



THE



RANGER

DIGEST VII

TIPS, TRICKS & INFO



Yo! Rambo! EAT YA HEART OUT!



BY: RANGER RICK P. TSCHBRNE

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



NOTE: COPYRIGHT PENDING



FOREWORD



Hup, two, three, four, back again with another book. I would have written this sooner had I not gone to Bosnia for about a year. I got offered a job that I just couldn't refuse, training the Bosnian Herzegovina Army.

Now before anyone decides to write and ask how much I got paid, what I did, where you can apply, etc. Wait until I finish writing my next book, The Ranger Digest "Special Edition." I got a whole bunch of stories and incidents to tell ya about and some of it ain't so pretty.

As you read this book you'll notice that I talk a lot about Bosnia, my fellow co-workers, and the techniques that I used to train the Bosnian soldiers. And though it wasn't always fun and games, I love teaching and training soldiers.

Now unlike most of my fellow co-workers, who by the way were mostly retired US Army "senior NCOs & Officers," I did NOT go to Bosnia for the money. Although I gotta admit, I did get paid very, very, well, this wasn't the reason why I went there. It was the feeling of being wanted, duty, honor, and helping to train another country to defend itself against hostile aggression and atrocities. And this is the honest to God truth, no BS!

Would I have gone there for free? Sure, you betcha, but only for a limited time. Provided, of course, it was for a good cause and I was convinced that I was training the good guys.

Also, while I was in Bosnia I never knew how popular my books were until I met quite a few American IFOR/SFOR soldiers. Boy, what a great feeling it is to be recognized for doing something good for my fellow comrades in arms.

Not to mention, how envious and jealous some of my fellow co-workers, (mostly retired military officers) were of my accomplishments. Man, talk about a bunch of dishonest, money hungry, self serving, lack of integrity ex-military leaders. But hey, that's another story to tell ya about.

Anyway Ranger Digest readers, as long as you keep writing, then I'll keep on publishing these Ranger Digests. And as I keep telling ya, if you got the time, then why don't you drop me a line and tell me what you think of my books. Because your tips, tricks, and letters DO COUNT! Well, that's about it for now guys and gals, take care and hang in there.

Your Ranger Buddy,

PS: Remember, if someone asks where you learned these tips and tricks from, you just tell them "from my buddy Ranger Rick"

AUTHOR'S DISCLAIMER: The author cannot be held liable for damages or injuries caused by the information contained in this book. Use at your own risk.

SPECIAL THANKS

This page is dedicated to those who took the time to write and wanting to share their favorite tip, trick, and or ideas with the rest of us outdoor field soldiers. And if it wasn't for these caring soldiers and readers, well, there wouldn't be a Ranger Digest VII today. Thanks fellas!

RANGER DIGEST VII CONTRIBUTORS

1TC MARTIN N. STANTON	1LT SHERAN L. BENEATH	1LT FRANK STEVENS
SSG SCOTT A. COOK	SGT DAVID J. WHITE	SGT JERRY D. MARTINEZ
SGT STEPHEN M. MICK	SGT CHARLES ROBINSON	SGT MICHAEL FILLAND
SGT JONATHAN HAVENS	CPL DANIEL D. LOGIE	SFC BYRON WALTER
SFC BRYAN MALTRIS	PFC SERGIO RAMIREZ	PFC BRIAN T. MARSHALL
PFC JEFF LOME	THOMAS D. RUCKER	CLINT BOONGARDEN
DAVID YIM	LES NISHI	MIKE GILLES
	CAP C. CALORUSSO	

AND AN EXTRA SPECIAL THANKS TO AIRBORNE SGT FRANK GILLILAND

Not only for his tips, but for volunteering his time and services to draw most of the illustrations in this Ranger Digest VII handbook.

SPECIAL DEDICATION

To my two favorite fellow MPRI co-workers who supported and backed me up in Bosnia when I needed their help and assistance.

Ranger (Mag) Steve Akana SF (Sgt) Don Winwood



Don't on guys & gals, how about it? Can you give me a hand in keeping the Ranger Digest series alive? If ya can, for every field tip, trick, and or idea that I accept for the next Ranger Digest edition, I'll send you a free copy of the book and publish your name beside your tip. Fair enough? I hope so, I'll be anxiously looking forward to hearing from you soon.

"RANGERS LEAD THE WAY"



ATTENTION!! RANGERS

VETERANS OF:

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

Join the U.S. Army Ranger Association

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

For your membership application packet

Send your name and address directly to:

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

LEADERSHIP

LOYALTY

DARING

DEPENDABLE

RANGER DIGEST UPDATE

SEWING POSITIONS - (Ref: Ranger Digest I)

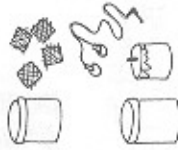
SFC. BYRON WALTER says, "This is an old trick among us scouts and tankers. Instead of using the entire MRE cardboard box, just use the sleeve." If the cardboard edge hurts your butt, just place a few pieces of wood on top.



35MM EMPTY FILM CONTAINERS - (Ref: Ranger Digest II)

A few more uses an empty 35mm plastic container has....

For storing cut-up pieces of "Brillo Pads" so you can use them to clean up your canteen cup or mess kit when out in the field.



For storing fat chubby or skinny survival candles in case you need them for an emergency. (Don't forget to add some matches too.)

For keeping your life support system's light weight ear phones (not headphones) dry & from being banged up inside your ruck.

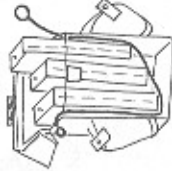
Or, as one reader used his 35mm container for (name unknown). He wrote, "When you're in the field and or in a class room environment, some soldiers get pretty upset when they see you spittin on the ground or in a coke can. That's why I switched from a bulky coke can to a 35mm film container. I just pull it out, spit in it, put the lid back on and tuck it in my EDC pocket."



SPIT CONTAINER

MAG MODIFICATIONS - (Ref: Ranger Digest II)

PVT BRLEY T. MARSHALL wrote, "Instead of adding a pull string to the magazine itself, why not just add a pull-string to the ammo pouch that way batteries are placed inside radio's and cassettes? Then all you got to do is lift up on the pull string and out pops the magazine."

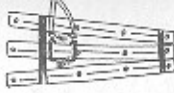


PULL STRING



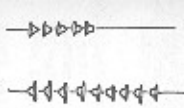
ASSAULT MAGS - (Ref: Ranger Digest II)

PFC JEFF LOME wrote, "While trying to fit three magazines side-by-side together like your book shows, the middle magazine, move around a bit. So to rectify this problem, I added a couple of rubber bands to the top and bottom of the 2nd magazine to hold it firmly in place



HOME MADE FACE COUNTER - (Ref: Ranger Digest III)

MR. MIKE GILLES wrote, "I thought the home-made pace counter was a pretty good idea. And after making a few for myself and some friends, I have a couple of improvements to suggest. Use "tapered" washers rather than flat washers, they are a lot easier to separate when they are together. If you use two different sizes, one for 100m and the other for kilometers, it'll make it easier to call them apart. Or, just turn one set one way and the other set another way.



ANTI-BLISTER TIPS - (Ref: Ranger Digest IV)

THOMAS D. RUCKER wrote, "Being an avid hiker I've come upon an item that is ten times better than moleskin for treating blisters on your feet. The product is called Spenco Adhesive Knit. It is a woven fabric thinner and stickier than moleskin and won't bunch up or sweat off like moleskin because it stretches.



GROUND-TO-AIR EMERGENCY SIGNALS - (Ref: Ranger Digest III)

SGT MICHAEL J. PILLANO tells us, "Ray Ranges Black, your ground-to-air codes are outdated, here are the latest ones you need to publish."

A hand pointing up. I AM IN DANGER (RED)	A person standing with arms raised. I AM OK (GREEN)	A person standing with arms raised, one arm bent. I AM INJURED (YELLOW)	A person standing with arms raised, one arm bent, one leg raised. I AM STOPPED (BLACK)	A person standing with arms raised, one arm bent, one leg raised, one arm bent. I AM STOPPED (BLACK)	A person standing with arms raised, one arm bent, one leg raised, one arm bent, one leg raised. I AM STOPPED (BLACK)	A person standing with arms raised, one arm bent, one leg raised, one arm bent, one leg raised, one arm bent. I AM STOPPED (BLACK)
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MINI FLASHLIGHT TIPS - (Ref: Ranger Digest IV)

SPC BRYAN MALTAIS wrote, "At one time or another everyone has had to hold their mini mag-lite in their mouths so they could use their hands to read a map or something else. To hold the mag-lite more comfortably in between your teeth, add a few thick rubber bands around the bottom portion and then some 100 mph tape."



FIELD FIRST AID - (Ref: Ranger Digest IV)

PARK SERVICE RANGER DAVID YIM wrote, "A field expedient sling that you can use for a broken arm or wrist, is your shirt. Just elevate your arm, pull up on the shirt corner and pin it in place."



PULL UP & PIN

FIELD FIRST AID - (Ref: Ranger Digest IV)

CLINT BOOMGARDEN wrote, "If you've ever had a bug in your ear, you'll really appreciate this next trick that I learned back in PA school."

First, lay on your side keeping the ear with the bug in it facing up. If you have access to vegetable oil, good, if not, some oil from one of your MRE meals will do fine.



MRE JUICE

What you want to do is drown the bug and force him to loosen up his grip if he's holding onto something. And vegetable oil works a lot better than just plain water. When you feel the bug has stopped moving, it's time to sit up and flush him out.



RINSE OUT WITH WATER

Take apart a gov't issued pen, hand the lower portion to a reliable buddy. Instruct him to take a mouth full of water, place the pen up to your ear canal and gently squirt the mouthful of water inside of it. Repeat until bug and oil have both been flushed out.



PEN



6

550 PARACORD USES - (Ref: Ranger Digest VI)

1LT SHERAN L. BENERTH wrote; "Here in the Alaskan far north where it's extremely cold, it's difficult to build a shelter with 550 paracord while wearing gloves. Instead, we use "waxed dental floss." Simply wrap it around several times over, cut, and the wax dental floss will easily stick together without needing to tie a knot. Or, you can use a combination of both, first wrap on the 550 paracord and tie it off with some dental floss."



TIPS & TRICKS - (Ref: Ranger Digest V)

While out in the field one day, there was a lot of rain and wind. So to keep a bit more dry, I decided to erect & sleep in a hammock.

As I stated in my previous books, I don't sleep very well in a hammock, especially when it's rocking back-&-forth. So what I did to stabilize it better and to make it more comfortable to sleep in, I made a frame and some legs for it. (Note: Make sure you have plenty of tie-down paracord and either a sharp axe or saw.)



BLOOD AWARDS - (Ref: Ranger Digest VI)

According to the "Army Times" newspaper, there were about 50 X West Point cadets who were punished for presenting "blood branches" to each other. Now I can understand if a bunch of uneducated dumbshits or ignorant little kids did this, but a bunch of highly educated officers?

As far as I'm concerned, any soldier or leader who allows another individual to pin, stick, slash, or punch a pair of unsanitary pins into his, or someone else's body, you gotta be one dumb, stupid, #2&?#2. It takes a lot more balls to say "NO, not me" than to allow someone to abuse or harm your body.

Special Message From Ranger Rick To The 50 X West Pointers: You're a bunch of stupid s.o.b.s who don't deserve your 2d Lieutenant bars. The next time you little boys want to prove how tough and bad you are, why don't you play with yourselves until it becomes hard and see how many "toothpicks" you can shove inside the whole. Hell, not even Sly, Chuck, or Arnold would have the guts to do this...



7

UPDATE: 2 X WAY COMMUNICATORS

In my first book, the Ranger Digest I, I talked about how useful and inexpensive a pair of 2 X way communicators can greatly improve a unit's capabilities. So, what I did before I went off to Bosnia, I ordered me a dozen pair of Maxon 2 X Way Hands-Free Communicators.

Because the Bosnians and me didn't speak the same language, I wore one of these Maxon hands-free communicators and gave another one to my translator. Then I divided the rest of the radios among the Bosnian Platoon's team and squad leaders.

At a safe distance away, and with the help of my translator, I was able to instruct these leaders step-by-step in how to correctly maneuver and engage an opposing enemy force. If a one of the leaders was screwing up, I didn't have to scream or holler at him. No sir, all I had to do was tell my translator what he was doing wrong over the 2 X way radio and he would translate and relay the information to that particular leader.

Not only did I enjoy using these Maxon Hands-Free radios, but so did the Bosnians too. In fact, many of them preferred to use my two-way communicators instead of their own. But I also taught 'em never to depend on radios as their only source of communications, they need to have a back-up plan in case the radios go down and or become jammed.

Question: What is the most secure means of communications?
Answer: Messenger, hand & arm signals, and telephone landline.

Hey guys & gals! Wanna know where you can save as much as 45% on these Maxon Hands-Free Two-Way Communicators? Contact:

EMPIRE MARKETING LTD
30 Cain Drive
Plainville, N.Y. 11803
Fax: 516-753-1559
E-mail: EMP1492@worldnet.att.net

Maxon 49EX	Maxon 49HX	Maxon 49FX
Single Channel	5 x Channel	5 x Channel
Headphone & Mike	Headphone & Mike	Earphone-Mike
* Box of 10	* Box of 10	* Box of 20
\$25.00 ea / \$250	\$43.85 ea/\$438.50	\$45.00 ea /\$900.
(Reg Price \$40 ea)	(Reg Price \$75 ea)	(Reg Price \$60 ea)

NOTICE: As shown above, these Maxon 2 X Way Hands-Free Radios can only be ordered in quantities of 10 or more. Due to price changes, contact Empire Marketing LTD for latest price quote before ordering.



8

A MAP MARKER LIGHTER

Submitted By PFC SERGIO RAMIREZ

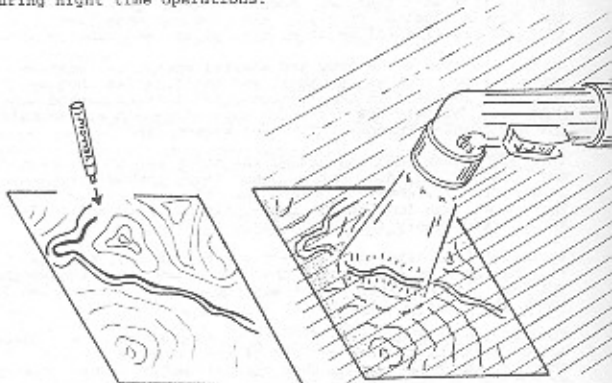
Well, I'll be a son of aIf this don't beat all. PFC SERGIO RAMIREZ sent me a tip that I wish I had known when I was back in the Army.

He tells me that if you use a "yellow highlighter" on your map, it will glow in the dark (at night) when you shine a "blue light filter" onto it. So what's the big deal?

Well for starters, all military angle flashlights usually come with 4 different types of filters; clear, red, green, and blue. And like most leaders, I've never used a green nor a blue lens filter for anything, just the clear and red one.

But if I had known this little trick, I would have used it to mark my routes, positions, grid coordinates, etc, so I could locate 'em easier on my map at night without straining my eyes searching for them.

Thanks Pfc Ramirez, your tip will no doubt help many leaders during night time operations.



9



THE M16 STORY

I'll bet there are very few soldiers who know the real story behind the M16 and how it was selected to be the standard infantry weapon for the U.S. Army. Well, believe it or not, the Army was not the first to use nor adopt this weapon.

Back in the early 1950's the Army began looking for a new type of weapon that would enable soldiers to hit their targets much more easily under combat related field conditions. Among other complaints, the Army argued that it took the average soldier too much time to carefully aim and fire their heavy M1 and M14 rifles.

So they decided it was time to come up with a new type of weapon system that would be lighter to carry and easier to hold, aim, & fire. But most importantly, it had to fire in the semi and automatic mode.

According to the Army's indepth study, soldiers have a greater chance in hitting their target if they fire "several" well placed rounds instead of "one" carefully aimed round. In other words, several quick "BANG, BANG, BANG" rounds fired in the direction of an enemy target has a greater chance in hitting its mark than one carefully aimed "BANG" round. Thus the Army's "Salvo Program" was born and resulting in many types of experimental bullets, flechettes, and exotic ideas.

By the mid 1950's the Army had several prototype weapons to choose from, such as the AR-10 and AR-15 rifles. But by 1959 they lost interest in these weapons and instead pushed ahead with an entirely new different type of weapon system called the 6mm Special Purpose Individual Weapon (SPIW).

This might have been the end of the story had it not been for the good ol' US Air Force, who they themselves were out looking for a lightweight weapon for their airfield guards. They took one look at the AR-15, liked it and ordered 8,000 rifles immediately for their guards in Viet Nam.

It wasn't long after the AR-15's arrival in Viet Nam that the Viet Nameese Army also wanted them too. They liked the weight, the way it handled, and it was the perfect size weapon for their short-built soldiers too.

Then in 1963 the U.S. Army finally decided to get their "heads out of their butts" and get rid of the 6mm SPIW program. And shortly there afterwards they also placed an order for about 85,000 AR-15s for their soldiers too. But it wasn't until some modification and improvements were made to the AR-15 first before it was finally accepted and renamed the M16A1.

So whether you infantry grunts like it or not, we gotta give credit and thanks to the good ol' Air Force for our M16 rifles.



TO BE, OR NOT TO BE A



So ya wanna be a Ranger, huh? Well, not everybody can be one. And if you're not in a combat arms MOS, the less chance you have in becoming one. But I gotta admit, I did know a clerk, an MP, and even a Chaplain who went through Ranger school.

How in the hell did they get to go? The unit that they were assigned to had an authorized school slot for someone to attend. But, mind you, not many units have these school slots available to them. And usually only in Airborne, Ranger, and Special Forces units are they available.

But if you want to find out if your unit is authorized one or more of these school slots, visit your battalion S1/PAC and speak with the "School NCO." But don't be surprised if he laughs at you and tells you to get the hell out of his office.

If your unit is not authorized any of these school slots or allocations, then there's only two possible ways you can attend Ranger School. And that is to either re-enlist for it or to volunteer to be assigned to a Ranger unit.

If you want to re-enlist for it, you'll have to talk with your unit or post Re-Enlistment NCO to see if you qualify or not. If you can't re-enlist for the school itself, then maybe you can re-enlist for one of the Ranger Battalions. What's the difference?

Well, if you re-enlist for the school, you'll only be guaranteed Ranger school and not necessarily Airborne School nor a Ranger assignment. And if you should fail Ranger School for any reason, you will NOT be given a second chance to attend the course again. And more than likely you'll probably be sent back to your old unit and be the butt of jokes there. ("Hey Rambo, what happen? Couldn't take it? Ha, Ha, Ha.")

Plus it won't look very nice on your military record, as it will show you only attended the course and you didn't successfully complete it.

But if you re-enlist or volunteer for a Ranger assignment, you will not only be assigned to a Ranger unit, you'll also be sent to Airborne School too. The reason? Ranger battalions don't accept non-Airborne personnel, so you'll have to go to jump school first before being assigned to a Ranger unit.

And once you've earned your wings, then you'll be assigned to a Ranger unit, (1/75th - Fort Stewart/HAAP, 2/75th - Fort Lewis, 3/75th - Fort Benning). After this, you'll then have to prove to your unit chain of command that you're mentally and physically ready to become a Ranger, which won't be easy.





How will you be able to prove it to them? Well, not a single day will go by that they won't be watching you. You'll be observed during PT, road marches, field exercises, and so on. And if you don't appear to be mentally and physically ready to be or to attend Ranger school, then they won't send you. So it's up to you to prepare yourself mentally and physically.

Quite often I receive a lot of mail from soldiers asking me how they can become a Ranger, attend the school, etc. And I try my best to answer their questions even if I've been out of the military and retired for more than 5 years. And the most common questions that I've been asked...

HOW CAN I BECOME A RANGER or ATTEND RANGER SCHOOL?

As discussed previously, either by re-enlisting for it or by volunteering to be assigned to a Ranger unit.

WHAT MOS DO YOU NEED TO HAVE TO BE A RANGER?

Though there is no particular MOS prerequisite for attending Ranger School, there is if you want to be assigned to a Ranger unit. Which are:

- 11B, 11C, 31C, 31U, 31X, 35E, 54B, 63B, 71D, 71L, 71M, 73D, 75B, 75E, 89M, 91B, 92A, 92G, 92Y, 96B, 96D, 97B.

NOTE: Soldiers in MOSs 11B, 11C, 11Z and 13F in the ranks of E-5/Sgt and above must possess a skill qualification identifier "V" (Airborne Ranger). All volunteers must be either Airborne qualified or be willing to attend Airborne School and a Ranger indoctrination and orientation program before being assigned to a Ranger unit.

HOW CAN I PREPARE MYSELF FOR RANGER SCHOOL or A RANGER ASSIGNMENT?

PHYSIOLOGICALLY - You must be able to endure pain, mentally and physically. And you must be able to go without sleep for as long as 24-36 hours straight before getting a "few hours" of rest. If you can't take pain, then there won't be any gain.

MENTALLY - You have to accept the fact that it's not going to be easy, but if you put your mind to it - **YOU CAN DO IT!** Motivation, determination, and teamwork play a big part in becoming and being a U.S. Army Ranger.

EDUCATIONALLY - You don't need to be a genius nor have any educational degrees, just common sense. The hardest part for most enlisted and NCOs is being able to prepare, write, and issue a small unit operation order. (Which can be overcome with my "Do-It-Yourself Warning & Operation Order Handbook.")



PHYSICALLY - You must be able to run and travel further and faster than the average soldier. If your weak in this area, then you'll have to build yourself up by jogging, running and road marching with a 70+ lb. rucksack on your back at least several times a week. You should be able to run or jog 5 miles in 40 minutes or less and road march 12 miles (with a ruck on) in less than 3 hours. You don't need to max out the APFT, but you should be able to score at least 250 pts or better.

HOW CAN I ATTEND A FOREIGN MILITARY SCHOOL?

Well, unless you're assigned overseas, you won't be able to attend a foreign military school nor a training program. I know of only two overseas units that have a foreign military training and exchange program, the 10th Special Forces Group in Germany and the 1st Bn/508th Airborne in Italy. Provided these programs and exchanges have not been cut back due to down sizing and lack of available funds, the unit chain of command determines who gets to go. And only the best soldiers get selected to go based on their daily job performance, physical endurance, motivation, and other deciding factors.

WHAT IS THE BEST UNIT TO BE ASSIGNED TO IN THE US ARMY?

This is an unfair question to ask because I have never been assigned to all the units in the United States Army. Plus I'm partial to a selected few units that I've managed to be assigned to more than once during my military career. Such as the 1st Bn/508th Airborne located in Vicenza, Italy, which used to be the 1st Bn/509th ABCT, 4th Bn/325th ABCT and 3rd Bn/325th ABCT. This is the only elite American Airborne unit that trains and deploys on real world missions throughout Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

I've also enjoyed being assigned to the 2d Infantry Division in the Republic of Korea (ROK) and patrolling the famous DMZ. Though I prefer not to name the worst unit that I've been assigned to, primarily because there are no bad units in the United States Army, just poor (NCOs & Officers) leaders.

Well, I hope I've enlightened some of you on what it takes to be a Ranger. And if you want to know more about how to become a Ranger or how you can be assigned to a Ranger unit, contact the Ranger Regimental PSNCO at DSN 835-3790/5673 or commercial 706-545-3790/5673. Or send a copy of your DA Form 2A, DA Form 2-1, and a completed DA Form 4197 to:

Commander, PERSCOM
Attn: TAPC-EPMD-EPK-1
(Ranger Team)
Alexandria, VA 22331



MODIFYING & IMPROVING A MILITARY LENSATIC COMPASS

Hey! Hey! Hey! Here's an idea in how you can modify your military lensatic compass so you can use it at night easier.

While training the Bosnians, one of my many classes that I was responsible for teaching was how to use a military lensatic compass and map. Not to mention, I was also tasked to set up a couple of land navigation courses too.

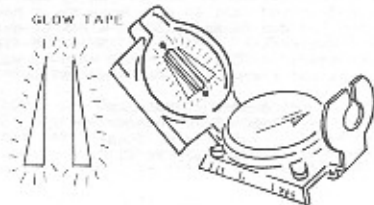
Well, to make a long story short, there weren't a whole helluva lot of Bosnian leaders (NCOs or Officers) who knew how to correctly use a compass and read a military map. Not because they didn't see a need for them, but because they were scarce and hard to acquire during the war. In fact, the average Bosnian battalion had only about five compasses in their unit, which meant they were only issued to the unit commanders. (And even most of them didn't know how to use 'em.)

The leaders that I taught were very anxious and eager to learn how to use a military map and compass, which I was very happy to teach 'em. But some of them had difficulties in navigating and following their compasses at night.

To assist them in navigating at night better, especially during (straight) long distance "dead reckoning," I took some illumines tape and cut out a few long narrow "half arrow" patterns and glued them on the left and right side of the sighting wire. (See drawing.)

Well, believe it or not, this little trick appeared to have worked. Because after placing these illuminating half arrows on the compasses, none of them had any more difficulties in following their compasses at night.

Now listen up all you Gomer Pyles. I said long narrow half arrows, NOT thick short wide arrows. Read my lips, (or I should say my writing), use ONLY long narrow 1/2 arrows. Trust me, I know, I experimented, I tested, and I found these to work better than any other pattern. The thicker the arrows, the more distracting they became, the thinner and narrower they were, the easier they were to follow at night. Trust me, I know.



14



Because I didn't have enough military lensatic compasses to go around for everyone, I was forced to purchase a dozen or so inexpensive civilian compasses made by "Brunton." The only problem with these compasses, is that they're designed only for "day use" and not for night time use. Because they have absolutely no illumination whatsoever, not even to see the magnetic "North" seeking arrow.

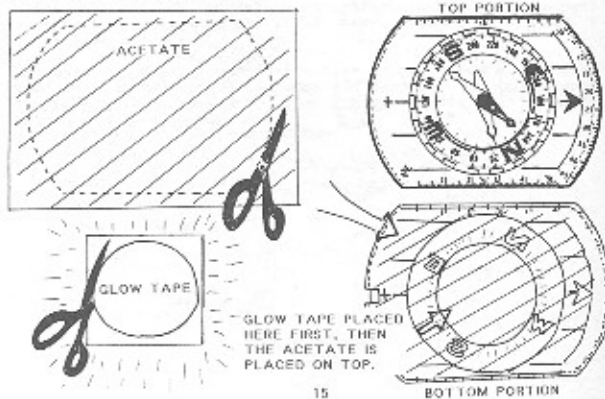
So, being a "McGyver" kind of a guy that I am, I had to figure out a way as to how to make these compasses useful for night time training. And then it hit me, WHAM, I had an idea.

I measured the bottom of the compass dial and cut out a piece of illumines tape about the same size and shape and attached it in place with some sticky clear acetate.

Now I tried an assortment of different size shapes and patterns to see which one worked best, but it really didn't make a difference. What is important, is that when you attach the illumines tape to the bottom of the compass with some sticky acetate, you should be able to turn the dial. If it sticks, then you either have to trim it or keep turning the dial until it no longer sticks to the sticky acetate.

Regardless which type of compass you own, as long as the bottom of the compass is a clear "see-thru" plastic, you can add illumines tape to it and use it at night.

ATTENTION LEADERS! Encourage your soldiers to purchase and carry their own compass to the field, even if it's just a "cheapo" type. Then show 'em how to modify it so they can use it at night, it could save someone from getting lost, captured or killed. Think about it.



15

FIELD EXPEDIENT BOOT CRAMP-ONS

Submitted By Spc. Byron Walter

Spc. Walter writes, "A simple way to keep from falling down and busting your ass in the motor pool on those cold, icy, winter days, is to place some short screws on the bottom of your boots."

Well, after reading how he did his boots, I tried it myself and modified mine just a little bit differently;

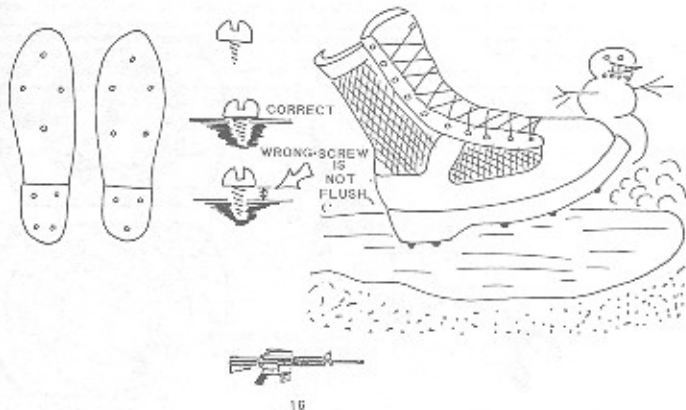
First, find yourself about 16 X oval-head shaped short screws and insure the "screws-in portion" (minus the oval-head) is no longer than the thickness of the boot soles themselves.

Then screw'em into the bottom of your boots in a square or oval shape pattern making sure you screw them in all the way down without leaving any space between the head of the screws and the sole of the boots.

ATTENTION: If you think the screws are a bit too long, then screw in only one and try it on for size. If you don't feel a small bulge or a sharp point protruding through, you're good to go. If you do feel a slight bulge or tiny protruding point, either replace the screws or place a padded foot cushion inside the boot.

WARNING: Never wear these cramp-on boots inside your quarters or barracks or your ISG or wife will "kick off on your ass." When winter is over, simply remove the screws with either a screwdriver, pliers, or both.

NOTE: These cramp-on screws work best on "thick sole" boots.



HAVE YA EVER LOST A KNIFE?



When I was a young and naive infantry grunt, like everyone else, I lost my fair share of knives in the field too.

I remember my first boot knife, it was a beautiful double edge British Commando Knife. I was so proud of that knife, that whenever I went to the field, I carried it securely either on the outside or the inside portion of my boot.

And I owned it for about oooooohhh, a few months before I lost it somewhere in Grafenwohr (Germany). I still had the sheath, only the knife was missing.

Now I thought the snap-on buttons on a sheath are suppose to keep the knife securely in place. But somehow mine popped open and the knife came out without me noticing it.

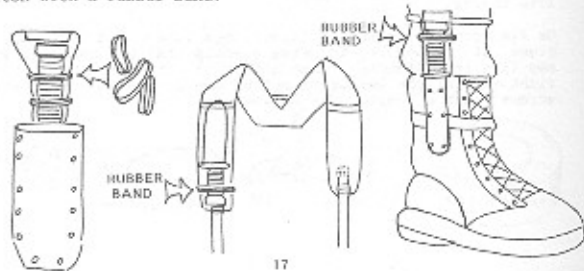
That was the first and only "boot knife" that I've ever owned and lost in the field. After I lost this knife, I bought me one of those US Air Force "Survival Knives." And even though it was extremely strong and durable, it was NOT lost-proof neither.

Yap, you guessed it, I lost this knife too. I had it connected to the upper portion of my LEE the same way aviators carry theirs, upside down. But sometime during the night while out on maneuvers the sheath's snap-on button also popped open and gravity took it's toll. Where did I lose this one? Where else, in f----- Grafenwohr again.

Well, after losing these two knives, I finally wised up and started wrapping a rubber band around both, the knife and sheath. This way if the snap button came undone, the rubber band would hold it in place and I wouldn't lose the knife.

Which by the way, thanks to this little trick, I never lost another knife again in the field. Now I broke a few, but I never lost anymore.

The moral of this story? Learn from Ranger Rick's mistakes and don't be a dumbass and learn the hard way. No matter what type of knife you carry to the field, secure the snap-on button with a rubber band.



MAG LIGHT TIPS & TRICKS

By SSG. SCOTT A. COOK &
SGT. JONATHAN C. HAVENS

Boy, talk about getting max use out of a mag-lite, here's a few tips that I'm pretty sure will amaze you. (It did me...)

SSG SCOTT A. COOK writes, "the mini mag-lite pocket clip and velcro carrying case are both worthless. As many times as you use the mag-lite in the field, either you wear out the case and/or you bend & lose the pocket clip. Not to mention, the rubber lens cover too."

The solution? Simple, just take some 100 mph and an extra "belt clip" and tape it to the mini mag-lite. Now you can wear or attach it to your LME without worrying about losing it. To reduce the chances of losing the rubber lens cover, just wrap some tape around the edge of the flashlight to make sure it's snug & tight.

Now this next tip is one of the best tips that I've ever publish. It's the "cream of the crop" when it comes to how to get maximum use out of your mag-lite.

One day I was studying how to attach my mini mag-lite flashlight to the side of my ol'kevlar helmet. Then by coincidence, a few days later, I received a letter in the mail from SGT. JONATHAN C. HAVENS showing me how he mounted his mini mag-lite to his kevlar.

Now there are several ways in which you can attach it to your kevlar. One way is to go to your local auto parts store and purchase either a metal adjustable hose clamp or a rubber insulated (non-adjustable) hose clamp. Both of which are used to clamp on or attach hoses to a car engine.

Before you can mount it to your kevlar, you'll have to drill a hole into the clamp as close as possible to the screw. But be careful, because if the hole is drilled too far away from the screw, you'll have a hard time mounting it to the kevlar.

If you purchase a rubber insulated (non-adjustable) hose clamp, you will have to make sure you get the right size for your mini mag-lite. If it's too big - the mag-lite will fall out. If it's too small - you won't be able to fit the mag-lite inside.

Or find yourself a rubber tire "inner tube" and cut out a piece of rubber to the size & shape that you need for your mag-lite (see drawing). Then attach it either to the left or right side of the kevlar helmet by one of the two "chin strap screws" with a couple of mini washers.

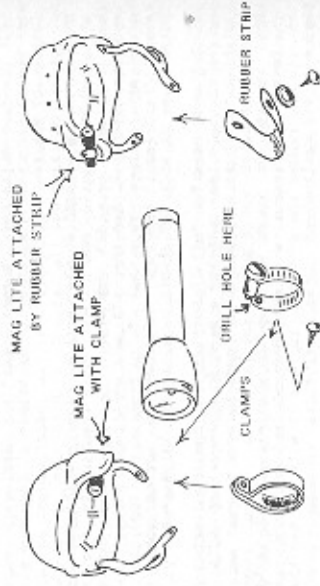


18

NOTE: When attaching a mag-lite to either the inside or outside portion of your kevlar, use either the Mini or Solitaire Mag-lite.

Now all ya gotta do is put it on and adjust the light to where you want it. What is fantastic about this, is that you can use it just like a coal miner's headlamp. Any which way you turn your head, you got the light exactly where you need it. If you want to read a map (or playboy book) at night, just turn it on and tilt the mag-light slightly downward.

Don't waste your money buying one of those valcro mag-lite headband holders, this is the way to go. In fact, try wearing it with your night vision goggles on. But make sure you got your red filter lens cover on before switching on your night vision goggles or you'll blind yourself.



19

HOW TO MAKE A FIELD EXPEDIENT STOVE & LANTERN

I know what you're thinking, "why in the hell would I need to know how to make a field expedient stove or lantern?"

Well for starters, flashlights, batteries, light-sticks, heat tabs, trioxane fuels, etc, may not always be available. Therefore, should your unit run out of these comfort items or forget to bring enough with them, you'll know how to improvise.

Or if you're a smart field soldier like me, you'll always carry some kerosene inside of a container just in case ya need it. I always carried mine in a small (mini) "Johnny Walker" bottle and wrapped some rubber bands and 100 mph tape around it to keep it from breaking. I also kept a small rag inside of it so it could be used as a lantern or small stove.

Now I know a bunch of you Rambo Cowboys are probably saying, "Get the f--- outta here, Ranger Rick!" But seriously guys, if you use it sparingly, this little bottle of kerosene will last quite awhile. No BS!

When selecting a small whiskey bottle, make sure it's made of glass and NOT plastic. Don't worry about breaking it, they're pretty durable provided you wrap some rubber bands and 100 mph tape around it. And when adding a wick, make sure it's a piece of cloth or rope made of "cotton" so the fuel can be absorbed and fed to the flame. Don't use non-cotton synthetic material or it will NOT absorb nor burn the kerosene.

Also, you'll need two "metal" bottle caps. One for closing it up (so it won't leak out) and a second cap modified with a "slit" cut into it so the wick can pass through it.

When you're not using it, keep the wick always down inside the bottle and close it with the good cap. But when you need to use it, remove the good cap, replace it with the cap that has the slit, pull up on the wick, slide it through it and light it.

WARNING-DANGER: Never attempt to light nor burn the wick without using the metal cap with the slit in it, or the mouth portion of the glass bottle will become hot and cause the bottle to shatter and spill kerosene & fire all over the place. Use strictly only kerosene and nothing else, or KA-BOOM!



20

OVERHEAD PROJECTOR TIPS

While in Bosnia, most of the instructors who were once officers always depended on overhead projectors and viewgraph slides to give their classes. If they didn't have these, most of them were lost and or had difficulty in giving their classes from memory and experience.

Now when I was back in the Army I never used an overhead projector to train my soldiers. It's not that I didn't want to, it's just that no one taught me how to use one effectively.

Well, after observing a couple of my fellow instructors (Ltc "Square Frank" and Cpt "Know-It-All Paul") and seeing how they presented their classes. Who by the way were a couple of professional REMFs (Rear Enchelon Mother:###*#&*) and staff mainies in the Army. As much as I hate to admit it, I learned from them how to effectively use an overhead projector.

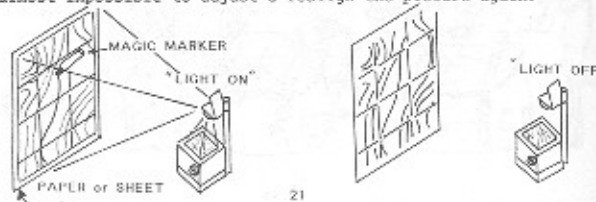
Now most unit commanders usually brief their troops on an upcoming mission with maps, terrain models, drawings, etc. But there's a much easier and less time consuming way this can be accomplished, and that's with an overhead projector. Which is not hard to acquire, all you gotta do is sign for one from your unit or base training aids office.

Once you've got the projector, simply load the blank viewgraph (vgt) slides into a xerox machine and photocopy the map or pictures that you want to use for your briefing. Then place them on an overhead projector and show it up on a portable screen or bedsheet so that everyone can see it.

Another use? OK, try this... Take the map that you want to use and run it through a xerox machine onto a vgt slide. Tape some large pieces of paper or a bedsheet onto the wall and turn on the projector. Put on the slide, focus & adjust the picture so it's centered, take a magic marker and begin tracing the picture onto the paper or bedsheet.

Once you have finished tracing it, turn off the projector and see how it came out. The traced map or picture will look like a professional artist did it. Really! Even a "hozo" without any artistic skills can do this. Now you can use this sheet of paper or bedsheet to brief your troops "without a projector."

NOTE: Once you begin tracing, don't touch, move, or turn off the projector until you are completely finished or it will be almost impossible to adjust & realign the picture again.



21

SPECIAL OPS MINI PACK

Submitted By: Sgt. Frank Gilliland

Items needed; 2 x shoulder straps from a LC2 ruck, 1 x butt pack, 1 x canteen w/cover, and 24 inches of 550 paracord.

Attach the shoulder straps to the top and lower portion of the butt pack (as shown in the drawing) by the rings, velcrow and or with some 550 paracord.

Grab the canteen cover & clips and attach it to the handle of the butt pack which is locate on the flap. Take about 12 inches of 550 paracord, tie a big ol'knot in the middle of it and run these lose ends through the bottom of the canteen cover inside-out.

Then take these two lose ends and attach them to the top rings of the butt pack to prevent the canteen from flipping around & over.

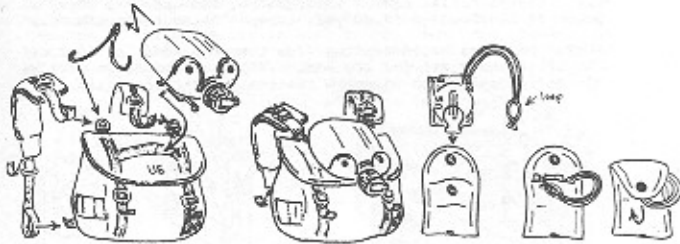
RANGER RICK'S COMMENTS: Another item you can attach to the butt pack handle is your E-tool. But make sure you run some 550 paracord through the bottom of the E-tool case to prevent it (also) from flipping around & over.

If you got two extra canteens, and or one extra canteen and an E-tool, try attaching them along the sides of the butt pack. If you are only going to carry one of these items, then attach it to the handle of the pack handle so it won't be uncomfortably off balance.

A few more ideas that Sgt.Gilliland had....

If you attach a small loop onto the lanyard of the military issued compass, you'll be able to open and close the compass pouch a bit more easily in a cold weather environment while wearing gloves.

A good place to keep some 550 paracord, is around the metal frame of your rucksack. Just wrap it carefully around it and it will always be there whenever you need it. Plus it will also absorb and dampen any clanging sounds should your weapon or other gear come in contact with it.



22

MULTI-PURPOSE DOUBLE-HOOK SLING USES

The multi-purpose double hook strap has an assortment of uses. Personally, I like these straps because they're wide, o.d. green in color, and they have two snap-on hooks. I've used my straps for...

as a sling for my weapon...



for carrying my butt pack across my shoulder...



for attaching & carrying ammo cans.....



for attaching & carrying extra equipment to the outside portion of my rucksack.



If you got a couple of these multi-purpose straps handy and some 550 paracord, you can use 'em to rig up a handy-dandy stretcher support system. How?

First, take some 550 paracord and tie it to all four handles of the stretcher. Then, run it through the hooks of the multi-purpose straps. Then, take the straps and either slide it over your shoulders or across your rucksack as shown in the drawing below.

NOTE: The straps should be adjusted to a comfortable length so that the handles of the stretcher are no higher than waist level high or no lower than arms length down. Oh you'll still need to use your hands to steady the stretcher. But at least you'll be able to move faster and travel further without having to switch hands and or personnel so often.



23

CROSS YA HEART LBE SUSPENDERS

Well, I don't know how far this next tip will go with your chain of command, but if you're in a Special Ops or high speed unit, you might get away with it. And if not, well, maybe you can use it on your next hunting, biking or fishing trip.

While in Bosnia the company that I worked for (MPRI) issued us some survival gear. Some of it was high-speed and some of it was just plain ol' military issued GI stuff. Though we were issued a web belt and two canteens, we were not issued any suspenders for it. Have you ever tried carrying two canteens full of water on a pistol belt without any LBE suspenders? It's not very comfortable, at least I don't think so.

Now we were issued a load bearing vest (LBV) or more commonly referred to as a "survival vest." But I didn't like it because it didn't feel comfortable while wearing it with the pistol belt and canteens.

Anyway, I manage to rig-up my own set of suspenders with a pair of double hook slings called the multi-purpose straps. They sell 'em in the AAFES Military Clothing Sales Store and most of the off-post military supply stores and mail order catalogs. Though this strap was originally designed for carrying the military issued two quart canteen, someone at the Pentagon got smart and figured it could be used for other things too. (Duuuh.)

Well, while playing around with my two straps one day, I figured out how to rig 'em to my pistol belt. And though I tried several different ways, it felt much more snug and comfortable to wear when I crossed the straps across my chest and back. (Hmmm, not bad.)

So then I added some weight to it and attached my two canteens, my two-way radio, my butt pack, knife, compass, and my strobe light too. And guess what? It felt much more comfortable to wear than the LBV and the military issued LBE.

Why?

Well, the military issued LBE suspenders always seem to feel too loose or too tight, you know what I mean? And the load bearing vest (LBV) on the other hand, feels kinda bulky. But not my improvised cross-ya-heart suspenders, it kinda hugs you and feels much more comfortable. And I'm not just talking out the other end of my face neither, ya know what I mean?



Now the only drawbacks to using my improvised cross-ya-heart suspenders is....

- It takes a little bit longer to put on (and take off) simply because you're locked and wrapped into it.
- Should you need to ditch it in a hurry to save yo ass from drowning during a water crossing operation, you're @#!\$!\$!
- Your chain of command will probably not let you wear it simply because you'll be out of uniform with the rest of the unit.

But I challenge you, No, I dare you, No, I double and triple dare you to try it just once to see how it feels. And if you don't think it feels much more comfortable than the standard issued military LBE, you can send me a nasty letter and bitch me out. OK? So how about it, try it and let me know how it feels.



As a squad leader and platoon sergeant, my No.1 standing order for my men was: "When not engaged with an enemy force or directly involved in the preparation of a mission, get as much sleep and rest as you possibly can."

Why? Well, a lot of missions don't always go as planned. And if your men are not fully rested, they could be up for prolonged hours and even days before the "Z Monster" captures them.

By allowing your men to squeeze in and get as much sleep and rest as possible, they will be better prepared and rested for those "unexpected" long missions. You know, the ones where your platoon leader or CO says will be a "piece of cake."

Staying awake to engage an enemy force won't be a problem, but staying awake & alert during the lull in fighting will. I don't care if you're an elite infantry grunt, Ranger, SPer, or a bad ass member of Delta Force. If you don't get enough rest and sleep, the Z-Monster will eventually creep up on you.

Here's a few tips on when you can let your men get max sleep and rest....

STAGGING AREAS: When sent to a holding area to prepare for an upcoming mission or deployment, spread the duties and responsibilities around to everyone so you can accomplish them faster. Then (almost) everyone will have the opportunity to get the same amount of sleep and rest.

BATTLE POSITIONS: When not engaged or expecting any enemy confrontations, allow your men to sleep and rest wherever they're at. If your men are well trained and disciplined and you have good leaders, you should be able to allow 2 out of every 3 soldiers (66%) to sleep and rest.

Note: In the old days we use to allow 1/2 our men to sleep while the other half stayed awake & alert. But most leaders today prefer to allow 2/3 of their men to sleep and the other 1/3 to remain awake & alert. Or 1/3 sleep, 1/3 on alert, and the other 1/3 can either eat or clean their weapons.

LONG VEHICLE/AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS: Unless it's a tactical movement, encourage your men to stretch out and sleep anywhere they can inside the vehicles/aircrafts. Not only will this help them to pass the time away, but get plenty of rest too.

Now most senior leaders in my unit didn't approve of my No.1 standing order, but the troops certainly did. And I'm proud to say (and brag), that I've always had the best infantry squad & platoon in the company. Now in the battalion, if we weren't the best, then we were no less than 2d best. Whoah!



PERCEPTIONS

INFANTRY

THIS SUCKS.



AIRBORNE

I LIKE THE WAY THIS SUCKS.



ARMY AVIATION

BOY, IT LOOKS LIKE IT SUCKS DOWN THERE.



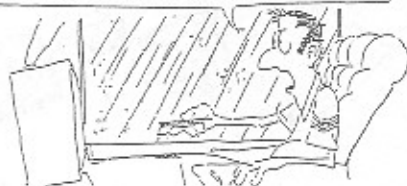
RANGER

I WISH IT WOULD SUCK EVEN MORE.



AIR FORCE

WHAT!? THE CABLE'S OUT! THIS SUCKS!



NOTE: This page was sent into me by a Ranger Doozt reader.

OTHER NEAT TIPS & TRICKS

If your field watch has a "shiny" glass covered lens, illumines markings, and or a built-in light switch. You may want to take a permanent red magic marker (or alcohol pen) and mark over the lens to reduce the chances of the enemy spotting the light or glare, (day or night).

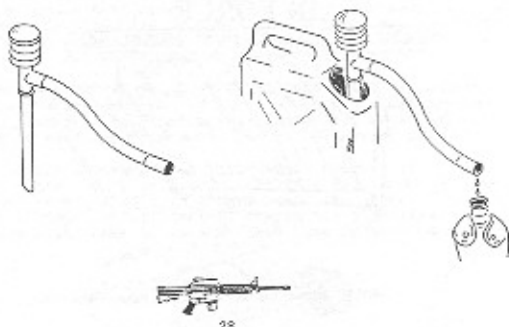


One cold winter day while refueling my apartment "Toyostove" kerosene heater, I discovered a nifty little device that can be used for filling up canteens in the field. Yes I know some of you are probably thinking, "BFD" (Big F----n Deal), Right?

Well, instead of pouring water straight from a 5 gallon container into a canteen and carelessly spilling and wasting it on the ground. All ya gotta do with this device is stick one end in the 5 gallon container and the other end in the canteen and squeeze the water out. NOTE: You only need to squeeze it a few times to get the water flowing continuously.

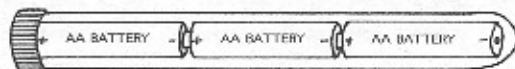
Unit supply sgts and company XO's who usually make resupply runs for food, water, etc, should consider purchasing some of these devices for their unit.

The device is called a Manual Fuel Siphon - Part No. 20450028 and can be ordered from: Toyotomi USA, Inc, PO Box 176, Brookfield, CT. 06804-0176.



28

A nifty storage container that can be used to keep your extra cassette and radio "AA" batteries dry while out in the field, are paint ball containers. They're narrow long plastic tubes that can hold a total of 3 X AA batteries.

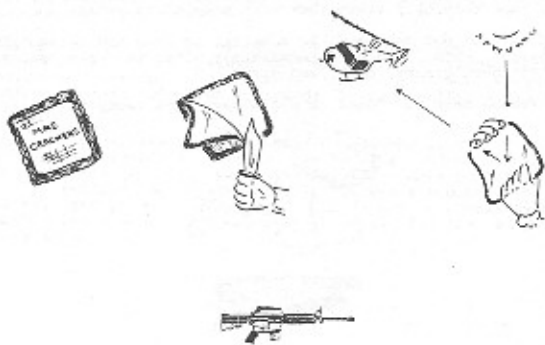


Situation: As a member of an elite Ranger unit deployed behind enemy lines on a reconnaissance mission, you become separated from your unit (or vice versa). After searching for their whereabouts for several hours, you have no other choice but to E & E (escape & evade) back to friendly lines on your own.

Just then, you spot a low flying US Army helicopter approaching in your direction. You frantically search all your pockets for something shiny so you can signal it for help, but you can't find anything and it flies away.

Of course if you were a lot smarter, you should have purchased or made a signal mirror like the one on page 29.

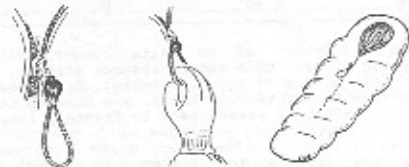
As an alternative signaling device, you could have used the inside portion of an MRE aluminum cracker wrapper. Though it's not as nearly as shiny as a real mirror, but as long as there's some sunlight, you can use it as a field expedient 'short range' signaling device. Just cut open the wrapper, flatten or stretch out the wrinkles and shine it in the desired direction.



29



LEE NISHI says, "when wearing gloves in a cold weather environment, it's sometimes difficult to grab the little zipper that's attached to a jacket, sleeping bag, etc. The solution? Take about 10-12 inches of 550 paracord, remove the inner strands, burn & melt the ends just a little bit to prevent them from unraveling and double lace it back through the metal loop of the zipper. Then, tie a knot at each of the ends so it won't come undone and you'll have something to grab onto."



SGT JERRY D. MARTINEZ says, "as a field soldier, you need to learn how to improvise and be resourceful when it comes to living out in the boonies. And the most important thing you need to look out after is your personal health. My dad taught me this neat trick when he was a Boy Scout Master in troop 95, Roswell, New Mexico."

We went on a camping trip one time and ran into a dilemma with our cooking utensils, pots, and pans. So my dad taught the explorers how they could clean them with some dirt and water.

First, you get a small heap full of dirt and mix it with a little water. Then you smear it onto the utensils, pots, & pans and rub it in until all the grease and grime has come off. Then thoroughly rinse them with some clean water.

NOTE: If you got any soap, it's better to wash and rinse the utensils, pots, and pans immediately after you have removed the stubborn grease, grime, and dirt.

The lesson here is, "dirt is not always your enemy."



"DOC" DAVID J. WHITE says, here's a tip on what else you can use a SAW Ammo Pouch for."

You know those plastic first aid kits that are suppose to be kept in every US military vehicle? Well, it'll take a little bit of stretching, but it'll fit inside of a Saw Ammo Pouch so you can then use it as a fire team or squad first aid kit. Or, if you happen to find an "empty" plastic first aid kit laying around somewhere, you can use it to store just about anything you want. (Radios, cassettes, CDs, electronic games, etc.)

Another useful item for medics, is the 5.56mm ammo bandoliers. They can be used for storing first aid items such as field dressings, drive on rags/slings, gauze, bandaids, and an assortment of other items.



1LT FRANK C. STEVENS says, "in one of your Ranger Digests you mentioned why small unit leaders need to designate a "piss tree" when out in the field. Well, I'd like to expand on this subject a little bit more."

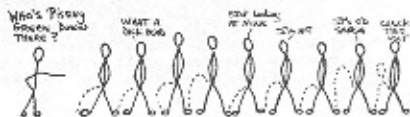
During cold weather training when everyone is up to their butts in snow it's pretty easy to get dehydrated. In fact, some people believe you can only get dehydrated in hot weather, but they're WRONG!

Whether you're in a hot or cold weather environment, the "dew point" must be at or below the ambient air temperature. Basically speaking, this means the air will suck moisture just as quickly away from your body in cold weather as in hot weather.

How can you determine if you or someone in your unit is getting dehydrated? An obvious clue is the color of their urine. While a light yellow is normal, a dark yellow means you are becoming dehydrated. Now if you pee a bronze color or darker, you are very dehydrated. (Note: Daily vitamin takers usually pee a bright yellow, this is normal for them so don't worry about it.)



Though most young leaders will probably not go out of their way to check the color of their soldiers urine, they should preach, teach, and remind them what the warning signs are and how to prevent dehydration.



SGT "DOC" DAVID J. WHITE says, "Here's an MRE spoon trick that I haven't seen anyone send into Ranger Digest yet."

Last year my unit went to Panama for jungle training (JOTC). And while we were there, we did some cross training with some Venezuelan officers.

Well, while out in the jungle one of them came to me with a fractured finger. I wanted to send him back to Fort Sherman to have it taken care of, but he said he couldn't go back until he finished the training or his CO would punish him for whimping out.

Because I didn't have any finger splints in my aid bag, I used two plastic MRE spoons instead. I wrapped it with some gaza and tape to hold it in place until he got back to the rear. And yep, it worked!



CPL DANIEL D. LOGIE wrote to say, "I have a good idea for drying clothes in the field."

Last fall (1997) my unit was sent to Kuwait where we lived in GP tents for about four months. And every time we hung up a clothes line inside our tent, someone was always hanging into it. So then I took the line outside and lashed it in between our tent rope and no one ever banged into it again. (Not even the 2d lieutenants in our unit.)



CORDWHEEL or ROPEWHEEL

Submitted By: CAP CHARLES CALORUSSO

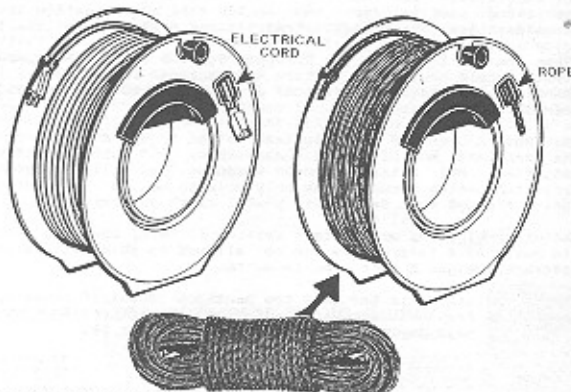
This next tip was sent to me by a member of the New York Civil Air Patrol (CAP). Though I have never seen nor used this tip (or product) before, it looks like it would work. And according to CAP Charles Caloruzzo, it does work.

He writes, "As a member of the Civil Air Patrol, we often train for search and rescue missions. And one thing that gets pretty annoying, is trying to keep the repel ropes from tangling up when you need to use them for a mission. The solution? An outdoor extension cord reel called a CORDWHEEL or KORD-0-WYND, it's made by Doskocil."

It only cost about \$5 (+/-) and it's designed to hold about 150 feet of electrical cord. However, the length and diameter of military issued repel rope (7/16 inches / 120 feet) fits perfectly onto the reel.

To roll up the rope, single or double strand, you just attach it to the reel and grab one handle and turn the other. Once you've rolled it up, you just set it down on the reel's feet.

RANGER RICK'S COMMENTS: It looks like a winner to me, guys & gals. It makes rolling and storing repel rope a lot faster, easier, and fun. (Well, maybe not fun....) And most important, it's pretty inexpensive. Hey, why hasn't the Army bought any of these yet?



The CORDWHEEL is made by: Doskocil Manufacturing Co. Inc.,
P.O. Box 1246
Arlington, Texas 76004-1246

A LETTER THAT NEVER GOT PUBLISHED IN
THE EUROPEAN STARS & STRIPES NEWSPAPER

Out of twelve (12) letters that I've mailed to the European Stars & Stripes Newspaper's "Letters to the Editor," only two have never been published. This is the second letter..... (Hmmm, I wonder why?)

When I heard the the United States was going to send American troops to Bosnia, I wished I was back on active duty again and going there myself. I retired from the US Army on 01-01-93.

In wanting to do my part to help my fellow comrades in arms, I wrote to about a dozen military community commanders throughout Europe suggesting they start what I call OPERATION MAGAZINE DROP or "MAG DROP."

What is it? It's the placing of empty boxes at designated locations throughout a military community such as in front of Post Exchanges, Commissaries, Libraries, etc. And asking people to either buy or donate their used magazines for our deployed troops. Then at the end of each day, collect, wrap, and ship them off to Bosnia via MPS. (Note: MPS is only available in the military European theatre.)

Well, I only received a few replies back, which didn't surprise me, (community commanders don't like to hear ideas or suggestions from retirees). Some said they either started something similar, or they would take my suggestion into consideration. (Yes, right. Translation: @*%\$ you, retiree!)

Then one day I read in the European Stars & Stripes Newspaper that people could send letters and packages to our troops in Bosnia by writing on the letter or package "TO ANY SERVICE MEMBER."

So then I began to write letters to the troops and send them an occasional box of books, magazines, and other reading material. But after boxing, wrapping, and filling out the required custom forms, I was only able to mail a few before being stopped by a female APO postal clerk supervisor.

After showing her my military retiree ID card, she then said to me; "As a retiree you are not allowed to ship letters and packages weighing more than 16 ounces."

After explaining to her that the packages contained books and magazines for our troops in Bosnia, she still insisted that I could not mail anything over 16 ounces from her APO.



34



I tried to convince her to allow me to ship these boxes and told her, "Listen, these packages are for our deployed troops in Bosnia...." She said, "It doesn't matter, you are a retiree and you are not allowed to ship anything over the weight of 16 ounces." She then instructed the mail clerks behind the counters not to accept any of my packages.

I could tell by the facial expressions on those postal clerks that they didn't have any objections to me forwarding these packages. After all, it was for a good cause, for our troops in Bosnia. But obviously, this @*%\$ enjoyed following postal regulations right down to the letter, "Rules-are-Rule."

Not wanting to give up so easy, my wife and I asked some of our friends here in the USASETAF community (active duty military & civilians) if they could help us ship these packages. Which they all eagerly volunteered to do.

I suspected this @*%\$ had probably warned her APO staff about me, so I had to reduce my letter writing and packages to avoid losing my retiree mailing privileges. And even today when mail arrives with my name on it, I suspect the APO goes out of their way to weigh it. Just so they can have the pleasure of putting a note in my box stating my mail was "returned to sender" because it exceeded 16 ozs.

Hey, as long as I've got friends stationed here in Vicenza (Italy), I'll always be able to ship and receive packages regardless of what the APO regulations state. "Friends help friends," right? You betcha!

When the European Stars & Stripes newspaper said "ANYONE" could send letters and packages to our deployed troops in Bosnia, I thought that meant retirees too. After all, it's for a good cause - For Our Deployed Troops in Bosnia. Unfortunately, APO 09630 prefers to follow their rules regardless if it's for a good cause.

Yours Truly,

Ranger Rick P. Pocherme

Any servicemember addresses set in Balkans

Old and lonely servicemembers deployed to the Balkans were busy that week getting love letters from America. Effective today, the Military Postal Service Agency entered its program to allow troops to write to any servicemember deployed in the Balkan power effort, said Navy Lt. Cmdr Cynthia Wink, chief of the agency's policy branch. The Navy had authorized its exp-servicemember address in December. The following military addresses and forms were established in the agency for those deployed, regardless of their location or time of the operation under which they're serving and Service Headquarters, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Air Force in Europe Air Force Sq at Ramstein AB, Germany. For those in the Army or Air Force, write to: ANY SERVICEMEMBER OPERATION JOINT ENDEAVOR APO AE 09630 For those in the Navy, write to: ANY SERVICEMEMBER OPERATION JOINT ENDEAVOR APO AE 09630 Additionally, Seaford said first Lieut Hilary Stockton Clouse apparently was responsible for the creation of such addresses. During the first week's visit to Europe in the early days of the deployment, she expressed an interest in military families left behind. Seaford said the following address also opens today for those families: ANY FAMILY MEMBER OPERATION JOINT ENDEAVOR APO AE 09630

ANY SERVICEMEMBER MAIL

Postal offices say they only receive mail addressed to "Any Servicemember" in those areas where they were not a lot of mail going. They also place it in separate bins for the names of Turkey Air Base. The "Any Soldier or Air Operation Joint En..." APO AE 09630

35

So you want a job? No lie?



W... I've decided to write this... I had to write it... I'm not sure if you'll find it... I'm not sure if you'll find it...

Send in your column, plus photo of yourself, to: Be Our Guest, SUNDAY magazine, The Stars and Stripes, AFPO AE 08211 or Postfach 11 14 37, 63075 Frankfurt, Germany. If mailing date, send out in ABC1 and include period. Columns are edited for clarity and length.

I will read your column and try... you know, they've got a few good pieces there... to be sure... "Be Our Guest" is a great place to be...

The job... I'm not sure if you'll find it... I'm not sure if you'll find it... I'm not sure if you'll find it...

NOTE TO THE APPLICANT: If you intend to apply for any job position with a US rating... I'm not sure if you'll find it... I'm not sure if you'll find it...

Members are supposed to be either drafted... or drafted from their present one... I'm not sure if you'll find it... I'm not sure if you'll find it...

It is so easy to get... I'm not sure if you'll find it... I'm not sure if you'll find it... I'm not sure if you'll find it...

NOTE TO THE APPLICANT: If you intend to apply for any job position with a US rating... I'm not sure if you'll find it... I'm not sure if you'll find it...

NOTE TO THE APPLICANT: If you intend to apply for any job position with a US rating... I'm not sure if you'll find it... I'm not sure if you'll find it...

How many of you soldiers know that a BDU Hat, a Beret, and a Kevlar Camouflage Cover ain't waterproof? Did you know that? That's right. In fact, they suck and soak up water like a "SPONGE." (Well, almost....)

Now I thought they were suppose to provide some form of protection against the weather, didn't you? Oh well, I guess Uncle Sam had to cut corners somewhere to save a few lousy bucks. So I guess if you want'em waterproof, you'll have to do it yourself like I did.

Among several water repellent products that are available on the market, I found that a can of spray called Kiwi "Camp Dry" works pretty good. But like any repellent, it has to be reapplied from time to time. A 12 oz. can costs about \$5 bucks, which is a small price to pay to keep your head dry. To apply....

(a) First, wash and clean your head gear thoroughly of all foreign dirt and oily substances, and DON'T just shake it out.

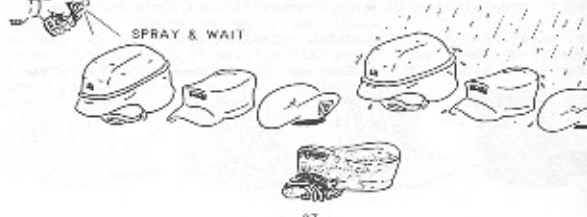
(b) Second, hold the can about 7-10 inches away and spray the entire surface of the head gear very thoroughly. Not just once, but several times to build up a good coat.

(c) Third, then sit back and wait for it to dry, which will take about 4-6 hours.

NOTE: As you begin to spray you'll notice the liquid will start to build up and become very glossy and shiny. Don't worry about it, when it dries the gloss shine will disappear.

Now before you put it on, you had better test it out to see if it's completely waterproof. Take your head gear and run it under a spray faucet or sprinkler to see if it repels water. If the water does not run off smoothly, then you either did not (a) wash it thoroughly (b) spray it properly. If you had, the "pores" in the material would be closed thus repelling the water. If it doesn't, start over again.

Does the "duck beak" sun visor of your BDU hat always look f----- up and out of shape? Then when you're not wearing it, try rolling it up and placing a rubber band around it so it maintains it's oval "sharp looking" shape.



OPENING LAUGH
Illustration of a house with a sign that says 'BE OUR GUEST'.

BACK IN UKRAINE 4-7
IN TUNE 9
THIS WEEK'S FILMS 10-11
TELEVISION LISTINGS 12-15
HOME ENTERTAINMENT 13
BOOKS 17
SIDELIGHTS 20
VOICES 21
WORDS & WIT 22
ON PARADE 23
LAST LAUGH 24
SUNDAY is a weekly supplement of The Stars and Stripes

BOOT TIPS

There are so many different types of military boots on the market today that it's almost impossible for a soldier to decide which one is the best to buy for the field. Just because it's the most expensive, it doesn't necessarily mean it's the best or better made boot.

I use to maintain several pairs of boots for different occasions and military functions.

My **INSPECTION BOOTS** were only worn for morning inspections and or for ceremonies, parades, and other special events. I always kept them highly spit shined and cleaned at all times.

My **GARRISON BOOTS** were put on immediately after the early morning inspections as long as we remained in the unit area. Though they were NOT kept as highly spit shined as my inspection boots, they were always highly brushed shined.

My **FIELD BOOTS** were only worn in the field and I kept two different types. My Jungle Boots were my light pair which I usually wore during the summer time and or in hot weather environments. And my Gortex or Matterhorn Boots were my heavy duty pair which I wore in the winter time and or in cold weather environments.

My **MOTOR POOL BOOTS** were a pair of old beat-up boots that showed a lot of "wear & tear." Because a motor pool has a lot of oil, grease, fuel, and a bunch of other stuff that can really f---up your boots. I only wore these when I was going to be around some vehicles or tracks.

When it came to real world missions and deployments, depending on where we were going, I only took the necessary boots. If we weren't told where we were going, then I took all my field boots with me.

Out of all my boots, I treated and took care of my field boots a bit differently than I did my other boots. Such as...

a. Replacing the boot laces with some o.d. green 550 parachute cord. It's not only a lot stronger, but you can use the seven nylon inner strands as emergency survival string.

b. Replacing the "cheapo" inner sole cushions (that most new boots come with) with a more comfortable & durable cushion.

c. Treating them with a water repellent shoe polish and or spraying them with some KIMI'S "Camp Dry" heavy duty water repellent spray. (Note: Must be applied and resplied often.)



38

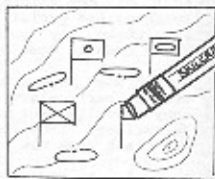
A FEW RANDOM NUGGETS OF INFO

By LTC MARTIN N. STANTON

Dear Ranger Rick,

I enjoy reading your books because they contain a lot of useful information for the field. Well, here's a couple of "nuggats" that maybe you can use in your next Ranger Digest...

Most operation officers and NCOs use an acetated map for their situation board, so they can draw on it with an alcohol pen to show where the friendly and enemy units are located. But every time you need to make some fine changes to it with some alcohol, it usually drips, smears, and you have to redo it all over again. But thanks to MSG SCOTT HARD-CASTLE, he showed me an easier way. Just take a dry eraser pen and erase over the symbol, brush it off and then make your necessary corrections and changes.



If you are in a type of unit that is always being deployed somewhere in the world. A good source of information and knowledge can be acquired from most tourist guide handbooks. I was amazed at finding a book called "The Lonely Planet Guide to East Africa," which showed more accurate maps of the smaller towns in Somalia than what we were issued. These useful handbooks are a good source of info for En. and S&E level S-2's who want to get as much INTEL on their new AO prior to deploying.



When packing goodies for a family member who is deployed on a military operation, don't pack the box with styrofoam or other useless packaging to cushion the load. They are not only worthless to a soldier who is on a deployment, but it may be hard for him or her to get rid of it too. The solution? Cushion the box with small plastic food additives such as those found at the fast food restaurant (mustard, ketchup, relish, etc) or rolls of toilet paper, magazines, & newspapers. Something useful, edible and or tradeable.



39



As a little kid I always enjoyed playing with my toy soldiers and setting 'em up in different battle field situations. Then when my parents allowed me to buy a BB gun, it became even more enjoyable. As I would set 'em up in my backyard and shoot 'em down one-by-one. (Boy, that was a lot of fun...)

Well, before I went off to Bosnia, I bought me a whole bag full of toy soldiers so I could use 'em as training aids for teaching and explaining battle drills & formations. In order for these toy soldiers to stand up better, I attached and glued them to some bottle caps and pieces of wood.

I used them in explaining how, when, and where they should use a particular formation or battle drill. In fact, before they actually went outside to practice these drills and formations, they first had to demonstrate and prove to me in the class room how and when they would use them.

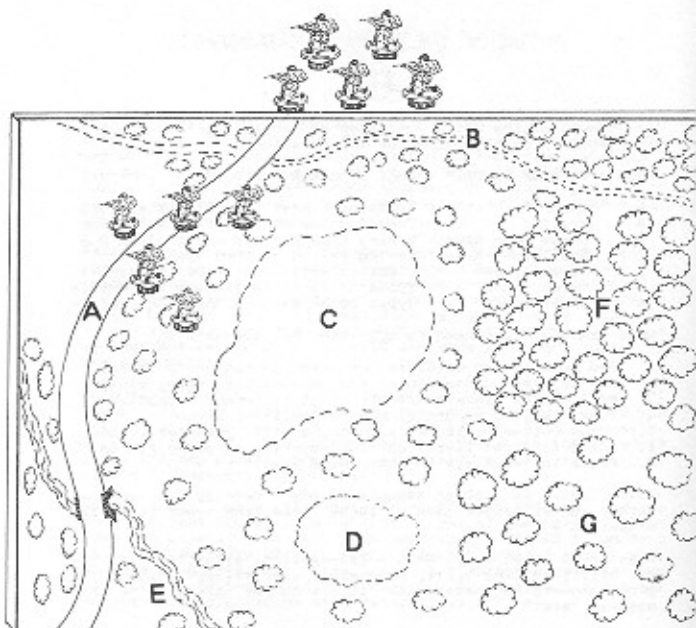
I gave all the students a toy soldier, selected the element leaders, and then instructed them to organize themselves into fire teams, squads, and platoons.

After this, I'd create battle field scenarios and point to one of the student leaders and ask (for example), "Ok, what would you do if you got hit from this direction...." In which either the leader or a student that I pointed to had to show me with the toy soldiers what he (or they) would do.

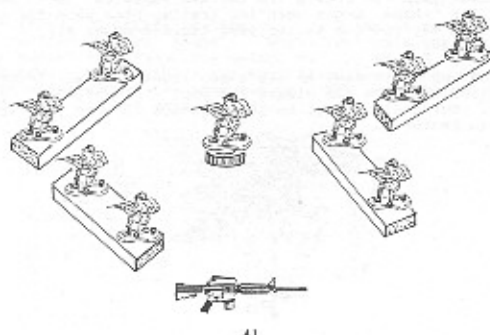
These toy soldiers were not only an excellent training aid, but due to a language difference, it made it easier for both of us to understand one another. All we had to do was use the toy soldiers to explain what we were trying to get across.

When it came to teaching actions on enemy contact, crossing danger areas, react to flares/artillery, etc, I built a couple of multi-tactical situation kits. One was a roll-out and the other was a fold-up. The roll-out was made from an old white bedsheet and the fold-out was made from a large cardboard box.

Both were colored and painted with magic markers and or spray paint to look like different types of terrains that they would more than likely encounter on a mission or tactical operation. Such as green for woods, black for roads, blue for water, etc.



MULTI-TACTICAL SITUATION BOARD





An example of the different types of tactical situations that they would probably encounter on a mission or on a patrol:

AREA	TYPE OF TERRAIN	WHAT IT CAN BE USED FOR
A	Road	Crossing Linear D.A./Staggered Form.
B	Trail	Crossing Linear D.A./File Formation
C	Large Open Area	Moving Around or Crossing Large D.A.
D	Small Open Area	Moving Around or Thru Small D.A.
E	Stream/Creek	Crossing Water Obstacles/Linear D.A.
F	Thick Woods	Types Of Formations/Enemy Encounters
G	Light Woods	Types Of Formations/Enemy Encounters

What you will also need to complete this scenario kit....

1. Red colored toy soldiers for enemy encounters/snipers.
2. Red colored buttons/chips for encountering enemy mines.
3. Red colored plane/helicopter/tank for enemy encounters.
4. Black colored wooden blocks for built-up areas.
5. White cotton balls for incoming artillery/mortar rounds.
6. White filtered flashlight for reacting to enemy flares.
7. Green toy soldiers for the "Good Guys."

NOTE: This is just an example of how I made my kit, you can either add or delete some of these items from your tactical situation kit.

When using a bed sheet as a multi-tactical situation kit, you can create rolling hills, mountains, and valleys simply by placing something underneath it, such as grass, pine tree needles, etc.

If you want to use the multi-tactical situation kit as a portable terrain model kit for the field. Just spray paint the bed sheet light green and don't add any roads, trails, streams, creeks, etc. onto it. Instead, use different colored "knitting yarn" to create the terrain features. Such as red yarn for roads, brown yarn for trails, blue yarn for water, etc. This way you can tailor your terrain model kit to your actual mission.

Or, if you don't want to use a bed sheet as a multi-tactical situation kit, you can always use your "camouflaged" poncho liner. But don't forget to carry enough colored yarn for the terrain features.



42

UNBREAKABLE HOMEMADE MAP PROTRACTORS

When we first started teaching the Bosnian Army in how to read a military map, we didn't have any US Army issued GTA map protractors. So naturally, we had to improvise. Luckily I brought along a couple and I was able to make some paper copies at least for class room teaching purposes. Then later on I was able to acquire some acetate and make them a bit durable and reusable.

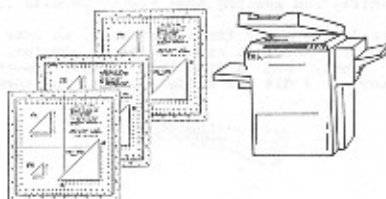
Well, even though these acetate paper copies worked pretty well, we were in need of something a bit more durable for outdoor use. So one night I sneaked on down to our training room and stole (or "borrowed") a box of Xerox blank overview slides and I tried to reproduce a copy of a GTA Map Protractor onto it. And guess what? Yep, it worked! So I used up that entire box of Xerox VGTS and made about 200 repro GTA map protractors.

IMPORTANT: Before mass producing and running off a bunch of these GTA map protractors, place a US Army issued map protractor up to the first xerox copy to see if it's to size. If the repro is slightly smaller or larger than the standard issue GTA map protractor, you may have to enlarge it or reduce it anywhere from 1/8-3/8.

Well, even though they were a bit thinner and less durable than the real McCoy, once cutting 'em out of the plastic and down to size. I then took some acetate and placed it on both sides of the repro GTA map protractors to make 'em a bit more durable and flexible. Then I used a straight edge razor and cut out the rectangle 1/100,000, 1/50,000, and 1/25,000 meter scales so they could be used effectively on a map.

These repro GTA map protractors worked so well I prefer to use one of these rather than the US Army issued GTA map protractor. Why? Because it's more flexible and durable and can take a lot more wear & tear than the real thing. If ya don't believe me, go ahead and make one and see for yourself.

Don't forget to modify it like the way I taught ya in one of my previous Ranger Digests. What? You ain't got any of my other books? Well then, you better go buy 'em if you want to learn how to modify these map protractor some more. Because I almost never repeat the same tip or trick twice in any of my books. Sorry about that, buddy...



43



Now I've lived, trained, and visited a lot of countries in the world, and Bosnia wasn't any different when it came to trading and bartering for things.

And every time I went to a foreign country, I always took with me a few popular trading items. What for? Well, not only for trading, but for services needed, good will gestures, and for bribing (mostly military, custom, and police) officials.

Now even though you might think there's nothing out there that you want from another country, you'd be surprised in what you can get with a few popular American made products.

A few of the things that I took with me to Bosnia to trade... (Note: Items listed below are in sequence of popularity.)

#1 Zippo Lighters - In the PX/BX they sell for about \$8-\$25, but in most countries, including Bosnia, they sell for three, four, and five times (or more) than that amount.

I rate this a #1 trading item because they're small, compact, inexpensive, and a very, very much in demand in almost every foreign country. And the more fancy looking it is, the bigger and better things you can trade something for it.

NOTE: The shiny silver smooth Zippo lighters with or without the fancy engraving (\$12-\$15) are the best ones to buy.

#2 Mini Mag Lites - Though there are several types of Mag-Lites, the most popular one for trading is the MINI-MAG LITE (AA battery). It comes in two colors, black and camouflage, the latter being the most popular and in demand.

#3 The Leatherman Tool & Buck Knives - Now we're getting into a higher price range, but well worth purchasing if your looking for something really special. Don't bother wasting your money on a super-duper knife such as the SOG Paratool or Power Plier, the cheapo Pocket Survival Tool will do fine.

GIVE-A-WAYS - A popular and inexpensive item that you can give away to both, adults & children, are small American flags. They cost only about 35 cents a piece and you can use them to make friends. In fact, whenever I gave these away in Bosnia, I usually got something back in return. Such as a free drink, food, war souvenirs, and meeting some pretty Bosnian ladies.

What did I trade the other items for? Well, to name just a few things; bayonets, helmets, night vision goggles, inert anti-personnel mines, and a few other things. Though I was offered some weapons, I did not trade anything for them. No BS!

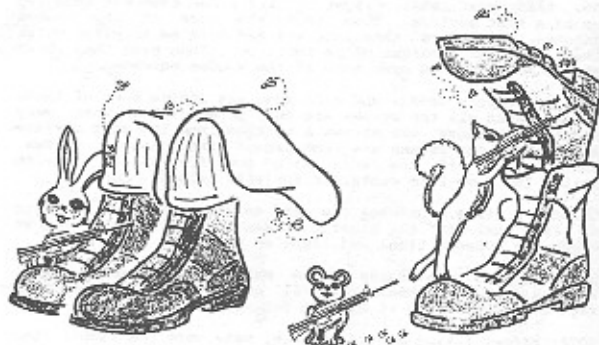


Dear Ranger Rick,

"Back in my old jungle days," Sgt. Charles Robinson writes. "Before we went to bed at night we use to roll up our socks and place them inside our boots to keep the little night critters out. And it worked pretty well too, but it wasn't always 100% anti-critter proof."

Then one day while out in the field with my unit, I saw a PFC Jessica Cuckler take a pair of socks and place them over the tops of her boots. She said she learned this trick back in A.I.T., it not only kept out the critters, but it helped air and dry out the socks too.

RANGER RICK'S COMMENTS: Another technique in keeping those pesky flying and crawling little critters out of your boots at night, is to spray some insect repellent inside of them. Or, tie the tops of your boots closed or place one boot inside/over the top of the other.



One day I was playing around with a candle and I accidentally dripped some wax on some paper matches. And when I lit one of them, I noticed the match burned a lot longer than normal. So naturally I began experimenting.

I went to McDonald's and got me a handful of plastic drinking straws and then I bought me a box of wooden matches. If you find and buy the type of wooden matches that light when you strike 'em against a rock or a piece of metal, good. If not, the wooden matches that come in a little box will do just fine.

Next, I got me a small pair of scissors (a razor blade will work too), an empty plastic 35mm film container, and a candle. I took about 10-15 wooden matches and cut 'em down to the same size and length as the 35mm container. I then grabbed the straws and cut them down to the same size and length as the matches and 35mm container.

Most of the plastic drinking straws have a colored line that runs down the entire length of the straw. After you have cut these straws down to size, slit 'em along this line.

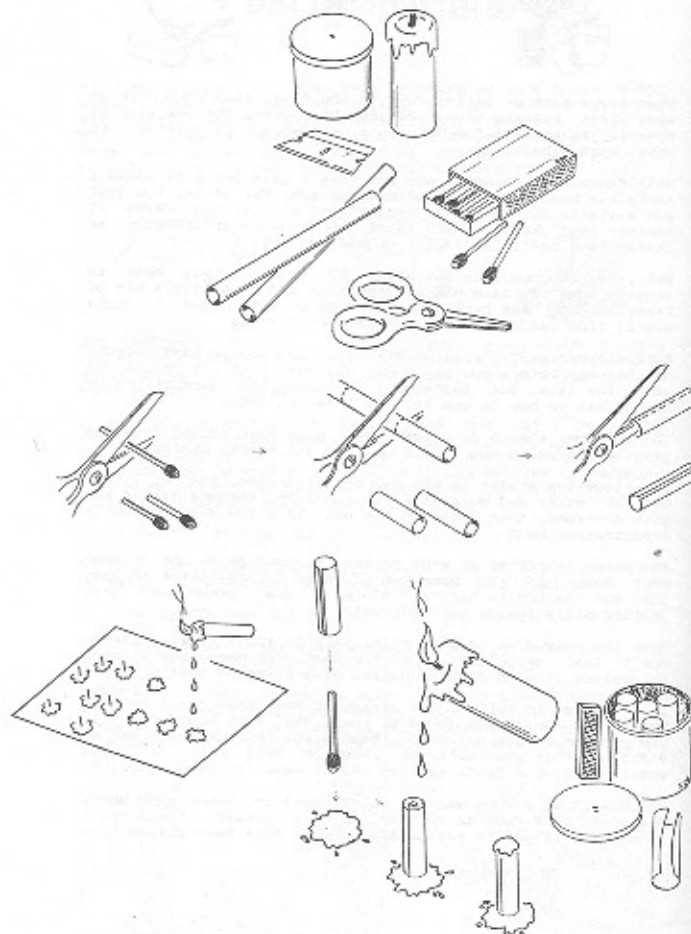
Now take your candle, light it, and allow some wax to build up on a flat surface. Then take the head of the wooden matches and place them into wax and hold 'em in place until they can stand straight up on their own. Then grab the short straws and slide 'em over each of the wooden matches.

Then take your candle and melt some wax inside each of these straws. When all the straws are full of wax, stop. Then very carefully remove the straws & matches from the flat surface and rub off any excess wax from around the plastic straws. Then smooth off the ends with your fingers and place 'em inside the 35mm film container for safe keeping.

OK boys & girls, now when you need to use these, all ya gotta do is "peel off" the plastic straws (where you have slit it along the colored line) and light 'em up.

What can you use these waxed matches for? As survival matches, you bonehead! They'll burn 5 X times longer than regular matches. Try it and see for yourself.

NOTE: Before lighting a candle-match, make sure you remove the plastic straw. If you forget, the wooden matches, wax, and plastic straw will burn up very rapidly. Also, if you're using the wooden matches that come in a box, don't forget to remove the "sandpaper" from the side of the box and place it inside the 35mm container. Or else you won't have anything to ignite the matches with.





MRE HEAT PACKET TIPS & TRICKS

When I was back on active duty in the Army, from 1972-1993. We went from heating our C-Rations by burning the box that it came in, to heating the MREs in a canteen cup of boiling hot water with a heat tab.

Well times have changed, now you guys & gals got a fireless & smokeless bag of heat for warming up your MRE meals. You just add a little bit of water inside this plastic bag, slide it inside your meal, wait about 10 minutes and PRESTO - an instant hot meal. Cool! Or I should say HOT!

Well, even though this was after my time, I was able to acquire some of these MRE heat packets and do a little bit of experimenting. And here's what I came up with that I think you'll find useful and or at least interesting.

COLD WEATHER HAND & FEET WARMER: Yep, you should have thought of this way before me, as it was obvious that it could be used for this. But, instead of following the instructions on the packet in how to use it, try this instead...

(A) Remove the o.d. green and gray heat packet from the plastic bag/pouch and cut it up into 3-5 narrow strips.

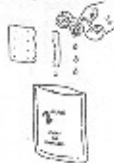
(B) Place the strips in the bag one-at-a-time, add a little bit of water and squeeze it so the water spreads around and gets absorbed, then close up the bag. In a few minutes you'll have instant heat.

Now place it either in your pocket, in your hands and or near your feet. If you want two of these for the price of one, just cut the bag in half and place an o.d. green and gray heating strip inside each bag half.

Now, the only draw back to this, is that these heating strips don't last very long. So as the heat dies down, you'll need to replace it with another narrow gray strip of heat & water.

It's better to replace the strips of heat one-at-a-time than to use the whole damn thing at once. Why? Well not only will you get longer use out of it (heat wise), but it won't get so @!#\$ hot that you won't be able to hold onto it. Thus wasting valuable heat, ya know what I mean? You see my point?

To use it as a foot warmer, you'll have to remove your boots and place your feet on or near the heat packet itself. But watch out, if you're not careful you'll burn your little toes.



48



If you're like me and hate putting on cold boots in the winter time. Instead of trying to warm 'em up with a cigarette lighter, match, or a candle, try using one or two MRE heat packets. When your boots are defrosted, don't throw away the packets of heat, just place it inside your BDU pockets for extra body heat until it cools off.



HOT CHOCOLATE/COFFEE HEATER: Now I know you wouldn't have thought of this, and before you criticize it, don't knock it until you've tried it. Or at least until you're desperate for some coffee and you can't make a fire...

If you're in a tactical situation and you can't make any fires, such as in a bunker, LP/OP position, etc, and you want to have a cup of coffee or cocoa. Well, here's one way you can warm some up without a fire. BUT, the hotness or warmness of the coffee and or cocoa will depend on how many MRE heat packets you use or have available.

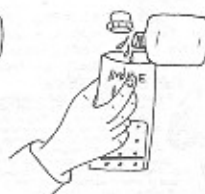
ITEMS NEEDED: Several MRE heat packets and 1 X Zip-Lock Bag.

A) Take the zip-lock sandwich bag and fill it about 25% full of water (and no more) and then zip-lock it closed/shut.

B) Take an MRE heat packet and follow the instructions on it.

C) After following the instructions, place it underneath the zip-lock bag of water and wait for it to heat up.

IMPORTANT - Depending on how much water was placed inside the bag and how cold it is outside, it may take 2-3 MRE heat packets to warm it up. Though it won't become real hot, a nice warm cup of coffee or cocoa is better than a cold one. Try it!



49



When I first saw one of these in a military supply catalog, I said to myself, "What the #&@%?" But after I thought about it for awhile, I guess it's not such a bad idea after all.

Now when I was a platoon sergeant I always carried an acetated piece of luminous tape attached to some 100 mph tape. And on it I would write down the call-signs, codewords, frequencies, etc, so I could read it in the dark without using my flashlight. And it worked pretty good too.

Of course, there were some leaders in my unit who tried to copy what I did, but they screwed theirs up by not placing a second layer of acetate on the luminous tape. Why the double layer? Just in case the alcohol pen permanently stained the first layer, then all I had to do was remove and replace it with another piece. If you try to write on the luminous tape without any acetate, it'll permanently stain and mark it.

To make a homemade CEUI wrist coder, here's what ya do:

Take some 100 mph tape and measure the width of it, then cut out a piece of luminous tape about the same exact size. Take this piece of luminous tape and "acetate" both sides. Yep, both sides, the sticky side too. Not once, but TWICE.

Take about 12 inches of 100 mph tape and lay it down on a flat surface with the "sticky portion" facing up. Take the acetated piece of luminous tape and place it in the center of this piece of tape with the luminous portion also facing up.

Now take this piece of tape (with the attached luminous tape) and measure it to your wrist. But don't attach the two ends together yet, you're just measuring it for size. Make sure this tape is about 3-5 inches longer than what you need, this excess amount will allow you to fold and overlap the two ends together. Then cut off the excess tape and lay it back down on a flat surface with (again) the sticky portion facing up.

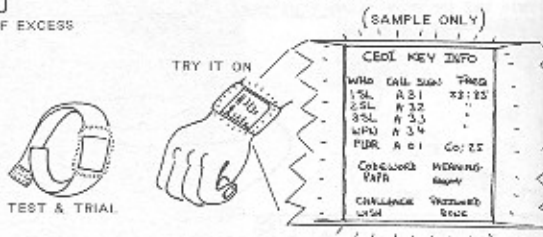
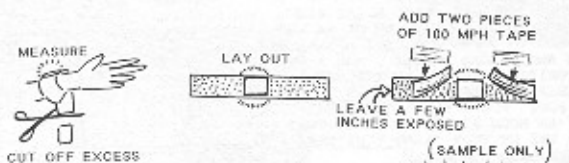
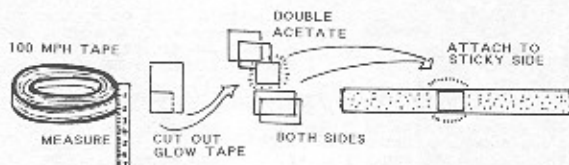
Once you have finished measuring and cutting off the excess tape, take two other pieces of tape and place them on top of the "sticky portion" except for one of the ends. Leave this one end (your choice which one) exposing 3-5 inches of sticky tape.

Be careful when placing and attaching these two tapes one-on-top-of-the-other or they'll "bunch & ball up together." When placing and attaching the tape near the "acetated luminous portion," just allow the tape to barely overlap and touch it.

You'll want to be able to remove this luminous portion easily so you can quickly dispose of it should you become captured. Next, take the 3-5 inch sticky portion end of the tape and fold it in about 1/2 an inch, this will leave you about 2-4 inches of sticky tape remaining.

Pick up the tape, wrap it around your wrist and then attach the sticky end to the non-sticky end of the tape. The 1/2 inch folded-in piece of tape is a "pull tab" quick release so you can remove and attach it to your wrist freely. If it should wear out, no need to make a new one, just attach another piece of tape on top of it.

Now all ya gotta do is grab your alcohol pen (and NOT a grease pencil) and write down your radio call signs, codewords, and frequencies on the luminous portion so you'll be able to read it at night and also during daylight hours.



THE WRIST CODER™
A Smart Tool For Tactical Leaders
Originated for use by the British Defense Forces to eliminate the "fog of battle" by keeping code names, call signs and other data ready for instant reference. Worn on the arm above the wrist, the clear plastic window allows easy viewing of data. Features a second, internal pocket for storage of other materials. Strap-rolling flap. Attaches with two hook-and-loop straps.
Measures 5" W x 5" H (13.2 x 14cm). © 2009/10/10

SCREW THIS!

MAKE YOUR OWN

RANGER RICK'S FAVORITE TOILET GRAFFITI



THEY PAINT THESE WALLS, TO STOP MY PEN FROM WRITING THE SHIT HOUSE PORT, HAS STRUCK AGAIN.

TO EAT, OR NOT TO EAT SHIT. 100 TRILLION FLYS CAN'T BE ALL THAT WRONG.

I CAME HERE TO SHIT & THINK, BUT ALL I DO IS FART & STINK.

IT'S BETTER TO LAUGH WITH THE SINNERS, THAN TO CRY WITH THE SAINTS.

HEY BUSTER, STAND CLOSER! THAT F---N THING BETWEEN YOUR LEGS AIN'T NO DAMN WINCHESTER.

THE MOON WAS HIGH AND SO WAS I, AND THERE SHE WAS A WAITING FOR ME. SHE HAD A BODY AS FINE AS COULD BE, FOR SHE WAS HOPING THAT I'D BE SWEET. AND SWEET I WAS AND SWEET I'LL BE, AS LONG AS SHE IS SWEET WITH ME. I TOUCHED HER GENTLY AND WHISPERED TO HER SOFTLY, HOPING TO RELAX HER AND NOT TO SCARE HER. SHE SPREAD HER LEGS AND BRACED HERSELF, AND I BEGAN TO POSITION MYSELF. AS I TOUCHED HER BETWEEN THE LEGS, SHE BEGAN TO SCREAM AND POUT. FOR I KNEW IT WAS HERB JUST AS MUCH AS IT WAS MINE. THAT THIS WAS MY VERY FIRST TIME THAT I'VE EVER MILKED A COW.

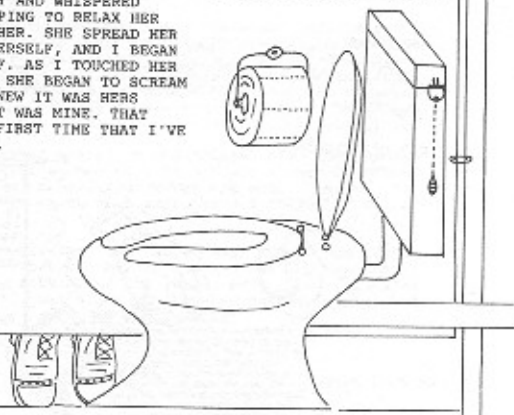
IF YOU LIKE SEX, THEN YOU'RE IN THE RIGHT OUTFIT, WE GET F---D EVERYDAY.

THE ARMY'S SURGEON GENERAL HAS DETERMINED THAT HERMOIDS ARE ONLY CONTAGIOUS IF TWO ASSHOLES COME IN CONTACT WITH EACH OTHER. (KEEP AWAY FROM THE ISG)

THE SOLDIER WHO CLEANED THESE TOILETS & URINALS HAD A "DICK JOB."

WARNING! DUE TO A LACK OF GOV'T FUNDS, THE ARMY ORDERED THINNER TOILET PAPER. FOLD TWICE OR MORE BEFORE USING.

I'LL SOON BE THROUGH WITH ALL THIS SHIT, AND THAT WILL BE THE END OF IT. I'LL GO HOME AND THERE I'LL STAY. BEENLIST? NO F---N WAY!



HAVE YA EVER HEARD OF GRAF? (YOU WILL IF YA EVER PCS TO EUROPE)

90 years at Grafenwöhr

Some key dates in the history of the training area:

- 1747: Bavaria's army of 10,000 soldiers, including 5,000 Prussians, occupies the Grafenwöhr area.
- March 20, 1806: By royal proclamation, Prince Ludwig of Saxe-Coburg names the site "Training Area Grafenwöhr."
- June 22, 1810: Training officially begins at Grafenwöhr with an infantry regiment that had 1,000 soldiers.
- June 20, 1814: Albrecht Franz Duke of Saxe-Coburg, Prince of Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt, becomes the first "Grand Duke" of the area.
- 1814-1815: Army with major units from Grafenwöhr serves for a period of more than 200 Allied prisoners of war.
- 1815: Treaty of Versailles, which officially ends World War I, is signed in the city of 100,000 soldiers almost 100 miles from the main training area.
- 1894: The 1st Cavalry Division is based at Grafenwöhr. The military garrison increases from 100,000 to more than 8 million by 1918.
- 1906: The garrison is increased to 1,500,000 soldiers and 100,000 horses.
- June 24, 1908: Kaiser visits Grafenwöhr to inspect the training area and the 1st Cavalry Division (the "Seydlitz Division").
- Aug. 21-22, 1918: Kaiser is expected to visit Grafenwöhr for a demonstration of the completed "Seydlitz system." However, he cancels the trip due to the imminent invasion of Poland.
- 1918-1919: Germany invades Poland. World War II ends.
- Sept. 14, 1945: The last German soldiers are ordered to leave Grafenwöhr and the area is taken over by the American 1st Cavalry Division.
- Autumn 1945: Using captured American tanks and vehicles, German SS soldiers in Grafenwöhr train for the Battle of the Bulge, which German SS soldiers later used to the occupation of the 1st Cavalry Division's training area.

- April 8 and 9, 1945: Two American battalions occupy approximately 100 buildings and 60 acres and destroy 70 percent of the military buildings.
- April 14, 1946: Advancing from Northern American troops enter the western training area. The American troops enter the western training area. The American troops enter the western training area.
- April 19, 1946: Elements of the U.S. 9th Infantry Division enter the town and train 600,000 of Grafenwöhr without assistance. The German commander formally surrenders the next day.
- May 9, 1946: End of World War II in Europe.
- 1946-1948: Camps in the western part of the training area are used as processing stations for Polish and German prisoners of war. The American troops are used for their being Eastern Europe and seeking immigration to North America and Israel.
- 1947: Grafenwöhr becomes the main training center for the area U.S. occupation force that enters Germany.
- 1950: Outbreak of war against communist forces in Korea leads to rapid increase of U.S. Forces in Europe. From fewer than 100,000 to more than 370,000.
- November 1950: Operation "Polaris" begins training with the tank unit in Grafenwöhr.
- Sept. 2, 1950: A U.S. artillery unit overbooks its camp, taking the Camp Kaserne left camp and making it an American soldier.
- June 1971: 7th Army Training Command Headquarters established at Grafenwöhr to coordinate all major training sites for U.S. Army Europe.
- Aug. 23, 1980: In a friendly fire incident near midnight on Föhnberg Hill, an M1 Abrams tank fires on two Bradley cavalry assault vehicles, killing one soldier and wounding four.
- Nov. 2, 1989: Berlin Wall opens, ending the Cold War.
- August - December 1990: Tank and Infantry crews undergo high intensity training at Grafenwöhr before shipping to Saudi Arabia to lead the armored shock that drove Iraq forces from Kuwait in the 1991 Persian Gulf War.
- June 1991: U.S. troops in Europe reduced to 100,000 for the first time since 1949.
- Autumn 1995: Soldiers of the 1st Armored Division and attached units prepare in Grafenwöhr for the U.S.-led peace mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, which begins in December 1995.



Grafenwöhr today

A look at the training area and its impact on the area:

- The Grafenwöhr training area remains the U.S. Army's primary live ammunition range in Europe. This 5,000-acre area at Hohenfels is where units practice maneuvers once they are qualified on their weapons at Grafenwöhr.
- The two training areas combined are home to more than 5,000 American soldiers and more than 10,000 family members. In addition, an average of 4,000 soldiers train each day at Grafenwöhr and Hohenfels.
- About 8,000 of these Americans live in off-base German housing or government leased housing. In 1995, they spent \$20 million for rent, utilities and telephone.
- Americans also spent an estimated \$80 million in stores and restaurants of the Grafenwöhr/Hohenfels region in 1995.
- Grafenwöhr employs 1,000 German civilians, who, located on the south side of the training area, employ another 650. Hohenfels also provides jobs for about 600 Germans. Wages for the three areas totaled 100 million German marks (more than \$110 million) in fiscal year 1994. The U.S. Army also provides for 140 million marks (\$50 million) worth of services.





A few times I was tasked to set up a land navigation course for the Bosnians. But due to IPDR/SFOR restrictions, the area that we were given permission to lay it out in was a lot smaller than what we had wanted it to be. Unfortunately, there wasn't very much we could do about it.

Operating under these strict rules and restrictions wasn't my only problem. Because of who I was (Ranger Rick) and what I've accomplished, writing and publishing these Ranger Digest handbooks. There were some MPRI senior trainers, (retired Lt. "Square Frank," Col. "Alzheimer Joe," & Col. "Mike Slush") and a few SFers who were always anxiously looking for me to f--- up doing something. Which I never (or rarely) ever did.

Why were they so anxious to see me screw up? Oh, I guess like all envious and jealous leaders, so they could tell their fellow officers and SF buddies that good ol' Ranger Rick f---ed up. Or so they could say, "Hey Ranger Rick, that's not the f---ing way we did it back at Bragg or in SF."

But thanks to these fellas, because I knew they were always watching me like a hungry hawk out searching for food. I would always triple check all my work to deny them the pleasure of seeing me make any mistakes. And not only did the Bosnians learn a lot of training tips & tricks from me, but so did these senior trainers and SF dudes. Which I know they'll never admit to anyone that they have because their too proud and think they're better than everyone else.

Remember this Ranger Digest Readers; It doesn't matter if you're an Officer, NCO, Enlisted, or if you wear a Special Forces, Ranger, Airborne, or "no tab" at all. It's how you use your brain and impress the troops that makes you stand out among the rest.

And when you do, there will always be some leaders who will try to put you down or make you look bad so they'll look better. F--- these guys, don't worry about 'em, the troops you train and lead know who are the good and bad leaders and instructors. Believe me, they know.

OK, now lets get down to business.

In my previous Ranger Digests I showed you a few ways in how you can set up a land navigation course for your unit. Well, here's a few more layouts that you might want to try that worked pretty well for me in Bosnia. But before you decide which one will work best for you and your unit, determine....

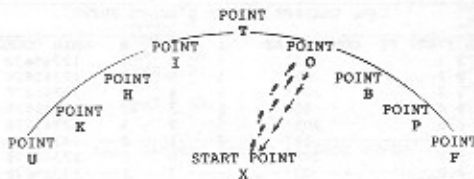


- A. How much time will be available to set it up.
- B. What kind of terrain is in the general area of operation.
- C. How many key terrain features can be used as landmarks.
- D. How many hazardous obstacles are in or around the area.
- E. How many roads, trails, creeks, and or rivers are in the area and can be used as recognizable boundary limitations.

These are just a few and not all of the things that you should take into consideration when deciding which layout to set up for your unit. Whichever one you choose, always keep in mind SAFETY. Never send a soldier out by himself, always pair'em up in teams of two or more individuals.

Now this first land nav layout I call the HALF MOON. Because there is only one starting point, and everytime a point is located, the individuals or teams must return back to the same location before proceeding to another point. If the points are placed out at equal distances, the points can double as boundaries. This layout must be walked, measured, and verified for accuracy no less than three (3) times.

How the points are layed out:



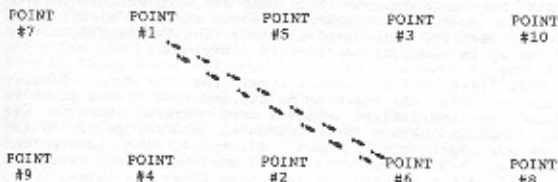
LANE GRADERS ANSWER & SCORE SHEET						
LANE	COMPASS AZ	METERS	L	POINT	R	GRID COORD
#1	56°	1000	-	U	K	12345678
#2	64°	1000	U	K	H	12345678
#3	70°	1000	K	H	I	12345678
#4	76°	1000	H	I	T	12345678
#5	80°	1000	I	T	O	12345678
#6	84°	1000	T	O	B	12345678
#7	89°	1000	O	B	P	12345678
#8	92°	1000	B	P	F	12345678
#9	96°	1000	P	F	-	12345678

Left of ↑ Right of
Correct Point



This next one I call the PARALLEL or RECTANGLE LAYOUT. And provided these points are placed out at equal distances, again, they can also double as boundaries. And just like the other layout, it must be walked, measured, and verified for accuracy no less than three (3) times.

How the points are layed out;



LANE GRADERS ANSWER & SCORE SHEET					
LANE/START PT	COMPASS AZ	L	-POINT-	R	GRID COORD
# 1	191°	8	6	2	12345678
# 2	27°	1	5	3	12345678
# 3	200°	2	4	9	12345678
# 4	20°	5	3	10	12345678
# 5	205°	6	2	4	12345678
# 6	16°	7	1	5	12345678
# 7	209°	-	8	6	12345678
# 8	23°	-	7	1	12345678
# 9	198°	3	10	-	12345678
#10	25°	4	9	-	12345678

↑ ↑ ↑
Left of Right of
Correct Point

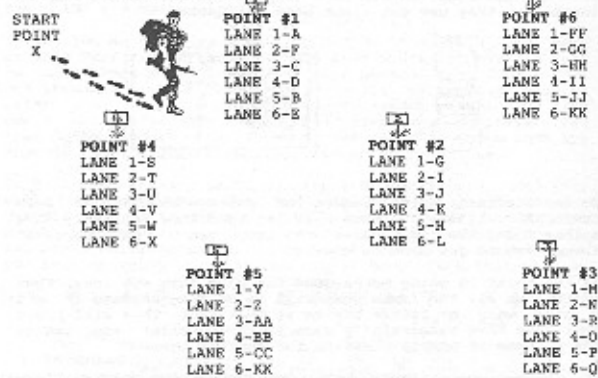
Now this last layout is one that is very popular with Special Forces and Ranger units. Though it's much easier to set up than all the others, the novice beginner and inexperienced will find it a bit more difficult to negotiate. Especially if they have never (or rarely) used a map and compass before.

The teams are given all coordinates to all the points and then instructed to plot and locate as many of them as possible within a certain time period. It doesn't matter what sequence they find them in, just as long as they record what's written down on the point for their assigned lane.



Unlike the others, this layout DOES NOT get walked nor measured for accuracy. But it does have to be triple checked to insure the grid coordinates are correctly recorded and the points are placed in the right locations.

How the points are layed out;

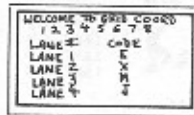


LANE GRADERS ANSWER & SCORE SHEET					
LANE #1	LANE #2	LANE #3	LANE #4	LANE #5	LANE #6
GRID COORD/PT/?	GRID COORD/PT/?	GRID COORD/PT/?	GRID COORD/PT/?	GRID COORD/PT/?	GRID COORD/PT/?
12345678 -1-A	12345678 -1-F	12345678 -1-C	12345678 -1-D	12345678 -1-B	12345678 -1-E
12345678 -2-G	12345678 -2-I	12345678 -2-J	12345678 -2-K	12345678 -2-H	12345678 -2-L
12345678 -3-M	12345678 -3-N	12345678 -3-R	12345678 -3-O	12345678 -3-P	12345678 -3-Q
12345678 -4-S	12345678 -4-T	12345678 -4-U	12345678 -4-V	12345678 -4-W	12345678 -4-X
12345678 -5-Y	12345678 -5-Z	12345678 -5-AA	12345678 -5-BB	12345678 -5-CC	12345678 -5-EE
12345678 -6-FF	12345678 -6-GG	12345678 -6-HH	12345678 -6-II	12345678 -6-JJ	12345678 -6-KK



So what do you use for the points? Well, preferably a tall wooden brightly painted 4 x 4 pole. But if you don't have or can't acquire them, try using empty plastic water bottles or "plastic" throw-away picnic plates.

So what do you attach or write down on these plastic water bottles or picnic plates? Well, you gotta somehow let the navigators know that they've found the right point. And if it's not the right point, then they should know where they're located so they can get right back on course.



So for starters, write down on the point "WELCOME TO GRID COORDINATE 12345678." This will let them know that they have either found the right point or so they can "self-correct" themselves to get back on course.

If the point is going to be used for more than one lane, then write down all the lanes that will be passing through it and a code word or letter beside it that lane. This will prove that they have successfully made it to the point and reduce the chances of anyone cheating for another team.

If you use empty plastic water bottles for the points, place some bright colored paper inside of it before hanging them up in a tree so they can be spotted or seen much easier.

Before I went to Bosnia I purchased some magic markers, a bag of 550 paracord, and several packages of "yellow" plastic picnic plates. So if I was ever tasked to set up one of these quickie land navigation courses, I only had to pull out my things and begin setting it up, presto!

NOTE: Before attaching any tie-down string to the plastic picnic plates. Take a nail and hold it over a fire and then melt a small hole through the plastic plate to prevent the string from tearing apart the plate during windy days.



SMART INVESTMENT STRATEGIES FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO RETIRE EARLY



Listen up guys & gals, if I told you once, I've told you about a half dozen times. (Or at least in every other book of mine...)

That if you don't start saving and putting away some of your money, you ain't never going to be able to retire. Nor are you ever going to have any money for emergencies, retired or not. You think I'm bull shitting?

Well, let me tell you something Mr./Ms. "Know-it-all," I know of many "retired" E-7s, E-8s, and E-9s who still have to work to make ends meet to survive. Why? Because they didn't save and invest for their retirement, that's why. They thought (like you) that they would worry about it when the time comes. Well guess what? Surprise, surprise, surprise. The time came sooner than expected and now they gotta work the rest of their lives to survive, financially that is...

Well, I hate to keep sounding like a broken record, so this will be the last time that I'm gonna tell ya all. Either you get off your butts and start saving some of your money each month by investing in one or more of these mutual funds. Or you ain't never gonna see a day of retirement. And the longer you keep delaying it, the less you'll have, it's that simple.

NOTE: AS OF JANUARY 1998

BEST RETIREMENT FUNDS

FUND	RISK	3 YR AVG RTN			5 YR AVG RTN			TOTAL ASSETS	FUND RANK	SECTOR	BOND	CASH	STOCK	INTERNATIONAL	TOTAL
		LOW	HIGH	STDEV	LOW	HIGH	STDEV								
LARGE-COMPANY STOCK FUNDS															
Selected American	LC/NL	8	30	38.5	34.5	18.7	55	\$1,000	85	0	4	241-1525			
Copper	LC/NL	7	2.2	29.4	31.0	19.8	60	5,000	61	11	28	751-5233			
Vanguard Windsor II	LC/NL	7	4.0	31.4	30.5	20.1	22	3,000	81	0	7	851-4998			
Wellwood Equity Return	LC/NL	7	1.2	27.7	30.7	21.0	82	1,000	80	0	1	301-8266			
Vanguard Index 500	LC/NL	8	2.8	31.1	30.3	19.4	41	1,000	80	0	2	881-4999			
T Rowe Price Blue Chip Growth	LC/NL	7	1.8	26.5	30.2	8.8	89	2,500	81	0	9	588-8669			
Vanguard Primecap	LC/NL	10	12.1	35.0	29.9	21.2	32	3,000	80	0	10	351-8999			
Russell 2000	LC/NL	10	1.5	31.8	29.8	21.5	77	2,000	80	0	6	790-2916			
T Rowe Price Dividend Growth	LC/NL	5	3.1	32.7	29.6	8.8	42	2,000	80	0	1	588-8669			
Factor Capital Appreciation	LC/NL	11	10.1	27.3	28.4	19.7	42	2,000	80	0	1	421-4510			
Strong Scholar Value	LC/NL	7	0.8	31.2	28.2	20.4	58	2,500	80	0	1	188-4535			
Oppenheimer Quest Opportunity II	LC/NL	8	2.1	27.0	27.6	12.8	148	1,000	80	0	18	125-5446			
T Rowe Price Mid Cap Growth	LC/NL	9	1.0	18.8	27.6	20.7	57	2,500	80	0	13	638-8669			
Dodge & Cox Stock	LC/NL	8	1.2	27.9	27.2	20.7	33	2,500	80	0	13	612-3819			
Robson Value	LC/NL	8	1.9	27.9	27.1	20.8	53	1,000	85	0	4	421-2765			
Columbia Growth	LC/NL	5	0.8	25.4	26.7	17.8	40	1,000	80	0	2	541-1767			
Roundtree	LC/NL	11	15.8	14.1	25.0	19.6	58	25,000	87	0	5	618-3817			
Roundtree	LC/NL	7	11.1	23.0	25.0	19.9	67	1,000	85	0	38	448-1821			
Third Avenue Value	LC/NL	7	8.8	11.5	24.4	14.1	55	2,500	84	0	10	525-8255			
Tackman	LC/NL	7	7.5	23.2	28.5	18.2	17	1,000	85	0	1	851-4999			
Vanguard Wellington	LC/NL	7	7.5	23.2	28.5	18.2	17	1,000	85	0	1	765-1863			
Factor One Stephens Value Plus Growth	LC/NL	12	15.1	11.0	23.7	22.5	39	1,000	100	0	0	383-1000			
Mutual Shares Z	LC/NL	7	1.5	24.1	25.0	19.5	42	1,000	75	0	13	871-5900			
Center & Street Ready Shares	LC/NL	8	2.4	24.5	22.7	18.9	60	10,000	85	0	2	431-0912			
Wellinger & Bermer Guardian	LC/NL	10	1.0	17.7	22.3	15.9	45	1,000	80	0	8	871-5900			
Strong Opportunity	LC/NL	8	11.3	22.3	22.3	18.0	27	1,000	81	0	5	565-1000			
Invesco Total Return	LC/NL	6	2.0	24.4	21.6	15.6	55	1,000	84	25	7	521-8000			
Strong American Dividend	LC/NL	7	4.1	27.2	21.3	8.8	67	1,000	80	0	4	381-1000			
Dodge & Cox Balanced	LC/NL	6	1.2	20.8	20.7	15.9	31	2,500	87	0	4	671-3309			

NOTICE: PAST RESULTS DOES NOT GUARANTEE FUTURE RESULTS. (BUT IT BEATS THE HELL OUT OF SAVING IN BANKS/IRAS/ACCT AND BANK CO.)

ATTENTION COFFEE LOVERS!

Hey soldier! Are ya tired of drinking that shitty instant coffee that comes with your MRE? Huh? Are ya? Huh? Then why don't you carry your own favorite brand of coffee to the field?

You don't need to carry a coffee pot, you just need a container for your coffee and a product called "Coffee Quick."

What is it? It's a mesh plastic basket that holds several spoons of coffee. Your choice, regular or drip.

How do you use it? Oh, it's pretty simple.



Step #1: Heat up a canteen cup of hot water.

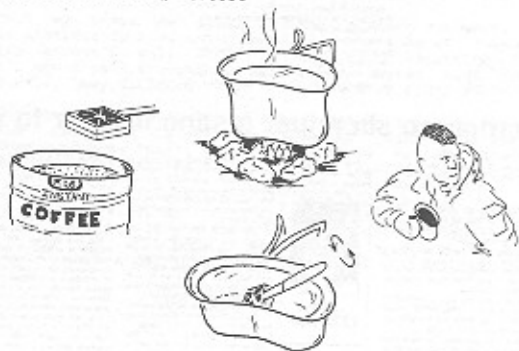
Step #2: Fill the "coffee quick" basket full of coffee grinds

Step #3: Place the "coffee quick" basket inside the canteen cup and stir, stir, stir.

Step #4: When it reaches the color blend that you want, remove the "coffee quick" basket from the canteen cup and taste it.

NOTE: If the coffee is a bit too weak for your taste, just add another scoop of coffee to the basket and stir. If it's too strong, then reduce the amount of coffee the next time around.

Where can you order this "Coffee Quick" basket? From: Miles Kinball, 41 West Eighth Avenue, Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54906. Cost: \$2.99 ea. Item#: 576684



82

A FEW MORE HAND & ARM SIGNALS

Submitted By: Sgt. Stephen M. Mich (USAF)



Cover Me - I'm Fucked!



Fuck You - I'm Covered



Fuck You, Asshole
(Submitted By Ranger Rick)



83



WELL EXCUSE ME LADIES...



Well, I wasn't sure if I was going to offend any Muslim soldiers or not, but I went ahead and did it anyway. And if you know anything about the Muslim religion, you'll understand why some may find this next training tip offensive.

Now some of you female soldiers will probably not like this next tip, and I'm sure I'll probably hear from you too. But hey, it turned out the Bosnians liked it and they also learned how to read a map from it too.

Now I've always tried my best to make all my classes as interesting and enjoyable as possible, but sometimes it's been kinda hard to do, ya know what I mean? Especially if you gotta give a class on how to "identify terrain features."

So, while looking through the ol' US Army Common Task Test (CTT) manual, I saw in it how you can use your fist in explaining how and what the different types of terrain features look like. But, I found this training technique to be a bit BOOOOOOORING!

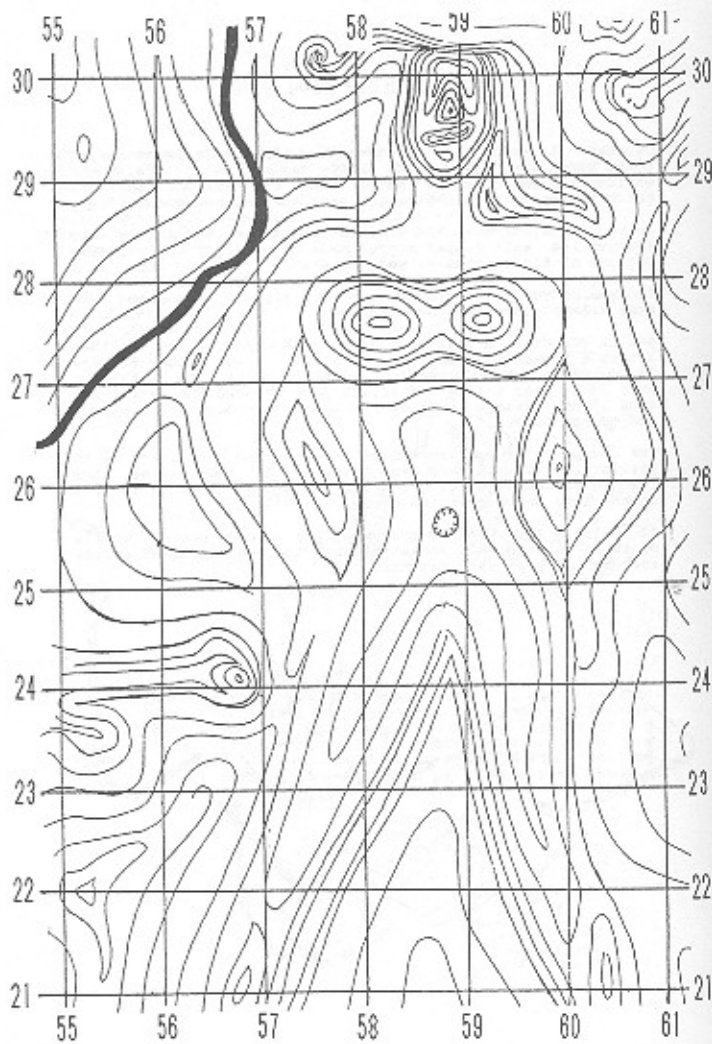
So I decided to come up with my own teaching technique in how they can identify terrain features much more easily. Look at the next page >>>> and tell me what ya honestly think?

Did I do good or what? I made this into a study guide and a viewgraph slide, and the Bosnians LOVED IT!

PS: I apologize to any female soldiers who finds this teaching technique offensive, as it was strictly made for training purposes only. And for those of you who don't accept my apology, well then... tough @*#!

Note: Match these to the drawing on the next page.

GRID	HILLTOP	SADDLE	RIDGE	VALLEY	SPUR	DRAW	CLIFF	DEPRES.
58952365								
58853025								
58802560								
58752760								
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58602760								



MAKING YOUR OWN SIGNAL MIRROR

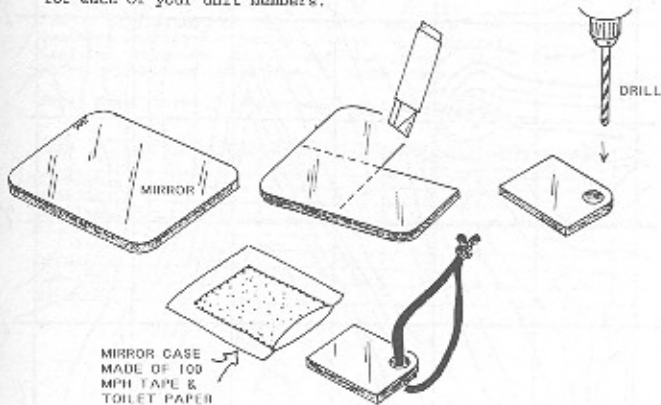
Oh man, I wish I would have thought of this years ago. I could have saved me some \$\$\$\$ in replacing all those military signal mirrors that I either broke or lost while in the Army. Well, it might be too late for me, but not for you.

In your local PX near the stationary section they sell a very inexpensive wall locker mirror made of plastic! Well, if you buy one of these suckers, you can easily cut it into 4 x rectangular shape mirrors with a straightedge razor blade. In fact, when you're done cutting it up, they'll look a lot like mini military style signal mirrors.

And if you drill a hole near one of the corners, you can then attach a lanyard (dunny cord) to it so you won't lose it. Now if you wanna make a cover for it so it won't get scratched up. Just wrap a layer of toilet paper around the mirror and then lightly wrap a layer of 100 mph tape around the mirror and toilet paper.

The purpose of putting toilet paper around the mirror is to prevent the 100 mph tape from sticking to the mirror thus forming a homemade cover for it. Now all ya gotta do is trim up the tape and remove the mirror.

If you're a fire team or squad leader, you can buy a couple of these plastic wall locker mirrors and make a signal mirror for each of your unit members.



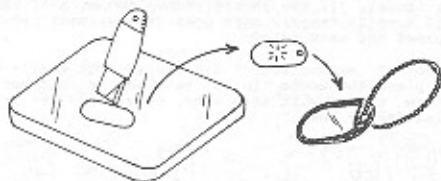
66

Or, if you got the time, and patience, you can cut or saw this plastic wall locker mirror into six or more round mini mirrors and then glue or silicone it to the inside portion of a military lensatic compass (see drawing). Of course this will take a bit more work and patience to do, but then you'll be able to use it either as a signal mirror or for putting on camouflage paint.

When cutting or sawing this plastic mirror, do it slowly and take your time or you'll mess it up. Do all your cutting on the mirror side and NOT on the reverse side, then sand the edges smooth with a piece of sand paper.



Here's another idea for a compact signal mirror that came from SGT FRANK GILLILAND. He cut out a piece of plastic mirror the same size and shape as his ID Tags, placed a rubber ID tag silencer around it and wears it along with his dog tags. Not only can he use it as an emergency signaling mirror, but for putting on camouflage paint too. Neat, huh?



67



Before I went off to Bosnia, I bought me an expensive pair of "Waterhorn Boots." Not because they looked pretty, but because I've got delicate feet and I wanted to make sure my little tootsies stayed nice & warm during the Balkan winter.

And as I was walking out of the AAFES Military Clothing Sales Store here in Vicenza, Italy. I saw a container of "SNO-SEAL" and grabbed one just in case I needed it in Bosnia.

Now to be honest with ya, I've never used this stuff before, nor has anyone ever told me if this stuff really works or not. So I said to myself, "Hey, what the hell, I'll give it a try."

Well, to be honest with ya, I forgot I had it. And it wasn't until mid winter while standing in a large puddle of Bosnian slush that I remembered I bought it. And even though my boots were suppose to be waterproof to certain degree, some of that ice cold slush leaked in.

So after I finished drying out my boots and removing as much of the shoe polish as possible with some gasoline. I then followed the instructions on the label and smeared some on and then used a hot hair blowdryer to melt it into the pores of the leather. And guess what? Yep, this sh-- really does work. Not bad, not bad at all.

Now the only drawbacks to using this stuff is...

(1) Because it's something like a vasoline or a soft wax, if you happen to walk through some dry or wet dirt or mud. It'll stick to your boots like glue and be a pain-in-the-ass to remove.

So what can you do about it? Well, if you're in the field, hold the boots over a small fire to loosen up the Sno-Seal and wipe off the dirt & mud with some MRE toilet tissue.

Now if you're back in the rear, heat 'em up with a hot hair blowdryer and then wipe 'em off with an old rag or piece of paper towel. If you should remove too much of the Sno-Seal, you'll have to reapply some more if you want them to stay snowproof and waterproof.

Or another method that I discovered that really works well. Is to place the boots in a bathtub or kitchen sink and blast 'em clean with some very, very hot water from a shower or sink "spray hose."



Whichever method you decide to use, brush 'em with a shoe brush afterwards to even out the coat of Sno-Seal that's left on the boots. And if necessary, yee, reapply some more.

(2) When applying sno-seal to your boots, no matter how hard you try, you're gonna get some on your hands & clothes.

The Solution? Put it on with a small paint brush and wear a pair of throw-away medical gloves to protect your hands. If ya wanna carry and use some of it in the field, I'd highly recommend you place some of it inside a plastic zip-lock sandwich bag. Then you'll be able to store and place it on your boots much more easier without making a mess.

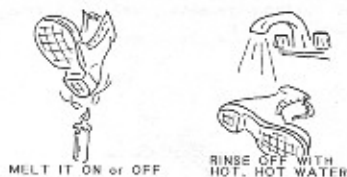
(3) When applying sno-seal to boots, it's definitely easier to smear and smooth it on with a brush and then use a hot hair blowdryer to melt it into the pores of the leather. But what if you're in the field?

The Solution? Though you can smear it on with a tissue and leave it on like so, it repels water much better when it's melted into leather. But if you're in the field, the easiest way to melt it into the pores of the leather is by holding it over a small fire, a candle, or over a hot exhaust pipe of a vehicle or truck. Once you see it starting to melt, smear and wipe away any excess build-up.

HOT IDEA! Hey guys & gals, wanna make your black military gloves waterproof? Just place a small amount of sno-seal on the gloves and rub it in evenly and then blast 'em with a hot hair blowdryer.

How about your BDU field cap, wanna make it waterproof too? Hey, no problem! Again, just place a small amount of Sno-Seal onto the outside portion of the cap, rub and smear it in evenly and hold it over a small fire to melt it into the pores of the fabric.

Now your hat and head should stay waterproof for quite awhile or until the Sno-Seal wears out or until you decide to wash it out in a washing machine. Smart, huh? But, don't add too much Sno-Seal to your hat or gloves or you'll pick up a lot of dirt and mud. (Note: Works best in a cold weather winter environments.)



A CANTEN CUP COVER

While out in the field, how many times have you used your canteen cup to make or to get yourself a cup of coffee from the chow line? A whole bunch of times, right?

OK, now how many times has a buddy asked you to bring him back a canteen cup of coffee too? A bunch, right?

OK, now how many times have you tried to walk back to your tent or vehicle without spilling it? A whole bunch of times, right? Did you spill any? I'll bet ya have. Did ya cuss and scream when ya spilled some? I'll bet ya did. Was the coffee already cold before you made it back? I'll bet it was.

Well, this use to happen to me too. So let me tell you what I did to solve the problem.

Because the canteen cup is an odd shape, it was kinda hard to find something solid to place over it. The only solution was to use something flexible or rubbery so it would "stretch" over it.

So then I began trying an assortment of different things to see which one would work best. First I tried using a plastic bag and wrapping some rubber bands around it, but it didn't keep the coffee in the cup very well. Bad idea.

Then I tried stretching a balloon over it, but before I could get one successfully on, I broke a dozen of them. Plus, I couldn't get the same balloon back on twice once I removed it. Again, another bad idea.

So then I found something more durable, a CONDOM, the non-lubricated type. And yes, it stretched quite easily over the top of the canteen cup. And yes, it kept the coffee inside the cup too. But, it looked like a condom on top of canteen cup.

So then I tied a knot in it as far down and as close to the rim of the canteen cup as possible and cut off the rest. And yes, it worked, and it was also reusable too.

But one day I went to my unit aid station to see if I could get a package of disposable rubber surgical gloves. Well, they gave em to me, and yes, it fit nice and snug over the top of the cup too. And yes, it kept the coffee inside the canteen cup too during movements. (Vehicle & foot.)



70

So it wouldn't look like a surgical glove covering a canteen cup, I took a strand of nylon string from the inside portion of some 550 paracord and tied a knot as close to the rim of the cup as possible. Then I folded it over, tied another knot in it and cut off the rest of the glove. Did it work? Yep, it sure did, problem solved.

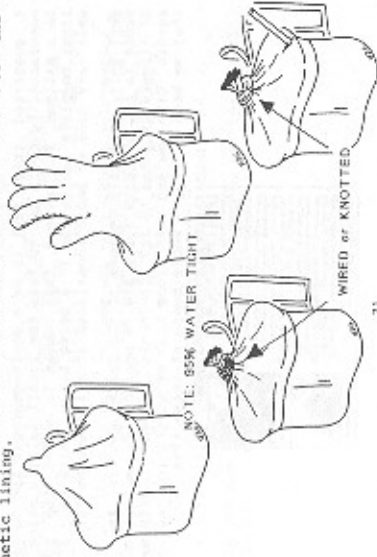
But then there was another problem, every time I wanted to take a sip from it, I had to remove the entire rubber cover. So then I began experimenting again.

I decided to puncture a small hole through the rubber covering to see if I could sip through it, but it didn't work very well. So then I bought me one of those plastic durable "pin hole" drinking straws, cut it down to size, made a "pin hole" in the rubber covering and stuck the straw through it. And yes, this worked a lot better.

It was not only spill proof, but the rubber covering also kept the coffee warmer too. I later tried using a rubber dishwashing glove because it was much more durable than the surgical glove. I tied a knot into it the same way as I did the surgical glove, cut off the rest and made a pin hole into it as well.

After I placed the rubber covering on top of the canteen cup, I then carefully cut a small short slit (with a razor blade) near (but not on) the edge of the cup. Then I tried drinking from it. And yes, it worked somewhat, but I preferred to drink from it through the pin hole and straw.

IMPORTANT: If the rubber dishwashing glove has a synthetic inner lining, just turn the glove inside-out so that the "rubber portion" covers and touches the coffee and NOT the synthetic lining.



71

While working for MFRI in Bosnia I lived in a small town (Jeiljah) near Doboj that had "frequent" power outages. A few of my fellow instructors and I use to joke as to why these power outages occurred.

We figured the Serbs probably controlled the electricity and the Muslims controlled the water and they liked playing games with one another.

"Hey Muslims, want power for your TVs? Tough! Suffer!" And then the Muslims would not get their power turned back on until they retaliated by shutting off the Serb's water.

"Oh yes, Serbs, let's see how much shit your toilets can hold without water to flush 'em." (Of course, we were only joking about this....)

Anyway, one night while sitting next to a candle waiting for our power to come back on, I came up with an idea for an improvised lantern. I call it my "Pepsi Can Lantern." It's pretty simple to make, all ya gotta do is find a couple of empty soda cans and....

- a) Cut the two soda cans in half and throw away the top parts.
- b) Take one of the soda can halves and puncture a hole into the top center part.
- c) Same soda can, make a few slits along the sides with a pair of scissors. [Note: This will enable the soda cans to be placed one-inside-the-other.]
- d) Same soda can, find a piece of narrow cloth and run it through the small hole.
- e) Feed the other soda can half and fill it half full of kerosene.
- f) Connect the two soda can halves together by placing one-inside-the-other and secure it with some tape.
- g) Wait about 10 minutes to allow the cloth to become soaked with kerosene and then light it with a match.

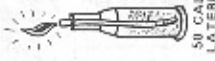
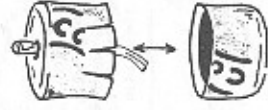
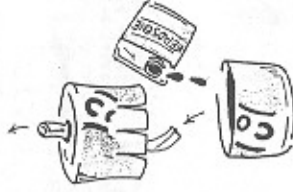
WARNING - DANGER - WARNING - DANGER

1. Though you can use gasoline or diesel as an alternative fuel kerosene burns much slower and is a lot safer to use.
2. The flame burns much slower and is a lot safer to use. fuel it will consume and burn up.
3. Always place the soda can lantern in a safe place where it won't get accidentally knocked over by others or yourself.

NOTE: I dedicate this pepsi can lantern tip to my MFRI roommate, Bao Bateman. Bao I enjoyed the hell out of annoying everyday with my daily inventions and innovations.



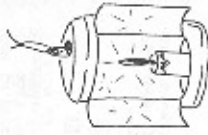
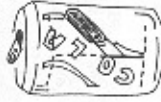
Here's another innovative idea for a lantern. Find an empty 50 Cal. brass shell casing, fill it with some fuel, place a piece of cloth inside, bend the top part closed with a pair of pliers and...PRESTO! "A 50 Cal. Lantern."



ADD TAPE
ALL
AROUND

50 CAL
LANTERN

COKE CAN CANDLE LANTERN

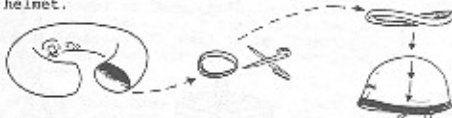




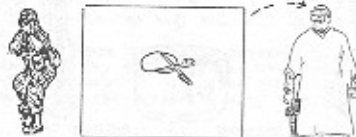
When it came to teaching the Bosnians why it's important to know how to properly camouflage themselves, they weren't really interested in learning this skill. The only thing that they were interested in learning from us, was how to attack. Why? So they could learn how to kick ass and get back some of the land that they lost during the war.

Almost all the Bosnian units that I trained appeared to have plenty of ammo and weapons on hand, but they lacked the basic stuff like camouflage sticks, camouflage covers, camouflage bands, etc. Though I was able to do some scrounging and acquire some of these items from my American IFOR/SPFOR buddies, I had to rely mostly on my Ranger Rick "ingenuity" in showing them how to improvise. For example;

How to make an elastic camouflage band out of a rubber "inner tube" tire by cutting it up and placing it over the edge of their helmet.



How to use a white bed sheet as a winter (white) camouflage coverall. Or, if a white bed sheet wasn't available, how to smear and spread white flour or foot powder on a (BDU) uniform to blend in with the winter (snow covered) terrain.



How to camouflage their face and hands with a "burnt" piece of cork or wood. And or how to mix baby oil and shoe polish together to make their own homemade camouflage "war paint."



These were just a few simple tips, tricks, and ideas that I gave them in how they could improvise the things they lacked.

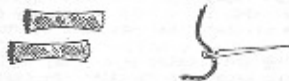


Well, while preparing for my camouflage class one day, I came up with an idea in how to modify and camouflage a BDU patrol hat. All you need is some o.d. 550 paracord, a sewing needle, and then....

STEP 1: Take some 550 paracord and remove all the inner nylon strands.



STEP 2: Take one of the nylon strands and thread it through the needle.



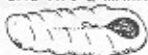
STEP 3: Now you have a choice, you can either sew the empty 550 paracord shell entirely around the top & bottom of the BDU patrol hat. Or you can cut the 550 paracord shell into smaller pieces and then sew them onto the side of the hat. NOTE: To prevent the ends of 550 paracord shell from unraveling, melt the ends with a match or zippo lighter.



To camouflage the hat, simply take some foliage and place it in between the 550 paracord shell and the hat. (Note: Due to this modification, the BDU patrol hat can never be worn in garrison again, only out in the field.)



SLEEPING BAG TIPS & MAINTENANCE



If you go to the field as often as I did when I was on active duty. I'll bet many of you guys & gals don't even bother to air out your sleeping bags in the mornings. Do ya?

You probably just crawl in, snooze, and then crawl right back out and pack it up, right? Though this is NOT the proper way to take care of your sleeping bag, it's probably the most common way ya all use 'em. Right? I'll bet ya do? Don't lie!

Now the correct way to use a sleeping bag, is to "shake it out" before you get into it at night. And in the mornings you should "air it out" before packing & rolling it up. Why?

Well, the purpose of shaking it out before you get into it, is to allow the feathers inside the bag to become "fluffy" so they'll retain your body heat better. And the purpose of shaking it out after use, is to help remove any odor, sweat, dirt, and or little critters that may have accumulated inside.

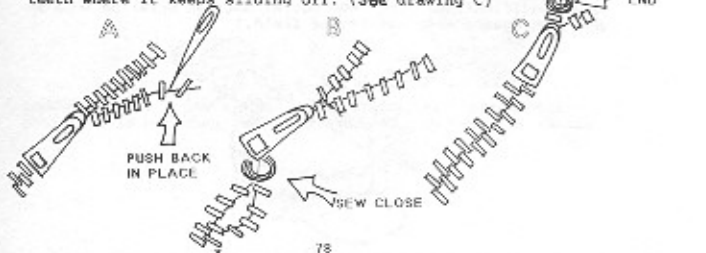
Got a problem opening and closing your sleeping bag? If there appears to be nothing broken or blocking the teeth, then it may only need to be lubricated. No, NOT with oil, but with a bar of soap or some candle wax.

Take the bar of soap or candle and rub it directly onto the teeth and then move the slider up and down several times to see how it works. If it still continues to jam or catch onto something, inspect the slider and teeth more closely for defects. If the slider is defected, then more than likely the entire zipper (slider and teeth) will have to be replaced.

But if only a few teeth appear to be bent, grab a needle and bend them back into shape and position. If a few teeth are missing, move the slider slowly and carefully over this portion of the zipper when opening/closing it. (See drawing A)

If the missing or badly bent teeth are located at the bottom portion of the zipper, instead of replacing the entire zipper, you can sew this portion closed. (See drawing B)

If your slider keeps coming off at the TOP or BOTTOM of the zipper, then sew some thread (or wire) around the set of teeth where it keeps sliding off. (See drawing C)



CANTEEN CUP STOVE

There's a product on the market called a G.I. Canteen Cup Stove. If you turn it over on one side, it can be used as a stove for heating up a cup of coffee or some MRE meals. And if ya turn it over on the other end, it can be slid snugly over the bottom half of the canteen or cup so you can carry it easily inside your canteen pouch. Cool, huh?

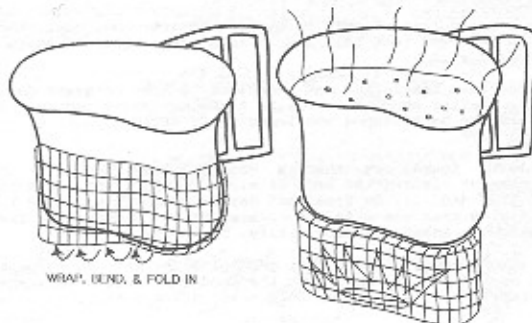
Well, I'm not trying to steal any business away from the manufacturer who made these nor the stores who sell them. But if you want to save yourself a few bucks, here's how you can make one out of some chicken wire.

Get yourself some "square mesh" chicken wire and cut off a piece about 15 X 5 inches in length. The square mesh type, NOT the pentagon nor the hexagon type, just the square type.

Then wrap, bend, and mold it around the bottom half of the canteen cup (as shown in the drawing) until it conforms to the size and shape of the canteen cup.

Remove the chicken wire from the canteen cup, turn it over and then try it out by resting the canteen cup on top of it. To prevent or reduce the chances of the chicken wire from snagging and or grabbing hold of the inside portion of the canteen cover, trim the sharp edges with a pair of scissors or wire cutters.

To use, just place a heat tab or candle underneath it and place the canteen cup on top of it. And there you have it.



I have no doubt that Bosnia is one of the most mine infested countries in the world. Why? Because I've been there and I've seen 'em. And believe me, I wasn't out souvenir hunting for 'em neither.

Now let me tell you what happen to one of our MPRI instructors in the field one time.....

Every time we wanted to go off post to train, we first had to get written permission from SFOR/IPOR Headquarters. We weren't allowed to train wherever we wanted to, only in designated and approved areas. Basically speaking, SFOR/IPOR didn't trust the Muslims, the Serbs, or us.

Now at one of these approved training areas, even though we were told it was safe and cleared of mines, one of our instructors almost stepped on one. He was walking with a Bosnian unit in the field when his translator spotted a partially exposed PMA2 anti-personnel mine in front of him.

Now common (military) sense would tell you that if you find one partially exposed land mine, you are probably in or near a mined area. Right? And wouldn't you think there are probably a few more of these critters laying around? At least I hoped an experienced leader would, especially a retired US Army Viet Nam vet.

Well, when this instructor contacted our boss, MPRI 3rd Brigade Senior Trainer "Alzheimer Joe" (a retired Colonel/0-6 and VietNam Vet) via his two-way radio. Our boss instructed him to "...just go around it!"

When I heard this, I said to myself, "Smart, Joe, real smart. Why don't you just tell him to keep going until he hears an explosion...."

Because this instructor was a retired US Army Sergeant Major, he knew better and didn't follow Alzheimer Joe's instructions. Instead, he backstepped and immediately withdrew out of the area.

We later found out that a Bosnian Army Engineer unit "supposedly" cleared the area of mines. (Yes, right, huh-huh, sure they did...). So from that day on whenever we heard that a training area was safe and cleared of all mines, the first question we asked was, "Oh really, by who???"

We also found out later that good'ol Alzheimer Joe supposedly told one of our trainers that the land mine "was only a small toe-popper and it would've only taken off his foot."



Well, whenever I went out in the field with a Bosnian unit, I took a few extra safety precautions;

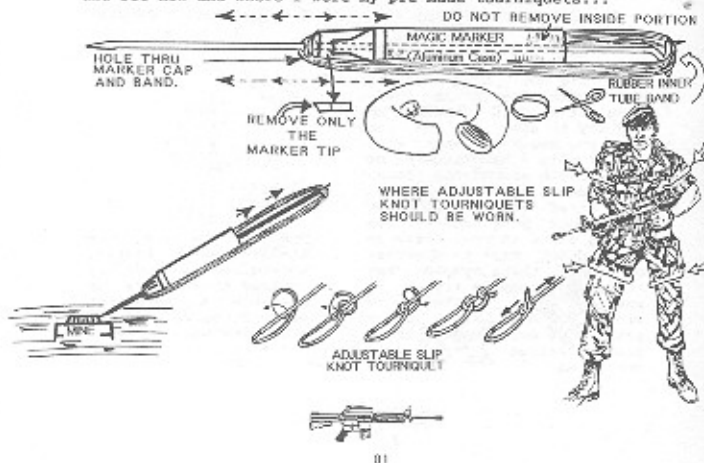
* When traveling off roads, if a Bosnian leader didn't feel comfortable about a route that I choose for him to follow, I went with his instincts and allowed him to choose the route.

* When possible, I stayed on hardball and paved roads and only on dirt roads that showed a lot of vehicle tracks and use. And when I encountered trails and paths, unless it also showed a lot of use, foot prints, etc. I tried to avoid traveling on them altogether, (which wasn't always possible).

* Though we were advised to walk at least 10 meters behind a Bosnian soldier and to never lead their unit in the field, I normally walked directly behind the lead "element leader" and in his tracks.

* I always wore several pre-made "adjustable slip knot tourniquets" on the upper part of my legs and arms. (See drawing.) So if I (God forbid) stepped on a land mine and survived the blast, hopefully I would be able to slide these pre-made tourniquet down to the wound before bleeding to death. Plus I also carried my ol'dog tags & some blank casualty cards too.

ATTENTION READERS: Check out this homemade improvised mine probe that I made out of an ol'magic marker and a steel rod and see how and where I wore my pre-made tourniquets...



Most soldiers could care less as to why their body temperature fluctuates so much in different environments, that is until they become sick, hot, or cold. But once you understand as to how your body thermostat works, you'll be able to control the amount of heat it produces or releases.

Body temperature is a measurement of heat in one's body due to consumed foods and body activity. Although the average temperature for a healthy body is 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit. It will fluctuate up and down depending on the types of foods you have eaten and the type of activities you are doing. The average body temperature is at its lowest point in the mornings and steadily raises until about late afternoon, then it begins to steadily fall again until you are sound asleep.

In a cold weather environment the temperature of the skin and certain parts of the body may drop far below the temperature "deep within" the body. And in hot weather environments, these same body parts may also raise far above the temperature as well.

Overall, the body temperature is controlled by the brain which sends various signals to certain nerves & glands throughout the body to help it maintain a normal temperature. It's only when you fail to recognize certain body symptoms & warning signs is when you become overheated, extremely cold, and/or seriously ill. So remember these basic things...

When Out In The Field;

1. Bat regularly and exercise.
2. Drink plenty of liquids/water.
3. When it's hot - open clothing and try to stay in the shade.
4. When it's cold - button up and try to stay in the sun.
5. When you begin to sweat, wipe it off with a handkerchief or tie a cloth around the forehead and or neck to catch it.
6. When tired and sweaty, rest and change your underclothes.
7. If you start to feel dizzy or sick, don't try to downplay or ignore these symptoms because your body is trying to warn you that something is wrong. Sit down, rest, drink plenty of water & wait until you're feeling better before moving on.

5 Major Heating Points



Now that you know where the five major heating points are located, try to keep them as dry as possible. The more they heat up, the more you'll sweat and become "wet."

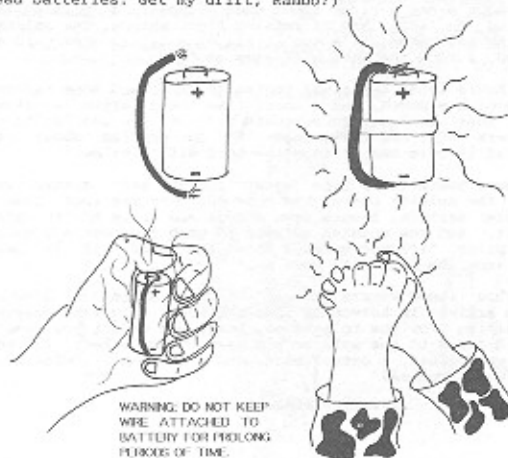


Hey boys & girls, here's a field expedient method in how to make an improvised battery powered handwarmer. I discovered it by accident one day while playing around with a couple of used batteries.

All ya need to do is find yourself a "C" or "D" size battery and a short piece of thick wire and attach it to the + & - ends of the battery. To control the heat setting, connect and disconnect the wire off and on to the battery.

WARNING: Never keep the wire continuously connected to the battery for long periods of time. Once the battery heats up to a comfortable warm temperature and NOT too hot. Then disconnect one end of the wire and wait until the battery temperature has cooled down a little before reconnecting it. Ya gotta keep connecting and disconnecting the wire off & on to avoid causing damage to the battery and yourself.

SPECIAL NOTE: Batteries used in this mode shouldn't be bought for this purpose only, as they don't last very long. Use old batteries instead of new ones. (Psssst! Wanna save some \$\$\$\$\$? Use Uncle Sam's Gov't issued batteries. It doesn't matter if they're new or used as long as they are NOT dead batteries. Get my drift, Rambo?)



A young man walked into an Army Recruiting station one day to see what kind of job opportunities were available to him. After talking with the recruiter and being told what he could enlist for, he asked if he could also go Airborne too. "Of course," the recruiter replied.

The young man then says, "Great, when can I sign up?" The recruiter says, "right away" and then he quickly pulled out all the enlistment papers and began filling them out. After the young man signed all the documents, he then asks the recruiter, "What can you tell me about Airborne School?"

"Well," the recruiter replied, "the school is located at Fort Benning, Georgia and it's three weeks long. The first week is where they separate the men from the boys, and the second week is where they separate the men from the fools."

Excited, the young man eagerly asks, "and the third week, what happens during the third week?" The recruiter turns to him and says, "The third week is when the damn fools jump."

One day a very religious national guard soldier was sitting in his home along a river front when suddenly a police car pulls up to warn him of rising flood waters. The soldier tells the policeman, "I'm not afraid of a little water, if it gets bad, I know the Lord will save me."

A few hours later the river begins to raise and soon reaches the top of his porch, and a short time there after a river patrol boat arrives to evacuate him. But the soldier turns down their offer and tells them, "I'm not worried about the water, if it gets bad, I know the Lord will save me."

A few more hours later the water raises even higher and forces the soldier out of his home and onto his roof. Soon a helicopter arrives, lowers down a rope and tells him to grab onto it. But the soldier refuses to grab the rope and yells to the pilot, "I'm not worried about the water, if it gets bad, I know the Lord will save me."

Soon, the flood waters quickly rise and the soldier drowns. When he arrives in heaven he asks the Lord, "I was praying and waiting for you to save me, Lord, why didn't you come?" The Lord turns to the soldier and says, "Hey listen, I sent you a police car, a patrol boat, and a helicopter, what more do you want from me?"



Submitted By: Sgt. Stephen M. Mich (USAF)

Dear Ranger Rick,

Enclosed you'll find some drawings and ideas that I hope you'll find amusing and publish in your next Ranger Digest. I keep these Ranger Digests coming!

According to Sgt. Mich, German snipers in World War II were known to climb trees with empty ammo shell casings. They pounded them into a tree with their E-tool and then climbed up using them as steps.

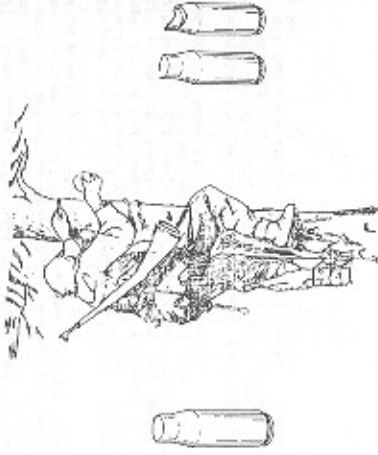
Ranger Rick's Comments: Because I've never heard of this technique before, I decided to try it out myself.

Well, you can forget about trying to use 5.56mm brass shell casings, they're too short, too weak, and they keep doubling over and bending.

The 7.62mm shell casings will work to a certain degree, but only in "soft wood trees." Provided you grab hold of the tree and at the same time distribute some (but not all) of your weight from one foot hold to the other as you're climbing.

The 50 Cal. shell casings work the best, provided you can pound them in deep enough into the tree with your E-tool. Though it's much easier with a hammer or a hatchet than an E-tool. But if neither are available, try using a pry (Big F---in Rock), it's a lot quieter and less awkward to use.

NOTE: Soft wood trees are pine and birch.



READERS BEWARE: Unless you're desperate to climb a tree without any limbs, I suggest you avoid using this technique.

MAKING A PARA-GRIP FOR YOUR KNIFE



While breezing through some military supply catalogs I couldn't help notice that some of the knives come with 550 paracord already pre-wrapped around the handles. Though this is a great idea, I just wonder how much it increases the price of the knife. (Hmmm....)

The purpose of having paracord wrapped around a knife handle is not only for emergency survival needs, (snare, fishing line, etc.) but so that you can hold it more securely in your hand. Provided of course, it's wrapped firmly around it.

It's not all that difficult to wrap, really? In fact, it's pretty damn easy if you got the right knife (handle) and some 550 of parachute cord.

Now most of the "Wanna Be Killers" and "Rambo Cowboys" that I've known usually tied the cord to the handle first and then began wrapping it either from top-to-bottom or vice-versa. And after a short period of time, it would eventually slide off unexpectedly.

Though I only know of one smart way to wrap it, you have a choice of having a knife para-grip handle "with" or "without" a lanyard. The only purpose of a lanyard is so that you can place it around your wrist while using it and so that you don't drop it. Like when you're fighting a couple of bad guys, (yep, right, huh-ah, sure, dream on...).

The first thing you need to do before wrapping the paracord around the handle, is melt the ends of the cord so it won't unravel. Then allow it to soak in some water for about 15-30 minutes. The reason why you soak it in water, is so that it will stretch as you're wrapping it around the knife handle. Then as it dries it will tighten-up and become more firmly secure in place around the handle.

Now instead of me trying to explain to you in so many words how to wrap it around a knife handle, just follow the drawings on the next page. When you've finished wrapping 550 paracord around the handle, if you want to speed up the drying process, just use a hair blow dryer. But don't turn up the blow dryer too high or you might melt some of the cord and then you'll have to start all over again.

Before wrapping the paracord around the handle, if you so desire, you can wrap some survival fishing line, a couple of small hooks, and some of green booby trap wire around it. But don't add too much around it or you'll make the handle a bit too bulky.

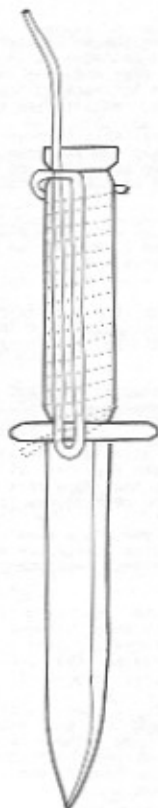


86

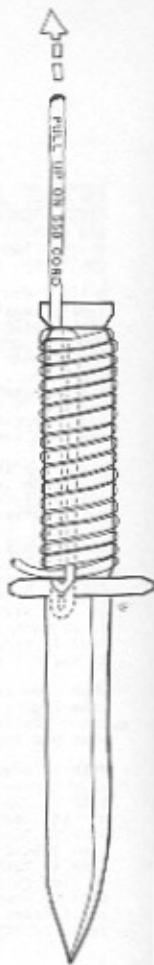
KNIFE PARA-GRIP WITH LANYARD



KNIFE PARA-GRIP WITHOUT LANYARD



WRAP TIGHT



87

HOW TO MAKE TINY LIGHT MARKERS FROM REGULAR ONES

I'm sure most of you have seen the small packages of "ITTY BITTY LIGHTSTICKS." They come in packages of 10 and will glow for about 4-6 hours, or so they say. And they can be used for an assortment of things, such as for marking trails, equipment positions, and so on. Just like regular size chem-lights.

Well, I don't know if they're available through the military supply system, nor do I seriously doubt anyone would want to waste their money on them as they are kind of "expensive." But if you ever need a bunch of tiny lightsticks, you can always make 'em yourself. How?

First, visit your unit aid station and ask a medic if you can have an IV (intravenous) tube and either a nose spray or an eye dropper. Take the nose spray/eye dropper, empty it out and then wash it thoroughly, it's got to be real clean.

Take the IV tubing and cut it up into smaller pieces about 2 inches in length so they'll fit nice and snug inside a 35mm plastic film container. You should be able to produce a whole bunch of these.

Next, visit your friendly supply sergeant or military clothing sales store and get yourself a couple of standard regular size chem-light sticks. Once you have them, DO NOT break nor tear open the air-tight wrapper until you're ready to use it. The purpose of this air-tight sealed packaging is to protect it from direct sunlight exposure. If the air-tight seal is broken, and depending on how long it's been exposed, it may not work the next time you need to use it.

When you're in the field and you see a need to use smaller chem-lights instead of regular size ones. Such as for marking some trails, positions, individual equipment, etc, here's what you do.....

STEP 1: Break, shake, and activate the chem-light stick and very carefully cut off one of the ends without spilling it.
STEP 2: Take one of the 2 inch tubes and bend and or tie one of the ends closed while leaving the other end open.
STEP 3: Take the eye/nose dropper and fill it with the glow liquid from the chem-light stick.
STEP 4: Take the eye/nose dropper and squirt a few drops of glow juice inside the open end of the short IV tube.
STEP 5: Bend and seal the open end closed with either a small stick, piece of wire or string and PRESTO! Now you're ready to attach it to whatever you need to use it for.

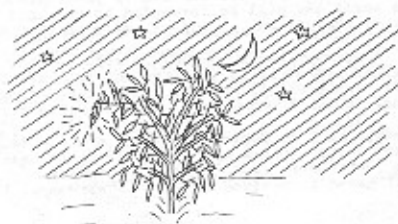
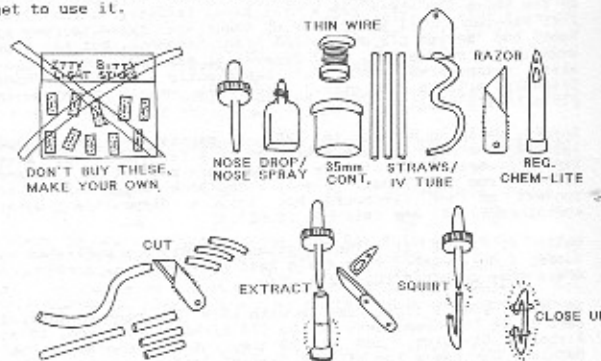
TO ACTIVATE SIMPLY
BEND, SNAP SHAKE



88

If you can't acquire a medical IV tube, you can always substitute it with a McDonald's or BurgerKing straw. And if you can't get a nose or eye dropper, again, you can always use a straw instead. Just place the straw inside the chem-light tube, place your thumb over the other end to trap the glow juice inside and lift out. Then very carefully release it over or inside the short tube or straw.

NOTE: When removing the "glow juice" from a light stick, regardless if the packaging states it will glow continuously for 6, 8, or 12 hours, it will lose 50% or more of it's glowing time strength when exposed to the air. So keep this in mind when figuring out when you intend to use it or it may burn out sooner and lose it's glowing power way before you get to use it.



89



WHAT DO I THINK OF THE ARMY'S
SUGGESTION PROGRAM?



Now some people think I enjoy "slinging mud" at the Army, but I don't. I've always loved being a soldier and being in the Army, but I haven't always agreed with the leaders who run it.

In my 20+ years in the Army I've sent no less than a half dozen suggestions into the Army's Suggestion Program. And I either did not receive any replies back, or a reply stating "...sorry, not feasible for combat related field conditions..."

Among several of my suggestions was the Do-It-Yourself Warning & Operation Order Handbook that I developed and submitted to the Army back in the early 1980s. But it got rejected and sent back to me. Today, this book is widely used among almost every small unit leader from fire team to platoon size element. Thanks to my determination in getting it published and no thanks nor assistance from the US Army.

A few years ago there was a well known Infantry Colonel from Fort Benning who (I won't name or embarrass) tried to copy my book and market his own patrol order handbook, but his book wasn't very successful. Why? Because it was NOT compact in size, inexpensive, and most importantly - it wasn't "user friendly" written. In other words, it wasn't written in plain simple english.

Anyway, while in Bosnia in 1997 I received a couple of letters from some friends asking me if I saw the latest "Army Times" newspaper. In it they claimed were some of my tips and tricks from my Ranger Digest V handbook. Which was how to convert an MRE cardboard box into a disposable water container (P.66) and shit box (P.68).

Well, at first it didn't bother me that they published my ideas, I only wished they would have given me the credit on where they acquired the information.

In fact, when I first came up with this idea back in 1994, I sent it to the Commanders of the 824 Airborne Division, 101st Airborne Division, and the US Army Infantry Center at Fort Benning, Ga. And a few of them replied back to me too. They said, "...thank you for sending us your ideas, your techniques have merit and will be forwarded to our unit commanders for further evaluation..." (OK, I believed that they would.)

But now, what really pisses me off, is that someone stole my idea, submitted it to the Army and took credit for it too. Hell, whenever I receive any ideas from a Ranger Digest reader, I don't steal 'em, I give them the full credit for it.

Anyway, back in September 1997 I wrote a letter to the "Army Times" editor to ask where they got this information from, and not just once, but twice! And today, January 15, 1998, I still haven't received a reply back. (Hmmm, I wonder why?)



RAMBO CHESS & CHECKER SET

Hey you Rambo Cowboys! Here's a couple of neat novelty ideas that you might wanna try.

Buy yourself one of those cheapo \$ 1.99 checker sets and modify it by gluing some toy soldiers onto the top of the checkers. It'll make the game much more interesting to play, militarily that is...

Gops, that's right, what ya gonna do when you gotta King one of them? Hey, no problem, number the checkers from 1 to 12 somewhere on the top or along the side. Then, when one or more of your soldiers reaches the other side of the board, you write down that number on a piece of paper.

Now the goal is for your opponent to remember which of your soldiers has been crowned "Little Rambo" and can move freely in any direction. If your opponent forgets, that's his tough luck. If he challenges you and asks which of your soldiers have been crowned "Little Rambos," you just hold up the piece of paper with the number written down on it. But don't forget, you gotta remember these numbers too.

wanna make a neat looking tactical chess set? First, you need to acquire some of these ammo rounds.

QTY	TYPE OF RD	USED FOR	QTY	TYPE OF RD	USED FOR
2	50.Cal	Kings	4	45.Cal	Bishops
2	7.62mm	Queens	4	9mm	Knights
4	5.56mm	Rooks	16	5.56mm blk	Pawns



Unless you're in a combat zone, and for safety reasons too, I suggest you use only empty shell casings. If you can't acquire some of these military rounds, visit your local gun shop and buy some civilian rounds. To make the rounds a bit more stable so they'll stand up better, glue 'em to some bingo or poker chips.

Wants make the playing board a bit more tactical looking too? Change the red squares to 00 green, but leave the black squares the same color.

Here's another novelty idea. Find yourself 24 non-lubricated condoms and a red and black magic marker. Paint 12 of the condoms red and 12 of the condoms black and your ready to play some serious checkers. No doubt you and your friends will find this game of condoms unusual and hilarious.





Because of the bad publicity the Army has been receiving lately, thanks to ex-SMA McKinney, today's topic is on "Sergeant Majors."

Do I believe Sgm McKinney is innocent of making unwanted sexual advances towards his aid, Sgm Brenda Hostner? Well, let me put it this way, I once had a lot of respect for the man, but not anymore. Not after five other females came forward to make the same accusations against him.

And what made matters worse, he threaten to expose other leaders in the United States Army who were not prosecuted for the same offense. Not to mention, trying to play the "race card" as to why he was being prosecuted by the Army. Well, after all this, he definitely lost my respect and support.

Now I can understand if one female soldier made these accusations against him, and maybe even two, then it would be only his word against theirs. But at last count there were six female soldiers making the same accusations against him. Now that's an awful lot of accusers, and I wonder how many more others are not speaking up to avoid the publicity.

Of course he's going to deny all these accusations, he's fighting for his retirement pay and benefits. But he's either going to be charged and prosecuted, or he's going to be allowed to retire with full military benefits. And I'll bet he'll probably be allowed to retire to save face, both, his and the Army's.

Now the one who started all this trouble was a retired Sergeant Major by the name of Brenda Hostner. And to be honest, I have "less respect" for her than for the accused, ex-SMA McKinney. She should have made these accusations and filed charges against him while she was still on active duty, which she didn't do.

Like everyone else, I wonder why she waited until she was retired before denouncing and accusing him of sexual harassment? She was a Sergeant Major in the United States Army, what could he (or they) possibly do to her? As far as I'm concerned, if she didn't have the "intestinal fortitude" to speak up when he made these unwanted sexual advances towards her. Then it's obvious she should never have been selected and promoted to the rank of Sergeant Major.

I guess she must have been absent and or asleep during the Sergeant Majors Academy's sexual harassment class. Because she definitely didn't know how to handle the situation.



Now I've known a lot of Sergeant Majors in the Army and I gotta admit, most of them were very professional and very dedicated leaders. But no matter where you are stationed in the Army, every installation has it's own fair share of poor leaders, and that includes Sergeant Majors.

Now because I've spent most of my career here in Italy, I've seen a lot of Sergeant Majors come and go, and not all of them pcs'd nor retired under favorable conditions.

I knew of a Command Sergeant Major who had an 18 year old son who was on first name basis with the MPs. He was always in trouble and being picked up and put on the MP blotter report. His wife was also known for bouncing checks too.

Now if you or I had this same problem, what do you think the Army would have done to us? By regulations, the Army would have probably shipped our families back home to CONUS. Right?

I knew of another Command Sergeant Major who had an extramarital affair with an enlisted female soldier. (I guess she was trying to get promoted.) He was relieved and forced to retire with full military benefits.

Now if you or I had done this, what do you think the Army would have done to us? By regulations, we probably would have gotten an Article 15 and barred from re-enlistment. Right?

I knew of another Command Sergeant Major who was known to be a heavy drinker, especially on Friday and Saturday nights. It wasn't bad enough that he drank too much, but he use to drive himself home too. And the MPs at the gate knew when he was drinking (or drunk) but they wouldn't dare stop him.

Now if you or I had this same problem, or had done the same thing and got caught, what do you think the Army would have done to us? By regulations, we would have been put into an alcohol abuse program, had our driver's license taken away, and barred and or given an Article 15. Right? You batcha!

These were just a few of the incidents that I knew about that involved Sergeant Majors. And I'm sure there were probably a lot more other incidents that I never heard about.

The bottom line is this, guys & gals. The more rank you have, the more leniency the Army will probably be towards you. Is this fair? Not in my book it's not. As far as I'm concerned, the more rank you have, the more severe you should be punished because you should know better. Especially if you're a leader.

Till next time guys & gals,

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



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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

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

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

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

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

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