly around the carrier itself.
- 4. When wearing cammy paint on your face, isn't it k da hard to get it off the inside of the mask the way the Army laught you on how to remove or clean it? The best and easiest way to remove it from the mask (and your face too) is to use elther caby oil, noxzima (medicated cream) or those stridex acne pads. Believe me. it'll come right off. Trust me and try it!

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MORE M258 CONTAINER USES

Submitted By: Sgt.Kris S. Weddel

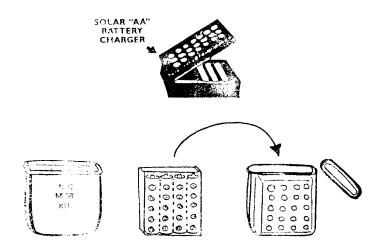
Dear Ranger Rick;

1 took advantage of the information that you had in your Ranger Digest II handbook (Page 59) and ordered me one of those Solar Field Battery Chargers from Campmore (810 Rte 17 N., P.O. Box# 997-D. Paramus, N.J. 07653-0997).

But once I received it, I noticed how easily it can be damaged or broken in the field. So I cut up an MRE box, taped it all around the sides of my Solar Field Battery Charger and made me a homemade shock-proof case for it. Just when I thought I did a pretty good job in making one, I look down at my M258 NBC container and saw it was about the same size. I had an extra container and sure enough, guess what? Yep, it fits perfectly inside of it.

Ranger Rick's Comments: Yes Siree Buddy! Excellent idea! That good of M258 NSC plastic container has an assortment of uses. Soap dish, cassette tapp, fast food sauce package holder and now a solar field bastery charger "Storage Container."

How Ranger Digest Readers! Got another good tip or idea on what the M288 NBC plastic container can be used for? Why not write and lot me know, and if I print it - I'll send you a free copy of the next Ranger Digest Handbook and give you full credit by mentioning pair name. Send those tips, tricks & ideas to:

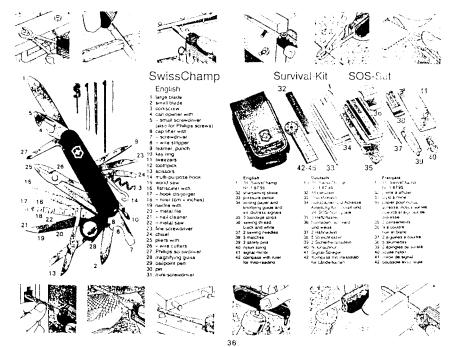


COMPACT POCKET TOOLS

One of the best pecket-took kits to take to the field is called a VICTORINOX SWISSCHAMP. This baby has a bountiful collection of more than 20 functional films in one compact package. Although some utensils a y not be needed for everyday use, you will still find it very hand and useful.

While one side he ses large utensils such as a pair of pligra, a saw, a file, saissors, etc, the other side houses smaller items such as an assort ant of acrewdrivers. Not to mention it also has two pocketknife blades two. Some of the other uneful utensils include a combine ton fish wook remover/scaler/ruler, a chise., awl, corkscrew, tweezers, a toothpick and a tiny ballpoint pen which is recessed into the aightimpact plastic case itself.

In my opinion, the SwissChamp is the second best pocket tool kill to hit the mar et, next to the LEATHERMAN TOOL, if course. But what most soldies seem to like best about this Victorinex Swisschamp other than the 20 useful utensils, is the survival kit that's stored and parried in the case itself. It has just about everything you will need for a life or death situation. Chack out this pocket tool !t the next time your at your local Military Clothing Sales St ce (MCSS) or off-post sporting good store.





Three newly commissioned 2d lieutenant officers were sitting at a bar one day when an old man with a came came walking up to them and said, "I bet each and every one of you lieutenants \$20 that I can tell how you got your commission." The officers smiled at each other and said, "OK, you ol'fart, your on!"

The old man looked up and down at the first officer and said, "You, you got your commission through Officer Candidate School." "Your right! How did you know that?" asked the lieutenant. The old man said, "Your wearing spit-shine shoes, your hair is meatly trimmed and you have some discipline in you."

The old man turned and looked up and down at the second officer and said." You, you got your commiss on through ROTC." "Right on," said the second liquitenant. "But how could you tell?" he old man said, "Well, your hair is longer, you've been drinking one boar that the other two have and you already smoked a whole nok of algarates since you been here."

The old man terned quickly to the third officer without looking up and down at him and said, "You, your the easiest, you got yours larough West foint (WPMA)."

"Your correct. Sir" said the 1-cutenant, "But how did you know?" the old man spilled and said, " saw your West Point class ring in you; finger while you were lasy picking your nose."

.

oring a NATO Clanding Confere se in Balgium, three lieutenants from three dl: ereul countries (Japan, Germany & USA) decided to n out to dinter one evening, furling the dinner, the German officer put his thumb to his ear and his pinky finger to his mouth and staited talking like he was on a telephone.

The American officer asked, "What in the hell are you doing?" The German officer rapiled, "Shih, I'm talking to my commander." "How in the hell can you do that without a phone?"asked the imerican. The German officer said, "In our military, all our efficers have a mini-micro tel.communication chip implanted in our linger tips so that we can tell communicate with each other."

Just then, the Japanese officer turned his head to one side and started talking to the wall.

Now what in the hell are you doing?" asked the American officer. The Japanese officer turned and said, "I'm calling my wife." "Oh, Do you also have some microstelesemmunication chips built ato your fin ors too," asked the American officer. don't beridicules," responded the Japanese officer. "We have

them to clantes in our teeth."

Furing The disser, the American officer (a West Pointer) cuts a loud nesty fail at the table. The German and the Japanese officer book at each other and then shake their heads in disbellet. The American officer Jumps up from the table and says, "What in the Foll is wrong with you two? Can't I send a f--ken fax in peace?

FIELD GRILLS & FR

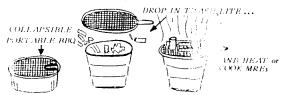
Are you assigned to a Mechanized, Transportat. or other type of mobile wheel or track unit? The -u need to buy on TV and in some magazines, they make great "f.e. -griils."

Communication.

Their cheap, safe, collapsible, lightweight, and no cook food 5 times faster than a heat tab, charcoal, or wood. Sen though they recommend that you only burn newspapers inside of ..., a cut up MRE box will work just as well too. Don't trash range slow burning military heat tabs just yet, you can also place . in inside the Quick-Cook Grill too along with the cardboard MME ox.

 $\Gamma^{\dagger}d$ -recommend one per squad or vehicle and or the ver platoon. If your assigned to a Ranger, SF, or Airborne unit . Well, sorry fellas, you ain't got the room for it in your swol

To order, send \$29.95 (includes shipping & harding fee) to The Hanover House, P.O. Box# 2, Hanover, Pa. 17333 @



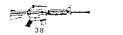
THERMAL FOOD & DRINK BAG

Here's another neat little item for you mobileand track guys, it's called a THERMAL HOT-COLD FOOD & DRINK TOTE BAG. Keeps your food & beverages hot or cold for up to 72-hours (that's 3 days for you National Guard REMFs). It's lightweight, waterproof and comes in two sizes, small and large. Make your buddles Jan'ous by carrying several days worth of (hot or cold) food and Crinks to the field. Or heat up your own with one of those Dick Butkers's BBQ QUICK-COOK GRILLs and place it inside one of these thermal tote bags, great idea, huh?

Large Tote Bag (10 X 10 X 16) Item # C562918.....\$19.99 Small Tote Bag (12 X 7 X 7) Item # C562819.....\$14.99 *NOTE - Shipping, Handling & Insurance is \$4.28. Send to; The Hanover House, P.O. Box# 2, Hanover, Pa. 17333-0002



COLD or HOT THERMAL FOOD/BEVERAGE BAGS

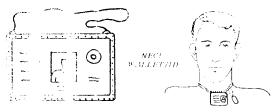


WALLETS, CHECKS, & MONEY

When your getting ready to deploy to the field or to one of those far away exotic places like Saudi Arabia, Haiti, Africa, etc. Do you have a hard time deciding if you should take along your check book or not? After all, it could get lost, stolen, or mutilated by the weather. But if you left it back, suppose you need some extra money or you see something you want to buy and take back to your honey?

If your deploying to the field or to a foreign country, and you den't know if your going to need your check book or not. Do like I always do, just tear off a few (2-3) blank checks, Fold'em up and put them in your wallet for safe keeping. If you need them, fine, if you lon't, then don't worry about it.

I have siways kept a blank checks is my wallet at all times. Just for sair keering, even when I wasn't being deployed. If I went out in the lore add in't have enough cash with me, I just pull out one of the emergency blank checks. And believe me, I've had to use the more then noe. But remember to mark down in your check Sook of one coese to noks are and also, when you've used them. It's lot excer cryl a few blank checks in your wallet than carryl, the ent or check book and taking a chance it will get lost, r lan r mo lated. Don't you think so?



If you hate corrying a wallet to the field or on a deployment exercing a may want to consider buying a hidden NECK WALLET instead for great to have if you gotta share a field tent or shower with a wile bunch of guys and you don't want a thief to get how of our money while your shoozing or showering.

> idden Kallet 1 em #0 572479R

2.00 (DAT WP)

T! Hano or House .O. B- . # 2 h: wer, 'n 17333

Neck Wallet Item #F435-262 \$6.00 (Water-P)

Rec.Eqpt.Inc(REI) 1700 45th St. Fast Summer, WA. 98390



SEX AIDS

| Your probably going to think I'm trying to be comy o | lils next |
|---|----------------|
| subject, but I'm not, I'm dead serious. As a lader | Squad. |
| PSG & DI), I've encountered troops who don't know the | rat thing |
| about "Sex." In the old days, if you wanted to br | . ເບເລຍ one 's |
| cherry (virginity), you took him down town to a | light |
| district and linked him up with a local prostit se. U | tunately, |
| those days are over, or they most certainly she ld be | |

| As a soldier, your trained to meet and defeat he | on the |
|---|------------|
| battlefield. You've learned what the enemy loke li | and how he |
| acts. But today, there's a new enemy out there and ha | invisible |
| It's called "AIDS!" The HIV infection that I ads i | alow, but |
| certain death. | , |

Now, your probably asking yourself, "What in t. he! Moss this have to do with the field?" When troops are do loyed to be to for a long period of time, they have a tendence And the longer their away from their sweet heats, they become, especially if their in a foreign sount bown live been to Korea, Germany, Panama, and all this end would be to know the prostitution is legal and paying for sexus as a set of life. But today, the risk is not worth it.

What I'm trying to say is this...."If your the tary (and your still a virgin), don't be influenced by yor but in going down town to the red light districts to get aid. Itter how convincing your buddles are or what type of probability you take against it, you can still catch the "Slow bull to be as." Think about it, is it really worth the risk? I don't hink so.

AIDS, HIV, and the \mathcal{Z} dies

You have a much greater chance in being infected with ANNIETY if:

- 1. You have sex with anyone
 2. Frequent one-night stands
 3. Change partners regularly
 4. Sex with position and according to the sex of the sex

AIDS HOTLINE — CONFIDEN WAY.

Do you have questions about HIV infection, AIDS, or use of condoms? You can get endicated answers to your questions by phone, and you can have printed materials mailed to you. Call the of the following toll-free hotlines of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- · AIDS hotline (English spoken): 1-800-342-AIDS
- AIDS hotline (en español; Spanish spoken); 1-800-3/1-7432.
- AIDS hotline (TTY for the hearing impaired): 1-805-243-7889





THE PROS & CONS OF A RUCK ATTACK



As a grunt field soldier, you get very attached to your turtle shell. I call a rucksack a turtle shell because like a turtle, everything you need to survive in the field is carried on your back. And when it's fully loaded, sometimes you can only move as fast as a turtle too.

There seems to be a split among military leaders on whether it's better to attack with a rucksack on your back, or drop it prior to attacking. Now I've served under many commanders who have absolutely insisted that it's a "No-No" to drop a ruck during an attack or while being attacked.

Well, in my book there's only one advantage to wearing a rucksack on your back during an attack. And that is you will always have all your gear with you regardless how well the attack is going for you, whether your DEAD or ALIVE!

But, the disadvectages in wearing a rucksack on your back during an attack arc....

- 1. The extra added weight will not only slow you down, but wear you down too. Though the enemy will surely appreciate you wearing a heavy ruck, become it will definitely make it much easier for him to blow you κ .
- 2. Should jou we to get down on the ground and or behind some cover to fire you impon, chances are you'll be easier to spot and hit, as your impondance will "stick out" like a sore thumb. And should you be care in any explosives inside of it... WHAM! BAM! and double $K \cap \text{BOC}$
- 3. To try to low-crawl with a rucksack on your back during an attack, is like a furtle trying to out run a kid with a "sling shot." Guess the loses?
- 4. Bulky rucks senetimes can get hung up on tree branches, bushes, and "wait-a-pinule-vines." Not only making your presence heard, but seen as well. The has shaking of the branches or vines. If the enemy doesn't be you, then he'll probably see you. And if he doesn't see you, then he'll probably hear you.

Comion, you don't need to have four years of coilege or to be a rocket scientist to figure this out. Attacking an enemy position with a bulker ruckack on your back is "suicide." My personal military philosofile on this subject is, "The Lighter The Fighter - The Faster You Ca. All The Eastard."

Now don't not wrong or read between the lines, I am not preaching all wys "leep your ruck as soon as you come under fire. It depends on the incitical situation. But any preplanned attack, such as a mid doriembash, the rucks should be dropped off in the ORP (Object as failey Points) just prior to attacking. Whether to drop rucks wring an unexpected enemy encounter and or during a movement-term outset operation, well that'll depend on the current tactical sill stier. Leaders shouldn't besitate to drop rucks and attack, espetiality when they see their men dropping like files all around them. Use common sense, not "hind sense." Think about it.

4 (

PUTTING ON A RUD 1

There are several ways in putting on a hear bulk; rucksack. There's the easy way, the hard way and the sageld way. Of course, I'il probably get bad mouth and sent a whole bunca of nasty letters over this. But "common sense" should be used instead of "hind sense." This is the stupid way...you'll find a lot of your muscular built BONEHEADS and RAMBO COWBOYS putting it on in this manner.



This the hard way...the average soldier usually $[\cdot]$ its $\pm t$ on in this manner.



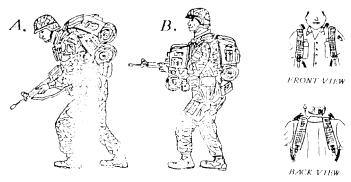
And this is the smart and easy way in putting on a rula. Especially for those of you who are built like "Pee hee Helmans" or you simply don't want to risk throwing out your back, or juiling a muscle in your arm or shoulder. It's also known as the 'Possey Way!



THE DOUBLE RUCK CARRY

If your a grunt, sconer or later your going to have to carry someone elses rucksack in the field. Whether it's because someone got injured, or you simply just got tagged to carry an extra one.

Let's face it, nobody likes carrying extra weight, especially somebody elses rucksack that might be heavier than your own. But there'll probably be a time you will have no other choice but to carry two of 'em. And to do this, there's a smart way and a dumbass way. (See below)



Soldier "A" is r do dass for trying to carry too much weight all on his back, and how he's bent ever forward in struggling to balance the weight all do also stand eract. Not only will be have a difficult to do also stand eract. Not only will be have howself out very do king where he's going, but ne'll be tiring himself out very do king where he's down't hurt he saif first.

Soldier "B" is wears, he carries both rucksacks on his shoulders by placing one r k on his chest and 's other on his back. He doesn't try to care both of them on his mack and struggle for balance. With a more care was considered with a more than the other on his back, he does a more value of the more than the struggle for a stand erect and many him too.

When tasked to comtwo rucker , th that is going to be placed on your c - : should a' d up first. But before is be picking it up, it a. : the sile ra : ad tighter so they will stay in place be placed ov: ide" of the shoulders. The second ruck nat is go! ed on the back, the slings of that taack shor over the first set and then worn over ' oat part e to stoutders. The slings from the second ru cold hold to slines from the first ruck in placa.

Although it's earl obvious a can't fire your weapon and or assault an enemy per lion carry two rucksacks in this manner. Should you need i drop the reverse order, first the back in the front.

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TACTICAL BREAKS & RUCKSACK MOPS

It might be just me that notices this, but it seems like the smaller the fells, the more likely they'll be the ones who will take a "rucksack flop" in the field. I'm talking about during "tactical" rest breaks, of course.

Now over the years, I've heard a lot of similar war grories from many Viet Nam combat vets. And they told me that wer, damn time a South Vietnamese soldier had a ruck on his back, he slways took a "rucksack llop," even in the middle of a firefig.

Well, no good leader likes to see any of its troopies take rucksack flops, especially during tactical operations. If you take a break, you better take it in a prone position and or behind some cover. Right? Of coarse!

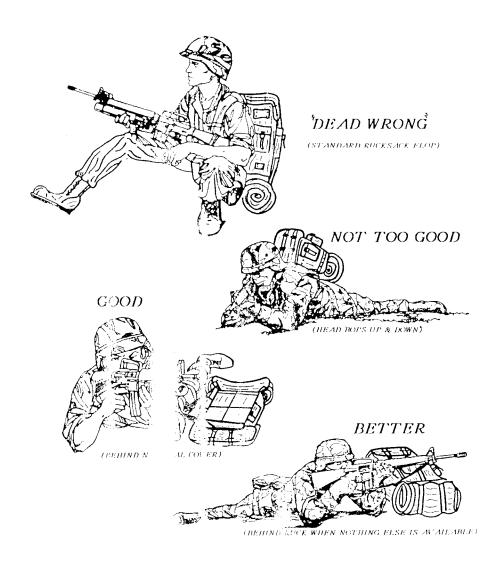
Personally, I hate to see troops taking a book in a prone position with a heavy ruck on their back. Because most of the time the weight of the ruck is pushing their heads don. and their only looking at the ground and not out. This is a very bad habit to get into, not to mention, poor unit security too. It's better to remove one arm from the rucksack sling and slive it off to the side, then to keep it entirely on your back and keep "bobbing" your head up and down.

For those of you who prefer to get down behind, ar rucksacks for protection. Well, I got news for you, unless your corrying some sandbags full of dirt or rocks inside of it, it ain't gonna stop or deflect very many bullets or pieces of shraphel. But, I guess when there's no other cover available for you to get down behind, a rucksach is better than nothing at all, right?

Because your ruck is not bullet proof, the only ling you can do to use it to your advantage, is camouflage it and hope you won't be seen behind it. But first you have to take the sime to properly camouflage it. If you don't, it'll only stand out like a green "BFR" (E) $_{\rm F}$ F--en Ruck). Remember... if you can't be seen, you can't be potted and hit.

Out of my entire platoon, the only individuals that I allowed to take a ranksack flop during a tactical field break, were my two Radio/Telaphone Operators (RTO). Not only because they were carrying were weight on their backs than anyone also in the platoon. But because they were less likely to be aposted or fired upon while positioned in the center of the formation or perimeter. Makes scale, don't you think?









RUCKSA OK RAFTS

If you've been in the militar for awhile, then is pretty sure you've read how to make a "ponch-s raft," or perhaps > a practiced making them with your unit.

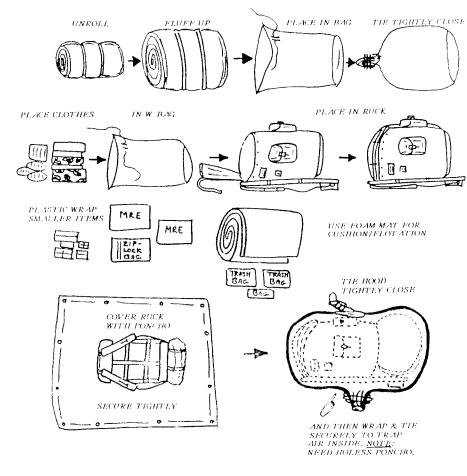
Now most soldiers in the Arra are issued aluminarucks, therefore it's only commonsense that you should be found to float one, right? It's not that difficult to make pretty similar to making a ponctoraft. So here's you do it...

- 1. Take your sleeping bag, unrell it, fluff it, and can loosely roll it back up, but NOT TIGHT. Place it inside one cyour two GI issued water-proof bags, seal it tightly closed and connect or attach it back onto your ruckmack.
- 2. Take all your clothes and soft military issued i cas and stuff them inside your second water-proof bag. What I each by "soft items" are items that are NOT hard, sharp or heavy and can easily puncture or rip a hole into the bag.
- 3. All your other military items that are either standard that will not be damaged should they become wet, blaced them inside the ruck but NOT in the water-proof bags to selves. For example, your E-tool, Binos, etc.
- 4. Small items that are stored or carried in the outshould be placed in small water proof bags. If none then use your MRE plastic meal wrapper to water-procand either seal them with 100 MPH tape or some 550 p. ...cord.
- 5. Take out your poncho, tie the hood securely close poncho around the ruck and then tie it securely conducted by you gotta do is test it out in some water to see if the state of the your can go ahead a "Rucksack Raft" to get you across a water obstacle.

Some critical things to remember ...

A. Make sure your Gl issued poncho and water-proof to find and tears. If their not, then don't expect or things to arrive dry or your rucksack to float in the water verious. B. To make double sure your items will arrive dry, as to give it a bit more flotation. Place as many of your items in rash bags prior to placing them inside your water-proof bags as much dry leaves and weeds (NO sticks or twiggs) as possible in ide the water-proof bags to give the ruck a bit more fluffyn. Bafflotation. D. If necessary, break down your LBE and either place it inside the rucksack or attach it somewhere to the outside. The same goes for your weapon too.

SPECIAL NOTE: The first time you make one of these regisack rafts, don't be disappointed if you need to make a few adj timents and modifications. This I am sure you will have to do. .rractice and experiment first before you actually use it for a water crossing.



TEST FOR



OTE Friendly Heavy & Overweight " As Will Not Float.

101 USES FOR A TRASH BAG

(and not just for trash...)

Every time we deployed to the field, I always made sure I grabbed a couple of large trash bags and stuck them in my ruck or canteen pouch. In fact, I use to make everyone in my squad or platoon carry a couple of trash bags just prior to moving out. Why? Well because they have a number of uses besides being used for trash, such as...

TRASE BAG APRON - With your knife, cut open the lottom closed portion of the trash bag, step inside and either tuck the excess portion into your belt or twist and tie it in place. If you got one of those trash bags with the pull string, great! Just pull on the string so it wraps tightly around your walst and you now have an apron to protect your pants from the oil, grease, dirt or carbon while working or cleaning your vehicle, weapon, or other military equipment.

LAUNDRY/WATER PROOF BAG - If you got any stinky, smelly, dirty, wet clothes, why mix them up with the dry, clean, fresh ones in your ruck? All you need to do is pop'em in the plastic trash bag and you can keep your dirty clothes separated from your clean ones.

GROUND & RUCK COVER - A large trash bag can also be used as a ground cover, ruck cover or sleeping bag cover. To use as a ground cover, just cut open two of the three closed sides and open it up. If your rucksack or sleeping bag sticks out beyond your poncho shelter in the rain, just place a large trash bag over the end of the sleeping bag or the ruck itself. Remember: "A wet ruck or sleeping bag adds extra carrying weight."

EMERGENCY RAIN COVER - How many times have you ever been standing in a hot chow line in the field and suddenly got caught in an unexpected downpour without a rain Jacket or pencho? Well, I didn't run back to my ruck or pesition to get my wet weather gear, hell no, I didn't want to lose by place in line.

Instead, I either grabbed an empty trash bag from the mess line or one of the two I usually carried inside my canteen pouch. Some of the troops shook their heads and laughed at me when they saw me wearing a trash bag, but guess who was dryer and didn't get wet much? Yours truly, Ranger Rick. When making a trash bag rain jacket or poncho cover, cut or pop a couple of holes into the trash bag just big enough for your head and arms to stick out.

Did you know that a large trush bag can also be used as a emergency survival item? For $\mathbf{exam}_{P}\mathbf{le}\dots$

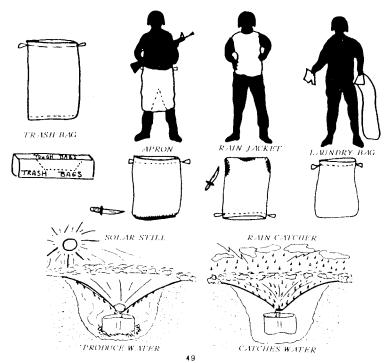
SUN SOLAR STILL - Cut your trash bag open on two of the three sides so it's one large piece of plastic. Dig a hole about two feet deep and three feet wide, take your canteen cup and place it in the center of the hole. Add some shredded pieces of green vegetation around the cup, and then place the plastic bag over the hole. Take your excess dirt & rocks and place it just along the outter section of the plastic to make the hole tightly sealed.



Don't place the dirt too close to the edge of the hole or it will run down into the center of the plastic. Now take a good size rock and place it in the center of the plastic so that it collapsible it downward but NOT resting on the canteen cup itself.

When the sun's rays heats it up, it will cause moisture and droplets to form on the other enclosed side. The downward incline of the plastic will cause the moisture droplets to slide down and off into the canteen cup located in the center of the hole. That is "IF" you have done it right. Now don't expect miracles, it's not going to fill up your cup all the way. If you leave it there all day long in the scorching sunlight and heat, you should get about a quarter of cup of water by the end of the day. I know your saying, "hell, that's not much!" It's better a little water than no drinking water at all. Right?

Now if your lucky enough to get a desert rain shower, and it does rain in the desert.... Remove your canteen cup from underneath and let the plastic fill up with water. Once it has filled up with a sufficient amount, take your canteen cup and "scoop up the water." That's right boys and girls, it's not only a solar still, but it's a rain catcher too. I'll bet most of you bad ass Rangers, SF, and Rambo Cowboys didn't know this little trick neither, did you? Well, Surprise! Surprise!





DELTA FORCE



Delta Force was at one time the United States Army's Special Anti-Terrorist Unit. Even though that's still one of their primary missions, their military roll has greatly been expanded. Most, if not all their missions have been classified "Top Secret."

Delta Force detachments were deployed and sent to many known and little known trouble spots the world over. Panama, Somalia, Haiti, and the Persian Gulf were just a few "known places." Wherever that trouble spot maybe, if there's US interest, there will probably be a small Delta detachment somewhere secretly in place.

How can you volunteer and Join Delta Force? Well, it's not so easy, you have to be a cut above the best, an elite among the elite, a glutton for punishment, and wait for a Delta Force Recruiting Team to come visit your military installation.

The Delta Force recruiting team is primarily responsible for screening and selecting volunteers for assignment to the 1st SFOD-D. All interested personnel are first invited to attend one of many recruiting briefings to see if they have what it takes, mentally and physically, to be a member of Delta Force. Milltary personnel must also meet "all of" the following prerequisites;

- A. Must Be A Volunteer.
- B. MOS Branch Is immaterial.
- C. Be In The Rank Of SGT, SSG, or SFC
- With A Minimum Of 4 Years Time In Service.
- D. No Limited Physical Profile.
- E. Be A Minimum Of 22 years Of Age.
- F. A United States Citizen.
- G. Have A GT Score Of 110 or Higher (Can Be Retested If Necessary)
- H. Pass a Background Security Investigation (Minimum Interim Secret To Attend Selection Course).
- Pass The Five-Event Physical Fitness Qualification Test, (Including A 100 Meter Swim).
- J. Pass A Modified Halo/Scuba Medical Examination.
- K. Be Airborne Qualified or Be Willing to Volunteer For Airborne Training.
- L. Have No History Of Disciplinary Actions.
- M. Be Qualified In Present MOS.
- N. Have Two Years Retainability Upon Assignment (Can Reenlist or
- Extend To Meet The Service Remaining Requirements).
- O. Pass The Formal Assessment & Selection Course.
- In Addition, Officers Must Also Meet The Following Prerequisites:
- A. Be In The Rank of CPT or MAJOR.
- B. Graduated From The Advance Course.
- C. Completed 12 Months Of Successful Command at Company, Battery,
 Troop, Aviation Platoon, or Special Forces Detachment Level.
- D. Must Be A College Graduate (Minimum Four Year Degree).

If you meet "all of" these basic prerequisites, be advised that this is just the beginning of a long process, there'll be many more tests yet to come. Good Luck on trying out for Delta Force. You'll definitely need it!

TRAININING GRENADE TIPS & TRICKS

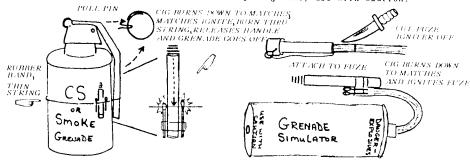
Ever since I was a little kid, I've always liked playing with matches, fireworks and blowing things up. No, I never burnt down my house or anyone elses. Fut I did buy a real MK2 "Pineapple" Grenade once from an Army & Navy Surplus Store. It had a hole in the bottom so you supposely couldn't fill it up again with explosives, or so they thought so. I figured out how to plug the hole with a large nut and bolt. Then I drilled a small hole through the fuze well, filled the grenade with some good ol' 30.06 rifle gun powder, and bought me a rocket fuze from a hobby shop.

It worked great, but I lost a friend doing it. Nope, I didn't kill him, his mother and father forbid him to associate with me when they heard the explosion and found out it was me who made the bomb. His parents thought I was a dangerous kid. So a few years later when I became of age, I joined the Army to put my bomb making skills to good use, or at least sharpen them. Here's a trick I learned in the Army....

If you wrap either a rubber band, fishing line or a thin nylon strand of string around a Smoke or CS Grenade's spoon or bandle and stuff a cigarette under it ...you have an improvised timer and time bomb.

To use, lite the cigarette (after you have taken a few puffs on it), pull the grenade pin and then put the grenade where you want it to go off. The length of time it takes for a cigarette to burn from the tip to the filter (approximately inches) is $\frac{10-12}{\text{for}}$ minutes. When using this technique, it should strictly be used for training purposes and or during real combat missions.

You can also use a cigarette to make an improvised timer for an artillery or grenade simulator too. Simply untape the fuze from the simulator's main body, stand it straight up and cut off the ignitor (the white pull tab). Take a few matches and tie or tape them to the open cut end of the simulator's fuze. Now take a cigarette and attach it to (he matches as shown below. Lite the cigarette, take a puff or two to get it started, lay it down and then run like hell! Note: Extremely Dangerous, use with caution.



PORTABLE FIELD STRETCHER

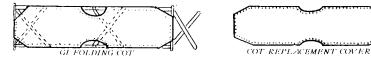
In my Ranger Digest I Handbook, I showed you how to make a field expedient collapsible stretcher out of some 292 antenna poles and bungy cords. Now I'll show you how to make a portable field stretcher out of a replacement "Cot Cover."

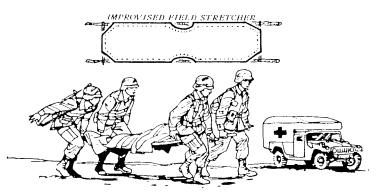
First thing you need to do, is always keep on friendly terms with your unit supply guys. Don't Ever Piss Them Off! Because you'll never know when you might need a favor from them, such as for example, acquiring a "Cot Cover."

A cot replacement cover is very easy to get hold of, so don't let your supply clerks BS you by telling you he can't get it. He only has to go to his S-4 supply depot and pick it up, it's no big deal or hassle for him. Plus it's considered an "expendable item" through the Army Supply System. In other words, you don't have to sign for it, if it becomes torn or gets ripped off, you pay nothing to Uncle Sam - it's "expendable."

Now, as you look over this cot cover, you'll notice there are several large opening holes in the corners and also on the sides. These are where the cot's aluminum frame would normally fit inside of. But instead of a cot frame, just slide in a few 292 antenna poles, camouflage net poles or some tree poles and you have yourself a collapsible & portable field stretcher.

Not only can this be used as an emergency evacuation stretcher, but also as a field cot too. If your a leader, issue one to each team or squad or 6 per platoon. Don't wait for a medic, aid station stretcher or field ambulance to carry off your injured and wounded, be independent and ready for any emergency.





TIPS & TRICKS FROM A WISE CADET

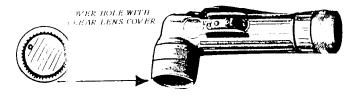
Submitted By: C-Sgt Stephen M. Bender

A young JROIC 'adet Sergeant who's attending Barron Collier High School in N: ies, Florida, tells me he's planning on going to Ranger and Al: orne School someday. And in looking over the tips and tricks to the sent me, I'd say he's going to make a mighty fine officer and leader someday.

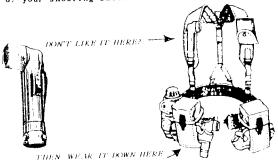
I hope other JROFC cadets who purchase these Ranger Digest Handbooks wor't hesitate to send me their tips & tricks. After all, these books were not designed strictly for active duty, reserve or Hallonal guard troops, but also for cadets and soon-to-be soldiers too.

Cadet Sergean Bender says...

In reference of "Tactical Flashlight Tips" on page 34 of your Ranger Diges: ill handbook. Instead of putting a piece of tape over the small hole to prevent water or dirt from entering the flashlight, just install a "clear" lens cover over the red lens (or vise-vers.).



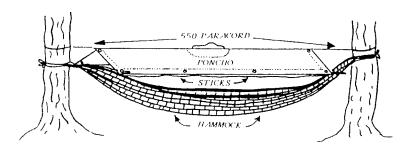
instead of he king your military angle flashlight to the upper portion of our LBE suspenders, just drop it in one of your grenade pouch slots that's built into your ammo pouch. It will not only be ear or to grab when you need it, but it will also be out of the way or shooting shoulder.



Ranger Rick's Comments: Items that are worn or attached to the upper portion of an LBE, particularly to the shooting shoulder side, Ranger Rick calls these "distractors." Because no matter how hard you try, the motion or bouncing of the flashlight while on the move will either distract your attention (eyeball wise). Or you will have a difficult time placing the butt of the weapon into the pocket of the shoulder should you have to aim and fire your weapon quickly. Or worse, you could also accidentally "bang" your meapon against your flashlite thus warning your enemy your about to shoot him too

To avoid sleeping on wet, cold or damp ground, purchase a cheap military "pocket hammock". Their not only easy to use, but you can quickly put'em up and take'em down fast too. When erecting your hammock between two trees, also string up some 550 Para-Cord about one or two feet above your hammock and then drape your poncho cover over it. When getting into your hammock, insure your poncho covers you entirely from head to toe and from left to right. This will not only keep unexpected rain off of you, but it will also help reflect and maintain more body heat.

Ranger Rick's Comments: On page 81 of the Ranger Digest 1, I talked a little about these hammocks. And as I stated before, there are very few people that can actually get use to sleeping with their seet and heads higher than their butts. Their OK for short naps, but not for a good night's sleep.





A FEW MORE TIPS & TRICKS

PAVID H. MELE SAYS...

CAMBY STICK HOLDER: An excellent and inexpensive cammy stick holder can be found in almost any cosmetic or make-up department store, it's called a "Lipstick Case." Not only is it just the right size for a cammy stick, but it also comes with a built-in/attached mirror too.



SKOAL CANS make a nice small water proof container for survival items. For such things as, matches, fishing hooks, sinkers, hylon string, razor blades, etc. And by the way...it also comes in several tactical colors too, green, black & brown.



CHEM-LITES should be issued to everyone in a unit, especially small units such as fire teams and squads. For if a unit member should become lost or separated at night, all they have to do is activate the chem-lite and wait to be rescued or found. Of course, you'll need to develop your own unit SOP on when to pop it such as for tactical operations. A simple (tactical) chem-lite SOP can go like this, "when lost or separated at night, go to the last known ralley point (RP), pop a chem-lite, hang it on a tree branch, step approximately 50-100 meters away from it and wait for help."





LUIS CALCORZI WRITES...

FOOT CARE - Let's face it, moleskin does not always work with everyone. And it your one of those who has trouble with it, well maybe you should try taping your feet up with either duct tape or masking tap. (I'm not joking!)

Place the tape where you normally develope—the blisters. And i mean place it in long strips "all over your feet" so that the tape won't move or come off while your wearing a sock or boot over—it. Be careful not—to—tape it too—lose or it will come off. And if it's too tight, you'll be cutting off the blood circulation.

Ranger Rick's Comments: Professional runners and ball players do similar things, except it's more for ankle support. But like Luis says, if you got trouble with using moleskin, then why not try using masking tape. It it works for you, fine, if not, weil...

Luis also says, "Another foot care tip I learned as an instructor in OUTWARD BOUND, was to how to keep your tootsles warm in cold weather."

First, take an old pair of wool socks, cut off the upper toe portion, place it over your toes and then put on a good pair of wool socks over it. This little bit of material will add a little extra warmth to the toes during severe cold weather.

NOTE: Do not cut the sock "too short," or they will slide oit the toes while your walking. And if their cut too long, they will bunch up under your fee making it very uncomfortable to walk. Test it first in the rear before you pack it up and try it to the field

UNDERWEAR - If your one of those who prefers to wear underwear in the field, DON'T WEAR THE COTTON ONES! they retain moisture when their soaked with body sweat and take a lot longer to dry. Your best bet is to buy yourself a couple pairs of nylon underwear, they're lighter, more comfortable & they dry out much more quicker.

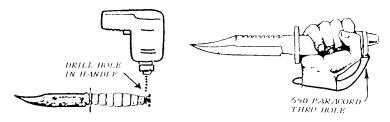
BOONIE HAT TIP - Got a problems keeping the sides up? Try pulling the draw-string up & over the hat and then tieing a knot right next to the small leather slide. Don't have a draw-string? Then buy a few pieces of "velcro" or snap-on buttons and sew them into the side of the hat. Works great in keeping the sides up and out of the way.





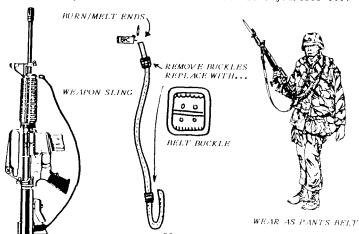
KNIFE TIPS - Whenever you purchase a field knite, always try to buy one that already has a hole drilled in at the bottom of the handle. Or at least a place where you can easily make one with your electric drill without causing damage to the knite itself.

This way you can attach some 550 Para-Cord and use it for either grasping the knile better or for survival purposes (such as for making snares). If you tie-in a large loop at the end of the cord, you can then wrap it around your wrist to avoid dropping or losing it in a knile fight.



BELTS - i always use an adjustable "utility strap" to hold up my pants instead of a black military belt. Because if something ever needs to be strapped down in the field, I'll always be ready.

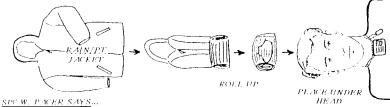
Ranger Rick's Comments: Me too! I've always worn an Mi6 Rifle Sling to hold up my pants. It works great along with the old "open & close" rifle sling buckle. But today's Mi6 rifle slings don't come with the "slip & slide" buckles anymore. No Problem! Just remove the black belt buckle from your military beit and attach it to the sling. And when your sling becomes dirty and unserviceable, Just turn it into your arms room for a new one. Save yourself \$\$\$.





SPC J. COMPTON WRITES ...

"Hey Ranger Rick, I have an idea for a field pillow instead of using your M17 Mask, Kevlar or rucksack as one "Take your rainsuit top and roll it up nice and neat and place it inside "the hood" of the jacket. Then pull the draw strings tight and you now have a field pillow to place under your head. In fact, you can keep it rolled up nice and tight and stored in your rucksack pocket all the time, when you need it (for the rain or as a pillow), just pull it out.



"I have been a faitful Ranger Digest reader since the first handbook came out." I find them to contain a jot of good tips & tricks as well as being entertaining at times. Being a U.S. Army Medic, I couldn't help but notice your comment that you made (RD# (IV) about most medics's "Aidhags" being sloppy as hell. When I was at my first assignment in Korea (ROK), I went on a lot of patrols up in the DMZ. Before every mission, we were either inspected by the Battalion XO or CSM. One of the things that we medics always got inspected and tested on, was knowing where everything was located in the aidbag....BLIND FOLDED!

They would cover our eyes and ask us to locate several first aid medical items in the bag. The purpose of this was (A) to insure we kept our aidbags neat and organized (B) to insure that we knew where everything was. So if in the event we ever had to treat a casualty at night, we knew where to find the items at our finger tips without the aid of a flashlight.

This was an invaluable learning tool that quickly taught me and many other medics the importance of keeping an aidbag neatly packed, organized and knowing where everything was located at all times.

L.CONIXMS, VASELINE,



RANGER RICK SAYS ...

WOOL SWEATERS - Never, ever wash a pure wool sweater in hot water, always wash in COLD WAT; R, hot water will drastically shrink a pure wool sweater. Your U.S. Army sweater is made of 50% wool and 50% cotton, it is NOT 100% pure wool.

If your lucky enough to go on a NATO Exercise where there are troops from Belgium, England and France. Try your best to either buy, trade, or exchange something for their military sweater, theirs is the best damn wool sweater you'll ever own. No B.S...

Whenever I was deployed to a cold weather environment for training, the only thing I ever wore in the field (most of the time) was my Belgium wool sweater under my BDU uniform, it was warm as hell. While my buddles were wearing their long john underwear, field jackets & liners and constantly bitching about how cold it was, I was smiling, joking and saying "Not me buddy, I'm warm, too warm!"

UNWANTED HAIRS FOR THE FIELD - No. 1'm not talking about the hair on your head, I'm talking about the hairs on your chest and between your legs. If your getting ready to deploy to a hot weather environment or bug infested area such as the woods or jungle, trim some of those pubic hairs off before you leave. Both, off your chest and between your legs too. I'm not joking!

If your a hairy fellow or gal, the hot weather will make you sweat more in those areas, plus it will help reduce the chances of you catching a little critter crawling around in it. DON'T SHAVE IT ALL OFF with a razor, T:(IM IT down with a pair of scissors to reduce the pubic hair population. At first it may feel strange to lose some of these hair, but you'll feel much cooler and better knowing some little "tic & flea" isn't crawling inside of it.

GOT A HANG OVER, BUDDY? - Yep, if your going to "Party Hardy & Hoot With The Night Owles," you better be ready to "Soar With The Eagles In The Morning" especially if it's a duty day. Now there ain't no fool-proof method in getting over a hang over after a long night of drinking and partying. But one trick that I've used personally for many years that seems to work pretty well for me. And that is prior to going to bed, I would "force myself" to drink a quart or more of milk. What this did is delute the alcohol in my system while I'm sleeping.

Now I've tried a few other drinks and liquids such as coffee, tea, hot chocolate, cola, orange juice and water. But these never seemed to delute the alcohol very well in my system, and I would either still wake up with an upset stomach or a headache or both. But, milk seemed to do the trick for me, at least most of the time. As a backup, I would also pop a few aspirins in my mouth prior to going to bed too. If my stomach still bothered me a little bit in the morning, I'd take some alka-seltzer. Now I'm not encouraging nor saying my personal anti-hang over tip will work for you too, but.....

GORTEX JACKET MODIFICATIONS

Submitted By: Spc. Chris C.Rush

Dear Ranger Rick,

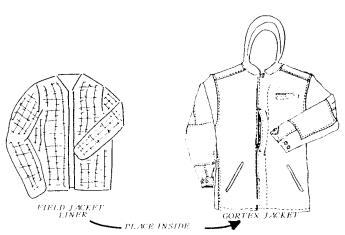
Ever since the military issued us the GORTEX EXTREME COLD WEATHER PARKER, living in the field has been a bit more comfortable and bearable. But, there's still a small problem with this Gortex Parker. When it's really, really cold, you start to get really, really chilly too. Especially if your not moving around much or you got issued an "old, used & worn out" Gortex Parker.

But I came up with a solution to this problem. Go to your nearest Wal-Mart or K-Mart store and purchase four pairs of round velcro tabs from the sewing section.

Then take your military issued field Jacket liner and place it inside your Gortex Extreme Cold Weather Parker. Locate where the velcro tabs that are already sewn into the Gortex Parker and mark down where they touch on field jacket liner. Remove the field jacket liner, sew in the velcro tabs and then try it on.

It works great! You'll notice the difference right away as it will retain more body heat.

Ranger Rick's Comments: Sounds like a winner! But don't forget to remove some of your cold weather clothing such as your liner and heavy Jacket just prior to making a long tactical foot movement. Because...."The More Clothing You Wear On A Tactical Foot Movement, The More You Will Sweat. And The More You Sweat, - The Colder You Will Get When You Finally Come To A Rest."



KEVLAR GOGGLE ATTACHMENT

Submitted By; Spc Peter Kukharsky

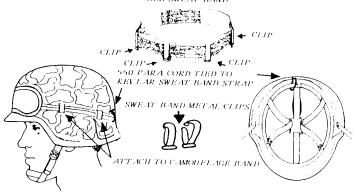
Specialist Kukharsky writes, "I'd like to pass along a little trick I picked up as a mechanized soldier. It seems like everyone has lost a set of military goggles at one time or another. They fill off helmets (usually at night) and either get lost or crushed by someone's foot or vehicle. Well, I've come up with an easy way of securing and detaching them to my keviar."

Once you secured your camouflage band cover to your kevlar helmet as you described in your Ranger Digest III book (Page 18). Find yourself an old kevlar "sweat band" and remove the small metal clips that are attached to It.

Take your military goggles and place them over your helmet and directly on top of your camouflage band. Now take those metal sweat band clips and connect them to both, your kevlar and goggle bands.

With your kevlar camouflage band already tied and attached to the back of your helmet (as described in RD#III), and the band of your goggles connected to the camouflage band, you'll never again have to worry about losing another pair of goggles. To remove the goggles, Just unsnap the clips.

OLD SWEAT BAND







SHORT CUTS



Short Cuts! Who me? No, I would never take a short cut in training....NOT! OK, I admit it, I've taken my share of shortcuts in the Army. But I've also had my share of "ass chewings" too, nobody's perfect....including Ranger Rick. I didn't mind risking or getting an ass chewing, as long as it benefited my squad or platoon and I didn't violate any Army or unit safety rules, policies, or regulations. You know what I mean?

When ever my platoon was deployed to the field for more than week, I would occasionally let some of my men "sneak off" and make a poggy bait (snack) run to a local town nearby. The rules were, (a) they had to conduct it like a tactical military patrol or operation, (b) they had to bring back enough food and snacks for everyone and not just for themselves.

As the platoon sergeant and second MFIC, I would select a reliable NCO to lead the "poggy patrol." Of course, all of these unauthorized snack runs were conducted at night and without the 1SG or CO's permission. (I'm no dumb ass, you know...)

It was not only good military training, but good for morale too. Because we knew that if we got caught doing It, we were screwed, But if we pulled it off successfully, we thought we were some pretty slick dudes. And in all the years that I have been doing this, I can honestly and proudly say, "my guys never got caught."

My most memorable and famous poggy bait patrols were conducted in foreign countries such as Germany, Turkey, Italy and Korea. It was more challenging doing it in unfamiliar turf, you get my drift?

When it came time for my guys to qualify with their weapons, I took a few shortcuts there too. Because most of the rifle ranges that we fired on were only big enough to handle 12-16 men per firing order. And in most of the units that I served in, zeroing and qualifying was an all day affair, and sometimes longer.

If none of my men needed to have their own individually assigned weapons zero'd, because they zero'd them previously on other ranges. Then I would ask the company armor if I could borrow a few "unassigned weapons." To zero and qualify with an unassigned weapon is no big deal, as long as your own individually assigned weapon is zero'd to you and it's ready for depolyment.

When using unassigned weapons for zeroing and qualifying, they must be individually zero'd for each person using them. If you have any known "John Wayne Non-Shooters" who can't hit shit. Well, these guys are usually going to take longer to zero and qualify regardless if their using their own weapon or not. As a rule, these "dead eyes" should always shoot last in any firing order so that they can take their time practicing, firing, bolloing without holding up the rest of the unit.





Most company armors that I've known, they really don't care if you borrow any unassigned weapons, just as long as they are turned back in spotless and clean. So per every 10 men that had to qualify, I would borrow two (2) unsigned M16 rifles. And these would be the only weapons that my men would use to qualify with. And they would then be rotated throughout the entire squad or platoon, from zeroing to range qualification.

My philosophy was, "Why get all of your weapons dirty when you can get away with getting only a few dirty." You'll not only be keeping your assigned weapons clean and combat ready, but it's alot fister cleaning two M16 rifles with a 10 man squad, than cleaning ten rifles with 10 men. When everyone is finished firing, then everyone pitches in and helps clean up the weapons. Makes sense, don't it?

We also did the same thing when it came to NBC Training. Why get 10 to 45 protective masks contaminated and dirty going through the gas chamber, when you can get away with getting only 5 or 6 masks contaminated and dirty. Makes sense, don't it?

WARNING: Don't read between the lines or try to take shortcuts too far. It's OK to take them some of the times, but not all the time. Here's a fine example what could happen.....

A TRU: STORY: Back in 1985 while assigned to Fort Bragg, North Carolina as a new Platoon Sergeant. I once had to work for a corrupt platoon leader who made a habit of constantly taking short cuts in almost everything he did, from training to falsifying military documents. For awhile, I tried my best to straighten him out. But due to him being assigned to the unit a year or two before I arrived, he was looked upon by the other NCOs and soldiers in the platoon (and company) as "One of the Guys."

I had my ass chewed many a times for numerous platoon violations, all due to this LT alwayswanting to do what he wanted regardless what I said or what the regs and policies stated. He even encouraged the troops to do the same. Me, being the newly assigned "new guy on the block" and considered the "outsider" or "newby," I was in a no win situation. I was the fall guy and taking the blame for everything. My Company Commander, 1SG, Bn. Commander and CSM would not listen to me. I was getting no where, it was clear one of us had to leave the platoon. Naturally, the "West Point Protection Society" (WPPS) protected him and they reassigned me to another position within the unit.

Well, to make this story short, about a month or so after I left. A couple of individuals from the platoon drowned while making an "unauthorized water crossing." Even though it was put out many times in training briefings never to make unauthorized water crossing, my old "know-it-all" former platoon members decided to do it anyway and it cost the life of a couple of soldiers.

What happen to the Platoon Leader over this? It's hard to believe, but nothing! Today he's probably a Lt.Colonel and leading a battalion somewhere in the Army. Thanks to the WPPS.



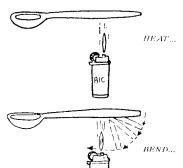
THE MRE SPOON



Submitted By Matt Isner

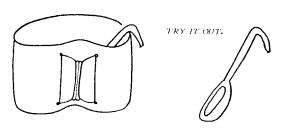
Here's a neat little trick you canall do with your MRE spoon to prevent it from falling into your canteen cup while your eating or drinking from it.

Heat the spoon handle approximately one inch from the end.



When it becomes very hot (Not Burnt), bend it down and hold in place until it cools.

Then try it out by hooking it to the side of the canteen cup. Now it won't fall in accidentally.



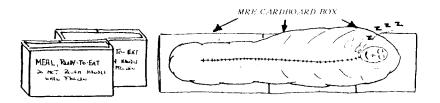


MRE BOX COVER USES

One of the most useful and over looked items to use in the field as an "excellent" ground cover is the cardboard shipping box that the MRE's come in. How many times have you seen these cardboard boxs being trashed and carted off? A lot of times, right?

Have you ever seen the way homeless people live and sleep on the streets? They make themselves cardboard shelters out of cardboard boxes and then wrap themselves up in newspapers and plastic, it's an excellent heat and cold reflector and deflector.

So the next time your freezing your buns off out in the field and your ol'1SG is about ready to take away the trash, grab a few MRE cardboard boxes to use as a ground cover. Just separate the glued ends of the box, open it up, and then spread it on the ground. Then all ya'gotta do is place your sleeping bag or poncho liner on top and your set for the night. Try it, it works.

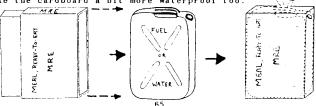


MRE GAS/WATER CAN COVERS

This next trick is nothing new, I've seen many units doing it for years, but I'll pass it along anyway.

To help keep plastic or metal water and fuel cans clean and sound proof while attached to a military vehicle. Is by removing an MRE cardboard box sleeve and then sliding it over the can, it's a perfect.

Of course, you may have to make a few modifications to the MRE sleeve cover, such as a few holes so that you can lash the container onto the vehicle with the straps or some cord, it's no big deal or major operation. If you don't like the way the cardboard looks attached to your vehicle or track, then just grab a can of OD spray paint and paint over it. The spray paint will also make the cardboard a bit more waterproof too.



DISPOSABLE MRE WATER CONTAINERS

OK Guys & Gals, if you've been reading my past Ranger Digest Handbooks. You should have guessed that after I showed you how to make a water bucket, water funnel, and a pair of slippers out of a plastic MRE wrapper, the MRE box was next, right?

Here's the situation, let's say your company XO or supply sergeant failed to bring enough water containers to the field. What? Oh Shit! Now what are you gonna do? No, don't fire them, just make your own disposable water containers. How? Out of a couple of empty MRE cardboard boxes and a few heavy duty trash bags.

First, remove the MRE cardboard box sleeve, open it up and then cut a small square hole at one of the corners.(See drawing)

Second, place a clean trash bag one-inside-the-other and have both bag openings fit through the hole. Insure the trash bags are lose and fit snuggly inside.

Third, close the box, wrap a few strips of 100 MPH tape (or WD-1 commo) around the box to keep the sides from popping open, and then slide the "sleeve" back onto the MRE box. Then again, run a few more strips of 100 MPH tape (or wire) around the box, but this time around the entire box sleeve too.

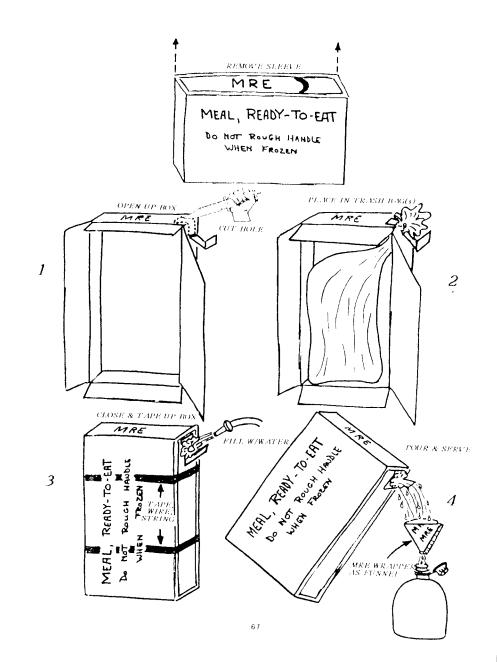
Now, at the opening end of the trash bags where you have cut a small square hole into the MRE box, fill the trash bag full of water. When it's full, twist the bag tightly closed with a piece of string or wire. DO NOT USE ANY TAPE, you want to be able to open the water bags up without tearing it apart. And what you have now is a disposable (or reuseable) MRE water container.

To fill canteens, until the sting or wire from the mouth of the trash bag where you have made a small square hole through the cardboard box. And either pour the water directly into a canteen cup and then into your canteen. Or take an MRE plastic meal wrapper and make a funnel out of it as described in RD# IV page 70, place the small narrow portion of the "funnel" into the canteen itself and then pour water from the MRE box into the big wide open end of the funnel. (Two people maybe needed to perform this task.)

CAUTION: Should you find any water leaking from inside or around the MRE box, first check the tie-down string around the opening portion of the the trash bag. If water still appears to be leaking from the box, either the trash bag is defective and or they were damaged while being placed inside the MRE box. When an MRE water container is no longer needed for transporting water, DON'T THROW IT AWAY, use it as a garbage bag or box.

NOTE: Company XO's or Supply Sgts can save valuable time (and fuel) if they use MRE disposable water containers instead of metal or plastic cans. This way MRE water containers can be dropped off or discarded with the troops without having to worry about returning back to pick them up later.





MRE DISPOSABLE SHIT BOX

Yea, go ahead and laugh, ---hole, but this trick really works. That is if you don't have any 300 pound "fat asses" in your unit.

I would usually make these "MRE Shit Boxes" when we were going to be in one location for awhile. Personally, I prefer using the MRE Shit Box instead of a field cathole because I was never much of a squatter. I rather "Sit and Shit" than "Squat and Plop."

Well, here's how you can make an MRE Disposable Shit Box....

- (A) Get an empty MRE Box, 2 large trash bags and a sharp knife.
- (B) Cut approximately a 6 inch square hole in the center portion of the narrowest side of the box that is NOT part of the sleeve.
- (C) Do not cut nor remove one side or section of the cardboard when cutting the square hole leave it attached as a swinging
- (D) Remove the sleeve, open up the box and place inside two trash bags one inside the other. Insure the opening of the bags are sticking out of the square hole, then pull some of it out and over
- the side of the box.
 (E) Close the box, replace the sleeve, tape up the sides, open up
- the lid and make any last minute final adjustments to the trash bag that's inside the box. Now sit on it and try it out for size.

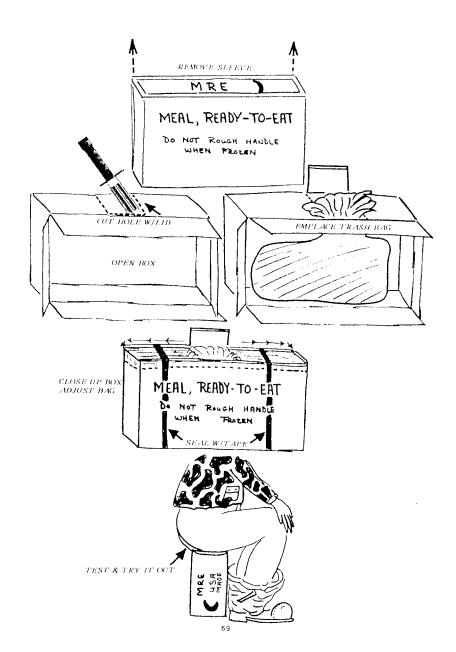
When your done "Pooping," don't forget to close the lid to keep out the flys and the stink in. Also, it's highly recommended not to piss in an MRE Shit Box when taking a shit, (if possible). One MRE Shit Box should be sufficient enough for a squad size element for at least a 24-hours period. Empty or dispose of MRE Shit Box when it's half full, DON'l wait until it's COMPLETLY FULL.

To properly dispose of body waste, either remove just the bags that are full of shit and replace it with a new bag(s), or dispose of the entire box. MRE Shit Boxes should either be buried or disposed of by your ISG, XO, or supply agt.

Hey! There's nothing wrong with using an MRE Shit Box in the field. Look at it this way...Your only putting the food back in box where it originally came from, right? Huh? Huh?









MISSING TOILET PAPER



One time I got assigned to a really screwed up platoon. It was so bad that the company 1SG told me straight out, "SFC Tscherne, your getting the worst platoon in the entire battalion, good luck!" And he wasn't joking about it neither, Gomer Pyle and the Three Stogges were more disciplined.

The previous PSG was a "Nice Guy," but he lacked discipline himself. And the PLDR was an ROTC 2LT from Florida who liked to brag to the troops what he did before he came in the Army, get this, he worked at "Disney World." Is that something really to bragg about? He didn't last long, he got fired from the military and sent to "Disneyland USA."

Anyway, if I couldn't mold this group of misfits into a well disciplined, combat trained infantry platoon, then my ass and career was on the line.

So to find out what the problems were, I held a platoon "bitch cession" so that troops could air out their grievances, complaints and problems. One of their grievances was about missing or stolen toilet paper from the latrine. I said, "No problem!" So I thought...

I originally went to the company supply sgt and asked if it was possible to issue each one of my men a roll of toilet paper once a week. I told him I would take responsibility for it and have each member sign for a roll. When they needed a new one, they had to bring back the empty cardboard roller. Well you can guess what the iSG, CO, XO and Supply Sgt said about this....."F--- NO!"

So then 1 went to plan "B" and asked if 1 could sign for a couple of military locks and chains. "No problem," they said, "after you fill out a supply hand receipt for It." No problem, so 1 thought...

So I grabbed the chains, locks, 15 rolls of new toilet paper, went to the latrine stalls and chained & locked 3 rolls of toilet paper per stall right to the shitter pipes themselves. PROBLEM SOLVED?

l expected the three rolls of toilet paper per stall would last about a week before needing replacing. Before I chained & locked them up, more than 35 rolls of toilet paper were being stolen per week. I was able to cut it down to 15 rolls per week and they always had shit paper at their "finger tips." Problem Solved? Or so I thought....

The next time 1 held a piatoon bitch cession, the damn toilet paper came up again. What did they bitch about this time?

1.WAITING IN LINE. Because our platoon latrines always had shit paper, the other platoons in the company always came to our shitters whenever theirs was used up or stolen. And due to this, my guys had to wait in line to just to use their own toilets.

2. TRUST. They told me that it I couldn't trust'em with toilet paper, how could I trust them in real combat. Can you believe this shit?

CANTEEN CUP TIPS

One of the worst things that I hated to clean for an inspection was my damn F--en canteen cup. "Who in the hell gives a shit if it's clean and shinning or not. I'm the only one drinking from the damn thing, right? So if it's not clean... then I'll suffer the consequences with the G.I. Shits, right?

That was my ol'response that I would give to my squad leader when he didn't like the way I cleaned my canteen cup for an upcoming IG inspection. Yep, Private Tscherne (me, Ranger Rick) was not a very popular soldier in his young, dumb, and niave years in the Army.

So to get may damen squad leader off my ass, I just bought me another canteen cup and used it strictly for inspections. Come to think of it, I bought a complete set of everything just for inspections, that's why I kept re-enlisting. I figured if I already invested this much money in the Army, I'd may as well stay in for the long haul.

Now where was I? Oh yea.... the canteen cup. Most young troopers and some ol'die hard leaders still prefer to use their canteen cups for everything. From cooking their meals, heating up coffee to digging "cat holes." They simply take out their cup, dump in their food or coffee and heat it up over a fire. The ol'cup gets burnt on the outside and filty on the inside (Yum-Yum!).

To clean a canteen cup in the field "Grunt Style," just dump in some dirt or sand, add a little water, mix and rinse. To see if you cleaned your cup correctly, just wait until the next time you use it. If you can eat or drink from it without getting the G.I. Shits - then it's clean. And if you believe this, boy are you adumb shit.

Sericusly speakin....if you want to keep your canteen cup clean in the rield:

A. Try carrying a few feet of aluminum foil folded neatly between your canteen and canteen pouch. So when your ready to use the ol'cup, wrap some aluminum foil around the bottom portion first before placing it over a flame. The aluminum foil will absorb the heat and become discolored and NOT the canteen cup itself.

B. Only use your canteen cup strictly for heating water, never dump or mix food, coffee or cocoa powder inside of it. Instead, when the water is hot, simply mix the food or beverage powder inside of a M258 NBC plastic container, coke can, or plastic MRE wrapper. Plastic is much essier to clean then metal.

By using what you have available in the field, it will not only reduce getting your canteen cup dirty, but it will also reduce your chances of catching the shits.





ALUMINUM FOIL PROTECTS CUP

STORE & CARRY HERE



PAINTBALLS & BB GUNS

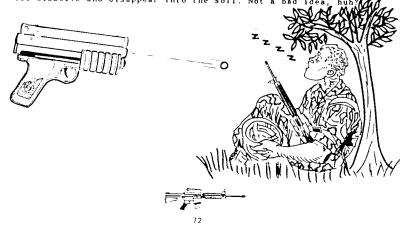
 \mathcal{X}

Everytime I deployed to the field, I took along with me my BB pistol or sling shot just so that I could keep myself entertained during those "hurry up & wait" military games. I also bought me a black military holster so that I wouldn't appear out of uniform with the BB gun. I not only used it for small game hunting in the field, but I also used it to keep my troops awake and on their toes. It's a great attention getter. No, I wouldn't intentionally try to shoot'em, just close enough to get their attention if they were snoozing or doing something wrong.

Today, there's a better "field toy" on the market that leaders can use to get their troops attention, it's called a paintball gun. If they had these on the market when I was in the Army, oh boy, I would have bought one in a heart beat. Of course, the red colored paintballs would be my preferred color of choice, you know, to signify "blood." If somebody was snoozing or doing something stupid in the field.... WHACKO! Better to be hit with a soft paintball in training than to learn the hard way with a lead one in combat, right?

Do you know where or how a paintball gun came about? They were first used by timber companies to mark trees that they wanted to have cut down. A guy would walk or drive along a road or trail and shoot and mark the trees that needed to be cut down. Then the lumber jacks or tree cutters would look for his markings on the trees and cut'em down.

Well, if you think about it, these multi-colored paintballs can also be used to mark trails and routes for your unit too. Whether it's a vehicle convoy or a foot movement (road march). Not only can you use them for marking trails, but marking sectors of fire too. After about a day or so (or when it rains), the colored water will dissolve and disappear into the soil. Not a bad idea, bub?



UNIT FIELD TOOLS

As a young elite squad leader, I always made sure my squad carried the right tools needed in the field, which was a small axe, machete, pick, and tree saw.

The small axe was used for cutting down small trees, the machete was for cutting down weeds and brush, the small pick was for breaking rocks or roots, and the tree saw was for cutting down large trees or logs that our E-tools couldn't cut.

If your in a light Infantry, Airborne or Ranger unit, your probably thinking this is an awful lot of extra shit to be dragging around in the field. But it pays to have it, at least it did for me and my guys. While everyone was waiting for the supply sergeant or company XO to show up with these tools, or they were busy arguing over who would use them first. Ranger Rick and his merry men were busy preparing their defensive positions with their own set of tools. My guys learned quick to appreciate carrying the little extra weight, as it made us more self-contained and independent as a small unit.

I even carried a few of these items in my rucksack too, but I had them modified to fit my personal needs. I always wanted to be ready for any tactical, survival, or emergency situation. So here's what I $\operatorname{did}\ldots$

MACHETE MODIFICATIONS - I bought a machete once, but I wasn't completely satisfied with it. It was not only too damn long and bulky, but too damn dangerous to take on a parachute Jump, you know what I mean, Vern?

So I took a hacksaw and cut it down to a comfortable size, not too short and not too long. But before cutting it down, I figured I may as well make it into a fighting weapon too. So I cut the blade of! at an angle so it came to a point. I also made the flat portion of the blade into a second (double edge) blade with the use of a belt sander and grinder. I figured a double bladed machete is better than a single bladed one. This way if one blade gets dull or dented, I still got the other side. Of course, I had to modify the machete case as well, nothing that a little bit of 100 MPH tape couldn't handle.

TREE-SAW MODIFICATIONS - The only real bulky thing about carrying a tree-saw to the field is the frame itself. But after getting my rucksack cut or torn a few too many times with the blade, i figured there had to be a much better way to carry it or I may as well leave it home. And that was the solution, I'll just took the blades and left the frame at home. When I needed to use it, I just simply wired the blade to a tree branch (See Below).











TACTICAL VEHICLE LIGHTS

How many of you troopies out there belong to a track or wheeled vehicle unit? Com'on, raise your hands, don't be shy... Now how many of you leaders or drivers have taken the time to cover up your bright, shiny, vehicle lights for the field? I don't think very many of you do, most of ya Just tape over them there lights just for the field and then you tear'em off later on, right?

Well, here's a neat tactical trick you might wanta try. Get yourself a military sandbag and cut it open all the way. Remove the vehicle's headlight "frame covers" from the light, place the sandbag over the glass, replace the frame cover back over the headlight and then cut & trim off the excess sandbag material.

What this will do is drastically reduce the bright "Here I Am -Come Shoot Me" sunlight reflection. But...should you have to put on your bright vehicle headlights during non-tactical situations." no problem. Just turn on your vehicle headlights and it will shine right through the sandbag covers without any difficulty what so ever.

If you leave them on permanently, it will save you the hassles of always having to cover your headlights just prior to deployment.



Another headlight tactical trick you may want to try, and that is to tape over your vehicle headlights with some "see-thru" red filter sheets of plastic.

This will not only reduce sun-light reflection during daylight tactical operations, but it will also help you to see at night. Provided your lights throw off an "infared" red beam of light and your wearing a set of "night vision goggles." Night vision goggles work best in reduced low level light, such as light reflection from the moon and stars. A beam of "red light" from a red filter (intared) flashlight or vehicle headlight will look like a bright beam of "green light" when seen through a pair of night vision

Where can you find a large piece of red filtered see-thru plastic? Try your local school & office supply store, these red see-thou plastic sheets are usually sold as book protection covers. Or take a red can of spray paint and "very lightly spray" over a clear sheet of plastic.



ME TOW BLAST SIMULATORS BATT



There's a ne: little tr ning device that Anti-Tank/TOW Platoons use to simulate the firit of a THW missile, their called "M80 TOW BLAST SIMULAT RS." It's a thing more than an M80 firecracker that is electric, by detonat by a buttery instead of a match. Except for the bare ands of the lire, their completely waterproof.

Blast Simulators instead.

Speaking of : .terproof...... once taught a class in the field on how to effectively use am MisAi Claymore Mine in an ambush position. First I taught he basic fundimentals and use of a claymore mine, then I out on a demonstration. Only I didn't use any fake "dummy" training claymore mines, I used these M80 TOW

up to a nearby bush on the bank.

I found me some WD1 co: 5 wire, a roll of 100 MPH tape, a PRC-77 cadio battery and a co-ple of M80 TOW BLast Simulators. I connected the bare wire of the M80's to some WD1 commo wire and then taped them up to mal. them waterproof. I walked my class over to a nearby shallow slow oving creek where earlier I spotted some pretty good size trout so mming in it. Gave a quick class on how to emplace a claymore mise using a "dummy M18A1 Claymore," Then I took out the wire and M80 and told the class to immagine that it was a Claymore Mine. I alked into the water, emplaced it on the near side of the bank (in the water) and laid out the commo wire

I hooked up one end of the commo wire to the negative (-) portion of the PRC-77 battery and held the other end just above the positive (+) autlet. I ti n went on and explained

Zone,"

"Men, assume this narrow week here is a trail and you suspect the enemy has been using it daily. After you have emplaced and camouflaged our claym e mine along the side of the trail, you must then sit patiently a d wait for him to come along. Now let's assume the ft h in this b re creek is the enemy. First of all, you don't want to waste your laymore mine on one lousy enemy soldier, you should ait until ou have a whole bunch of 'em in the Kill

Now one of my NCO'S by the name of SGT SAM MERCHANT, was upstream about 30 me ers waiting for me to give him the signal on when to walk down str am. As he wiked, the fish would be scared down stream towar s me and t a submerged MSO in the creek. I gave him the prearranged signal and then continued on with my class and said....

"When you have a whole bunch of enemy soldiers within the Kill Zone of your claymore mine, you surprise'em...." (By now a steady school of trout were passing in front of the M80)... and let'em have It like so ... " KA-BOUM!

The underwater blast and concussion killed about 5 good size trout and sent them floating "belly up" to the surface. The class loved it. I got a hugh applause, a lot of laughs, and had fresh trout for dinner that evening, a true story, just ask good'ol Sgt Sam





Submitted By: SRA Mike Tipton

Hey Ranger Rick;

 $1\,^{\prime\prime}m$ stationed at Elmendorf AFB with the 3rd Security Police Squadron and recently purchased your Ranger Digest 1,11, & 111. A couple of ideas that I didn't see mentioned in any of your books were...

COTTON BALL FIRE STARTERS: These are very simple to make. First, you get yourself a bunch of cotton balls and a container of petroleum Jelly (Vasaline). Then take the cotton balls and dip them into the container of vasaline until they are thoroughly soaked and covered.

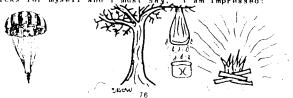
Get yourself an emply 35mm film container and place as many of these vasatine covered cotton balls inside as possible, about 25 or so. Then, whenever you need to start a fire or you just want to warm yourself up for a few minutes like you mentioned on page 3 of the Ranger Digest 1. Just puil out one of these cotton ball fire starters, light it up and presto! instant fire and heat. They'll easily burn for about 10 (+/-) minutes depending on how much jelly you used.



WATER GENERATOR: Take a clean large piece of clothe (parachute, sheet. etc.) and fill it full of snow, then tie up the corners or sides so it's like a bag. With the use of some 560 parachute cord, find a tree with a thick low lying branch and holst it up above the ground at least a few feet so that it's not touching the ground.

Now place your empty canteen cup directly under it, build yourself a fire no further than a meter or so away from it and wait for the snow to melt. As the heat from the fire melts the snow, the water will run down and through the material and into the canteen cup itself. The material also acts as a filtering system for filtering out leaves, twigs and dirt. Of course, the larger the material you use, the more snow it will hold and the more water it will produce.

Ranger Ricks Comments: Super Great Ideas! I recently tried these tips & tricks for myself and I must say, "I am impressed!"



KNOTS OF THINGS

Submitted By David H. Mele

Hey Ranger Rick...

Everyone in the military knows you have to keep your boot laces from being shown, so here's a tip on how to keep them more easily hidden.



Stop when you get to the top of the boot....



Pull tight & bring the ends back thru the holes...



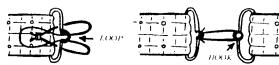
Then tuck lace ends down nice and neat inside boot itself.

Got a problem keeping your boot laces even??? Take your boot laces and just tie a simple knot in the center and then lace them back up. This will not only keep your laces nice and even, but it will also prevent them from coming out should you have to untle your boots all the way down to the last few holes.



Did you ever get issued one of those old LBE web belts? You know, the ones with the metal links? Well, a simple modification that you can easily add to it, is a piece of 550 parachute cord. (See below.) This will not only stop the metal links from making klinking sounds, but it will also enable you to adjust the web belt more easily without having to take it entirely off. Not to mention easier on your waist when you have to crouch low or bend over something.





"By the way...That knot you described on page 41 of your Ranger Digest IV Handbook, it's called a "Chimney Knot." I'm a professional Fire Fighter and also an instructor at the Fire Academy, and this is one of the knots that we teach our new recruits."



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THE POOR MAN'S NIGHT SIGHT

Submitted By: Richard Seaules

Now this next idea is really something special, it was sent to me by a "Washington National Guard Marksmanship Coordinator." When I first read and saw this tip, I thought "Man, that's a pretty smart idea."

He calls it a "Poor Man's Night Sight." What you need is a chem-lite, some 100 MPH masking tape, a sharp knife and your M16 rifle.

Step 1: Take a chem-lite out of the wrapper, bend and break it until it starts to glow.

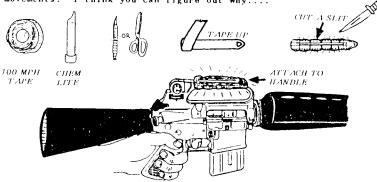
Step 2: Carefully tape up the entire chem-lite with "one layer of tape" so that no glow light shows through it.

Step 3: Place it in the sight handle grove of the weapon and then tape it securely in place.

Step 4: lake a sharp knile or razor and CUT A THIN NARROW SLIT across the entire length of the chem-lite. Peel away the small strip of tape until you can see a straight "glowing line."

Hold—the weapon slightly lower than normal when aiming, look over the top of the carrying handle where you can see the "glow—line," point in the desired direction and fire.

IMPORTANT: Prepare and use the Poor Man's Night Sight only during limited visible (darkness) when regular weapon sights become ineffective to use. When cutting a long, thin, straight, narrow slit across the top portion of the chem-lite, don't cut too deep or too wide. Too deep and you'll cut into the chem-lite itself, too wide and you'll be exposing too much glow light where it will not only be seen clearly by you, but also by the ENEMY too. Being in a stationery night defensive position is no doubt probably the best and only time it should ever be used, NOF during tactical movements. I think you can figure out why....



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UNIT FIELD BIKES

Yep, I've seen them around in unit areas and I'm sure you have too. itelf old, beat up and sometimes rusty, I'm talking about "Abandoned Bicycles." Who abandones them? Usually soldiers who PCS or ETS but of the Army and they either forgot about them, or they just dirn't want'em anymore.

Then or day, the of 18G gets tired of seeing these rusty old bikes hained to his unit bike rack. So he warms the entire company that the owner or owners of these bikes had better claim them is a certain date or time or they can kiss them good by If no one somes forward to claim them, then the rule is "No Name, No Claim, Good By Chain" and they then become unit property.

Does I need fixing up? No problem! Just get one of your "broke lick" troops who's on profile or has extra duty and have him f'... It, sand it and paint it. Then go to your company supply room a. I get a military lock and secure it back onto the rack. Then loover needs some local transportation to get around on, they cut borrow it just as long as they surrender either their military weapon or mask card. This will help you to keep track of who's uning it, where it's at and insure that it's returned back.

Now if your unit is lucky enough to acquire a used mountain—bike, then y a can use these as a Tactical Field Bikes. When I was a G-3 Operat in Surgeant (US Army SETAF) deployed to the field—in—such places as Turkey, we used them everyday for short trips within the area.

Now do: 't get all bent out of shape, I know their not for every unit. 'at, If your in a mech, wheel or transpo unit, you can take it alon; to the field to help you get around. Why walk or drive a vehicle a kilometer or so just to pass a message or something along: 'someone when you can mount a tactical bike. If your wise, you'll paint it, camouflage it, and attach either a rack or a small of it pack to it so you can transport small things.

if you Caluk this is a weird and crazy idea, try telling it to the "Swiss Army." As mountainous and rugged as their country is, they actually have units that are assigned tactical field bikes. I've seen 'om, honest! They even had special racks attached to their mountain bikes for mounting rucksacks, weapons, and supplies. Do you think this would work in our Army? Naasaah!



SMALL UNIT ID TIPS

Submitted By Ssg Craig A. Marts

If your unit doesn't already have a "Cat Eye" SOP for identifying themselves at night, such as for BDU Patrol Caps, Kevlar Helmet, Rucksacks, etc. You may want to try one of these ID tips.

Get yourself some "Glow Tape" from either your unit supply sergeant, your on-post MCSS, or your off-post local military supply store. Take a sharp pair of scissors, cut out some easy identifiable patterns, and them sewn them onto the back of your BDU Patrol Caps, Kevlars and Rucksacks. Then during limited visibility (night time), you'll be able to see and identify each other more easily. If someone should lose or find a bat or rucksack at night, they'll also be able to tell what unit it belongs to. Some simple patterns you may want to consider using:

EXAMPLE ONLY:

"A" COMPANY "B" COMPANY "C" COMPANY "D" COMPANY "HHC"

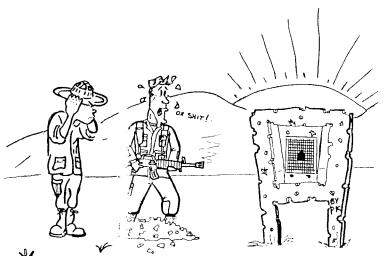
To help identify key unit leaders (Squad, PSG, PLDR), just add a third pattern directly above the others with either a number or letter clearly marked in the center of it. Example:



Ranger Rick's Comments: While assigned to the 1st Bn 509th ABCT in Italy in 1974, we stenciled in small identifiable patterns on the sides of our helmets. For example, our company used "Hearts" for 1st Plt, "Diamonds" for 2nd Plt, "Spades" for 3rd Plt, "Clubbs" for Wpns Plt. We then took a black or white marker and placed a number in the center of the pattern to identify the squad in the platoon.







This Is What Is Called "A Bad Day At The Range."

WHISTLE COMMANDS

As a young squad leader and platoon sergeant, I always used a whistle to control my troops during "actions on the objective" such as for Raids, Ambushes, and Movement-To-Contact operations.

It's much easier to hear whistle commands than to scream or holler the commands over the sounds of gun fire or explosions. I made each and everyone of my team and squad leaders carry a whistle too. So that if it was necessary, they could relay the whistle commands if mine couldn't be heard very well. Of course, this depended on how far the soldiers or squads were positioned apart.

It worked like this....

A long continuous blow of the whistle..... "CEASE FIRE!" This meant everyone was to stop firing except for those that had a clear enemy target in sight.



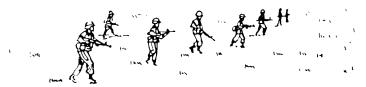
One short blow of the whistle...."SPECIAL TEAMS OUT." This meant Security, Demolition, Aid & Litter, POW & Search Teams move out from their assigned squads and to perform their tasks and duties up on the objective or in the kill zone.



Two short blows of the whistle.... "SPECIAL TEAMS IN & PREPARE TO MOVE OUT." This meant Special Teams must finish what they are doing, return to their squads and be ready to move out. And after a quick accountability and thumbs up from the key leaders.....



Three short bloss of the whistle meant "LET'S GET THE F--- OUTTA HERE," in which everyone would start to move out.



Most units I've seen prefer to shoot off star clusters or parachute flares to signal what they want to do next. But to me, by shooting off flares and star clusters (especially at night), you not only blind and ruin your own night vision and make it easier for the enemy to see you attacking them. But you also alert the next nearby enemy positions too.



Our Ammo Depol, Comrade, Quick, Call HQs!"

If you can train your men to quickly respond to whistle commands without having to yell or scream them out. An enemy soldier that might have escaped the initial attack and or is laying low in the bushes watching you lust might report back to their higher headquarters that they were not attacked by a regular force, but by a special highly trained elite unit. This will not only put them on a higher state of alert and readiness, but lower their morale too. Think about it!





SMALL UNIT SECURITY TIPS



Security is extrememly important if a unit is going survive in combat, there's a right way and a wrong way. Here's a few tips & tricks I learned from a few Viet Nam vets who either served in an SF, LRRP or Hanger unit during their overseas combat tour.

- 2 X MAN SECURITY POSITIONS: Whether your in a defensive position or a temporary patrol base, it's always wise to keep your men in pairs of two or more and equally spaced out. Not only will it make them feel more secure and safe, but they can take turns pulling security while the other either eats, sleeps, or cleans his weapon. Two sets of eyes covering the same assigned sector during daylight hours is better than one set of eyes. What the other may not see, the other will.
- 3 X MAN LP/OP POSITIONS: Depending on the size of the unit, Listening Posts and Observation Posts (LP/OP) should be manned by no less than two, but preferably by three. Due to their isolated position away from the main element and much closer to the enemy or main avenue of threat. Camouflage, cover, and concealment is of the most extreme importance if they are to survive and report all enemy movement. Therefore, the less you rotate and replace them, the less chance they will have in being detected by the enemy. Of course, this will depend on the size of the unit, the number of men you can spare, how well trained and disciplined they are and also the tactical situation.

WAGON-WHEEL PERIMETER/PATROL BASE: Depending on the tactical situation, terrain, and how exhausted your men are, rest and sleep could be your number one top priority if you are to continue on with your missions. When troops become tired and weak, they also become very careless, especially under stressful training or combated related conditions.

If rest and sleep is critical, and you have plenty of camouflage, cover and concealment, and you are not in contact with any enemy. Then you may want to consider setting up what is called a "WAGON-WHEEL PERIMETER/PATROL BASE. It's where all your men's rucksacks are placed side-by-side to form a "tight" little circle. The unit or RTO's radio is placed in the center so that the handset can be easily passed around from soldier-to-soldier or to whoever is up pulling security & radio watch.

There's several ways a Wagon Wheel can be organized and set up;

- A. The patrol members can either sleep with their rucksacks worn on their backs in a semi-sitting position, heads resting on the ruck frame and with their weapons pointed out 0r...
- B. The patrol members can lay their sleeping gear out at the base of their rucksacks and sleep inside their bags facing out with their weapons by their side.

A couple of important things you need to consider prior to setting up a Wagon Wheel Perimeter Patrol Base are....





- 1. The number of individuals pulling security & radio watch will depend on how many patrol members you have available. As a general rule; seven or less only one needs to be up, eight or more a alnimum of two should be up.
- 2. Whoever is pulling security, is also responsible for the radio.
- 3. Practice your alert/wake-up procedures on how every man is to
- be awaken. Example: A chain circular reaction of " elbow jabbing."
- 4. Never take out more items than what is needed from your ruck, be prepared and ready to move out in less than a minute notice.

Your ability to survive in a "tight" Wagon Wheel Patrol Base Perimeter will depend entirely on how well your hidden, concealed, and camouflaged from the enemy. And also, how well trained and disciplined your men are. The only short fall to ail this is...."one tossed grenade or one in-coming round could wipe

trained and disciplined your men are. The only short fall to all this is.... one tossed grenade or one in-coming round could wipe out your entire unit in a flash and a bang. That's why I keep emphasizing camouflage, cover, and concealment, this is extremely important to your survival.

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY 6 TO 12

CLAYMORE MINES & CLAYMORE MINES

WAGON WHEEL PATROL BASE

20



COMMANDO'S COULD SOMEDAY SPRING FROM THE WINGS OF JUMP JET HARRIERS

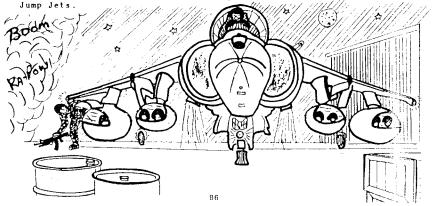


Situation: Your the commander of a Special Operations Team tasked with a mission to destroy a highly sensitive radar and telecommunication site deep inside hostal territory. Something goes wrong, your mission has been compromised and your forced to contact SOC (Special Operation Command) Headquarters via radio satilite to request permission to abort mission. No helicopter has the speed to arrive in time to extract you and a fixed-wing aircraft won't be able to find a landing strip within miles of your location. Time is running out, what other options are left?

McDonnell Douglas believes it has the solution if the U.S.Special Operations Command is interested and willing to fund it. It's called a Ground Rescue, Infiltrate, Exfiltrate and Resupply (GRIER) POD. It's a people transport pod that would hang from the wing of an AV-8B Harrler Jump Jet. Although this idea has been around for sometime, it may now become a reality because the United States uses it's Special Operations Forces more today then ever before. In 1993 alone, they carried out over 100 real world (classified) missions outside the continent of the United States.

Although the final design would not be locked in until SOC Headquarters at Fort Bragg, N.C buys off on it, the ultimate idea is to accommodate 2 - 3 people per pod. At the same time, the pod must have the same basic design as a Harrier's "external fuel tank"to avert a lengthy aircraft recertification. To keep the single-engine jet stable, one pod would be bolted under each wing mounted on stations that would also supply air and power to each of the pods. Because the Harrier can take off heavy, the plane could still carry a gun, ammo, and also an extra pair of external fuel tanks for long range missions.

If 2 or 3 Commando's can fit snuggly inside a pod, then only a mere pair of Harrier Jump Jets would be needed to insert or extract an SOF team. Unfortunately, the responsibility of transporting such a team would have to rest solely on the U.S. Marine Corp, as they are the only service that flies "Harrier"



HOW TO ADJUST TO AN OVER LEAS ASSIGNMENT

(For Sin be Guys & Gals Only)

When you join the milita ;, there's one thing you had better get use to real fast, and that a moving around. No matter what branch of the service your in your chances of being deployed or reassigned to a foreign country is excellent. Although I'm sure most service members would much prefer to be assigned somewhere closer to home. Chances are, you will have very little control over where Uncle Sam want to send you. And the sooner you accept this, the easier it will b to adjust to a military assignment.

Why am I bringing this up in my Ranger Digest Handbook? Well, out of all my years in the Arm., 21 to be exact, I've lived a total of 13 years overseas in such laces as Germany, Korea, and Italy. And If I can adjust to an over eas assignment, I think you can too.

So what's the best way to adjust to an overseas assignment? Easy, just find yourself a girl, tend or boyfriend, that's all. Oh, don't think the languar barrier is going to prevent you from finding one. The language arrier won't be the problem, it'll be your attitude and the r y you present yourself that will turn a guy or girl off. So what's the best way to meet foreign girls'

1. Get off the military is tallation and visit some of the local sites, NOT just the bars and discos. 3. When you go out, either go by yourself or with 1 or 2 friends, NOT with a bunch or gang guys.

2. Wear a decent set of collian clothes when you go out, NOT the typical clothes a GI wears, blue jeans, T shirts, tennis shoes, etc.

4. Meet and get to know tro foreign guys too, NOT just the girls. The guys will lead and or introduce you to the girls later on. 5. Learn a few words and lones in that country's language, NOT the typical GI stuff like, "Your beautiful, I love you, Can we have sex?"

Yep, if these tips worked for me, I'm sure they'll work for you. I know, I've been happily rried to a wonderful, loving, beautiful Italian girl for more than 18 years. And 1 can honestly say, 1 much prefer "ITALIAN GIRL" rather than those made elsewhere.



My Beautiful Halian Wife SHAVIA N. TSCHERNE

NOTICE;

This Page Is Dedicated To Two Of The Most Beautiful Women In All Of Italy . . .



An Italian TV Talk Show Host M.187 1 FT 31 /



HOW TO UNDERSTAND YOUR LEADERS



(Or...Oh-Oh, Look Out!)

If you watch closely and study the body motions and signals that a leader gives off, you should be able to determine (a) the type of a leader he is and or (b) what kind of a mood he is in. A few examples are...

| When A Leader Does This In Front Of You | He is |
|--|--|
| Has his hands open, leans against a wall, chair, desk, etc, does hand to face gestures or he nods his head up and down slowly. | Open Minded & Understanding |
| His hands are behind his back or in pockets with thumbs out, back is straight, long stares | Confident |
| Clearing of throat, "whew" sounds, whistles, fidgets, covers mouth, Jiggles something (keys, money, etc.) tugs ears, wringing hands. | Nervous |
| Pinching of the skin, chewing a pen or pencil, biting of nails, strange facial expressions. | Unsure or |
| Short breaths, "tsk" sounds, tightly clenched hands, wringing hands, fist like gestures, pointing index finger, rubbing hand through halr, rubbing back of neck. | |
| Arms crossed, glances at you from an angle, touching or rubbing of the nose, rubbing of eyes, stepping or moving around. | On The Defense |

When reprimanding or chewing ass, it's important to know some of the basic warning signals a leader and a soldier give each other.

| A Leader | A Soldier |
|--|---|
| scolding a soldier, is showing a sign of power and authority. | |
| | ! Who steps back and away from a ! leader with his eyes down, is .! backing down and giving in. |
| Who uses a high pitch voice to make a point, is losing his temper | Who's voice is pitched very |
| Who stutters, shakes, trembles or turns his head when speaking to a soldier, is displaying "fear." | downward, gulps, blinks his |
| Note: The body language & sinecessarily apply to everyone, bu | gnals mentioned above DOES NOT it it does reflect the majority. |

SCORE: NCOs=1 DA=0

Whistle-blower wins war with the Army

Prim vindicated by board, promoted to sergeant major

By Jun R. Anderson

Tom and write WASHINGTON — SPC Paul Research for you're reading thus guess whalf You're a sergeant major Congressionary you will be supposed to you fight against the Army. Hemms, the Fort Lews, Wash, whistle-blower who has hung un there for my years against a series of repression was granted full relief Sept. 14 by Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army John W Mathews.

tary of the Army John W Matthews.

Please was driving scross country from New York to has
home in Fort Lewis when the decision was announced,
the wife recovered official notification Sept. 14. But set of
press time Sept. 16, Hammit hadn't called to check in, as
pressurably he had not learned of his victory.
A five member review panel comprised of sensor Army
volution unanimously recommended Hamilto be granted.

If the recovering presentation to E & from July 1990.

If the control of the first had the sensor to Sept. 30.

If the control of the sensor the sensor that th

■ Correction of records pertaining to his case

■ Correction of records persuning to his case. The only itsure rejected was a requised by Paine to stay on active duty until July 1996 to help offset financial sebests incurred by his fight. He says he has spent about \$22,000 over the past five years.

Taken along soth more than a half dozen supporters, made his case before the Army Board for Correction of

Military Records during a hearing Aug. 31 in Washington, after he had submitted a 700-page appeal packet

Reaction at Fort Levis divided

Reaction at Fort Lewis divided
A groundwell of asport has poured into the Peans
residence as news of the decision spread. Peansies wife,
Carlyn, and the plane "rang off the hock" with people
saling in their originalisations. She estimated recoving a
cost 30 calls in the first two days reaction was divided.
The naporty of people on post second to ballew that
"Same finally get what he deserved from the Army.
But many sensor NGOs questioned Peans being landed
estimated to material the second peansies of the second
to the control of the second peansies of the second
that the second peansies of the second peansies of the
transies record distript shows he would have been promitted to master ergreamt had the reprinate not occurred.
But because of the retalianous, "he is left with an empty
second and unfairly in a noncompeture position. This days
executed are second. But because of the restalatoria, "he is left with an empty researd and infairly in a noncompetitive position." This dis-advantage is a direct result of the repressible suffered." Fort Levils post spokensin also feel like sixth the post had no soft-and comment on the Paint case.

Paints while says her own reaction is bittersweet. She said also is happy the board ruled in her histolated favor, but "I'm still feeling like Paul (was a victim of) a crime, and there is still no accountability.

and there is not not because of findings, conclusions and recommendations is "invariencely declares" in a prior to recommend disciplinary action against those found to have accept account flewer.

"This board has always been viewed as a compassionate This board has always been viewed as a compassionate body, created to contect error or remove injustice..." The summary and "To recommend adverse action against any third party would be inconsistent with this purpose and

image."

Except for disciplinary action against one warrant offi-

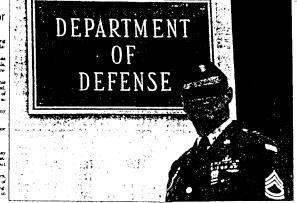
received that the knew he had "been through a loc." and that he knew he may be the second of the knew the kn promised as quick a turnaround as possible

have acted argunet Page

The sage begins

Finness story began in 1989 when, as the senior nonminimization differs in charge of Fort Lewis parachute
packing facility, his own superiors began to lash out at

A control of the c



Finally a serguant major: SFC Paul Sergua is whistle-blower from Fort Lewis, Wash., made his case before the Army Board for Correction of Wirtery Records in Washington. He was granted full relief Sept. 14 by the deputy assistant secretary of the Army.

regularities. When he pushed the issue, he soon found

regularities when he pulsed the basic, he should bound himself facked out of his job.

And so began his fight with the Army. Despite bound windicated by a Fort Lewis inspector general's investiga-tion, which resulted in his reinstatement to his job,

Power was targeted again for speaking out, this time by the director of logistics, Col. Harry Fleatment — along with others — subsequently was found by a Defense Department investigation to have been found by a Defense Department unvestigation to have been responsible for retaining against Puise for his initial whistle-blowing. Although the report called for disciplinary action to be taken, Pumming was allowed to reture with-out my action having been taken. No action was taken

against the others.
Instead, then Fort Lewis and I Corps commander Lt. the transfer it. Levels and I corps commander it. Gen. Carmen thereins ignored a recommendation by an assistant secretary of the Army to replace Passes in his pusition as manager of the rigger shop.

I cannot in clear onnecessor place (Bussel) back in the

Constitution of the state of the state of the state of the NOCIC position in the ASS. Although I cannot give you hard facts to base my position, I seriously question SPC Committee judgment and integrity." when Committee to Maj Cen. Wallace destinated July 28, 1993.

Because of the manuscript by description, in which he

also raised safety concerns relating to the parachute pack-ing unit's need to create an "sura of confidence," the rec-ommendation was withdrawn by the service's civilian

ommendation was written and includes the includes the includes the post of at least to a job "commended to an attenuous his and experience," as was recommended as an attenuous by the Defence Department.

ence and proven troop-isodership skills, Pulme remained in an overstrength position far outside his specialty, per-forming the duties of a custichlair for World War II vizitage

Chronology of events

- # 1988 -- SFC Paul Rober is assigned to Fort Lewis as m 1700 — 3rt, "rau memo is assigned to Fort Levis as the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the Air Delvi-ery Section, the "rigger" unit responsible for the sensitive packing and maintenance of parachities.
- 1989 Retain begins raising concerns that something is wrung with how jump pay a being administered in his unit. He later is reprimanised for blung action to stop jump pay for those who are not supposed to get it.
- July 1990 -- Peases is relieved from ADS for the first
- October 1990 ~ Investigation initirated by Director of Logistics Harry Removaling finds no improprieties in jump pay administration. Plastin goes to CIO.
- February 1991 Col. Jeffrey apmin, Fort Lewis inspector general, assesses Remaining's investigation as inappropriate and misharided.

 Interest Symmetric Color (Interest Symmetric Color)

 Interest Symmetric Color (Interest tigation which validates items artegations.
- July 1991 Remois reinstated in ADS.
- # January 1992 Remains is releved from ADS again, this time by Remains. The reason given was that he had priched a friend and officer outside the unit for
- BLOY 1992 Defense Department report issued saying releft from position was a continuation of reports or including the forcing the property of the property o
- August -- Army Board for Correction of Military Re-cords hears Publish case
- **III** Sept. $14 \rightarrow A80MR$ announces Pillian is to be promoted to segeant major to compensate him for continued represals and be given book jump pay and retroactive pay as a master segeant.



AUTHOR'S COMMENTARY



Even though I've been retired for a couple of years now (since Jan. 1st 1993), I still keep up with Department of the Army's yearly promotion and selection criteria. Why? Just to see if the system is changing for the better or worse, and lately, it seems to be getting worse.

For example, the article on the previous page titled "Whistle-Blower Wins War With The Army." Now here's a brave NCO who not only withstood his ground and beat (and embarrassed) the system, but also got promoted and advanced two grades up the ladder to "Sergeant Major." Now 1 have never met this individual nor do I have anything personally against him. But I totally disagree with the Department of the Army's recommendation in advancing him two pay grades. Why?

First of all, I don't have any doubt that he's been through a rough time and deserves to be rewarded for his troubles. But I truly believe that those who made the ultimate sacrifice in giving up their lives for their country gave up more. To promote and advance this NCO two grades, is a slap in the face to those who died in combat and or on a humanitarian mission and received nothing more than a medal, a flag and a 21 gun salute burial. Did those who were mistakenly shot down over northern Iraq or killed in Somalia get posthumously promoted two grades in advance? No! How about those Medal of Honor recipients? Hell No!

According to the article, many top ranking senior NCOs also disagreed with the board's decision too. Which by the way, consisted entirely of a five-member review panel comprised of only senior Army "civilians." The bottom line is, they just handed him the rank of Sergeant Major and basically said, "You were right, we were wrong, here you go, now so long." What should have been done to rectify the situation? In my opinion...

- 1. Immediate advancement to the next grade, Master Sergeant/E-8.
- 2. Reimbursement/retroactive of all pay, promotion and jump pay.
- 3. Corrections made to his military record pertaining to the case and also an official letter of apology from the Department of the Army and the Chief of Staff.
- 4. Choice of either remaining on active duty in the Army or given a civilian job within DOD.
- 5. The reimbursement of all civilian legal fees that he had to incur to prove that he was in the right and a victim of Army reprisals for being a whistle-blower. (After all, he did win his case against the Army...)

This is what should have been done instead of handing him a "double promotion." He's not the only NCO in the entire Army who's ever had to endure an unjust reprisal from within the ranks. There's been many









other soldiers and leaders who have suffered equally, if not more than what this NCO has gone through. Is it fair to the rest of them?

A question that comes to my mind is, "If a leader can prove that he or she was passed over for promotion due to an unjust reprisal or evaluation, should they also be promoted to two grades in advance?

Leasons Learned: If you can prove beyond a reasonable doubt that you were wrongly passed over for promotion, and you can afford to hire a good civilian lawyer, get the attention of the news media, and embarrass the Army... You may be able to get the promotion that you think you deserved too. The Army can't afford bad publicity, when it got caught between a rock and a hard place, something had to give. In this particular case, the NCO won "hands down" against incredible odds, but he got more than what he bargained for and also more than what he deserved. Promoted "yes," advanced two grades, "NO!"

Now on to another subject....

During my active duty years in the Army, I've heard quite a few service members crying and complaining about "Racial Discrimination" within the military, particularly when it came time for promotions. Do I think it exists in the Army today? Yes, sure I do? But, not as wide spread as those who want you to believe it is. Speaking from personal experience, I've seen soldiers try to abuse or use their race or gender as an excuse for the reason why they were not selected for advancement. Which to me is a bunch of bull----.

Therefore, in order to eliminate the possibility of this ever happening in the future, I would like to see the Army do away with the mandatory DA photo needed for Promotion Boards. Not only that, I would also like to see them eliminate any information that would disclose a soldier's race or gender too. In doing so, it will guarantee that only the best qualified individuals will be selected for advancement based strictly on their accomplishments, performance, skills, and qualifications, and not their race or gender.

Now don't get me wrong, I'm 100% behind Equal Opportunity, really. But I'm also against those who constantly bitch and abuse or use their race or gender as an excuse for not getting promoted. And sometimes, sometimes some soldlers try to use their race and gender to get ahead. Believe me, I've seen it happen more then once during my career.

Personally, I don't give a flying f --- if your black, white, hispanic, oriental or even a "gay fella." If your a truly dedicated, caring, smart and concerned soldier and or leader - I'll follow you into combat anytime, anyplace, anywhere. But if your not, well then....

Oops, my times up, guys & gals...gotta go! Keep what I said in mind and hang in there until next time. Take care.

Page Rich Tx



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 Mings, 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 experiences include 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.Assistant Operation Sergeant. He served in the following units;

1st Bn 87th Inf. (Mech)Germany 1st Bn 509th ABCT (Abn) Italy 1st Bn 75th Inf.(Rangers) HAAF

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 Department of the Army for advancement to Master Sergeant/E-8, but refused the promotion. And on January 1st 1993 he retired from the United States Army to live in Italy. His overseas (military) mailing address is:

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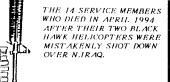




THE 23 PARATROOPERS WHO DIED IN MARCH 1994 AFTER A MID AIR COLL ISION AT POPE AFB









GOD BLESS THESE MEN AND THEIR FAMILIES.





