



*THE*  
**RANGER**  
 DIGEST **IV**

*TIPS, TRICKS & INFO*



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

\$5.00

NOTE: COPYRIGHT PENDING



## FOREWORD

I'm back again with another edition of the Ranger Digest Handbook, Number IV. The mail just keeps flowing in, and not only from readers wanting to share their tips, tricks, and ideas, but many who just wanted to express their gratitude and thank me for putting together these useful books.

I enjoy receiving and reading these compliments about my books, I really do. It's the only driving force behind me in keeping the series alive. Just knowing that these simple tips, tricks and ideas have helped someone to overcome, improvise or improve their training or combat readiness, makes it very rewarding to me.

So don't stop, keep that mail coming in! I need to know if I'm doing a good job or not. And your letters DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

But, from time to time I do hear reports from some readers as well as my old Army buddies still in the military. That my books are "frowned upon" by either those in the upper ranks, or the "Rambo Cowboy Soldiers." (See RD# III for definition).

I have only one statement to make to those few who bad mouthed either me or my books. "EAT SHIT, BARK AT THE MOON or GO TO HELL." If they don't like a particular tip or trick that I mention, they don't have to use it. And If they don't like the books - they don't have to buy'em! I can't satisfy everyone and I won't even try,

### *One Reader Wrote...(Quote):*

"I really do enjoy reading your books. Because I consider them a valuable source of information that are not normally taught in any military school nor by other experienced leaders. Your books have not only taught me how to improvise and be better prepared as a soldier, but also as a leader. Whenever I purchase a new Ranger Digest Hand, I always share those tips and tricks with my unit. Keep up the good work, your providing a valuable service to us."

So there you have it, I couldn't have made a better statement on explaining what the Ranger Digest is all about. And if this is the only copy you have ever purchased, there are three other Ranger Digest Handbooks you haven't read yet, I, II, and III. All entirely different from one another.

Well, that about covers it. I hope you enjoy reading this book and can find the time to drop me a line or two. Whether it's to share a tip, trick, or idea. Or just to tell me if I did a good job or a bad job. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

*Until Next Time....*

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

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

## SPECIAL THANKS

As always, I never publish a book without giving credit where it's due. Because if it wasn't for many of you caring readers and leaders, there wouldn't be a Ranger Digest series today. And the least I can do is express my gratitude by dedicating a special page just for you.

And to those of you who's tips, tricks or ideas I did not accept, I apologize and hope you will not write me off. There could have been many reasons why I did not accept or give you credit for an idea. The most common, it was submitted earlier by someone else, or maybe it was not practical to use, Sorry!

So com'on! If you know a good tip, trick, or idea in doing something more easier in the military, why not share that wealth of information with others? If I accept it, I'll give you credit in the next Ranger Digest Handbook and forward you a free copy. Send those ideas to:

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Great Work Guys & Gals, Keep It Up!



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

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

DEPENDABILITY



**SPECIAL FORCES**



I am an American Special Forces Soldier! A Professional!

I am a volunteer, knowing well the hazards of my profession; I serve with the memory of those who have gone before: Rogers Rangers, Francis Marion Mosby's Rangers, the First Special Service Forces, the Ranger Battalions of World War II, and the Airborne Ranger Companies of Korea and Vietnam.

I pledge to uphold the honor and integrity of all I am in all I do.

I am a professional soldier: I will teach and fight wherever my Nation requires.

I will strive always to excel in every art and artifice of war.

I know I will be called upon to perform tasks in isolation, far from familiar faces and voices with the help and guidance of my God I will conquer my fears and succeed.

I will keep my mind and body clear, alert, and strong, for this is my debt to those who depend upon me.

I will not fail those with whom I serve.

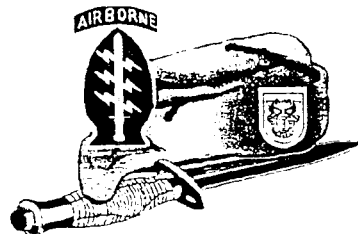
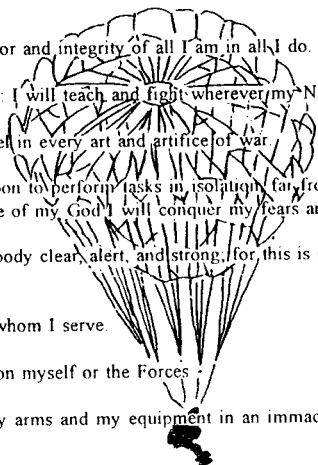
I will not bring shame upon myself or the Forces.

I will maintain myself, my arms and my equipment in an immaculate state as befits a Special Forces Soldier.

I will never surrender though I be the last. If I am taken I pray that I have the strength to spit upon the enemy.

My goal is to succeed in any mission - and live to succeed again.

I am a member of my Nation's chosen soldiery, God grant that I may not be found wanting, that I will not fail this sacred trust.



## TIPS & TRICKS FROM A CARING SGM

Submitted By: SGM RICK DUNLAP

Here's a consolidated list of some smart tips & tricks that I received from SGM Rick Dunlap. (Everyone wants to get their name published in the "Ranger Digest!")

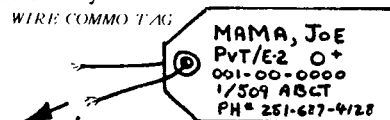
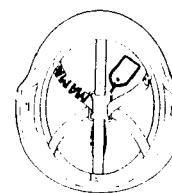
**RUCK & DUFFEL BAG RECOGNITION SYSTEM** - It's easier to locate your squad or platoon's rucksacks if you spray paint a certain part of the frame a particular color or pattern. But don't forget to repaint it back to the original color before you turn it into CIF or Supply, or they might not accept it. And don't be surprised if they try to make you sign a "Statement of Charges" for spray painting it too. Be smart, don't forget to repaint it before turning it in.

Another simple ID marking technique, is the use of "Commo Wire Marking Tags." They are durable plastic tags that come in four (4) basic colors (red, green, yellow, & white). They can be acquired quite easily from your battalion commo shop, as they are used to mark phone lines and wire in the field. Their perfect for marking and assigning a particular color to each squad or section in your platoon, or each platoon in a company.

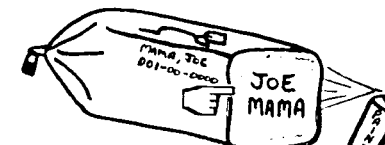
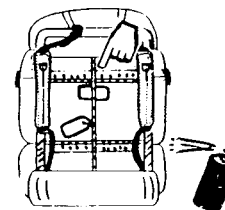
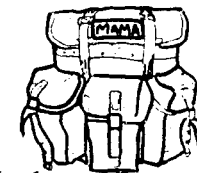
It's highly recommended that you remove the original "stiff" wire from the tag itself and replace it with some 550 parachute cord. Then grab a permanent marker and fill in the standard info on the tag: Name, Rank, Blood Type, SSN#, Unit, Tel#, etc. There should always be one of these durable tags attached to your Rucksack, LCE, Helmet, M17 Mask and Sleeping Bag.

To prevent your stuff from being easily ripped off, sew in securely a standard name tag on: the top flap of your rucksack, the back side of your LCE harness, and the inside portion of your kevlar where the straps are permanently fastened. A thief will think twice before touching your stuff if he sees that it's clearly marked and secured to the item.

WIRE COMMO TAG



STANDARD NAME TAG



SPRAY PAINT





**HOT! HOT! HOT! ALWAYS MARK YOUR NAME SOMEWHERE ON THE INSIDE PORTION OF YOUR EXPENSIVE GORTEX JACKET WHERE IT CAN'T BE EASILY SEEN.** This will not only help you to identify and recover your jacket, but catch a thief. (Ranger Rick's Comment: "And kick his MoFo Ass too.") Remember...Mark it where it won't be so noticeable like the inside of the pocket or sleeve.

Also, NEVER, EVER hang up your jacket or hat near a door entrance or exit. When you're not looking, a potential thief can easily grab it & be gone with it in a flash. As they say, "You Snooze - You Lose!"

**CAMO FACE PAINT TRICK** - Cammie paint will go on much more easily if you first smear on a small amount of AVON's "Skin-So-Smooth" lotion. Not only does it smell good, but it will also KEEP INSECTS AWAY. No Joke - It Works!

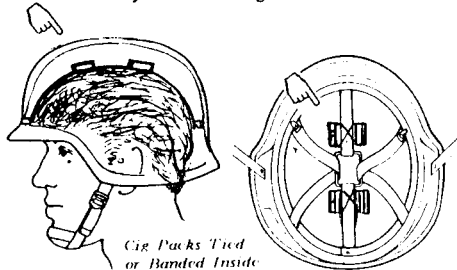
**Ranger Rick's Comment:** I have received numerous letters stating this AVON "Skin-So-Smooth" stuff really does work. They all swear that it's terrific in keeping insects away for hours, better than military issued insect repellent. One SF trooper told me that when he deploys to remote jungles like THAILAND for training (mosquito headquarters), that it's the best damn stuff he's ever used and would never dream of leaving without it.

**MRE CONDIMENT POUCH** - Field feeding and eating can be much more enjoyable if you have some seasoning to add to the meals. SGM Rick Dunlap says, "I saw a few Public Affairs Officers (PAO) in the field once with a pouch full of fast food restaurant additives. They had small packages of Taco Sauce, BBQ Sauce, Sweet N Sour, Hot Sauce, Ketchup, Mustard, etc. Not a bad idea, huh? You can easily get them from any fast food joint for free, as long as you order a meal first..... of course.

## HIGH & DRY CIGARETTES

*Submitted By: CHARLES A. BARNES*

Tired of your cigarettes getting wet, damp and crushed? Why not store them inside your helmet? There's plenty of room for storing a few packs of cigarettes inside the helmet. Just attach each of the packs to the inside portion of the helmet's strap by either a piece of tape or a thin, light, elastic rubber band. Beats the ol' Viet Nam way when they used to attach them to the outside portion of the helmet by the camouflage bad - **BAD TECHNIQUE, VERY BAD TECHNIQUE!**

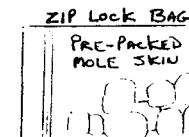
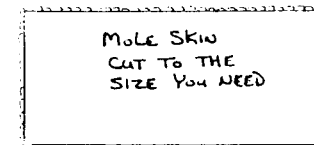


## ANTI-BLISTER TIPS

*Submitted By: SGM RICK DUNLAP &  
PVT M.J. MALLORY*

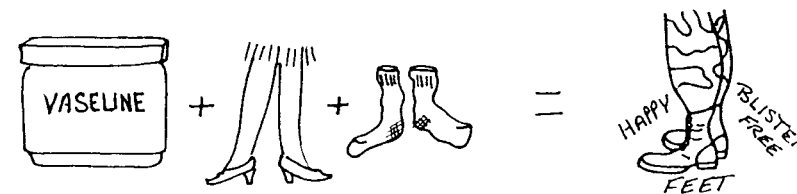
God I hate Blisters! I honestly don't know if there is a fool proof method that will prevent a soldier from getting them. But I'll pass along these two tips anyway. I never tried them, so you let me know if they really do work or not.

SGM Dunlap tells me, "Blisters form on the hot sensitive parts of the feet. And what I do to prevent them from forming, I pre-cut mole skin just for my heels, toes and the balls of feet. I cut more than what I need for both of my feet and always carry them in a reusable plastic bag. This way I never have to scrounge at the last minute for mole skin. And I'm always prepared and ready for one of those unannounced surprise road marches, or when I fail to read the training schedule in advance. I just pull out my bag of pre-cut mole skin, slap it on my feet and move out! AIRBORNE!"



Pvt. Mallory writes, "I learned this trick back in basic and it works great." The day before the road march, take some Vaseline and rub it into your feet. Put on a pair of ankle "panty hoses" and then put on a pair of clean white socks over the panty hose.

- A. Vaseline softens the feet and lowers friction.
- B. The panty hose gets filled with Vaseline and keeps it from soaking into the white socks.
- C. And the white socks serve as a cushion. The thicker they are, the better.





## COUGH SYRUP



*Submitted By: LTC (Dr) GRANT BARR*

Doctor Barr writes, "Any soldier who has a severe coughing problem, should never be taken along on a tactical mission. Not only could his illness become worse, but he could jeopardize and compromise the mission. When possible, leave the individual(s) behind or in a rear area."

If a cough does develop on a military operation, ask your unit medic or medical officer for some medicine called "Codeine" or "Tylenol #3" to help suppress/relieve the cough. But beware, this medication could make you drowsy and/or alter your judgement. And I wouldn't suggest (as one reader wrote in a previous Ranger Digest Handbook), giving him "as much as he could tolerate." But instead, just enough dosage to suppress most of the cough while on the mission.



## NBC CANTEEN CAPS



*Submitted By: LTC (Dr) GRANT BARR*

All military issued NBC Canteen Caps should be secured right away to the canteen as soon as possible before the plastic hinge has time to wear, tear, or break off. I have seen other troops bore or melt two small holes through the corner of the cap and hinge and then tie them off with a nylon (550 Para) cord. I personally use a small key chain ring to keep them attached, it's much easier this way.



## CAMERA ACCESSORIES

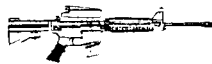


*Submitted By: LTC (Dr) GRANT BARR*

Should you decide to take along a camera with you on a major overseas deployment, insure you carry a sufficient amount of extra film and batteries to get you by. Don't expect to find a Mobile PX everywhere you go. And if you should be fortunate to have one nearby, chances are it will be sold out of film and batteries very quickly, as they can only carry so much.

And depending on the foreign country you're in, the stores may not carry your type or brand of film and battery. If they do, chances are you can expect to pay an enormous and outrageous price for it. The bottom line is this, "Take more than what you think you need."

It's also not a bad idea to take along a few padded photo envelopes. You know, the kind that are used for sending photos through the mail. This way as soon as you're finished shooting up a roll of film, you can quickly mail it home or to your local photo developing center. It may also save you the hardship of getting that roll of film lost, wet, or damaged in the field.



Better yet, take along some of those highly advertised, prepaid envelopes that photo developing companies send in the mail or place in magazines. Cheaper and more convenient for you.



## FIELD POST CARDS



If you're not much of a letter writer, and the kind of a person who scribbles only a few short lines on a sheet of paper and sends it off, then why bother packing stationery paper and envelopes?

Just buy yourself a package of index cards (large or small) and a roll of "post card stamps." Cheaper, easier, and less of a hassle to send off from the field.

If you really want to be a wild and funny guy ..... take an MRE "cardboard box" that the main meal comes in, cut out a nice clean rectangle, put an address and stamp on one side, write a few lines on the other side and send it off. It will go through... You don't believe me? Then try it!

There's no US Postal or Military regulation that can stop you from doing this. I know because I've done it and have talked to military and civilian postal officials about it, and it does not violate any postal regulations. The funny thing about all this is, when the postman delivers it or the receiving party gets it, they will look at it and say, "What the Fuc...."



## STAY AWAKE LEADERSHIP TIPS



I'm sure every leader has had their fair share of problems one time or another in trying to keep their troops alert or awake at night during a defensive operation. I know I have. One sure fool-proof method that I've always used to insure my guards or LP/OPs stayed awake at night, especially during cold weather operations. Is by taking away or collecting sleeping bags. Not all of them, just some of them. Here's what you do.....

If your unit is on 30% alert status, meaning one out of three must be awake, take that many sleeping bags away from the troops, team, or squad. Example: For a 10 man squad you would collect, gather, or take-away 3 sleeping bags and leave 7. It doesn't matter who's they are, just collect three (3) of the sleeping bags and place them nearby to keep them under control. Either you or another leader must control the fart bags to insure no one tries to "crawl inside of them."

Each individual must have at all times a poncho liner (or poncho) and a waterproof bag. As each individual finishes his or hers guard shift, they wake up the next person in line for guard and they take over that individual's sleeping bag.

For sanitary and personal hygiene reasons, they must first wrap themselves up in "their own" poncho liner and place their feet inside "their own" waterproof bag before crawling inside of that individual's sleeping bag. This will help reduce getting the sleeping bag dirty and spreading germs or colds to other members in the unit.

Oh, I know the troops won't like it at first, but they'll get used to it. If you don't have any problems keeping your troops awake at night, then don't use this method. Use it as a last resort when you have problems keeping some of your troops awake at night. Believe me, it works, it's known as "mind over matter." You don't mind what they think about it, and it doesn't really matter.



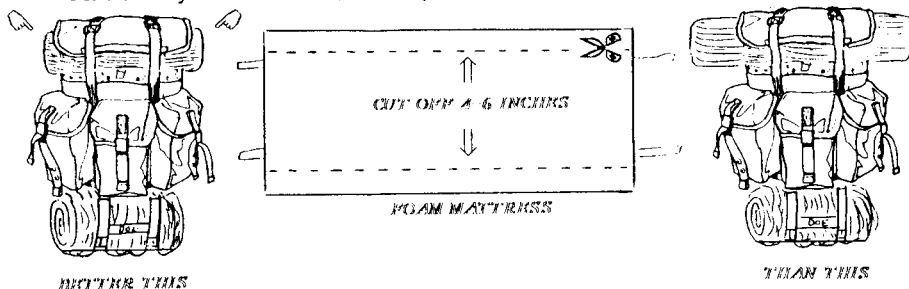


## MODIFYING FOAM MATTRESSES

I received some mail from quite a few readers saying, "Hey Ranger Rick, you forgot to mention how to modify the foam mattress." Sorry, I thought I touched on this subject in one of my other Ranger Digest handbooks.

It's really very simple and easy to do. I, myself always used a cut down modified version for the field. When carried or attached to a ruck, it's less bulky and easier to move through the woods without getting hung up on branches or "wait-a-minute-veins."

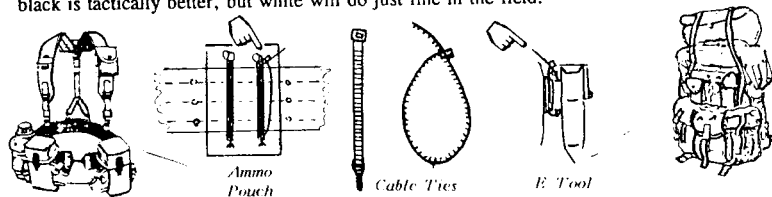
For those of you who can't read, here's a picture on how to do it.



## CABLE TIES

Submitted By: SSG. CRAIG MARTS

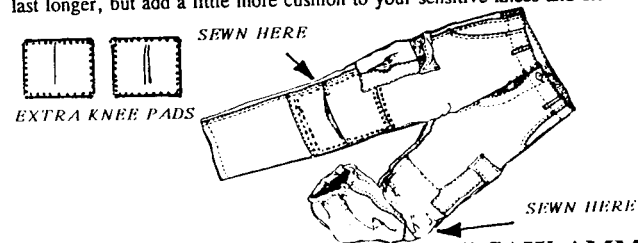
Instead of using 550 parachute cord to secure or tie down web gear or equipment, try using "Cable Ties." They are not only cheap to buy, \$2 per package of 50 from "Radio Shack," or from any auto parts store. But they are easier to use and replace than the 550 Parachute cord. Plus they come in a variety of sizes and in two different colors, black or white. Of course, black is tactically better, but white will do just fine in the field.



## DOUBLE, TRIPLE..... THOSE KNEE PADS

Submitted By: PFC Steven J. Kroll

To help prevent tearing, ripping and wearing out those knee pads and elbow pads on your field BDU uniform. Take an old BDU uniform and cut out an extra set of "knee & elbow pads" and have them sewn right on over the knees and elbows. This will not only help your uniforms to last longer, but add a little more cushion to your sensitive knees and elbows.



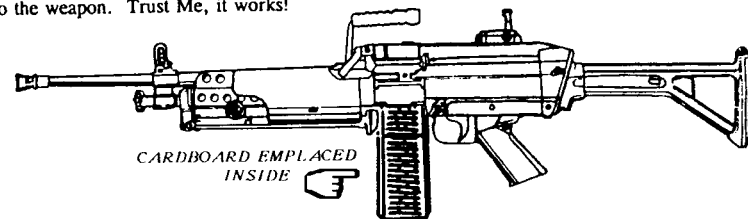
## RATTLE PROOF THAT SAW AMMO

Submitted By: PFC Eric S. Dickter

I came up with this idea on a recent field exercise. My fire team was required to infiltrate quietly through some buildings during MOUT Training. I carry a SAW and the rounds in the plastic case or drum made a lot of rattling noise during movements, especially at night. We were not fortunate to have those 100 round canvas bags, which no doubt would have been much more quieter.

But I solved the rattling noise problem very quickly. Take a stiff piece of cardboard from an MRE cardboard box, cut it to the same size as the sides of the ammo container/drum (see drawing). Remove the top of the drum and then slide in the two cardboard pieces along the sides of the ammo. And presto! No more rattling noise.

Don't worry, the cardboard will not interfere nor obstruct with the flow or feeding of rounds to the weapon. Trust Me, it works!





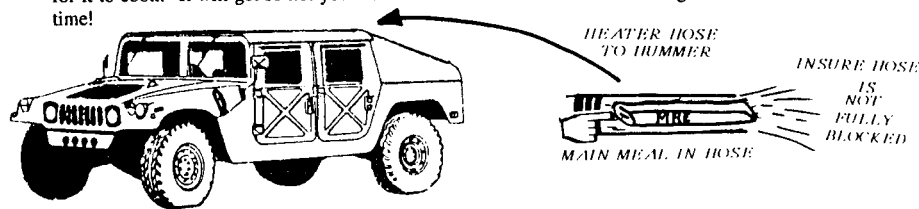
## MRE HEATING (VEHICLE STYLE)

Submitted By: SGT JOHN KELSCH

"While reading your Ranger Digest III, you had some good tips on how to heat MREs in the field. Well here's a technique that we use at NTC (Fort Irwin, Calif)."

We use the heaters in our "Hummers" to warm up MREs. If you loosen the ends of the hoses, you can direct the heat in almost any direction you desire (inside the vehicle).

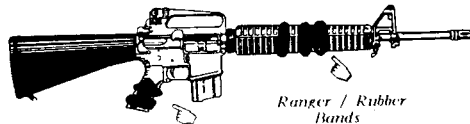
Take the MRE, remove the cardboard box from the main meal and then fold it in half the long way. Place it inside the heater hose, turn the heater on to "full blast" and wait about 15 minutes for it to cook. It will get so hot you won't even be able to touch it. Works great in the winter time!



## WEAPON NON-SLIP GRIPS

Submitted By: SPC ROBERT JOHNSON

Tired of having your weapon slip out of your hands? Try wrapping a few thick rubber bands around the pistol grip and forearm. The thicker the rubber bands, the better. "Ranger Bands" (thick black rubber bands) work best!



## MRE CRACKER TRICK

Submitted By: SGT KEITH WINDHAM

Here's an entertainment trick you might want to try. Challenge anyone to try to eat one pack of MRE crackers in 2 minutes. That's 2 folds, 4 sections per fold for a total of 8 pieces. It's pretty interesting and amusing to watch, because no one can do it. Try dropping a cracker fold and a minute, and guess what? Still no one can do it! Or so it seems....

Well, maybe someone can... "My Battalion Chaplain is the only person I have ever witnessed that could do it," Sgt Windham writes. "But you have to understand something," he states. "He had THE MAN on his side!"



## MINI FLASHLITE TIPS

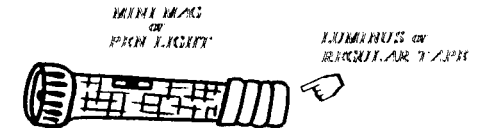
Submitted By: Cpt Scott Cunningham

Cpt. Cunningham tells me, "We do a lot of climbing and repelling in the mountains of Vermont, especially during Fall and Winter. And by the end of the day when were wrapping up training, it's completely dark. You can't climb nor repel down without the aid of a flashlight."

When you need to use both, your flashlight and your hands to get down, that darn old military angle flashlight is just about worthless when it's clipped to the LBE. It doesn't do any good to have it on, because it shines all over the place except where you actually need the light.

But I solved that problem, I got me some thick luminous "glow tape" and wrapped it several times around the base of my MINI-MAG FLASH LITE. Now, not only can I find my flashlite more easier in the dark if I should drop it, I could hold it in the teeth of my mouth, steer the light where I needed it, and keep both of my hands on the rope during night descents.

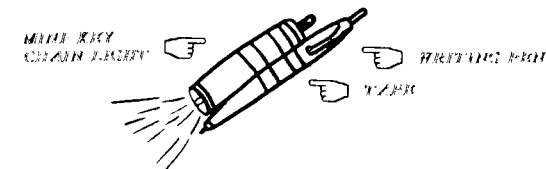
You need to get the good "thick" glow tape and not that cheap thin stuff. The thicker the tape is, the better, you don't want to bit clean through it with your teeth. Or if you can't find the thick stuff, wrap the thin stuff several times around the flashlight.



**RANGER RICK'S COMMENTS:** You don't necessarily need to use luminous tape, any tape will do the job.

Get this....I was looking through a catalog the other day and saw a "PEN-LITE" selling for \$34.00. Not just any pen-light, it was an actual INK PEN WITH A LITE built inside of it. Really, you could write in the dark with it. But I wouldn't pay \$34 bucks for it!

So then I started using my imagination (like I always do...) and came up with something just as good or better. Buy one of those little mini key chain pen lites, remove the key chain and then tape it to an ordinary pen or pencil. And now you too will be able to write in the dark with a PEN-LITE, only this one costs about a \$1 buck to make.







## ROPE & PARA-CORD TRICKS

Submitted By: 1LT Regis Johanns

I know you old timers and Rambo Cowboys are going to say this next tip is "Old News." But I am not covering it just for you, there are many young soldiers who don't know this next trick yet. So relax, chill out and take it easy.....

If you carry a bunch of 550 para-cord (or certain kinds of rope) to the field, you may want to braid it. "Braiding" is taking the cord and making it into a series of loops and overlapping loops to keep it from getting tangled up when carrying it. It also can be pulled apart much quickly and stretched out in a matter of seconds if needed for an emergency. While there are some ropes you can braid, there are others you can't. Unfortunately, military repel rope is one type you CAN'T BRAID.

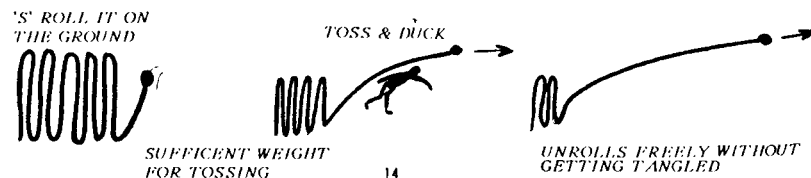
Here's how you braid: (A) tie in a simple knot and loop at one end. (B) Take up some slack by making another loop. (C) Pull that loop through the first loop. (D) Then take up some slack again, make another loop and pull that loop through the last loop that you just made. And continue to repeat this procedure until all the cord/rope is used up. To undo it, simply grab the running end of the rope/cord and pull as much as you need from it. It should come apart very easily without getting all twisted up.



Now for you old timers and Rambo Cowboys, here's trick you don't know yet. Have you ever tied some weight to the end of a rope/cord and tossed it over a creek, tree or building? Maybe to set up an antenna, cross a creek or climb up a building? Or you probably watched someone else doing it and laughed your ass off when it got tangled up and fell short. Didn't you? I know you did, don't lie!

Well, I learned this next trick a while back in 1975 when I was attending Belgium Commando School. Instead of rolling up the rope like a real cowboy getting ready to lasso some cattle or horses. Try next time laying the rope out on the ground in a series of "S" rolls. Making sure the ground where you intend to lay the rope out, is clear of any foreign objects (sticks, rocks, etc). And the rope is laid out parallel in the direction where you intend to toss it. And most importantly, having the right amount of rope needed to get the job done, not some short piece of shit.

Now, attach a sufficient amount of weight to the end of the rope (or cord) and toss it over or through whatever your trying to do. OBSERVE the motion of the rope on the ground. You will see the rope unraveling itself in a "tangle-free" manner. This technique sure beats the old fucked up way the Army teaches you, don't it?

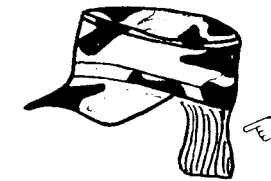


## BOONIE & BDU HATS



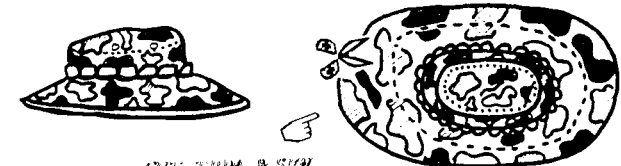
Submitted By: SSG Craig Marts

For hot weather environments, try sewing an olive drab green (OD) or desert pattern camouflage handkerchief (or wash cloth) on to the back of a BDU hat. You might look like a French Foreign Legion trooper, but it'll keep your neck from getting sunburnt. And if you wet it down a little, it should keep you even cooler.



WASH HANDKERCHIEF DOWN WITH WATER

If you're one of those who don't like the 2 inch brim on a boonie or desert hat, try cutting it down to size. All you need to do is take it to a local tailor shop and have it slightly modified.



CUT, TRIM, & SEW TO YOUR SIZE YOU WANT

All military issued head gear, such as the boonie and BDU hat, are not water proof. They can repel water to a degree, but water will eventually soak through it over a period of time, except the brim of the hat, (of course). To waterproof a field hat, never starch them. Just get a can of "clear" spray-on varnish, "spray-on" ski wax, or even "spray-on" silicone. And spray only the outside portion of the hat very lightly. If you spray on too much, it will look like shit. You don't want it to shine, just repel water! Right? I know you Special Op guys are saying, "Hey that's wrong Ranger Rick, it will give off an odor." Stop reading between the lines, guys. I didn't say put it on your head right away, did I? Let it dry for a few days before wearing it or taking it to the field.





## GARDEN SNIPPERS & E-TOOLS

Submitted By SSG Stephen Ballow

He writes, "I'm a team leader in a LRSU unit. We build a lot of hide positions in the field. My old assistant team leader would always carry with him a small pair of garden snippers. With these, he could snip away foliage from our camouflage position more easily and quieter than using the old standard E-Tool.

It also cuts the foliage a lot cleaner, not like a "hack job" from an E-Tool or Rambo Knife. There's nothing worse than having the landscape in front of your position full of "butchered brush and trees" revealing to the enemy that you're in the area. (NOTE: Cutting back on brush & trees in front of your position is to give you better fields of fire or viewing range, check your Soldier's Manual)

These same snippers also came in handy in other ways too. While moving at night through heavy, thick vegetation, if someone got caught up in a "Wait-A-Minute-Vine." He would move up quickly with his snippers and quietly cut them loose. "Silence is crucial in the field to a LRSU team, and these snippers no doubt made a difference."

Also, when cutting foliage for camouflage. Apply a little bit of cammie stick (or dirt/mud) to the bare stump to hide the exposed cut.

**RANGER RICK's COMMENTS:** It's not a bad idea! If you got room to carry it, why not? I remember a few times my entire unit being held up at night just because someone got caught in a wait-a-minute-vine.

When cutting foliage for your position, remember to...

- A. Cut only what you need, don't over do it or cut too much.
- B. Cut foliage, should be carried and taken away as far to the rear of your position as possible. Less chance of it being discovered.
- C. Cut it as close to ground level as possible to hide the stump.
- D. Cut branches or exposed "stumps" need to be camouflaged too.

Following these simple steps will insure the enemy won't be able to detect you or your unit. Remember: "What cannot be seen - cannot be spotted, what cannot be spotted - cannot be detected!"



**Multipurpose 25-in-1 Scissors**

- Made of the best quality stainless steel
- Slotted and phillips screwdrivers
- Paper/cloth and leather scissors
- Fruit peeler, garden clipper
- Iron foil and round/square shaft scissors
- Iron/cable clipper or shaper
- Cable stripper, nut clamp, hammer
- Bottle/can opener, screw-top bottle and jar opener

Item No. B-4400-984743  
S/M \$4.99

Members Take 10% Off

**\$9.99**



## MEDIC SHEARS

Submitted By: Sgt. Robert J. Schomberger

"During my time in the Marines," Sgt Schomberger writes. "I've personally been involved in one emergency helicopter landing. And have served in two other units where troops have been killed in helicopter crashes over water. One thing that both of these crashes had in common according to the Accident Reports. Is that there were some crash survivors upon impact. But only to drown due to being strapped and tangled up in the aircraft's wires, cables, and straps, not to mention their own gear. What a horrifying death they must have went through!

I then started to carry my own set of shears, like the ones the medics carry in their aid bag. And just before going on an air assault, I would stick them inside my boot. The reason for this is simple. You are usually riding in a helicopter in a bent over position due to the heavy equipment being carried on your back. And with the shears tucked in your boot, they will be much easier to reach in case of an emergency, than in your pocket or sheath. Plus these shears are known to be able to cut through almost anything, better than a K-Bar knife or a pair of wire cutters.

**Cut Through Anything!**  
• Coins • Leather  
• Plastic • Wire • Bones

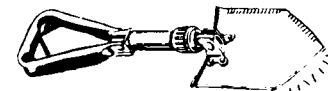
**Super Snipper.**  
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Used for years by hospital personnel, these amazingly sharp 7 1/2" scissors are made from the highest grade stainless steel. Cut through wire, plastic, leather, heavy cardboard, non-tear paper. Great on the kitchen or in the garden. Blades never need sharpening.  
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THANK GOD I HAD MY SHEARS

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## SHARPEN THAT E-TOOL

Another important item that always seems to get abused or overlooked when going to the field, and that's the E-Tool. That's right, I said the "E-Tool." How many times have you or your unit ever sharpened the blades of an E-Tool? Never! Right?

Now, how many times have you used that same E-Tool to cut down brush and small trees? A lot, Right? So why don't you keep it sharp? Because you're too fucken lazy and it's not your responsibility? - Right? YOUR ASS!

Here's a sharp tip for you....

Before you go to the field next time, take your E-Tool and find yourself a good off-post knife sharpener. You won't believe how sharp this baby can really get, almost as sharp as a small axe or machete. But don't take my word for it, once, just once try it!

Customer Service: (612) 535-8880 | Fax your order: (612) 531-0281

# DEPLOYMENT CHECKLIST

Have you ever gone on a deployment and forgot to take care of some things before you left? Well here's a checklist you may want to review before that next deployment or PCS, it may help you to keep your shit straight. And if you're a leader, try sharing it with your men, it may save you and them some headaches and heartaches.

1. Do you have the following **MILITARY DOCUMENTS** updated and in your possession right now?

Military ID Card	Military ID/Dog Tags	Military Shot Record
Military Meal Card	Military Weapon Card	Military NBC/Mask Card
Military Ration Card	Military Driver's Lic.	Military Allergy Tag

Other Cards/Doc: Geneva Convention Card, Credit Cards, Medical Card, Phone Card, Civ. Driver Lic, Passport, Travel/Assign Orders

2. Do you have the following **IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS** updated?

Power of Attorney      Last Will & Testament      Life Insurance Policy

3. Have you made advance **PAYMENTS OR ALLOTMENTS** for....

Car/Truck Loan	Home Mortgage	School/Classes	Credit Bills
Veh. Insurance	Home Insurance	Health Insurance	Utilities

4. Do you have a **SUFFICIENT AMOUNT** of.....

Traveler Checks      Blank Checks      Foreign/US Currency

5. Do you, your wife or next of kin have **COPIES OF**....

Last Pay Voucher	Marriage Certificate	Divorce Papers
Assignment Orders	Passport/Other ID	Imm. Green Card
Birth Certificate	Leave/Travel Orders	Travel Tickets
Medical Records	DA 201/2-1 Record	School Records
Training Records	Car/Home Ownership	Social Sec. Card
Product Warranties	Strip Map to Home/Hosp	Dental Records
Extra Car/Home Keys	School/Library Card	Change of Address

6. Do you and or your wife (or next of kin) have **PHONE NUMBERS**....

Parents      Friends      Relatives      Chain of Command      Unit

7. Does your wife or next of kin have **EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS**....

Operator	Hospital	Ambulance	Fire Dept	Church/Clergy
Police	Doctor	Dentist	Lawyer	Auto Repair Serv.

8. Do you have in your possession at least one **COMPLETE SET OF** civilian clothes in case of an emergency? Shoes, Pants, Shirt, Belt, Socks, Jacket, etc?

DEPLOYMENT/PCS CHECKLIST		GOOD	NEED	DATE or	REMARKS	
<b>MILITARY:</b>	ID Tag .....					
	ID Card .....					
	Meal Card .....					
	Shot Card .....					
	Ration Card .....					
	Weapon Card .....					
	NBC/Mask Card .....					
	Driver's License .....					
	Allergy Card/Tag .....					
	Geneva Conv. Card .....					
<b>DOCUMENTS:</b>	Passport .....					
	Credit Cards .....					
	Phone Cards .....					
	Medical Cards .....					
	Civilian Dr's Lic .....					
	Travel/Assign Orders .....					
	Power of Attorney .....					
<b>UPDATED:</b>	Last Will & Testament .....					
	Life Insurance Policy .....					
	Vehicle Loan .....					
<b>PAYMENTS:</b>	Home Mortgage .....					
	Credit/Bills .....					
	School/Classes .....					
	Home Utilities .....					
	Home Insurance .....					
	Health Insurance .....					
	Vehicle Insurance .....					
	<b>FINANCES:</b>	Credit Cards .....				
		Blank Checks .....				
		Travel Checks .....				
U.S. Currency .....						
Foreign Currency .....						
<b>COPY OF:</b>	Divorce Papers .....					
	Travel Tickets .....					
	Medical Records .....					
	School Records .....					
	Dental Records .....					
	Training Records .....					
	DA 201/2-1 Record .....					
	Last Pay Voucher .....					
	Social Sec. Card .....					
	Passport/Other ID .....					
	Birth Certificate .....					
	Warranty Documents .....					
	Car/Home Ownership .....					
	DA 201/2-1 Record .....					
	Marriage Certificate .....					
School/Library Card .....						
Immigration/Green Card .....						
Assignment/Travel Orders .....						
Extra Car and Home Keys .....						
Phone Numbers & Addresses .....						

BEFORE YOU BORROW ON CREDIT  
OR TAKE OUT THAT NEXT LOAN...

### SIMPLE "CREDIT/LOAN" PAYMENTS

Table shows what the payment rate would be if \$100 was borrowed on credit/loan.

PERCENT	12 Mos	15 Mos	24 Mos	30 Mos
0%	8.77	5.98	3.75	3.20
Total	105.24	107.64	110.16	115.20
9.5%	8.79	6.00	3.78	3.22
Total	105.48	108.00	110.64	115.92
10%	8.81	6.03	3.80	3.25
Total	105.72	108.54	111.12	117.00
10.5%	8.84	6.05	3.82	3.27
Total	106.08	109.00	111.84	117.72
11%	8.86	6.07	3.85	3.29
Total	106.32	109.26	112.32	118.44
11.5%	8.88	6.10	3.87	3.32
Total	106.56	109.80	113.00	119.52
12%	8.91	6.12	3.90	3.34
Total	106.80	110.16	113.52	120.24
12.5%	8.93	6.14	3.92	3.37
Total	107.04	110.60	114.00	121.32
13%	8.95	6.17	3.94	3.39
Total	107.28	111.06	114.48	122.04
13.5%	8.98	6.19	3.97	3.41
Total	107.60	111.42	115.20	122.76
14%	9.00	6.21	3.99	3.44
Total	108.00	111.78	115.68	123.84
14.5%	9.02	6.24	4.01	3.46
Total	108.24	112.32	116.40	124.36
15%	9.05	6.26	4.04	3.49
Total	108.60	112.68	117.20	125.64
15.5%	9.07	6.28	4.06	3.51
Total	108.84	113.04	117.56	126.36
16%	9.09	6.31	4.09	3.54
Total	109.08	113.58	118.08	127.44
16.5%	9.12	6.33	4.11	3.56
Total	109.44	113.94	118.56	128.16
17%	9.14	6.35	4.14	3.59
Total	109.68	114.30	119.28	129.24
17.5%	9.14	6.35	4.14	3.59
Total	109.92	114.64	119.76	129.96
18%	9.19	6.40	4.19	3.64
Total	110.28	115.20	120.24	131.04

**How To Calculate Other Amounts**  
Example: If you borrowed \$250 for an 18-month period at 11% interest. It's \$6.07 x 2.5 (for \$250) = \$15.17. Your monthly payments for 18 months would be \$15.17.

### SIMPLE "HOME MORTGAGE" PAYMENTS

Annual Interest Rate	15 Yrs	20 Yrs	25 Yrs	30 Yrs
7.0	8.99	7.76	7.07	6.66
7.5	9.06	7.86	7.39	7.00
8.0	9.28	8.06	7.59	7.34
8.5	9.56	8.37	7.72	7.69
9.0	9.83	8.68	7.86	8.05
9.5	10.15	9.00	8.00	8.41
10.0	10.45	9.32	8.15	8.78
10.5	10.75	9.65	8.29	9.15
11.0	11.07	9.99	8.45	9.53
11.5	11.37	10.33	8.61	9.91
12.0	11.69	10.67	8.77	10.29
12.5	12.01	11.02	8.94	10.68
13.0	12.33	11.37	9.11	11.07
13.5	12.66	11.72	9.28	11.46
14.0	12.99	12.08	9.46	11.85
14.5	13.32	12.44	9.64	12.23
15.0	13.66	12.80	9.82	12.63
15.5	14.00	13.17	10.00	13.05
16.0	14.34	13.54	10.18	13.45
16.5	14.68	13.92	10.36	13.86
17.0	15.02	14.29	10.55	14.26
17.5	15.37	14.67	10.74	14.67
18.0	15.71	15.05	10.93	15.08
18.5	16.06	15.44	11.13	15.48
19.0	16.41	15.82	11.33	15.88
19.5	16.76	16.21	11.53	16.30
20.0	17.11	16.60	11.73	16.72

### HOW TO USE THE CHART

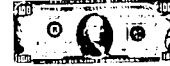
Example: What is the monthly payment on a \$50,000 mortgage for 25 years at 13% interest? First: Find the "factor" where the 13% line meets the 25 year line. The factor is 11.28. Second: Multiply 11.28 x 50 (as in \$50,000). The answer is 564. The monthly payments for 25 years would be \$564.00.



### SHORT-TERM "PERSONAL LOAN" PAYMENTS

(Per \$1,000 Annual Percentage Rate)

Interest Rate	12 Mo	18 Mo	24 Mo	36 Mo	48 Mo	60 Mo
On 12%	88.83	60.98	47.07	33.21	26.33	22.24
Repay	1,065.00	1,098.00	1,130.00	1,196.00	1,264.00	1,354.00
On 14%	89.78	61.93	48.01	34.18	27.33	23.54
Repay	1,077.00	1,115.00	1,152.00	1,230.00	1,310.00	1,413.00
On 16%	90.76	62.86	48.97	35.16	28.34	24.82
Repay	1,085.00	1,131.00	1,175.00	1,266.00	1,361.00	1,459.00
On 18%	91.66	63.81	49.92	36.15	29.39	25.99
Repay	1,100.00	1,149.00	1,198.00	1,301.00	1,410.00	1,534.00
On 24%	94.57	66.71	52.87	39.23	33.60	28.77
Repay	1,135.00	1,201.00	1,269.00	1,412.00	1,563.00	1,776.00



## STOCK INVESTMENT TIPS



As usual, I always try to squeeze in a few pages on how to improve your financial status. Well, according to the October 93 issue of "Money Magazine," these were the Top 10 companies stock brokers and analysts recommended to buy. But before you invest, remember this..Past Performance Does Not Guarantee The Same Future Results!

It's your choice, you could either shit in one hand and wish in the other (and see which one fills up first). Or invest like the rich people do. It beats CDs, Bonds, & Savings Account interest.

STOCK (CODE)	TYPE	5 YEAR RETURN	IF YOU INVESTED \$ 100 - \$ 1000
1 Pulte (PHM)	Home Bldg	360%	\$ 400 \$ 4600
2 Kroger (KR)	Grocery Store	350%	\$ 450 \$ 4500
3 Alco Std (ASN)	Paper/Off Mfg	150%	\$ 250 \$ 2500
4 Genesco (GCO)	Clothes/Shoes	120%	\$ 220 \$ 2200
5 Fed Home Loan (FRE)	Fin. Sevice	N/A	N/A N/A
6 Fed Nat'l Mort (FNM)	Fin. Service	760%	\$ 860 \$ 8600
7 PepsiCo (PEP)	Bev & Snacks	280%	\$ 380 \$ 3800
8 UST (UST)	Tobacco	400%	\$ 500 \$ 5000
9 Andrew (ANDW)	Tel Comm	440%	\$ 540 \$ 5400
10 Chemical Bank (CHL)	Bank/Fin	200%	\$ 300 \$ 3000

These were not in the Top Ten recommended list to buy, but their returns were still impressive. Check it out!

Oracle System (ORCL)	Comp/Softw	650%	\$ 750 \$ 7500
Centex (CTX)	Home Bld	370%	\$ 470 \$ 4700
Norwest (NOB)	Bank/Fin	410%	\$ 510 \$ 5100
Entergy (ETR)	Ele Utility	470%	\$ 570 \$ 5700
Blockbuster Ent (BV)	Video Stores	2390%	\$2490 \$24900
Home Depot (HD)	Repair Store	1400%	\$1500 \$15000
Wal-Mart (WMT)	Retail Store	300%	\$ 400 \$ 4000
Mattel (MAT)	Toys	630%	\$ 730 \$ 7300
Newell (NWL)	Indus Parts	460%	\$ 560 \$ 5600
Novell (NOVL)	Comp/Softw	570%	\$ 670 \$ 6700
Amer Greet (AGREA)	Cards/Gifts	370%	\$ 470 \$ 4700
Intel (INTC)	Electronics	380%	\$ 480 \$ 4800
Albertson's (ABS)	Grocery Store	370%	\$ 470 \$ 4700
BankAmerica (BAC)	Bank/Fin	660%	\$ 760 \$ 7600
Circuit City (CC)	Electronic	470%	\$ 570 \$ 5700
Coca-Cola (KO)	Beverage	400%	\$ 500 \$ 5000
Cooper Tire/Rub (CTB)	Rubber/auto	630%	\$ 730 \$ 7300
Lowe's (LOW)	Hardware	430%	\$ 530 \$ 5300
Hasbro (HAS)2	Toys	330%	\$ 430 \$ 4300
Sysco (SYY)	Food	350%	\$ 450 \$ 4500
MCI Comm (MCIC)	Tel. Comm	490%	\$ 590 \$ 5900
The Gap (GPS)	Clothes	490%	\$ 590 \$ 5900
Dillard Dept St (DDS)	Retail	340%	\$ 440 \$ 4400

If you are not familiar on how to invest in stocks, take the time and visit a financial consultant or stock broker. If you play it right, retirement life after the military could be more relaxful.

Note: 5 Year Return (ABOVE) Are Between The Dates Of October 88 - October 93.



## Watch Who You Lend \$\$\$ To

I don't think there's a single person in the military today that hasn't lent money to a "buddy" some time and was not repaid back. I know I have....But I wish I hadn't. It makes you feel cheated, ripped-off, abused, taken advantage of, and raped of your trust.

But, it has happened to the best of us. To me, it happened in my early "dumb and naive" years in the military. You know, during basic, advance and special training. Those short training cycles where you get to make new friends for one or two months and gone the next, and so's your money. Real good friends, huh?

I always hated liars, cheats, con-artists, thieves, pimps, alcoholics, drug users, etc. They're everywhere in the military, you might even be sharing a room or barracks with one or more of them. Don't be an easy target for these "Fucken Shitheads," use clear common sense when it comes to lending money, not hind sense. If your going to lend money to a fellow so call "buddy," take all the necessary precautions to insure he's not a "buddy fucker." Never lend money to a "friend" who's a known trouble maker, alcoholic, suspected drug user, check bouncer, problem child, pending UCMJ action or has less than 90 days left in the unit. An alarm should go off in your head if someone asks to borrow money when it's not even halfway through the month until payday. (Question to ask yourself: "Where the hell did his money go so fast?") If you still lend it, well, you just might be kissing your money good-by down the drain. "Borrowers & Losers" pry on those who are soft hearted, weak minded, and are very trusting of others.

Don't be bullied or tricked into lending money by such cheap quotes such as, "Thanks a whole lot BUDDY! Wait until you need something from me someday! You can't trust me for a few lousy bucks? OK, no problem..." (Fuck'em!)

If you think by lending money to these types of individuals your relationship is going to improve, you're only kidding yourself. They could care less about you. But, if you still want to lend money out, at least take a few precautions to protect yourself against any loss of money.

1. Get the individual who wants to borrow money to put up some sort of collateral or something of equal value for you to hold onto until his debt is paid off in full. (Stereo, camera, etc.)

Or:

2. Draw up a simple mutual contract of agreement (I.O.U.) by listing the borrower's full name, address, social security, the amount borrowed, date borrowed, and the final expected date to be repaid in full. Have at least two (2) "reliable people" to witness the agreement and sign on that same piece of paper. The more rank they have, the better. If you can get it typed and/or notarized at JAG, the better.

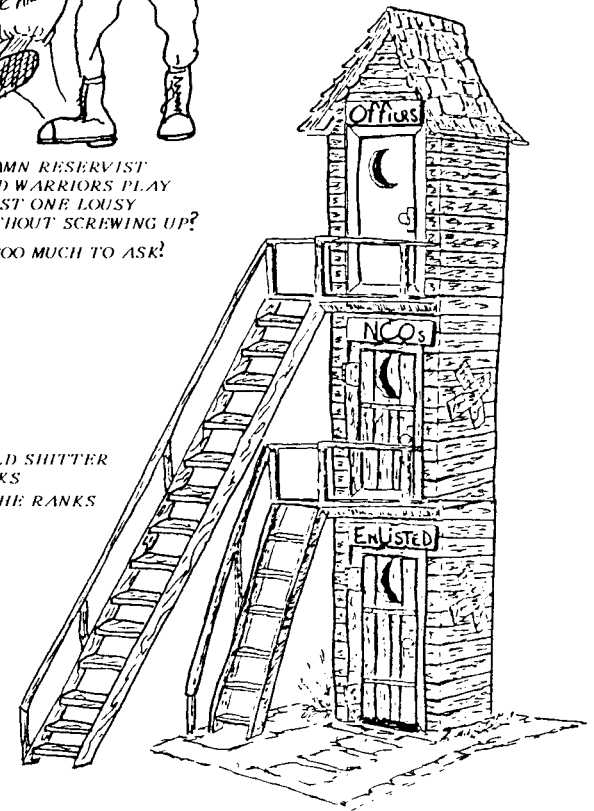
If the borrower does not wish to go through all this hassle, he obviously does not need the money so badly after all. So screw him!



CAN'T YOU DAMN RESERVIST  
AND WEEKEND WARRIORS PLAY  
ARMY FOR JUST ONE LOUSY  
WEEKEND WITHOUT SCREWING UP?  
OR IS THAT TOO MUCH TO ASK?

THIS IS...

- A. THE NEW PORTABLE FIELD SHITTER
- B. NEW ALL RANKS BARRACKS
- C. HOW SHIT FLOWS DOWN THE RANKS



17 November 1993

Ranger Rick Tscherne  
 Retiree Section  
 CHR #427 Box# 2396  
 APO, AE 09630

**INFORMATION ON THE C-MAG MAGAZINE SYSTEM**

Dear Ranger Tscherne:

In response to your letter of November 9, 1993, we are pleased to provide information about our C-MAG Magazine System for your book RANGER DIGEST IV.

Enclosed is a mixture of information - our brochure ADVANTAGE: C-MAG, a product information report, news article clips and some photos.

In response to your question about purchasing information for individual Rangers, we regret to advise, that it is our company policy to sell to military and law enforcement agencies only. We do not sell to individuals - civilian or military. But nevertheless, the enclosed information may be used to be forwarded to the purchasing agent for the ranger units.

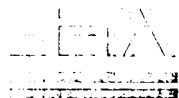
We hope that the enclosed information will be helpful to you. All our best wishes for your new Ranger book. Please let us know if we may be of any further assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,  
 THE BETA COMPANY

*Silvia Keiser-Block*  
 Silvia Keiser-Block



Enclosure



# THE 100 ROUND C-MAG



INFO YOU NEED  
 TO KNOW FIRST



C-MAG Procurement Information

**PURCHASE THE C-MAG MAGAZINE SYSTEM THROUGH**

(1) **THE BETA COMPANY**  
 4200 Northside Parkway, Building 14  
 Atlanta, Georgia 30327  
 Phone 1-800-669-BETA or (404) 233-5921  
 Fax (404) 233-5752

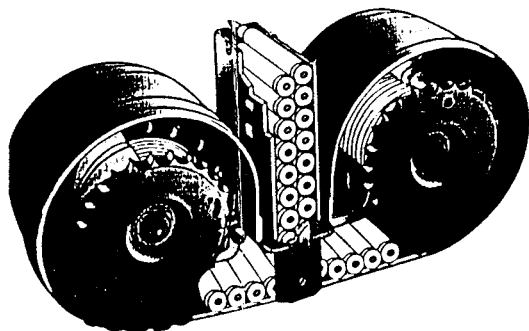
(2) **U.S. AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND**  
 Weapons System Support Center  
 Robins AFB  
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 DEFENSE LOGISTICS SERVICES CENTER (DLS)

To Request: • Purchasing or other information  
 • Tech Order Manuals #11W2-6-7-2

Contact: Mr. Don Maycroft  
 AFMC/LKJTW, Robins AFB  
 DSN 88-468-6747 Phone (912) 926-6747

For additional information or assistance contact  
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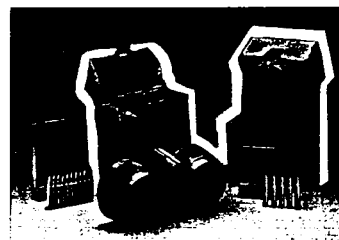
## SPECIFICATIONS

### C-MAG Magazine

- Ammunition** NATO standard 5.56mm, 223 cal; (9mm available mid-1992)
- Capacity** Variable, 1 to 100 rounds
- Weapons** Interchangeable feed clips to fit all weapons (see reverse side)
- Feed Rate** Adjusts to rate of fire of the weapon; exceeds 1300 rds/min.
- Dimensions** 5.56mm: 251x81x17mm  
 9mm: 280x50x20mm
- Weight** Empty 1kg/2.2 lbs.
- Storage/Loaded** Indefinite
- Materials** Main components-impact resistant thermoplastic materials  
 Minor components-corrosion resistant ferrous and non-ferrous materials

### C-MAG Accessories

- Carrying pouches
- Speed loaders
- Storage containers
- Different configurations available



### Maintenance/Use

C-MAG is a major-end-item. Spare parts and repair service available.

C-MAG MAGAZINE  
 NSN 1005013604862



With one magazine on the weapon and two fully-loaded magazines in the specially designed pouches, C-MAG users can carry 300 rounds.

AVAILABLE EXCLUSIVELY TO GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS  
 25

For Purchasing Information Contact

U.S.A. and Canada:

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 4200 Northside Parkway  
 Building 14, Suite 200  
 Atlanta, Georgia 30327  
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Telephone: (404)233-5921  
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**BETA AG**  
 Rhatkonstrasse 33  
 FL 9490 Vaduz  
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 Building 14, Suite 250  
 Atlanta, Georgia 30327  
 U.S.A.

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 Fax: (404)266-9619





## MOBILE FIELD DRYER

Submitted By: 1LT Regis Johanss

This next tip & trick only works in units that have vehicles assigned to them. So if you're a "Light Infantry Grunt" you can skip this page. But for those of you in a mechanized, armor or mobile support unit.....

How many times have you gone to the field and it did nothing but rain, rain, and rain? How many damn times has your sleeping bag or last pair of dry clothes gotten wet? More than what you care to remember, right?

Well here's an idea that a 1Lt. Regis Johanss sent me. He says his men have learned how to use the heater's in their HMMVEES and M577 Track Vehicles as mobile "Field Dryers."

No need to keep running all those vehicles to just to dry a few wet clothes, use only one. Gather all the wet clothing and sleeping bags in your unit, pick out one vehicle that has a very good heater inside of it. String, hang and spread out the clothes and sleeping bags inside of the vehicle and then turn on that vehicle heater to "full blast."

If your clothes and sleeping bags are only partially wet and NOT soaked, they should be dry in about 30 - 60 minutes. Provided they are spread out, laid out, opened up and readjusted about every 15 minutes or so for maximum drying. Don't forget to leave a soldier nearby to monitor the vehicle and clothes to insure nothing goes wrong, (outside the vehicle, of course).



## MODIFYING BDUs

Submitted By: SSG CRAIG MARTS & SGT KEITH WINDHAM

"Hey Ranger Rick," Ssg. Marts writes. "Here's another BDU idea you may want to use in your next Ranger Digest book. I wore and tried it myself when I was in Saudi Arabia as an SOF operator."

Take an old worn out set of BDUs (woodland or desert camouflage) and cutoff the pockets. Then have these pockets sewn onto the sleeves of another BDU shirt. You can never have enough pockets for all your little high-speed "gizmos"!



EXTRA BDU POCKETS



Ssg. Windham had the same idea, except he went a "leg" further ("Aaah, Get it? Leg, Step further...). He added the extra pockets to his BDU pants.



EXTRA BDU POCKETS





## PADDED BDU PANTS

How many times have you banged or cut the hell out of your knees in the field? A whole bunch, right? And how many times have you taken up a kneeling or sitting position on either a hard, wet, or cold piece of ground. Pretty uncomfortable, huh? Well, you'll love the hell out of this next trick.

Take an old pair of BDU's, cut out all the pockets either from the shirt or pants (or both), and then sew a pocket over each of the knees. Measure the pockets for size, take some foam padding similar to your military sleeping pad, and cut out a few square pieces the same size as the pockets. Now, take those foam padded squares, slide them inside the pockets and PRESTO! You now have a set of BDU pants with padded knees.

What? You don't like the idea of sewing these pockets over the outside portion of the knees? You don't want to ruin the uniform? Well, first of all, it should be a field uniform, not a uniform your going to wear everyday back in garrison.

If you still want knee pads and you don't want to sew the pockets over the outside portion of the knees, there's another alternative.

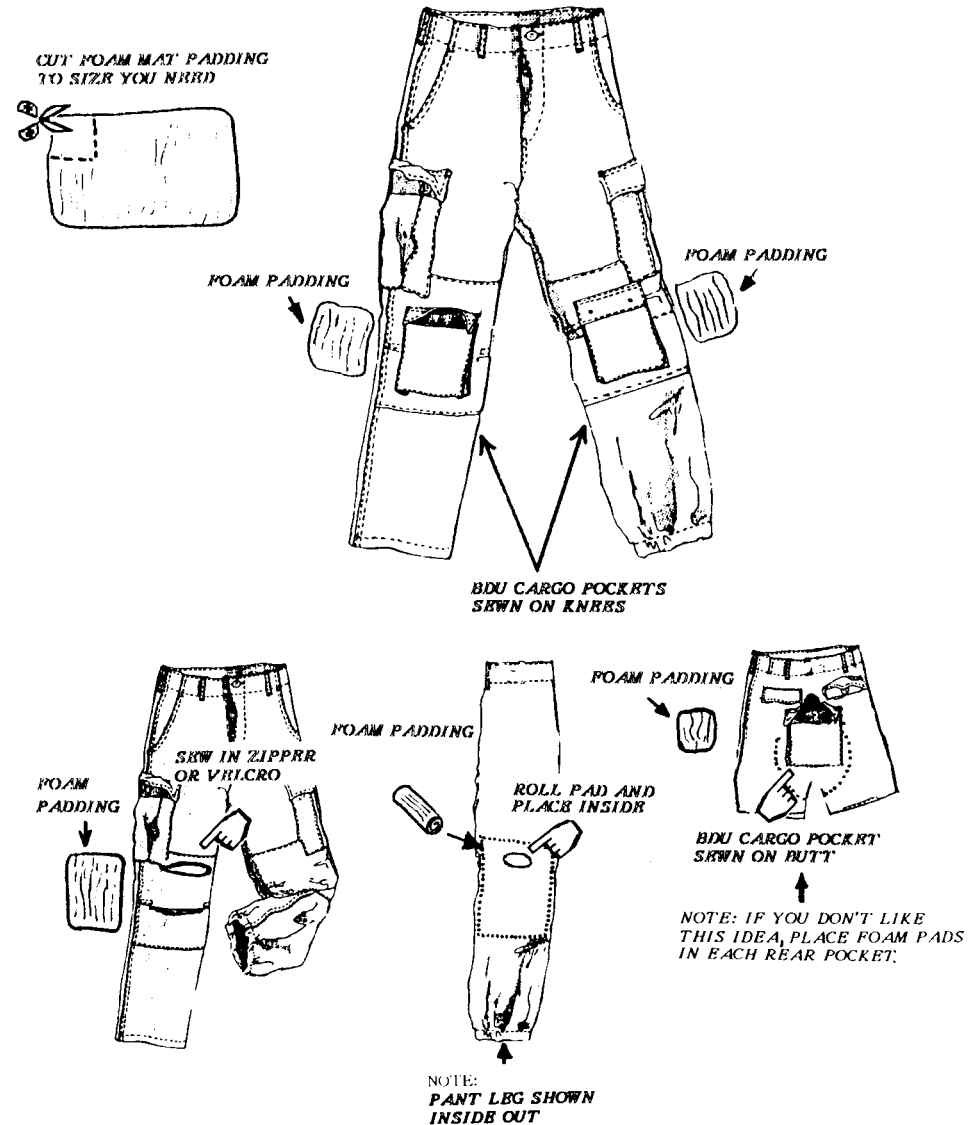
Look closely at your BDU pants about knee level and tell me what you see..... RIGHT! You see that it's "Double Padded" with extra material. Now take those pair of BDU pants and reverse them inside out. Grab a pair of scissors or a razor blade and cut across the upper portion (and only one layer) of the material to form a pocket. Cut out some foam mattress squares the same size as the knee pocket and then slide 'em inside. Now try on those pair of pants and see how they feel. I'd also suggest that either you sew in a button or a strip of velcro to keep the padding from jumping out of the pockets during movements.

What? Now you tell me you don't like to sew? OK, then try this....

With the BDU pants inside out, make a small opening slit just wide enough so that you can slide in a tightly rolled up piece of foam mattress. Then cut out a couple of pieces of foam about the same size as the knee area, roll it up tight and then slide it in. Once it's inside, unroll it and adjust it into place. Now (finally) you have a pair of BDU pants with knee pads. Every time you need to wash or wear these pants in garrison, don't forget to remove the foam padding.

Well, I'll even take this trick a little further.... Take one or two of those cut out pockets and have 'em sewn right across the cheek portion of your BDU pants. Cut out a few pieces of foam mattress the same size as the pocket, slide them inside and try on the pants. Now take a seat on the ground. Nice, huh? You'll appreciate this trick a little more in the winter time, as it will no doubt protect your butt from the cold, wet, or hard ground.

**NOTE:** Due to the overlapping and sewing of these extra sets of pockets, it may cause some interference in being able to store items in your rear pockets, such as your wallet.







## MIRRORS, LIGHTS AND MARKERS



Submitted By: SSG MIKE FINN

Ssg. Finn says his Recon Platoon has several signal mirrors covered with different colored cellophane. And every squad has an assigned color code; Blue is for 1st Squad, Amber for 2nd Squad, and Red for 3rd Squad.

By using these different colored signal mirrors, each squad is able to identify themselves at long distances by flashing their colored signal mirror. It helps chopper pilots to identify and recognize who their picking up. For instance, why pop smoke on a quiet PZ (Pick-Up Zone) behind enemy lines and risk giving away your position. When you can just whip out that ol' cellophane covered signal mirror, ask the pilot to identify the color of the flash, and then proceed on to pick them up.

Ssg. Finn says, "This may sound like a small thing to some, but with several recon squads under fire and wanting immediate extraction, it will help minimize confusion and identify the units their picking up."

This same colored cellophane can also be used to cover strobe lights and flashlights when regular filters are not available.

Here's a tactical night movement trick you may want to try. It's sometimes pretty difficult and almost impossible for some units to move from Point A to Point B at night. Most units (company and battalion level) use either their Recon Platoons to assist them, or they set up a "daisy chain" of men along the preselected route to help guide the unit. This has several short falls:

- (1) If soldiers are placed out in pairs and at long distances, it could weaken the strength of a unit. Especially if they suddenly came under fire.
- (2) If young and inexperienced soldiers are left at check points by themselves. They have a tendency to doze-off, wander away, or let their imaginations runaway (thinking they heard enemy movement).

Of course, there are "Pros and cons" to everything. But there's a much easier way of guiding a unit along a selected route without sacrificing or using many troops in getting the job done.

If you take a box or two of Chem-Lites, you can scatter them along the route. The last man in the movement, recovers the Chem-Lites. Of course you may have to reduce the brightness by taping them up a bit. If you can get hold of those Mini 3 inch Chem-lites, the better. They are usually packed 5 to a bag.

**NOTE:** Never, Never, Never break open the wrapper to any Chem-Lite unless you intend to use it within 24 hours. Once the wrapper or seal is broken, the liquid in the Chem-Lite will deteriorate and may not work at all when you need to use them. Don't ever puncture or break open the wrapper unless you intend to use it!



SIGNAL MIRROR COVERED WITH COLORED CELLOPHANE





## ROPE-A-SOAP

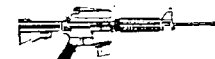
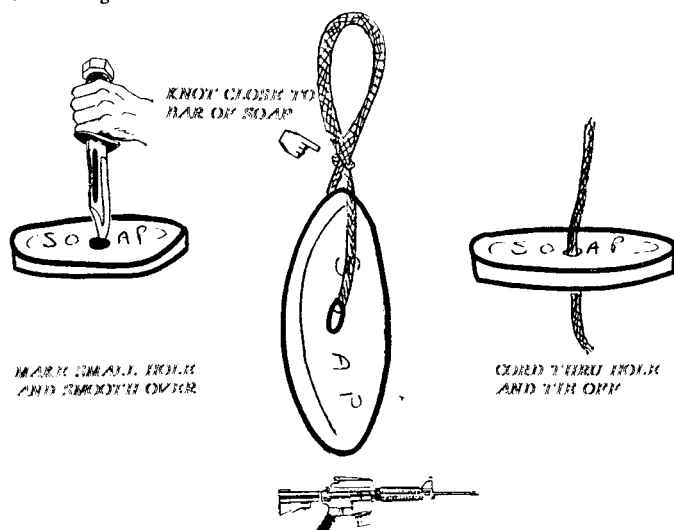
How many times have you dropped a bar of soap either on the ground, in a creek, or maybe in the shower? Well, you better watch out and start taking some extra precautions. With gays & lesbians now being allowed to openly serve in the Armed Forces, you don't want to drop your bar of soap and bend over to pick it up.....it might be too much temptation for those who can't resist a poke.

I haven't got anything against gays & lesbians serving in the military, really! I know the vast majority of them have been serving proudly in the military for years, maybe even centuries. I don't mind serving, fighting, working, eating, drinking or talking with them. But just don't brag, broadcast, or tell me your gay. If you (or they) can do this, then everything will be OK. The less I know, the better I feel.

Well anyway, to help prevent a bar of soap from being dropped and full of dirt or "pubic hairs" (Uugh!). Take a bar of soap, a sharp pointed knife and carefully drill a small hole through the center of the bar. Make the hole very small, and do it very slowly and carefully. Then run some water through the hole and rub it smooth with your fingers to make the hole circular.

Take some 550 para-cord, run it through the hole, and then tie the ends together. Now, make another knot as close to the bar of soap to prevent or reduce the cord from running, rubbing or cutting through the soft soap. Failure to keep this knot as close to the bar of soap will cause the cord to slice or break through the soap.

Now your ready to hang your bar of soap around your wrist, a tree limb, nail or shower facet handle. Works great!



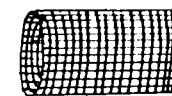
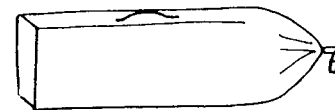
## CHICKEN WIRE

Here's an interesting trick. I learned this from a few Ranger Medics assigned to my unit. Have you ever seen the inside of a medic's aid bag? A good medic will have it organized and packed to the max with pills, cream, medicine, bandages, etc. How can they carry so much shit without getting it messed up? Most of the ones I've known can't, but these two medics did. How did they do it? Here's how...

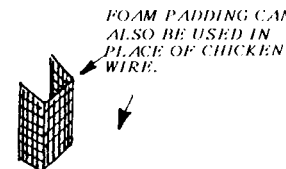
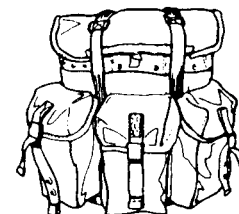
They took cut-out sections of "Chicken Wire" and emplaced it along the inside portion of their aid bags. What this does is expand and keeps the sides of the bag erect so it does not collapse. Then they simply replaced their medical supplies back inside of it.

Not only does it make it much more easier to pack and store the items inside of it, but it helps protect the articles from being crushed or broken. Weighs very little and cost only pennies to make. Plus it's easy to cut, mold, and shape into place. Here's what else you can do with it, you can Cut, Shape, and Place some of it inside of your....

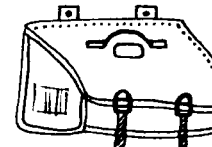
Duffel bag....



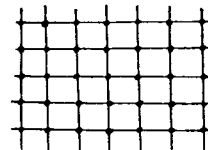
Rucksack....



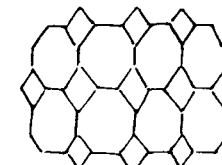
Butt Pack....



Don't forget to trim the sharp, protruding, pointed edges before placing it inside any of these items. You don't want to poke holes in the material. To protect it even more, try taping heavy duty (100 MPH) tape around the entire edges of the chicken wire.



THIS WIRE



NOT THIS TYPE



## FOLLOW ME DIP STICKS

Not everyone will agree with this next idea, but if works - it can't be that stupid. Right?

While in your fighting position, have you ever had problems seeing your left and right limites at night? You know, your sector of fires? Your probably saying, "That's why we have aiming stakes you idiot..." Yea, I know, they're OK to degree, but have you ever made a set of DIP-STICKS?

What are Dip-Sticks?

They're tent poles or sticks approx 18 inches long with luminous tape and or small flexible reflectors attached to the end of the stick. They are either glued, tied, stapled or taped to the stick. The purpose of dip-sticks? They have many uses, but mostly at night for such things as...

1. Used to mark sectors of fire, left and right limites.
2. Placed to the rear of fighting positions or near equipment so that they can be found more easily during limited visibility.
3. Used to mark routes or trails at night, whether it's a foot or vehicle route. Last man or vehicle down the route recovers and collects all the dip-sticks.
4. Attached to the back of a rucksack or vehicle during a tactical movement and you'll be able to follow the individual or vehicle more easier.

So here's what you do...

Give each member of your squad or platoon at least one luminous/reflecting dip-stick, or instruct them make their own according to your specification. Then have each member keep the dip-stick tucked in or attached to their ruck at all times. They can use it at their discretion, per unit SOP or when told otherwise. If needed for a long unit movement, just collect all the dip-sticks and use as needed. When no longer required, return them to the troops.

Another item you may want to consider attaching to the dip-stick is a chem-light. Attach it by either taping or tying it, because once it's used up, it'll need to be replaced with another. Try using some of those "mini chem-lites" (5 in a pack) instead of the standard 6 + inch long ones, they'll work better. Try it, you'll like it.




## RIFLE SCOPES

Submitted By: USMC SGT. GRANT N. ROGERS

This USMC Sergeant writes, "The merits of having a scope on your rifle has already been proven. But what kind of scope is the right one for you?" In combat, chances are the enemy is going to be detected first with the naked eye. Switching rapidly to a 4 X power scope (or more) could cause a few deadly seconds of delay before your eye adjusts to the scope's magnified power, possibly turning it into a more of a immediate "life or death" situation.

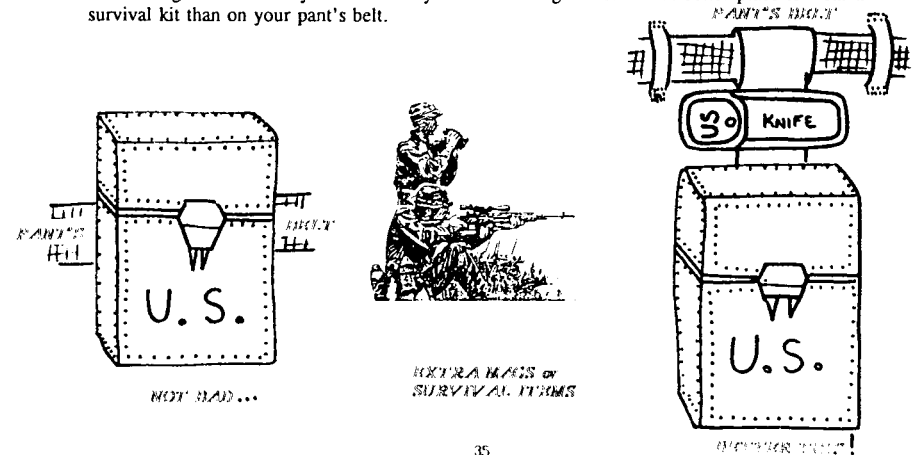
On the other hand, a non magnifying scope such as a AIMPOINT, PRO-POINT, or OEG SCOPE won't cause such a delay. You detect the bad guy, raise your rifle, put the scope's "Dot" on his head and squeeze off a round. Much easier, faster, and no eye adjusting delays.

Don't get me wrong, magnifying scopes do have their uses. But the simpler the scope is to use, the easier it is to score a hit. Especially for those who are not sniper trained nor qualified.

Remember: Shoot First, Shoot Fast, Shoot Accurately, Shoot to Kill 

An item you may want to consider buying or making, is a "Thigh Magazine Rig." It's a magazine pouch that is worn on the pant's belt, NOT the web belt or LBE. Simple to make, but cheaper to buy from Eagle or FMCO. The best thing about this rig is if you should ever have to ditch or get rid of your LBE (due to an emergency), you still have a few mags left to hold off the enemy. Especially if they find your gear, they'll get sloppy searching for you because they'll think you don't have anymore ammo. The joke will be on them, "Surprise Guys! (See design)

RANGER RICK'S COMMENTS: This rig can also double as a survival kit. Add a few simple items like a small cheap knife, mini-compass, mini-mirror, etc. and cram it between two loaded magazines. Then your set for any survival emergencies. What better place to wear a survival kit than on your pant's belt.





## ZERO TARGETS

When units deploy on real world missions, rarely do they ever take along 25-meter zero targets. "Why should we? Our weapons are supposed to be zero'd all the time, right?" I agree, why take along the extra weight?

But, what if someone has to re-zero their weapon? Are they supposed to re-zero their weapons by shooting at a bunch of cans? Of course not, but here's an idea you may want to try and keep handy in your alert deployment boxes.

Get hold of one (1) 25-meter zero target, acetate the entire front and back side, and then place some 100 MPH tape all along the edges of the target paper.

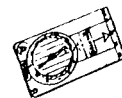
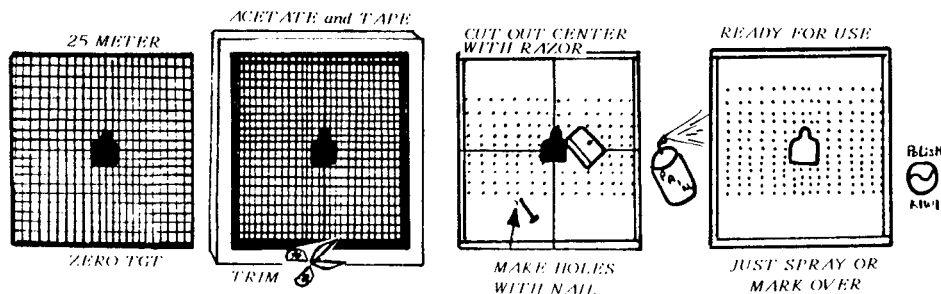
Take a sharp single edge razor blade, and carefully cut out and remove the black silhouette portion of the target, (the little blank man). Press down on the razor blade real hard so that you cut clean through the double acetate and paper.

Take a medium size nail and carefully poke holes on all the square corners and crosses that you see on the front of the silhouette. This will no doubt take some time to do, as there are over 300 holes that will need to be punched through the paper.

Once it's done, you never have to worry about doing it again as the finished product will be a reusable. To use, simply place this acetated target silhouette on any blank piece of paper or MRE cardboard box. And either trace over the target with a pen or marker, or spray paint over it.

You don't carry spray paint to the field? Use a can of black shoe polish then. Just take your shoe brush, dab it in the polish and rub it on lightly over the silhouette. You don't have any shoe polish? OK, guys.....now your starting to piss me off. Burn a few pieces of wood and rub the burnt charcoal ashes over the silhouette.

If you desire, you can draw in all the missing lines by connecting the dots with a pen or marker. But whether you connect the dots or not, you'll still be able to determine how many clicks to move your sights by simply counting the space "between the dots."



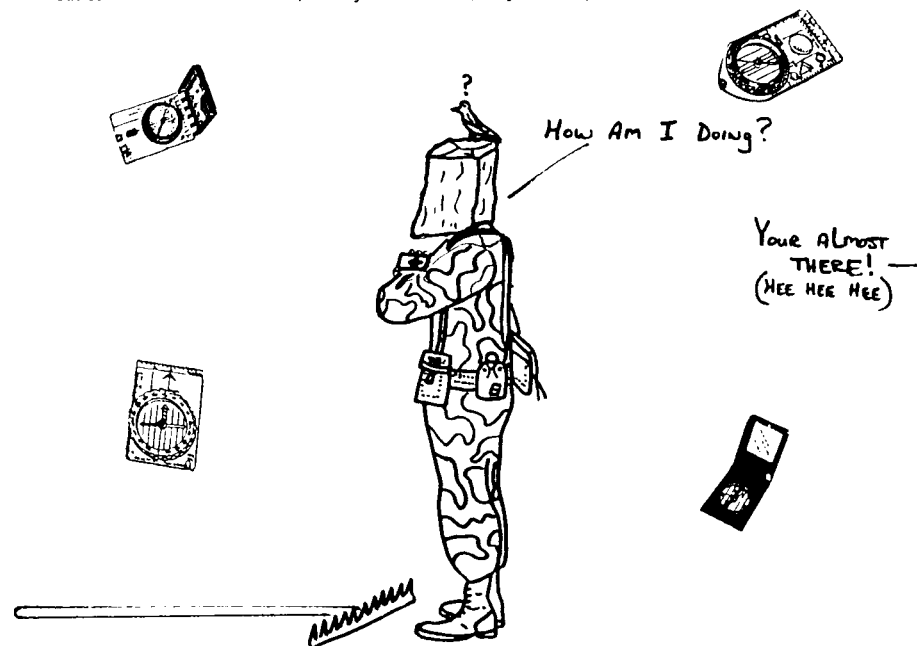
## SIMPLE COMPASS TRAINING



To help train new troops on how to use a compass correctly at night, you don't need to wait until it's dark. Just slip a brown paper bag over their heads so that they can see only the compass in their hands and their feet. Give them a compass azimuth, distance to travel and watch them go.

Of course, prior to all this you'll need to teach the basic fundamentals on how to hold, set, and follow a compass reading. You can't just hand them the thing and say "GO!" But with the paper bag over their heads, they can at least get some valuable training and learn how difficult it is to use a compass at night (even though it's still daylight). And you don't even need a large area to train in neither.

You must also teach them how to go around obstacles, such as using the "box method." And prior to stepping off, give them an estimated distance (for pacing) and a target such as a distanced tree or a marker placed on the ground. Make it more challenging for them by laying out some "beer" or soda cans, if they can locate it, they can keep it and drink it.







## CANTEEN MODIFICATIONS

*Submitted By: SGT KEITH WINDHAM*

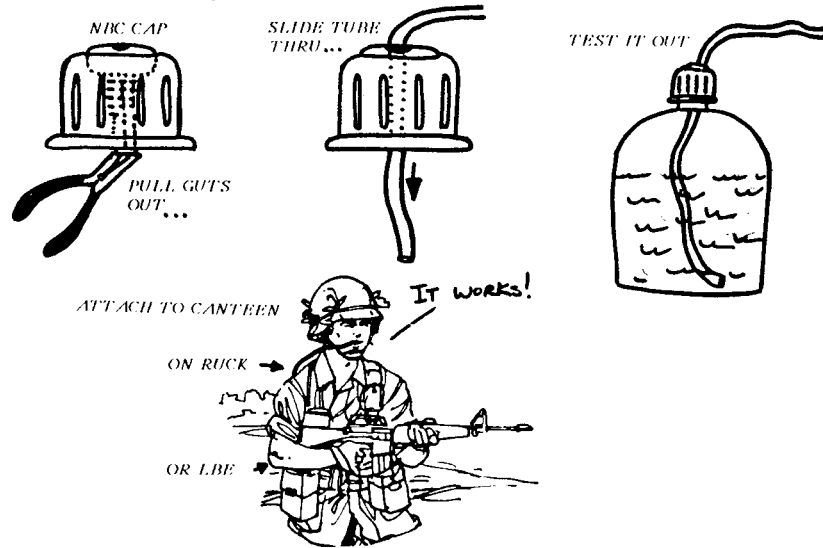
Now I've been getting a lot of mail lately about a canteen that is worn on the ruck (or LBE) and has a drinking tube connected to it. And thanks to Sgt Windham, he's told me how it's done. So for those of you have written to me asking how it's done, here's how you do it.

Get hold of an extra NBC CANTEEN CAP from your friendly NBC NCO. Grab a pair of needle nose pliers or a screwdriver, and tear the "guts" out of the cap. Make sure you don't damage the rubber seal portion of the cap.

Find (or buy) a small narrow thin tube that will fit snugly inside the hole of the NBC cap, such as a clean IV tube or an aquarium filter hose. Place the tube inside the hole of the NBC cap, pull it through giving it plenty of slack. Fill the canteen full of water, place the tube inside of it and screw the cap back onto the canteen. Now test it out, it should work fine.

Now you can walk, talk, suck and drink all at the same time without ever having to remove the canteen(s) from the pouch, except to fill it, of course. Works best with a 2 quart canteen attached to your rucksack.

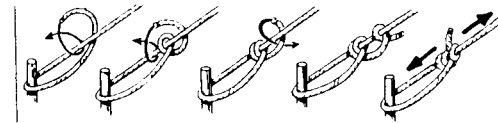
**NOTE:** According to the combat experienced Viet Nam vets (LRRPS, Rangers and Special Forces soldiers), always drink the canteen water from your rucksack first. Because; (A) it will lighten the load of the ruck, and (B) if you ever have to ditch your ruck in an emergency, you still have the canteens on your LCE full of water. Makes sense, don't it.



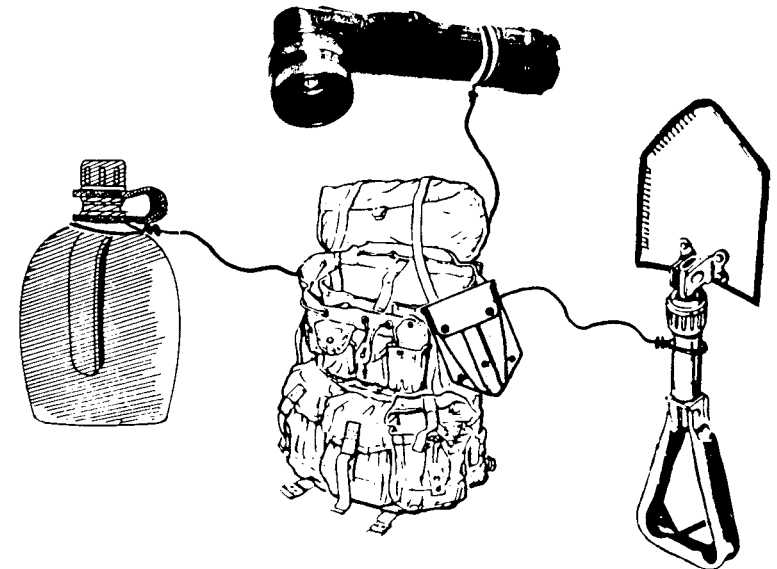
## ADJUSTABLE SLIP KNOT

I don't know the correct technical name for it, but I call it an Adjustable Slip & slide Knot. I learned it from a French instructor at the French Commando School back in 1983. What I like most about this particular knot, is that it's adjustable.

I use it quite often for tying or attaching equipment to vehicles or rucksacks. You only have to "slip & slide" the loop and knot over the item you're securing, and "slip & slide" it right off. Saves you time and the hassles of tying a knot for each item you want to secure in place. It's a little difficult for me to try to explain how to tie this kind of a knot, so I'll just draw it instead.



*SLIP & SLIDE YOUR THINGS ON & OFF YOUR RUCK or LBE.*





## WEB BELT QUICK RELEASE

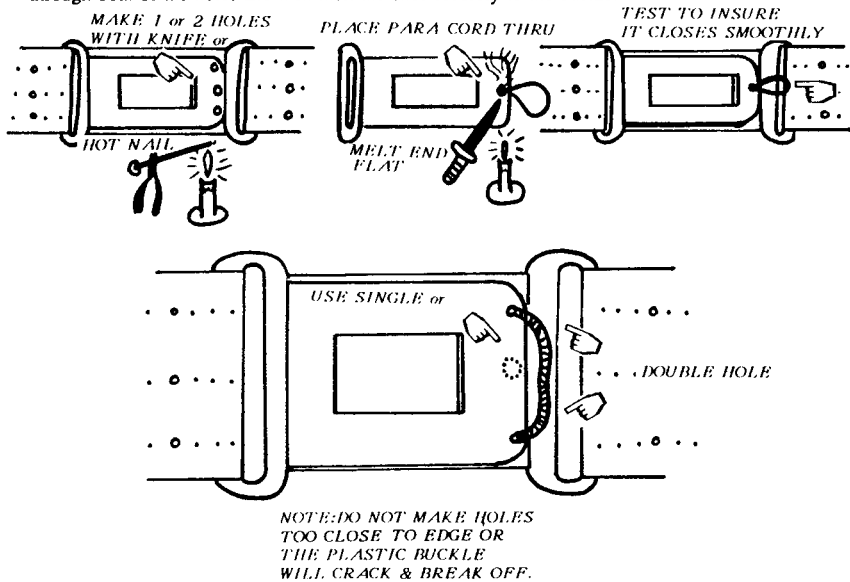
For all of you guys and gals who were fortunate enough to be issued a plastic buckle with their web belt, you'll appreciate this next little trick. It's called a "550 Para-Cord Quick Release."

Take the plastic belt buckle in your hand, drill a medium size hole clean through the outer lip portion of the plastic buckle with either a "red hot" nail or a very sharp "pointed" knife, (see drawing). Then take some 550 para-cord, feed it through the hole and "melt the ends" of the cord securely to the plastic buckle.

**WARNING: Do Not Tie A Knot,** just melt it FLAT against the plastic belt buckle surface. Tying a knot will only interfere with the opening and closing of the belt. When melting the ends of the nylon para-cord, wait a few minutes for it to cool before testing it out.

Put on the web belt, buckle it up, and now pull on the cord. The buckle should open quickly and easily. If the para-cord comes out of the hole, burn and let the 550 para-cord melt a little bit longer. Then test it out again. You may even add a loop to the single "quick release" para-cord to make it easier to grab.

If you desire, you can make two (2) holes in the belt buckle, run a single piece of para-cord through both of the holes and then melt the ends securely to the buckle.



## PISS BOTTLES

Yep, I gotta teach a few of you whimps out there how to make and use one of these. Even you female G.I.s will appreciate this.

The Army seems to be changing, I remember when we went to the field, there were only 5 gallon water cans or water buffaloes to fill up our canteens. Now, they hand out water bottles. Well, maybe not all the units ....

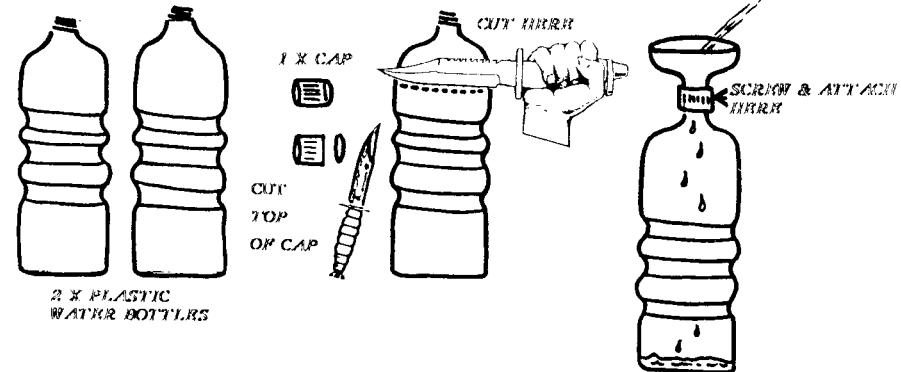
But, if you're assigned to one of those lucky units that hand out commercial bought water bottles in the field, you may want to try this next trick. (You non-combat arms "REMFS" will love this).

Get hold of two empty plastic water bottles, to include the tops. Take one of the plastic water bottles and cut it about 4-5 inches down from the top of the bottle.

Take one of those plastic bottle caps, and with a very sharp knife very carefully cut across the top of the cap. It should look like a holy doughnut. Take that cut bottle cap and screw it half-way onto one of the bottles. With the other "cut-out bottle," screw it also on the top of that bottle cap. Now screw both ends securely together.

Now what you have is a portable urinal/pisser with a funnel. And it can be used by both, male and female soldiers who do not wish to leave their tents or sleeping bags just take a piss. I know you guys are commenting, "I don't need a funnel to piss in the bottle, I can just stick my penis in the bottle." What if you can't fit your penis in the hole (too big) or you're not a terrific shot? That ain't no Winchester between your legs, buster!

Remember: Mark the bottle, empty it out on a regular basis and don't play no dirty little jokes with it. (This can also double as a spittoon for those who like to chew tobacco in a tent.)





## RANGER RICK'S DOD "DOUBLE TALK"

If you'll remember in my last Ranger Digest handbook (III), I asked readers to send in their favorite terms that they use instead of the common terms used in today's military.

Why? Because during the Gulf War, the Pentagon wasted a lot of time and money dreaming up new terms and acronyms to use so that war briefings would not sound so destructive, violent and bloody. And of course, the public fell for it. Things like Bombings were called "Servicing a Target," Killed was known as "Neutralizing," Missions were "Force Packages," Enemy Troops were called "Soft Targets," and so on.

Well, here are some of those "Double Talk" terms that were sent in to me. Maybe the State Department will pick up a term or two from us for that next televised war briefing.

### MILITARY TERM

### NEW TERM

Machine Gun . . . . .	Sprinkler System, High Velocity Crowd Pleaser
Grenade Launcher . . . . .	High Angle Problem Solver
Tank . . . . .	Caterpillar, Duel Track Weapon Transporter
Sniper . . . . .	Attitude Adjuster, Long Distance Operator, Solo Artist,
Ambush . . . . .	*Tag - Your It* Operations, Tactical Intercourse, Butt Hole Surprises.
Raid . . . . .	Surprise Parties, Foreplay Encounters, Unannounced Diplomatic Meetings, "Honey, I'm Home!"
Recon . . . . .	Tactical Embrace, Tourist Information Gatherings, Peek-A-Boo Operations
Bunker . . . . .	Bullet Deflectors,

### HEY RANGER DIGEST READERS.....

Got another name or term that can be used for a military term or acronym? Why not send it in and let us all get a laugh out of it. Send in your favorite term to:



RANGER RICK'S BOOKS INC.  
11 Poppy Lane  
West Grove, Pa 19390  
Phone/Fax 215-869-4776

FROM THE  
ARMY'S  
(MY LETTER)

# NCO Journal

(A FFW RESPONSE)

## Promotion Snafu?

Once upon a time, there was a staff sergeant with only four years of service who got "selected" (and not volunteered) for drill sergeant duty. He later made the sergeant first class promotion list with only eight years in the service.

As an Airborne-Ranger senior NCO, he always maintained a score of "no less" than 93 on SQT, 270 on APFT, all station go's on CTT, and received "excellent" ratings on all his NCOERS. He graduated on the "Commandant's List" from ANCOC, never bounced a check, wasn't overweight, had no DUIs, Article 15s or bad counseling reports. He was always "picked on" because he got the job done right the first time.

Then one day after serving 20 long years and being passed over no less than "seven times" for master sergeant, he decided it was time to put in his retirement papers. He refused to sign anymore of his NCOERS. When PAC informed him he had to update his DA photo and record for the upcoming MSG promotion board, he told them to "stick it" because he's retiring. He missed, on purpose, his SDT and CTT window by taking leave, and barely passed his unit's APFTs with minimum scores. Basically, the bottom line was... he really didn't care anymore.

Then, eight months after receiving his retirement orders, he's notified of his selection for promotion to master sergeant.

The moral of the story: Either he should've been QMP'd for being passed over so many times, or selected for master sergeant a "long time" ago. Promotion board members and those key leaders in the ranks of command sergeants major, colonel and general who claim to run this new and improved Army had better get their "heads out of their butts" and fix the promotion selection system. Otherwise, they're going to demoralize, destroy and lose many good future soldiers and leaders in the years to come.

That soldier was me. And oh yes, I'm still retiring 1 January with absolutely NO REGRETS! As a matter of fact, and for the record, if I had been selected one or two years earlier, I would have declined it. It's not my loss, my military record can speak for itself.

SFC "Ranger Rick" Tscherne  
Vicenza, Italy

## Ranger Rick—"Get Real!"

I read the Winter 93 edition of the *NCO Journal* and found it to be decent reading until I got to the letters. I guess you could say I'm incensed by the gall of some of my fellow NCOs. So, in response to SFC "Ranger Rick" Tscherne's comments on his promotion Snafu—get real!

The Army made a few mistakes with you. Let me try to clarify them for you.

Mistake #1: Staff sergeant in four years—bet you thought you were the cat's meow. You knew everything about anything and the Army rewarded your knowledge and obvious superior skills with an extremely early promotion. The reality is that you probably didn't know enough about anything with four years of service. You said you were "selected" for drill sergeant duty. Was that under duress? Most high speed NCOs volunteer for that tough job.

Mistake #2: Tragedy of tragedies, you get selected for sergeant first class with a mere eight years of service. Wow!

I'm sure you impressed the board with all those shiny badges, ribbons and gizmos on your uniform. You had to—two minutes is a short time to get a true picture of any soldier, good or bad. Even with good Army test scores, a well-rounded NCO would have thrown in some civilian education for good measure. You aren't the only soldier in the Army to get excellent ratings.

Ranger Rick, you then compounded the Army's mistakes with your own.

Mistake #1: You truly believed you were all that and then some! In all honesty, you probably were an outstanding soldier and deserved the accolades you received. However, your letter indicates you did all this for personal glory and contrary to your excellent NCOERS, you didn't perform your duties selflessly!

Mistake #2: This one really gets to me. If you were such an outstanding SSG and SFC, why couldn't you continue to carry on in an outstanding manner after nonselection for master sergeant? Could it be that the early advancements clouded your judgement?

Ranger Rick, it seems you were only in it for the glory and cash flow.

The moral of this NCO's trials and tribulations:

If you're in it (NCO business) for the cash and personal glory, get out now! The Army (and NCO Corps) needs more *selfless* servers...it already has its share of *selfish* servers.

MSG Arthur L. [redacted]  
Evans Army Hosp., Ft. Carson, Colo.

## Reply to "Ranger Rick"

This is in response to "Ranger Rick" Tscherne's letter in your Winter 92 issue. I'm amazed that SFC Tscherne would think the Army is the loser because he chose to retire. I have to wonder if the reason he was passed over for promotion is because the promotion board saw the same qualities in this NCO's records as the rest of the Army now sees in his letter.

SFC Tscherne obviously believes he is justified in giving up and developing a negative attitude because he didn't receive what he believed to be proper recognition. However, he not only quit on himself but also quit on his soldiers.

If he and his soldiers deployed to war, would he still believe he was justified if his soldiers were killed or injured because of his actions or inactions—because "he really didn't care anymore?"

An NCO doesn't stop doing his duty because he's upset over not being promoted. There are many good NCOs in the Army who can't get promoted for various reasons, but they continue to do their job in a professional manner. It's my opinion that the Army's loss of SFC Tscherne is in fact the Army's gain. We don't need NCOs with self serving attitudes. There are too many truly good NCOs that are willing to do the job for no other reason than it's what they want to do. SFC Tscherne, what took you so long to get out?

MSG Samuel Mc [redacted]  
Fort Bliss, Texas

*I enjoy reading letters from REMP's who like to talk out the other ends of their mouths.*

*And these two made BIG ASSES OF THEMSELVES. Won't you agree?*





## NEAT TIPS & TRICKS FROM A NWTC TRAINING OFFICER

Submitted By: *Cpt. Jonathan D. Thompson*

"Hey Ranger Rick!" I am currently assigned as a training officer here in the U.S. Army's Northern Warfare Training Center at Fort Greely, Alaska. I have not personally thought up all of these tips & tricks, but I think they should be passed on anyway. And your books seem to be the right way to do it.

At NWTC we get issued a lot of civilian equipment because the Army is lagging behind the civilian world when it comes to mountaineering gear and cold weather clothing. One thing for sure that we get issued and is pretty inexpensive are "Nalgene Bottles" in lieu of the military issued canteens. I have used them in the past as a lightweight means to keep things dry. For example, in the 71D(L), I carried one in my ruck that had Folger's crystal instant coffee. That way I always had coffee that was better than instant coffee that comes in your MRE. At NWTC, we use them for water. If the water freezes, it's easier to break the ice around the mouth than a standard or Arctic issue canteen. CAMPMOR Inc in Paramus, N.J. sells them. We get the 16 ounce bottles which sell for \$1.99. These bottles are lightweight, cheap, waterproof and durable.

How many times have you seen soldiers carrying a sleeping bag either hanging below the ruck where it bounces against the butt as he walks, or on top of the ruck where it rubs against their helmet? I haven't found neither of these ways satisfactory yet. Obviously, if the sleeping bag is put inside the ruck, even a large ALICE ruck at that, it will take up too much room. So what is the answer to this problem? Well, when I arrived at the NWTC as a "newbie," I was told to get a compression sack for my sleeping bag. This is a nylon bag that has several straps along the outside of the bag. The sleeping bag is then placed inside and then all you do is tighten the hell out of the straps to get rid of all the air and fluffiness. It compresses the bag into the size of a "pregnant basketball." You can then easily place it inside the rucksack and still have room for other equipment. You could also attach it underneath the rucksack and it wouldn't dangle too far down like before. I bought one made by LOWE for about \$20. CAMPMOR also sells them. They come in different sizes to fit the size of your sleeping bag. If a soldier is issued a Type II Extreme Cold Weather Bag, he will need a larger size.

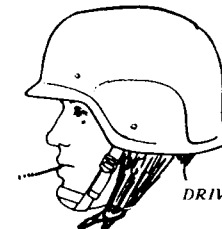
Just about every instructor at NWTC uses a set of polypropylene glove liners or contact gloves. When temperatures drop below zero, you will lose some skin if you ever touch metal with the bare hands. We use Polypro liners, they are inexpensive and worth every cent. I have worn a pair since I was a lieutenant. I have even played basketball and football outside with them on and I didn't have any problems holding onto the ball. Poly-ro also wicks water away from the skin so your hands stay warmer if they should become wet. I also wear poly-pro socks and they do the same thing for the feet, "keeps them warmer and dry."

While I was a rifle platoon leader. I always looked for a way to keep my ears warm under my helmet. The Army issued pile cap is too uncomfortable and it blocks your hearing. I wanted

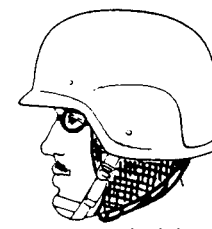


something to keep the cold wind off my ears and at the same time not block my hearing. I then discovered that if you use the "drive-on rag" (Cravat Bandage) and wear it like a woman's hair scarf, it will work just fine. You can even tie it under your chin if the wind kicks up or loosen it if it gets too warm. Although it no doubt doesn't look too professional, it does work. But if your worrying about looking like "grandma," wear it only at night.

Another item you can wear comfortably over your ears and will also fit nicely under the Kevlar Helmet, and that is the OD green sleeping cap that comes with new sleeping bags. Very difficult to locate, but if you do find one, DON'T LOSE IT or GIVE IT AWAY!



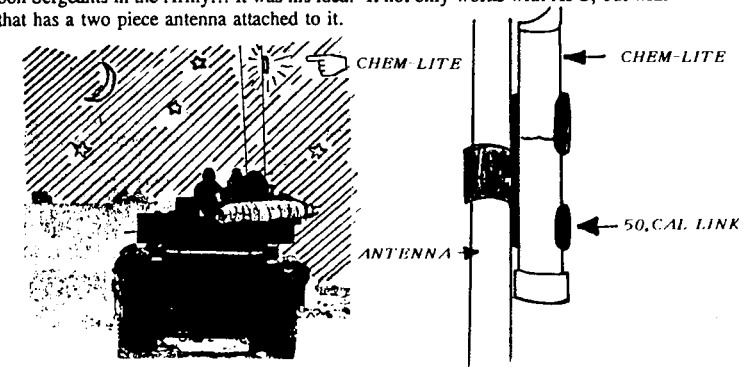
DRIVE-ON RAG



SLEEPING BAG CAP

When I was a Bradley Company Commander in Germany, I noticed that one of my platoon sergeants had a few .50 Cal ammo links clipped on to his vehicle antennas. I asked him what the purpose of it was. He said they made great chem-lite holders. So the next time we went to the range, I picked up a few links and tried it out. The part of the link that fits over the casing slides down over the bottom half of the vehicle's antenna. You then simply insert a chemlite into the open part of the link.

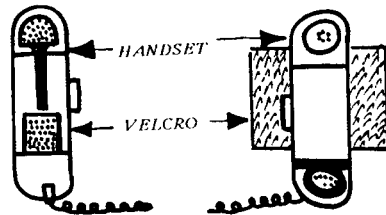
It works great for helping to identify vehicles at night (during training, of course). In my battalion, each company had their own assigned color for easily identification or recognition. By placing my company's assigned colored chemlite on all my unit vehicles, I could easily spot and identify each of them on the night range. A technique I used to identify each of my platoon vehicles was to tape up the chemlites so that one band of light meant 1ST Platoon, two bands mean 2ND Platoon, etc. I need to give full credit to SFC JOSEPH HALL, one of the best Bradley Platoon Sergeants in the Army... it was his idea. It not only works with APC, but with any vehicle that has a two piece antenna attached to it.



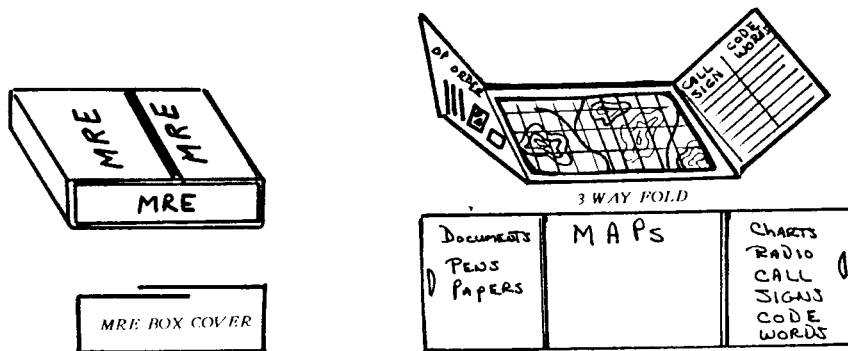


Another idea for vehicle crews who have a difficult time finding their radio handset in the dark, is to use velcro strips. Whether your in the turret of a Bradley or the front seat of a HMMWV, I never had a problem finding my handset....especially when ever the Battalion Commander called me.

I first learned of this trick after I spotted a HMMWV that had a strip of velcro hanging from the roll bar. And on the backside of their handset was a small piece of the other half of the velcro (velcro comes in male and female pieces) glued to it. I copied this same idea and tried it out for myself on my HMMWV. And guess what? It worked great! I'm able to answer my BC after the first call without having to tear up the entire vehicle searching for the handset.



When I moved to HHC and took over the AT Platoon at Fort Ord, my 1SG gave me a great idea for a portable map board. I took a cardboard sleeve off of a MRE box and cut it on the side where the ends are glued together (see diagram). I then purchased some clear, flexible plastic sheets from a fabric store and took 100 MPH tape and taped three sides of the plastic to the cardboard. The third side was where I slid in the map. On the other parts of the box, I glued and laminated such things as a Call For Fire format, MEDEVAC request, Call Signs, Reports, etc. On one part, I took some luminous tape and covered part of the box. This gave me something on which to write on at night. The results was a sturdy, but inexpensive portable map board. The limitations is that the size of the map is limited to the size of the cardboard. And that you must continuously pull out and refold the map if you are long vehicle movements. I would also recommend not using the Army issued acetate because it gets too brittle and it will eventually crack after repeated uses.



## KEVLAR READY

"Hey Ranger Rick, Here's an idea I don't believe you heard of yet. First, let me paint you a scenario."

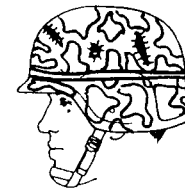
You just got back from the field and the PSG or 1SG notifies you that you're either going to be in a change of command ceremony or guard duty the day after tomorrow. You take a hard look at your kevlar cover and see that it's pretty damn dirty and worn out. And no way is it going to be ready for tomorrow's pre-inspection. What are you going to do now, soldier? Well if you were smart, you would have purchased and kept two kevlar covers for situations like these, but since you didn't - you're screwed!

Do you see what I'm getting at now? Well here's what you need to do.... buy two kevlar covers. But instead of switching from one cover to another and back again. There's an easier way.

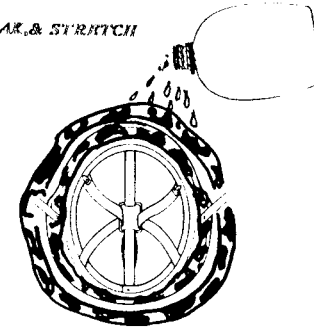
Take the first cover and place it over the kevlar. Take the second one, wet it down and then stretch it over the first one and let it dry. Use a hair blower if you have one to speed up the process. The reason for wetting the second cover is to insure it stretches and shrinks tightly over the first cover.

Now anytime you need to wear a good kevlar cover, just remove the second "field" cover from the kevlar. And when you get ready to go to the field again, just put the "field" cover back on over the first one. Or use the first cover as your "field" cover and wet and stretch the good one over the first (or field) cover. Easy, no hassles, no sweat, no problems.

WET, SOAK & STRETCH



OL' WORN & BRAT UP KEVLAR COVER



2 X COVERS WORN OVER EACH OTHER



LET DRY & WEAR



The PRC-126 Squad Radio was primarily designed to be used as a multi-channel, short range, small unit (Squad/Team) two-way radio. But, even though it's designed as a short range communicator, you can increase the range of these "squawk boxes."

1LT. Dale says, "By adding a 6 foot piece of commo wire and a couple of plastic spoons, you can increase the output of your squad radio. (See diagram on next page)

**RANGER RICK'S COMMENTS:** There are a few other ways you can increase the range of your squad radio. If you get hold of a "Ranger Handbook" (Not a Ranger Digest), you'll find a couple of pages showing how to rig up a few simple field expedient antennas.

But here's a few other field expedient antennas I've used that you won't find in the Ranger Handbook.

**MEASURING TAPE ANTENNA** - If you go to any hardware store, you can find a cheap, collapsible, roll up, metal measuring tape and use it as a field expedient antenna. The tape measure is same material that the short whip radio antennas are made out of (PRC-77/126) except much longer.

You have two choices on where you can connect the wire. Either to the center screw itself, or to the tape itself. If you connect it to the tape, you either drill a small hole at the end of the tape when it's full stretched. Or buy a small metal "alligator clip" (or paper clip) and then attach it to the tape.

For this antenna to work properly, it must be fully stretched in a vertical position. The advantages of using this antenna; [A] increases the range if stretched to 6 feet or more. [B] much easier to put up and take down than wire.

**MINI FISHING or FLY REEL ANTENNA** - Go to your local retail or sporting good store and buy a cheap fishing reel. A "fly reel" is better because it's cheaper to buy, easier to pack and easier to use. Purchase some good, thin, flexible, rubber coated speaker wire from any stereo store, the thinner the better.

Cut the wire into lengths of 10 - 20 - 10 feet. Connect or tie all three pieces together with thin, strong nylon string, 550 para-cord works best. But the thinner and stronger the string, the better.

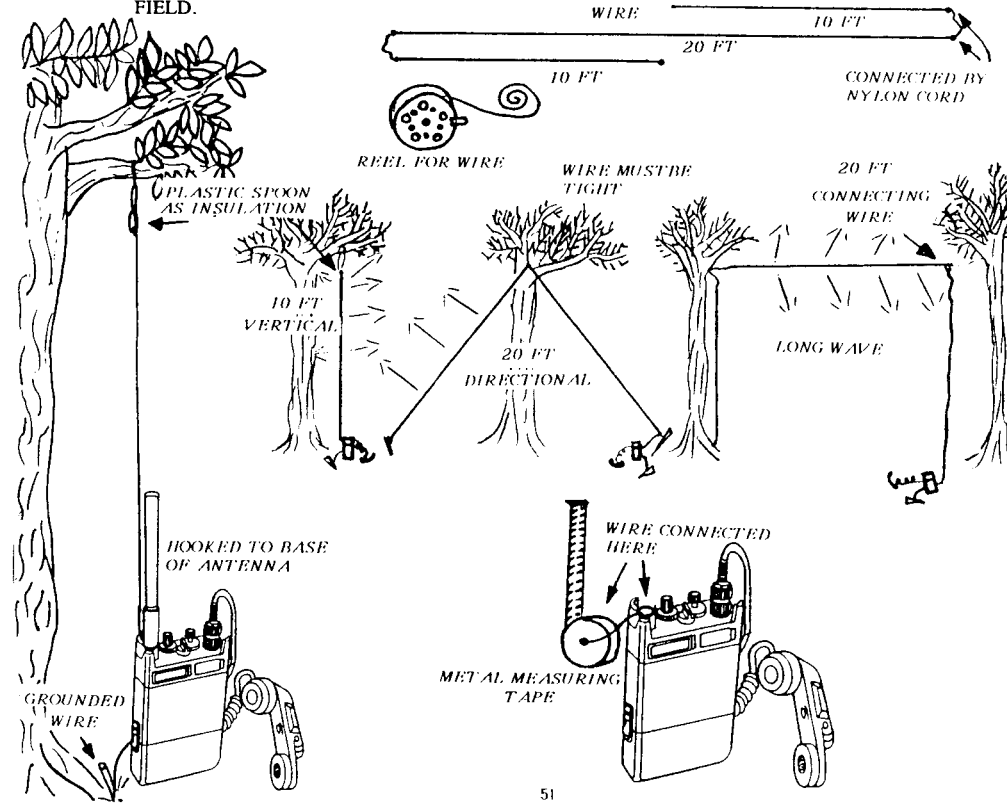
This antenna wire will now have various uses. If you string up the first 10 foot section of wire, you can use it as a vertical antenna. If you string up the second 20 foot section, it can be used as a directional antenna. String out the third 10 foot section, and you now can use it as long wave antenna. Just attach the separated wires (tied by the nylon string) by another short piece

of wire and connect it to the radio. (See diagrams)

When installing and setting up an expedient antennas..

1. Always ground the radio by adding another piece of wire from the radio to the ground. The wire should be shoved into the ground about 6 inches. This is done not because of electrical shocks, but for completing the radio "wave length" circuit.
2. Always stretch out completely the antenna wire, it must not be loose or bent.
3. Insure you use "insulators" such as string, wood or a plastic spoon at the end of the antenna wires, this will improve the radio transmission and receiving capability. Without it, it will effect the transmitting and receiving range.

**NOTE:** USING THIS TECHNIQUE CAN ALSO HELP IMPROVE THE RECEIVING RANGE OF YOUR PORTABLE AM/FM RADIO (LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM) IN THE FIELD.





## PRC-126 TIPS (PRC-6B)

Submitted By: 1ST LT. BRUCE DALE

"Hey Ranger Rick," this LT writes. "I got an ideas on how to modify and improve carrying a PRC-126 Squad Radio."

But, tell me something.... wasn't this particular radio designed to clip right onto the pistol belt? To me, it's too damn awkward and bulky to use in this manner, especially during tactical movements. Mine usually ends up being dropped or dragged from behind.

Well, I came up with a "quick-fix" solution of securing it, a lot more comfortable too. Get yourself some 550 para-cord, a rifle sling and simply make yourself a carrying strap. Loop some 550 para-cord under the snap button of the radio's carrying case and then throw it over your shoulder. Measure the amount of 550 para-cord you need, cut it, melt it, and then tie it off to the other side of the radio.

If you want to try using a more "comfy method," tie two loops at the end of a rifle sling and then feed or tie it to the radio itself or to the carrying case.

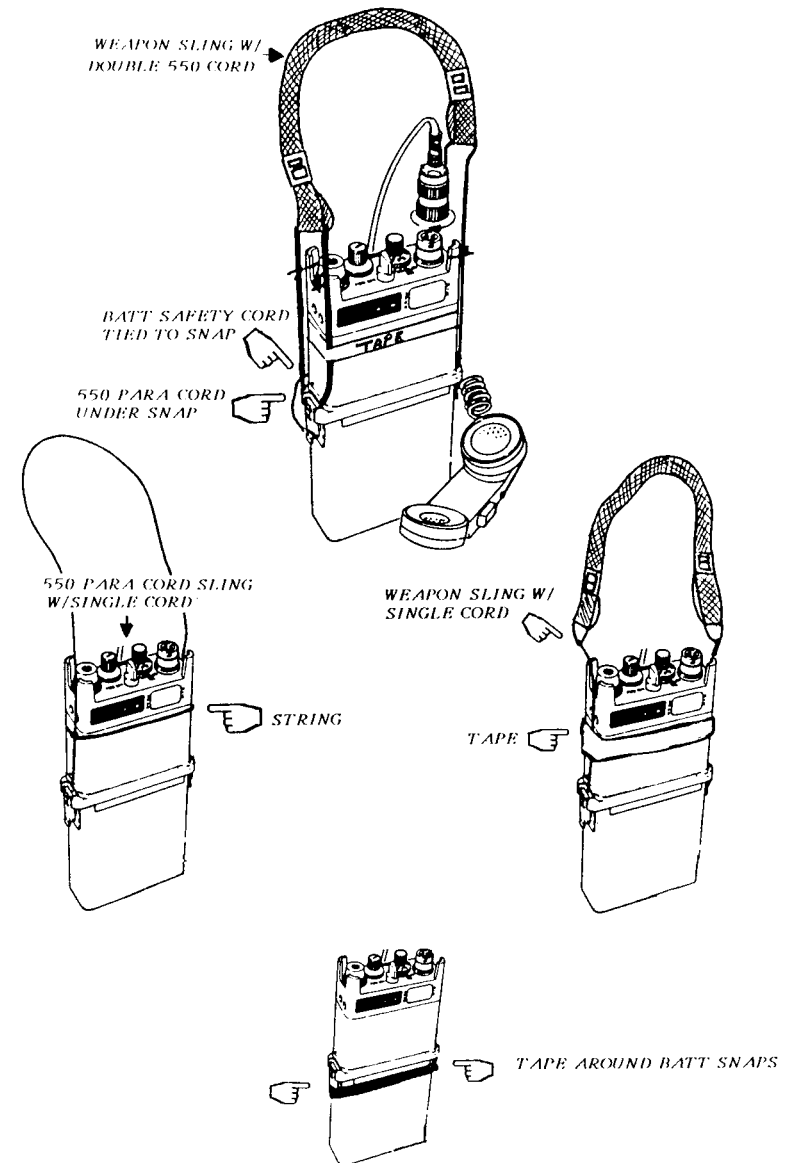
**RANGER RICK'S COMMENTS:** If you are going to use just the 550 para-cord as a sling, tie one of the ends to the radio or the case, and then run the other end through the snap button itself. Then tie an adjustable "slip knot" so that you can easily adjust the 550 para-cord/strap.

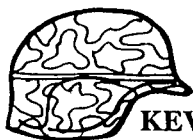
**\*NOTE:** Need to know how to make an adjustable slip knot, turn to page \_\_\_\_.

When trying to attach a sling made out of 550 para-cord to the radio itself without the case, it could be a little difficult. One way of doing it, is to run the para-cord along the sides of the radio and attach it to the battery compartment snaps. Then add a few extra wraps of 550 para-cord (or 100 MPH tape) along the sides of the radio to keep it from twisting. Don't wrap the para-cord no more than once around or through the battery snaps, or you will have difficulty closing the battery compartment.

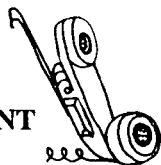
Also try...

1. Wrapping a piece of 100 MPH tape or string around the battery snaps. This will prevent them from becoming unsnapped and losing a battery during tactical movements. It has happened to me and my squad leaders a few too many times before we wised up. Don't take a chance - secure the battery snaps!
2. By running a second cord from one side of the radio to the other and then attaching it to the sling itself, will provide an extra safety feature. As it will allow the radio to remain attached to the sling even "IF" one side of the radio should happen to break off or come apart. The radio will just dangle from one side and not fall off the sling. This could save you a "Statement of Charges...."





## KEVLAR HANDSET WIRE ATTACHMENT



Are you a Leader or an RTO that has problems carrying a radio handset on the move? Oh, I know it's not heavy, but ain't it a bit of a hassle trying to listen to the radio while on the move through the brush? Sure it is! Well, grab a pair of pliers, a wire coat hanger, some tape and read on.....

Take an ordinary wire coat hanger, cut off about 15 inches of wire and bend and straighten it all the way out. Locate the middle of the wire by either balancing it on your finger or simply measuring it with a ruler. Now bend it completely in half. Next, go to the ends of the wire and bend approx one (1) inch of wire over until they are sharply curved or appear to resemble a set of fishing hooks.

Now, the tricky part.... Take your radio handset and turn it over to the back side where the plastic hook-up is located. **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** - Take the lower bent portion of the wire and measure it over the handset's plastic hook-up. The space between the bent wire should be the same width or slightly smaller than the handset's plastic hook-up. If it's too wide, the handset will move too loosely or freely when worn or attached to the kevlar. Bend it inward a little until it is the same width (or smaller) than the hook-up, now slide in the handset and see how it fits. Does it fit snugly? Good! Now wrap some 100 MPH tape around the lower bent portion of the wire, it shouldn't cover no more than an inch of the wire.

Now you have two ways of hooking or attaching the handset to your kevlar helmet. You can either attach the handset & wire hook-up to the kevlar's elastic camouflage band, or you can slide it inside the kevlar helmet and hook it directly to the sweatband.

The most convenient way to attach it, is by the kevlar's camouflage band. It's not only easier to attach it there, but easier to detach it if you need to hand it to someone else. When the wire hook-up is attached in this mode, all you need to do to secure it more in place is "pull down" slightly on the handset and slip the ear piece portion of the handset inside the kevlar. This will lock the handset in place next to the helmet and prevent it from moving around, thanks to the stretched elastic band it's attached to.

Another way of attaching the handset to the kevlar, is by hooking it directly to the inside portion of the kevlar's sweatband. This works pretty good for night movements, because not only does it secure it more in place, it also pushes the handset closer to the ear which will enable you to keep the radio volume turned down low and still be able to hear all incoming transmissions.

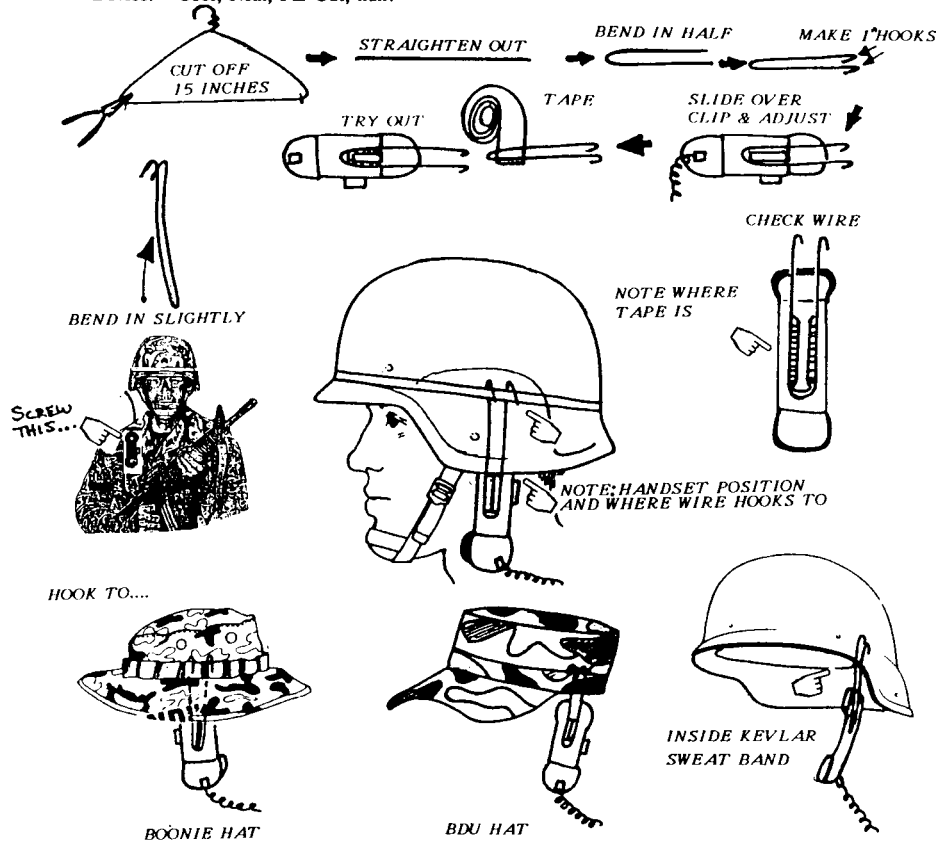
The one drawback to all this is, you only have one ear to listen to anything else, the other is "stuck" to the handset at all times. But, it's better than having the damn handset banging around on your shoulder and straining to hear if someone is calling you. Not to mention hearing the loud "crackling" sound of a radio transmission echoing in the still of the night.

To those few who wish to attach it to a BDU patrol hat or a boonie hat, there's only a few slight

modifications that you need to make.

If you're using a boonie hat, puncher two (2) small holes slightly above the ear, slide the wire through the holes and attach it to the brim or loop of the hat. If you're using a BDU patrol hat, just cut open a few of the stitches (See Drawing), reinforce those open stitches with a needle and thread and then slide in place the wire hook-up.

It's also recommended that you reinforce that part of the hat with a piece of 550 para-cord sewn into the seam. Not only will this hold the wire hook-up in place more securely, but prevent it from tearing the hat. And there you have it boys & girls, a "Ranger Rick Handset Hook-Up Device." Cool, Neat, Far-Out, huh?





## DUFFEL BAG MODIFICATIONS

Submitted By: Spc. Sean C. Regan

Specialist Regan writes, "Have you ever noticed that no matter how many times you try to pack your duffel bag accordingly, it seems that the first thing needed is always at the bottom of the bag? Then you have to waste time dumping everything out just to retrieve it, not to mention repacking it. What a hassle, huh?"

Well here's a modification you'll appreciate.

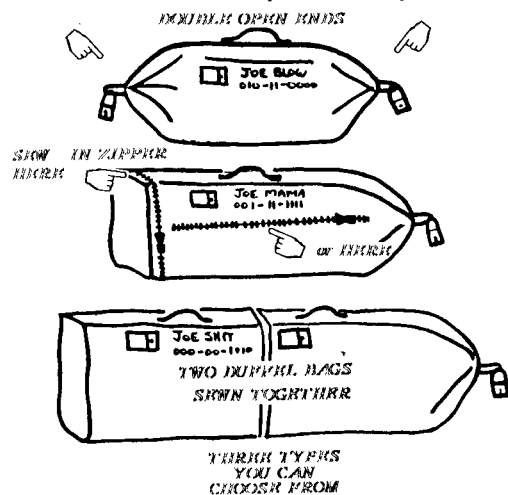
Buy yourself one those "oversized" duffel bag, or two (2) regular size ones. Locate a good tailor downtown and make one of the two modifications listed below.

**ONE OVERSIZE DUFFEL BAG** - Instruct him to cut, modify and make the bottom portion of the bag similar to that of the opening end. Adding all the necessary metal attachments so that you can secure the bag and be able to open it at either ends.

**TWO REGULAR SIZE DUFFEL BAGS** - Instruct him to cut the bottom portions of BOTH BAGS and sew them securely together end-to-end. You must not forget to tell him how long you want the bag to be. Because if you do, you just might have a duffel bag taller than the average guy. (Then you'll really look stupid on that next deployment.)

The final product: A duffel bag with two opening ends. Cool huh?

I'll bet your probably saying right now, "Why can't I do that with one duffel bag? Good Question! The answer is "You Can!" But, you will lose valuable storage space and material if the tailor has to cut and add extra metal parts to it. It's your duffel bag....



Everyone appears to have the same problem when it comes to packing, the item they need the most always seems to be at the bottom of the bag. To get to it, you need to dump everything out and then repack it. Well, here's a few tips you may want to take into consideration the next time your packing for a deployment.

1. Always hand carry your sleeping roll on a deployment (sleeping bag or poncho & liner). *Ranger Rick's Rule #1* - "Never Separate Yourself From Your Sleeping Roll." This simple rule has saved my ass many a times from freezing during movements and deployments. You name it, it's happened; lost rucks, trucks breaking down, aircraft problems, custom delays, etc. Don't learn the hard way! It's a little bit of a hassle, I know. But well worth it, be prepared!
2. Always pack and hand carry a small travel bag with you. It should consist of items needed to get you by for a day or two. For instance; shaving kit, towel, cassette/radio recorder, snacks, beverages, extra socks, magazines, etc. And most importantly, a jacket or sweater. Everything should fit nicely either inside a butt pack or a small carry-on bag.
3. Always assume something will unexpectedly happen during a military deployment. Remember: What possibly can go wrong - may go wrong! Be prepared for those unexpected and unannounced delays. M.A.C. may stand for "Military Airlift Command" to the Air Force, but to the Army it means "Maybe Airplane Come."
4. Always have your shit properly marked. Besides marking your bag on the outside with a magic marker, tie an ID tag on to the handle. Also, it's a good idea to keep a copy of your assignment orders (current or old) inside the little pocket of the duffel bag. Lock the bag with a good strong lock, not a cheap one. Don't give a thief an easy target.
5. Always pack all your items in a plastic trash bag or water proof bag before placing them inside your duffel bag (or ruck). You never know what the weather will be like or what your bag will be laying in.

*TRUE STORY:* I was deployed to Turkey in 1991 for 45 days, in our Forward Support Base (FSB), we had about 85 X GP Large Tents set up. Each one housed about 20 soldiers. Half way through the exercise we were hit by a rare thunder storm known as a "Micro-Burst." It lasted 2 hours, and when it was over, it destroyed the Command TOC and all 85 tents. The troops spent days trying to find their things, recover lost items & drying out their clothes.

Ranger Rick (that's me) only needed to pick up his bag, put on a fresh dry uniform and drive on. Why? Ranger Rick's other rules....

*Rule #2:* Pack your things always in a water proof bag before placing it inside your rucksack or duffel bag.

*Rule #3:* Never unpack more than what you need out. Keep everything packed, locked and ready to move in a moments notice.





## MAP PROTRACTOR IMPROVEMENTS

Submitted By: Sgt Rich Reitz

"While reading your Ranger Digest II, I came across the page on how to modify military protractors. Then I remembered a trick one of my BNCOC instructors taught me.

You need a protractor, a sewing needle, a 2 foot long piece of strong sting/thread (dental floss works real nice) and a little bit of scotch tape.

First, tie a large knot at one end of the string and thread the other end through the needle. DO NOT double the string. Then take the protractor along with needle and puncture a hole directly in the center where the "horizontal and vertical" index lines cross. Make sure you do it from the front (readable) side and NOT the back side.

Pull the thread through the protractor until the knot stops at the hole. Then take a small piece of scotch tape and place it over the knot to keep it securely in place. And that's it.

To use, place the protractor's "cross hairs" on the known location and stretch the string to the next known location. Then read the azimuth off the protractor's scale. It sure beats the hell out of fumbling around with a straight edge or piece of paper, don't it?

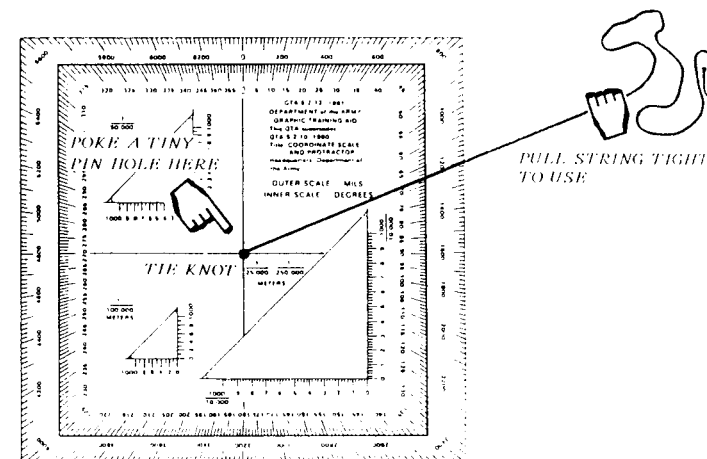
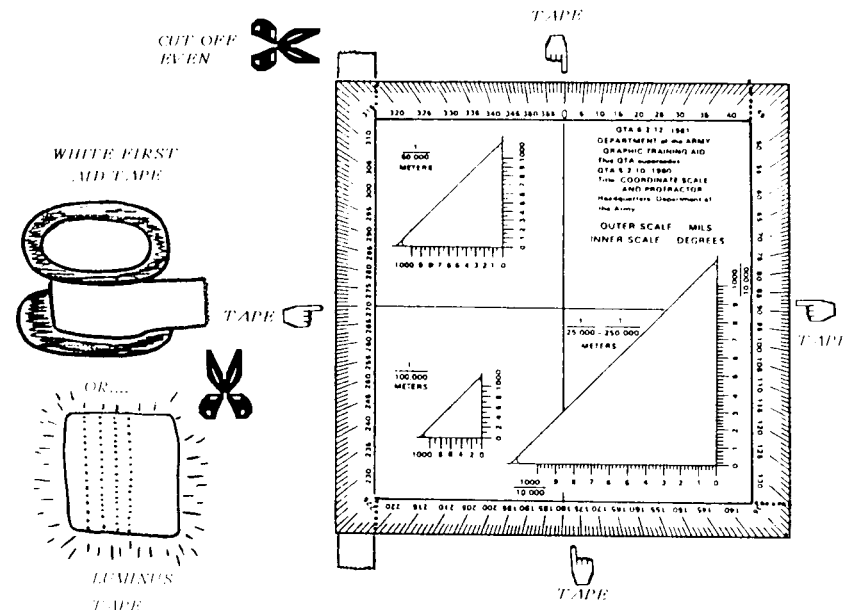
**RANGER RICK'S COMMENTS:** Now that's pretty damn smart! Here's something else you may want to try.

Can't read or see clearly the scale on the protractor? Get hold of some "white first aid tape" and carefully place it on the back side of the protractor where the grid and azimuth scales are located. DO NOT cover the entire back side! Place the tape only along the portion where the numbers appear.

With the white tape used as a background, not only will you be able to read the scale easier, but you won't lose the protractor so easy if you should accidentally drop it on the ground at night.

Want to hear another protractor trick? OK, here's another one!

Get a hold of some luminous tape, cut a few small narrow strips and "crazy glue" them to the back side of the protractor. Now you'll be able to see the numbers at night (with a little help of a flashlight, of course).



# 550 CORD PACE COUNTER

Submitted By: Spc. Mary W. Mathews

Specialist Mathews sent me this trick, it's a Pace Counter made out of 550 (Nylon) parachute cord. She said she learned it from a Special Forces Instructor at SFAS and "It Really Does Work!"

**ITEMS NEEDED:** 550 Parachute Cord cut into lengths of one 36" inch long piece and another piece about 2 X feet in length. And of course, a zippo lighter.

**Step 1 -** Fold (double) the 36 inch para-cord in half and tie one non-slip knot at the open/loose end. Take your zippo lighter and start burning the ends until it begins to melt. Blow it out and then press the ends together against a hard surface. This will keep the nylon cord from unraveling, (of course).

**Step 2 -** Take the 2 X foot long 550 para-cord and tie a single prusik around the doubled 36 inch para-cord. Cut off the prusik from the rest of the 2 X foot piece, take your zippo light and start burning the ends until they begin to melt. Quickly blow it out and press them together against a hard surface.

Repeat this same procedure until you have 9 X prusik/loops attached to the 36 inch (doubled) para-cord.

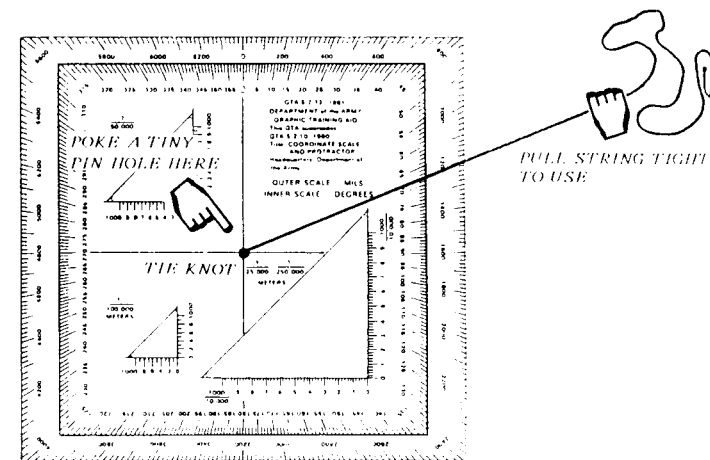
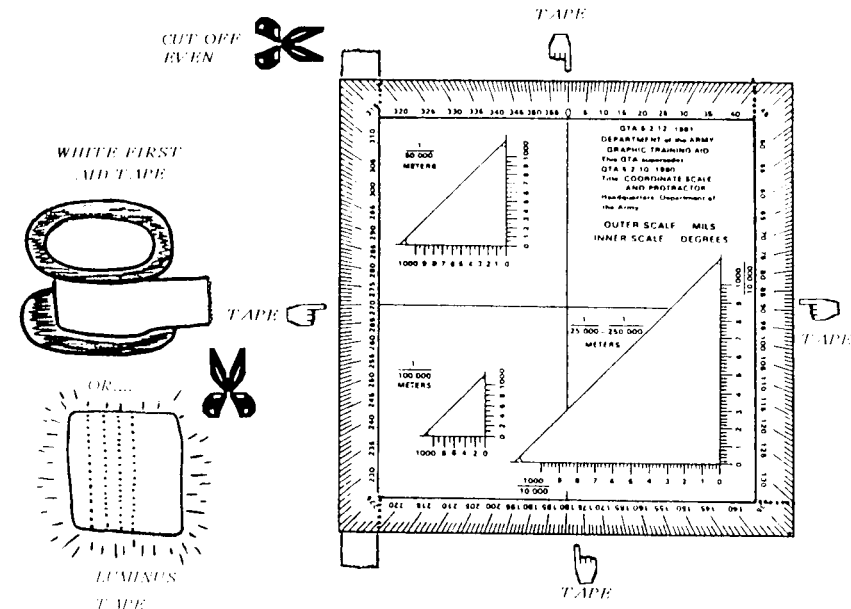
**Step 3 -** Take the 9 X loops and slide all of them to the bottom portion of the 36 inch (doubled) para-cord where the first knot is located. Then tie another non-slip knot, except this time right in the middle of the doubled para-cord.

**Note:** A non-slip knot is a figure "8" or "square knot."

There should be a sufficient amount of distance between the 9 X knots at the bottom of the cord and the non-slip knot located in the middle. If not, readjust the non-slip knot and move it higher up on the cord.

**Step 4 -** As you did before in tying and melting the 9 X prusik/loops to the 36 inch doubled para-cord. Add 5 more of these knots to the upper portion of the para-cord just above the middle knot.

When you have finished, you should have 9 X loops/knots tied below the "middle" non-slip knot and 5 X loops/knots tied above it. Now all you have to do is attach it to your LBE.





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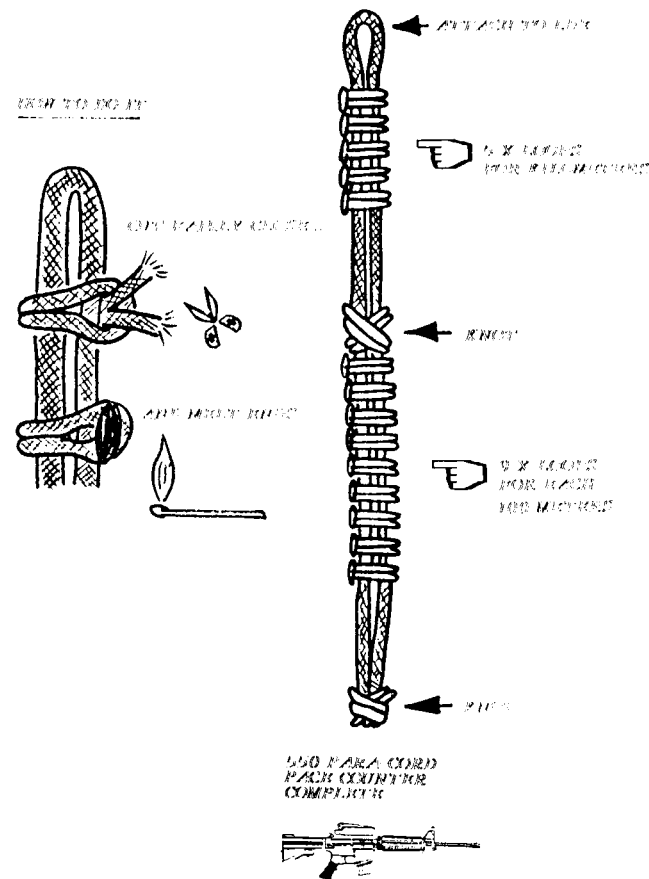
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When you have finished, you should have 9 X loops/knots tied below the "middle" non-slip knot and 5 X loops/knots tied above it. Now all you have to do is attach it to your LBE.



**TO USE:** Each of the 9 X loops in the lower portion of the para-cord represent a 100 meters. And the 5 X loops in the upper portion each represent 1000 meters or 1 kilometer. As you pace off a 100 meters, slide one (1) of the 100 meters loops away from the others. When you reach 1000 meters, slide one (1) of the 1000m/1 Km loops away from the other loops. Then start over again using the 100 meter loops.

**Important:** Ensure all 14 loops are connected to the 550 cord very securely. They must not slide so easily up and down para-cord, it should take some effort to move them. If any are too loose, you will need to replace them.





## CHUCK NORRIS GLOVES

I can't escape it, so I may as well bring it up. Too many of you readers out there keep complaining that I have not mentioned this tip yet. And for those of you who wrote to "bitch" about it, they are not called "Rambo Gloves." Rambo doesn't even wear a shirt in battle....never the less gloves, and probably not even underwear.

Chuck Norris does, he wears them in his "M.I.A." movies. That's why they're called "Chuck Norris Gloves" or Hollywood Gloves, but not Rambo Gloves!

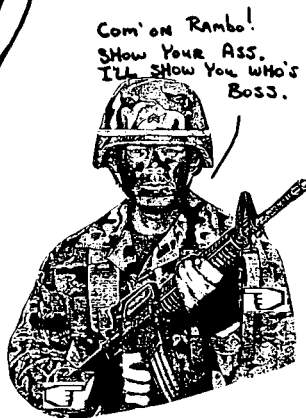
The advantages in using these modified gloves is self explanatory, to protect the hands from the brush and at the same time be able to hold the weapon with a firm grip. They work fine in all types of weather conditions, rain, snow, sleet, or hail. But I wouldn't modify or destroy a brand new pair of gloves just for this. Only if you have an old or damaged pair of black gloves.

The tighter these gloves are worn on the hands, the better. If you have a size too big, you can try washing them in very hot water and then drying them in a hot dryer. Although this is the least preferred method. They will shrink some, but don't try to dry them too fast. Especially over an open fire, they could shrink too much and become hard or brittle causing the stitching to come apart.

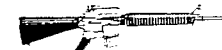
If you wear them in the field, be careful when you're around your chain of command, you know, the higher ups? **THEY MAY NOT LIKE YOU WEARING THEM** for one single reason, out of uniform with the rest of the unit. Don't abuse the gloves, wear them only when your on the move through brush and take them off when you stop.



BEFORE



AFTER



## WHAT NOT TO NAME YOUR DOG

Anybody who has ever owned a dog usually name them something like Rover, Brownie, or Spot. But not me, I wanted a name that would stand out, something unusual. So I named my dog "Sex." He's always been a great pal to have around, he loved me just as much as I loved him. But he's also caused me a lot of embarrassment in my life too.

When I went to city hall the other day to renew his damn dog license, I told the clerk there that I wanted a license for Sex. He replied back... "I'd like one too!" I tried to explain to him, "But this is a dog!" He said he really didn't care what the hell she looked like. I then said, "You don't understand, I've had Sex since I was 12 years old." The clerk winked his eye at me and said, "You must have been quite a little kid when you were young."

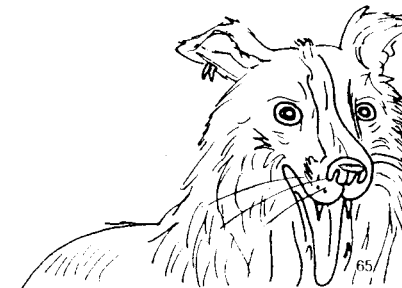
When I finally got married and went on my honeymoon, I took the dog along with me. I told the motel clerk that I wanted a room for my wife and me, and a special room for "Sex." The clerk said, "Hey buddy, you don't need a special room. As long as you pay your bill we really don't care what the hell you do in it." I said to him, "Look, you don't seem to understand. Sex keeps me awake at night..." The motel clerk smiled and said, "That's funny, I have the same damn problem myself."

One day I decided to entered Sex in a dog contest, but before the competition began, the damn dog ran away. Another contestant nearby asked me why I was standing there looking so sad. I told him I had planned to have Sex in the contest. He told me I should have sold my own tickets then. "But you don't understand," I said. "I had hoped to have Sex on TV." He replied, "It's nothing new, they already show enough of it on HBO and Cable television, no big deal anymore."

Well, when my wife and I separated, we went to court to fight for custody of the dog. I said, "Your honor, Sir. I had Sex way before I was married..." The judge interrupted me and said, "Young man, this is a courtroom, not a Catholic confession booth. Just stick to the case, please." I continued on and told him that after I was married, Sex left me. He said shaking his head, "Yea? That happened to me too. I thought it was just me."

Last night Sex ran off again. I spent hours all over town looking for him. Then a cop car pulls up to me and asks, "What are you doing out on the streets at 3 o'clock in the morning, mister?" I didn't want to get in trouble so I told him the truth, "I'm looking for Sex!" Well, guess what? My court case comes up this Friday and I still haven't found that damn dog yet.

SEX!  
SEX!





## FOX HOLES & FIGHTING POSITIONS

Well, I'm probably going to be bad mouth on this next subject and get tagged either "Mister know-it-all" or a "lazy shithead." But, I guess it won't hurt talking out the other side of my mouth just for the hell of it.

I hate digging fighting positions, I really do. I hate it with a passion. Particularly those full length armpit-deep types. Why? For the same reasons as you. It takes damn too much work, too much time, and too much out of you. And by the time you get around to completing it...someone yells, "Let's go! Fill'er up, pick'er up and move out! Am I right or wrong?"

Don't misunderstand me, I know the purpose of a fighting position. They're to protect against small arms fire, indirect fire (art, mortar & fragments), tanks, etc. They're designed to give a defender a better chance of survival during an air or ground attack when the bad guys want to take over your real estate property.

As a Ranger, I only believe in hasty, prone, dug-in fighting positions versus those armpit deep ones. Why? Well, not just because they're easier, faster, and take less strength to build. But because a soldier can rest and shoot better in a prone position than a standup arm-pit deep position. How in the hell can you sleep standing up? You obviously either have to crawl out of it to sleep, or dig another position just for your sleeping gear, right?

Every time our unit was told to dig in, I didn't question or ask, "What type?" I instructed my men to start with the hasty prone position until they're told differently. If the Commander or ISG didn't come by to check up on us, we were good to go! If we were told to go "all the way" (AIRBORNE), we just continued digging.

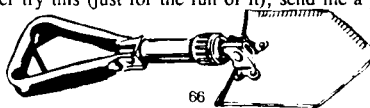
But you know what, it's too damn bad that the MRE cardboard box doesn't come in another color. Wouldn't it be nice if half the box was woodland camouflage and the other half desert camouflage? You just turn the box over to match the surrounding terrain. The side you don't need is the part that's facing down or in towards you.

Would it work? Why not? You'd only have to fill up the boxes with dirt or rocks and start stacking. You could build a bunker or even a defense wall, they'd be as good as any sandbag, and be like playing with toy building blocks except bigger. But they wouldn't be water proof unless a chemical was added to make them water resistant.

The MRE box would also be a lot easier to dispose of in the field. Troops would fight over the boxes because they know it would save them time in digging a position. Think about it, as you fill the boxes with dirt, you're also digging a hole. You wouldn't have to dig down so far like a regular armpit fighting position. What do you think?

Just get hold of some empty MRE cardboard boxes, spray paint them a camouflage color, fill'em up with dirt and start stacking. To hold the boxes in place, drive sticks or stakes through them. In the next Ranger Digest, we'll talk about how to make bunkers out of plastic MRE wrappers....(just joking).

PS: If someone should ever try this (just for the fun of it), send me a photo and I just might print it.



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## LBE CONFIGURATIONS

From time to time, I receive tips on the best way to configure LBE/LCE harnesses, and what should and shouldn't be carried on it. So I'm just going touch on this subject briefly, or try to....

Let's start with the basic issued items first. Whether you're in the Army or Marines, or on active duty, reserve or national guard status. Everyone is issued a 1 X web belt, 1 X harness, 2 X ammo pouches, at least 1 canteen & pouch, and a first aid pouch.

Any other items added will depend if you're a leader or not or if you feel you need it. And if you're a leader, you'll probably be carrying a compass, strobe light and a few other leadership items.

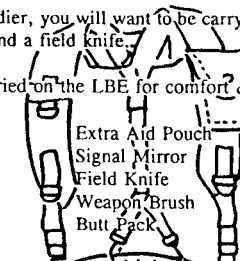
If you're a well prepared soldier, you will want to be carrying at least an extra ammo pouch for your goodies, a flashlight, and a field knife.

Other items that may be carried on the LBE for comfort & survival:

First Aid Kit  
Flashlight  
Field Knife  
POW Tie Down  
Pliers/Tool

Extra Aid Pouch  
Signal Mirror  
Field Knife  
Weapon Brush  
Butt Pack

Cleaning Kit  
Strobe Light  
Matches/Lighter  
Field Gloves  
Poncho/Liner



Usually most of these items can either stored in an extra ammo pouch and or carried in a butt pack.

When reconfiguring your web gear (LBE), take some things into consideration. For instance, the ammo pouches. Everyone seems to attach these more to the front of the web belt than to the sides. If you're a typical infantry grunt, when the ammo pouches are worn on the front of the belt, it can cause severe difficulty or hamper crawling on the ground. Most soldiers usually overcome this by opening up their belts once they hit the ground.

The best place to position the ammo pouches on the belt, is slightly to the sides. NOT ENTIRELY OFF TO THE SIDE, JUST SLIGHTLY! Leaving the front of the LBE clear will enable you to crawl easier on the ground without having to open up the belt. Any other items added (such as extra pouches) should be attached as far to the rear or side as possible.

Anytime compasses, strobe lights, flashlights, first aid pouches, NBC decon kits, etc. are worn up on the upper part of the harness, they become known as "distractors." They're called this because every time you move or turn, they can be seen moving out of the corner of your eye. And this may cause distractions when your trying to focus on something such as an enemy soldier.

Items that are worn on the firing side of the shoulder, are called "obstructors." Because whenever the weapon is brought up to the shoulder to fire, these items will usually obstruct the weapon from being proper seated in the pocket of the shoulder. Making it difficult to correctly sight in on a target. Does all this make sense or what?

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## THE GOOD OL' ARMY SUGGESTION PROGRAM

Not too long I sent a nice letter to the Department of the Army and to Infantry Hall at Fort Benning, Georgia. I sent them a few suggestion on...

1. How to make a plastic water bucket and an eating or drinking bowl out of a regular plastic MRE container. So when US troops are deployed to poor countries (such as Somalia), they can dish out food more easily with these. Rather than the people showing up with their own dirty, filthy, broken, rusty can or bottle. Plus, it will be a smart way of getting rid of unwanted trash too.

2. I also suggested that when units deploy to the field, a responsible member of the unit (company level and up) should be designated as a "Food Coordinator." Their responsibilities would be to consolidate any useful, unopened, MRE packages of food and then hand it over to a food check point. (Anyone could do this, 1 SG, Supply Sgt, XO, Chaplain Assistant, etc.)

All they would have to do is be present when MREs are being issued out to the troops. Lay out a few open empty MRE boxes or plastic bags and encourage the troops to dump their unopened food packages that they are not going to eat. The food is then forwarded to the rear and distributed to the homeless or poor. Why throw it away if it's still good? (I did this once on an operation in Turkey and gave the food to an orphanage. And boy, were they happy to receive the food - And it felt good to do it too!)

3. The MRE cardboard packages that some of the meals come in should have blank "range card" printed on the box. This way troops would be able to get max use out of these cardboard packages. (Really, how much more would it cost the US Gov't to do this ?)

4. The MRE carton that the 12 meals come in, should have several 25 meter zero targets printed on the outside of it. So in the event a unit deployed on a real world mission and they don't have the proper facilities or range to zero the weapons, they can easily fill up an MRE carton with dirt and make their own weapon range. Or they can cut out the cardboard silhouette and use it on a regular rifle range. (How many units actually deployed to Somalia with 25 meter zero targets in their rucks or trucks?)

After forwarding these suggestions to DA and Infantry Hall at Fort Benning, I got at least one letter back, starts off by saying....

"Thank you very much for writing and expressing your concern for our soldiers. Your ideas and suggestions are currently being evaluated by our department's.....blah, blah"

The basic, simple interpretation of this letter was, "Thanks for writing, but we really don't give a fuck, you have a nice day."

*Love & Kisses,  
COL. I Am Worthless*

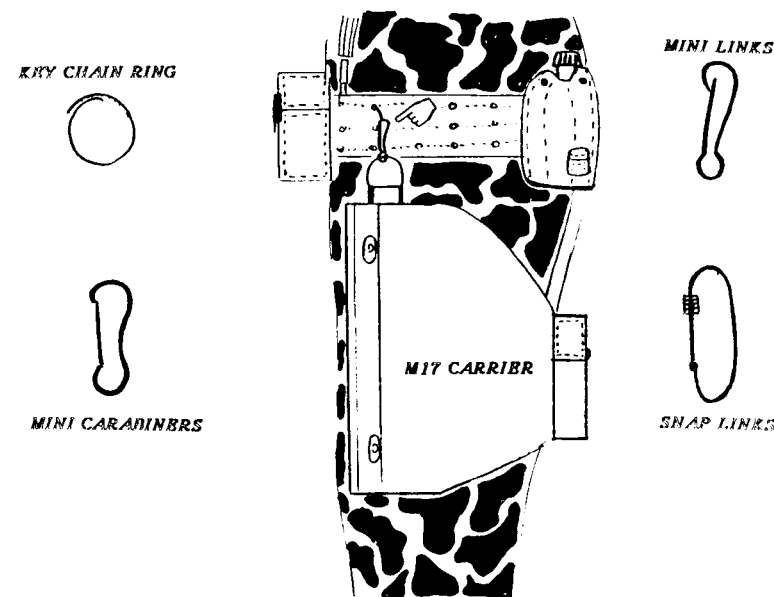


## M-17 MASK HOOK-UP

I know, I know, I already touched on this subject in my first Ranger Digest Handbook. But I keep getting nasty letters telling me, "Hey Ranger Rick, why not use those civilian mini-carabiners or miniature snap links to attach your M17 Mask Carrier to your LBE? It's much easier than hassling with 550 para-cord or attaching them with hand grenade pins as you suggested."

A few others wrote to say, "Get rid of the 550 parachute cord, use instead a circular key chain link, it's much more easier and saves you the trouble of tying a knot" (OK? Are Ya ALL Now Satisfied? I Hope so...).

SSG Mike Finn wrote, "Your method of hooking the mask carrier to the web belt and LBE harness is great, if that's all you're wearing. But if you're carrying a rucksack on your back, that mask carrier link hooked to the back of the LBE strap could rub your spinal column sore, ouch! If it bothers you, try padding it and taping it up a bit. Or better yet, attach either a first aid packet or some foam mattress padding under the link to reduce the rubbing. Don't over pad it, or you could be making it much worse.





## MRE CONTAINERS TIPS

Submitted By: Sgt. Mathews S. Cousins



"Hey Ranger Rick, Here's another MRE container idea for ya!"

**ITEMS NEEDED:** MRE Plastic Container, Velcro and Epoxy Glue.

First, remove the food contents from the MRE plastic container and insure the "opening end" is cut straight and even across the top. Measure and cut a piece of velcro about the same width as the container.

Then, take one part of the velcro strips and glue it just a few inches below the opening end.

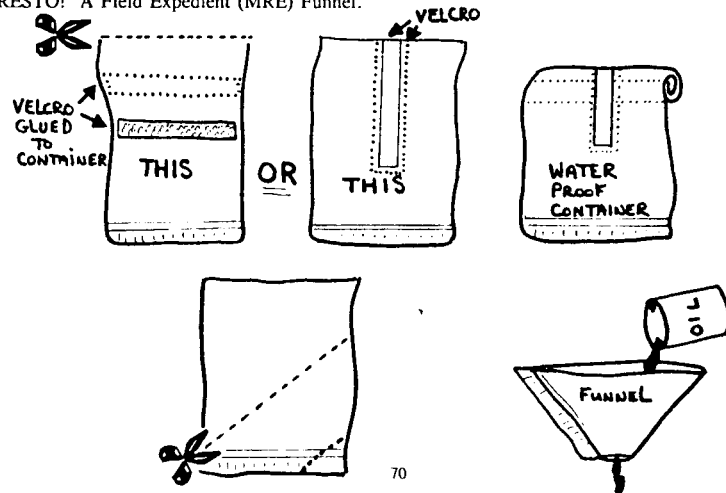
Finally, take the other velcro strip and glue it to the "opposite side" of the MRE container. But it must be placed a little further down from where the other one was glued.

**IMPORTANT:** The velcro strips **MUST BE GLUED ON STRAIGHT** in order for this to work properly.

When the glue is completely dried, test it out by rolling the MRE container back and forth. If both velcro pieces make contact or "grab" onto each other, then you did it right. If they don't - YOU BLEW IT! Start over again with a new MRE container and velcro.

**RANGER RICK'S COMMENTS:** Not bad! And for those of you who don't want to see the writing on the side of the MRE, turn the container inside out before gluing the velcro to it.

Here's another idea...Need to put water or oil in your vehicle but don't have a funnel? No Problem! Take an empty MRE container, cut one of the corners off at an angle, open it up and PRESTO! A Field Expedient (MRE) Funnel.



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## MRE FOOD ADDITIVES

I touched a little on this subject in my Ranger Digest I, so I figured it was time to update this topic. (Thanks to some Ranger Digest readers and contributors.)

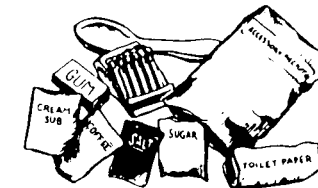
CHARLES A. BARNES writes, "You can easily carry an entire box of instant rice in any old wool Army sock. The weight of the rice will only stretch the sock to accommodate the load. Then all you need to do is tie the top and lower portion of the sock together and you can sling it across your shoulder or rucksack. Always use "INSTANT RICE" and not regular rice. Instant rice is softer, easier, and quicker to cook in the field than real rice. Just take a canteen cup, add one part water and one part rice, cook to a boil for about 10 minutes. And let it set for about 10 minutes, then pour the water out and enjoy.

SSG CHRIS SAMP says, "Thank God For Ramen Noodles!" They are 2D Division's (Korea) choice for an MRE supplement. When the old MRE'S used to have those dehydrated beef or pork patties inside of them, the troops would take that meat and add it to the ramen noodles. Don't waste money on any food products that come in a foam cup such as "Cup-of-Noodles." They're too easy to break or crush. But if you do, remove the noodles from the foam cup and place them inside a zip-lock plastic bag.

LTC GRANT BARR (A Medical Officer) - had a few suggestions on how to alter the taste of MREs. "Buy a regular size bottle of Tabasco sauce, the mini ones that come with your MRE packages are too small. Also, try mixing some other additives to your meal such as garlic powder (not garlic salt), dried onions, dried mushrooms, oregano, or other favorite spices. These are essential if you are solely dependent on MREs for weeks on end without receiving a decent mess hall meal.

He also mentions...."NEVER DRINK OR USE THE SAME WATER THAT YOUR MRE'S WERE HEATED IN."

**RANGER RICK'S COMMENTS:** Although I am not medically qualified nor hold any degree in science, I have never known anyone to get sick from drinking the same water that was used to cook an MRE meal. I'M NOT DISAGREEING WITH THE DOCTOR! But, neither am I encouraging anyone to drink, eat or use the same water. If you do, I suggest that you do what I always did; First, examine the outside package for any foreign objects such as glue, gook or ink. If it doesn't come off so easily, then only use the water for heating and NOT drinking. (We ol'infantry grunts hate to see hot water go to waste when you can easily use it for making coffee.)



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SEND IN SF, ALERT THE RANGERS, CALL OUT THE 82D...AND THE REST OF US? WHAT ARE WE CHOP LIVER?



AS RANGER RICK WOULD SAY, SGM. NOT JUST NO, BUT 'FUCK NO!' GO BUY YOUR OWN RANGER DIGEST or SEND HIM A TIP FOR A FREE BOOK.



## FIELD FIRST AID



Everyone who enters the military service today, are taught the basic first aid steps on "How-To-Save-A-Life." Which is how to perform Mouth-To-Mouth Resuscitation, CPR, Sucking Chest Wound, etc. But what about the other common injuries that can happen to you in the field? Well, here's a few basic field first aid techniques that you may find interesting and useful.

### FOREIGN OBJECT IN EAR

If an object, such as an insect gets stuck in your ear. Lay down with the ear facing up. Pour warm water into the ear and the object or insect should float out. As you pour the water, pull the earlobe gently back & forth to straighten the ear canal. If it does not come out after a few tries, see a medic.



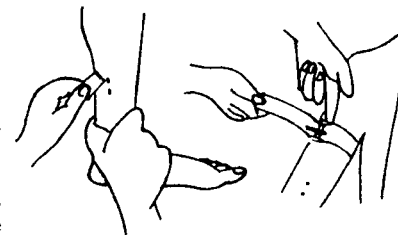
### SNAKE BITE

When a snake cannot be identified if it was poisonous or not, treat the victim as if it was a poisonous snake bite.

[A] If bitten on the arm or leg, place a light tourniquet 2 - 4 inches above the bite. Do not cut off circulation, clean around the bit area and then....

[B] Immediately make a 1/4 inch deep cut with a sharp knife or blade in the direction of the limb. Draw out the poison by sucking and then spitting it out immediately. Seek medical help.

NOTE: Do Not Suck Out The Poison If You Have Any Open Cuts On The Inside Of Your Mouth. Let Someone Else Do It.



### FOREIGN OBJECT IN THE EYE:

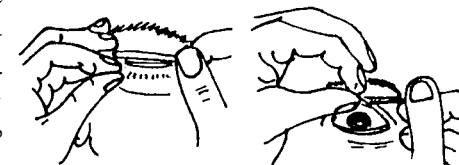
Never try to remove anything that is "stuck or embedded" in the eye. Bandage the eye and seek medical aid. But if the object can be seen floating on the eye surface...

[A] Have a friend try removing it with a tissue or handkerchief. If nothing can be seen...

[B] Grasp the eyelashes with the thumb and index finger and place a small, thin stick (match stick) over the lid. Then pull the lid up & over the stick.

[C] Examine the eye, if an object can be seen, try to remove it..

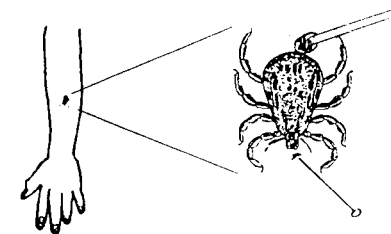
[D] Cover the eye with a damp cloth & wait a few minutes until irritation goes away. If the object cannot be removed or if irritation continues, see a medic.

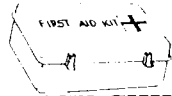


### REMOVING TICKS

Ticks are parasites that feed on blood. The best way to remove a tick from the skin is first rub on Vaseline or some oil on the tick to loosen it. Take the "Hot" extinguished end of a match stick and place it on the tick. Take a pin or pair of tweezers and then gently pull. If necessary, remove the head of the tick by taking the pin and poking it under the skin just forward of the tick's head and pry it upward. Clean the area with soap & water or alcohol.

NOTE: Never jerk a tick out with your fingers, the head may come off and remain under the skin causing a bad infection.





## EMERGENCY CHILDBIRTH

I know your probably asking, "Why in the hell is he covering emergency childbirth." Because today's mission for US troops is rapidly changing, we are not always going to be deployed to fight just wars. But to provide humanitarian assistance and security to remote countries such as Somalia. And this is just the beginning!

Knowing just the basic steps on How-To-Deliver-A-Baby could be very useful in an emergency situation. Especially if you're sent to remote areas where there are very few qualified doctors and medical personnel in that country. And don't always count on your unit's medic or medical officer to be around either, there are just so many of them in the military, you know?

So here are the basic steps on how to deliver a baby...

If you are the only person present when an expecting mother is about to give birth, call for help (if you can), remain with the woman and RELAX. Childbirth is a Natural Process, don't try to interfere or delay the birth, since most are not life threatening.

**STEP# 1** - Try to make the woman as comfortable as possible, using an available blanket, poncho, mattress, or jacket. Place a clean piece of plastic, newspaper or other item beneath the mother. Sterilize a pair of scissors (or sharp knife/razor blade) with alcohol or by heating it over a fire (if nothing else is available).

If the woman seems distressed or in pain, reassure her that everything is going to be fine. As the birth of the baby begins, there will be a lot of blood. **THIS IS NORMAL**, Don't Panic or Lose Your Head.

**STEP# 2** - As the woman opens her legs and the baby's head appears to be coming out, there is nothing more you can do to stop it. Just gently support the baby's head and also the rest of the body as it slides out. **DON'T PULL IT**, let the baby slide out naturally. If the cord clearly appears to be wrapped around the baby's neck as it slides out, there is **IMMEDIATE DANGER** the baby could choke. Quickly and gently grab the cord and slide it off of the baby's neck.

**STEP# 3** - After the baby is entirely out, hold the head lower than the feet and wipe away any mucus or liquid from the mouth and nose. After waiting about one (1) minute after birth, and you notice that the baby is not breathing, begin giving resuscitation immediately by sealing your mouth over the baby's "Mouth & Nose." Begin blowing short, gentle breaths of air into the baby's lungs. Stop blowing when either you notice the baby crying or breathing on it's own.

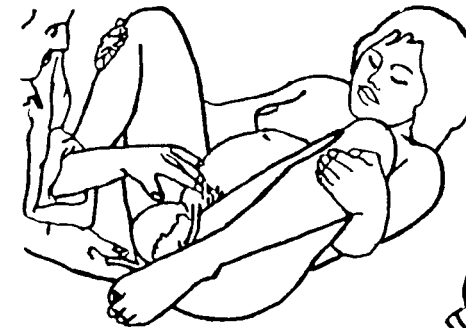
**STEP# 4** - Look at the baby's cord, wait until it stops pulsating. Take a clean piece of string or cord and tie a knot 6 inches from the baby's navel. And then tie another knot 2 inches further away from that knot and then cut the cord between the two (2) knots.

**STEP# 5** - After about 20 minutes, the placenta (what appears to be a large piece of tissue) at the end of the umbilical cord should emerge from the mother's womb. **DO NOT PULL** the cord out. Let it separate/emerge on it's own. If there is a lot of blood, gently massage the woman's lower abdomen every few minutes until medical help arrives.



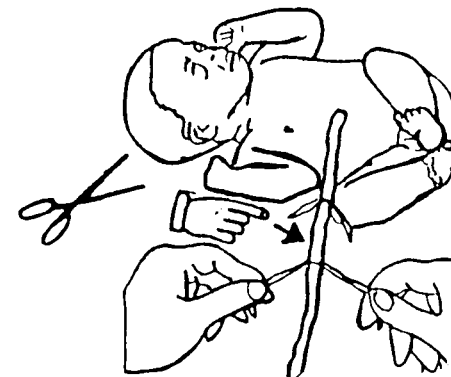
STEPS  
1 · 2

STEP  
3



STEP  
4

STEP  
5



THEY NORM... (YOU) GOT CAUGHT!  
 Illegally Transporting Sand.....

letters to the editor



Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf and a Kuwaiti officer show off a bottle of sand at a Kuwaiti beach in March.

### Why can Schwarzkopf bring in sand when soldier can't?

On my departure from Saudi Arabia we went through customs. I was amazed when I saw a customs agent confiscate a small bottle of sand from a soldier's bag.

The customs agent told the soldier he couldn't take the sand home with him. The bottle was a Tabasco sauce bottle that had been emptied, washed and filled with the sand.

I am wondering if there is a double standard for different levels of soldiers in the U.S. Army.

As I recall, a front page picture showed Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, accompanied by a Kuwaiti officer, filling a small bottle with sand as a memento.

If it was good enough for the gener-

al and leader of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf, shouldn't it be good enough for all of the soldiers under his command? Isn't he leading by setting the example? If so, then any soldier should be able to bring a small bottle of sand home as a memento.

—Sgt. Victor Becker  
 Operation Desert Storm

## Gulf War was waged partly for oil, Schwarzkopf says

RICHMOND, Va. (UPI) — Retired Army Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, who led the desert offensive that drove Iraqi forces from Kuwait, acknowledged that the campaign was waged partly for oil, but attacked war as a wasteful way to solve the world's problems.

Schwarzkopf, nicknamed "Stormin' Norman," spoke to a sellout crowd at the Richmond Forum.

"To say oil was not important is stupid," the commander of Operation Desert Storm said. "On the other hand, to say 'blood for oil' is stupidly simplistic."

He called war a profanity. "Man has got to figure out a better way to stop problems rather than to kill each other," he said. "When you have war, people get killed."

Schwarzkopf said the United States went to war with Iraq in the name of freedom, ousting the invading tanks and troops of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein from the sands of oil-rich Kuwait.

Shortly after last year's seven-week war ended, Schwarzkopf stired controversy with a remark to an interviewer that he had favored continuing the military operation but that the Bush administration wanted the conflict over with. On Saturday night, in response to a question, he said the United States should not have taken control of Iraq's capital.

"If we had gone into Baghdad, we would have still been there and paying for it," Schwarzkopf said.



### A STORY WORTH TELLING....

DEAR RANGER RICK:

I work in a sporting goods store in Denver and hear on a daily basis all sorts of war stories. One that I heard and sticks in my mind the most, was about the rifle that everyone loved to shoot, but hated to carry. It was the M1 Garand.

This story came to me about a year ago from an old gentleman who lived in Iowa. I can't tell you his name, nor do I know how to get hold of him. But regardless, I felt it needed to be shared in a book like yours.

This gentleman was stationed in the Asian Theater and carried the famous M1 Garand Rifle. The rifle was designed to carry only 8 rounds in the metal clip, which had to be force-loaded down in the rifle. When the last (8th) round was fired, the metal clip which the rounds came in would pop out automatically and make a "zing" sound.

This certainly was a dismay to the many soldiers who had to use it during close quarters, because the Chinese were known to charge when they heard several of these "zing" sounds. It not only let the firer know he had to reload, but it also let the enemy know you were out of bullets. And anyone who has ever used the M1 Garand, it takes a little bit of time to load, especially if you're wearing gloves during cold weather.

Well, what this hero did, was borrow a file from a motor pool sergeant and filed about 40th - 50th of an inch from the underside of the "flower" where it touches the floorplate. Just enough so that he could slide in a "9th Round" in the chamber after the 8 round clip was loaded. As he puts it, "it was slicker than a gut!"

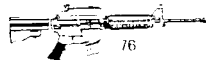
You can imagine the surprise on the faces of any enemy soldier who thought counting discharges was a real good hot set up for a charge. But, this unauthorized modification almost cost my story teller a court martial too. As he puts it, he was responsible for showing others in the division how to customize and modify their rifles, and soon others were doing the same thing.

The big brass (officers) in his division initiated an investigation and it wasn't long before my anecdotal friend was tagged the "culprit and saboteur" who was responsible for showing others how to (as they put it...) "damage" government property.

It was said that "General Westmoreland" himself played a key role in this matter. It seems the general was enroute to another location and was asked to preside over the investigation or trial.

His final decision and statement was, "...the lost of rank in this particular matter is not necessary. As this modification to the M1 was more or less an obstacle that no doubt saved lives. But from here on out, if anyone else is caught modifying their US Gov't issued rifle in anyway or form, it will not be tolerated."

UNKNOWN WRITER







## NOW THIS AIN'T NO BULLSHIT...

In 1986 while assigned to 3/325th ABCT in Vicenza, Italy. I was tasked to deploy to "Graf" Germany a week before the rest of the battalion with the advance party. My job was to be the DZSO (Drop Zone Safety Officer) for Drop Zone "Bunker DZ." I was responsible for making the "last call" if the battalion would make a parachute drop or not. All this was based on weather, ground, and safety conditions.

A young captain, who was not as experienced nor had as many parachute jumps as I did, was to be my assistant DZSO. He was a pretty good officer overall, but known to be a vulgar and dirty minded officer (obviously not a West Pointer...).

The morning of the parachute drop just as we were preparing to do our DZ safety checks, I saw a line of vehicles pulling up to a large set of bleachers that overlooked the Drop Zone. It appeared we were going to have spectators and visitors watching this massive parachute drop of 1000 paratroopers and 30 vehicles from 25 X C130 aircrafts. Nothing unusual, we always drew a crowd wherever we went anyway. But for this particular occasion, a few loud speakers were erected so that the spectators could listen in on our radio freqs during the parachute drop. Unfortunately, NO ONE TOLD ME NOR MY ASSISTANT ABOUT THIS.

The closer it got to drop time, the more people showed up. There appeared to be lots and lots of women and children too. The entire bleachers and viewing stands were packed. I never saw so many VIP sedans pulling up with colonels and generals getting out. This was going to be some big circus act.

It was now one minute out from drop time, my assistant DZSO was on the trail edge of the DZ about 5 kilometers away. I was on the leading edge of the DZ with the Air Force's Combat Control Team (CCT) who were busy talking with the aircrafts and checking the wind readings. One of the Air Force members turned to me and said, "Winds 5 knots, Visibility 5 miles, First drop will be vehicles followed by troops 5 minutes later. Aircraft on final approach, Drop or No Drop, Sergeant?" My reply was "Let'em Drop!"

The first 6 aircrafts that flew overhead successfully dropped their load of vehicles over the DZ. Suddenly, one of the vehicle's from another aircraft, the parachute failed to open. And from 1200 feet it tossed and turned over and over and over, then..."Crash!"

It landed only few 100 meters from where my assistant DZSO was prepositioned. And on my radio I heard him say (breaking all comms procedures...) "HEY RANGER RICK, DID YOU SEE THAT MOTHERFUCKER BURN IN? THAT SON OF A BITCH LANDED ONLY A 100 FUCKEN METERS FROM MY ASS!" At the same time I heard the echo of loud speakers broadcasting his exact same words all across the entire drop zone followed by a loud laughter from the crowd of spectators.

No doubt, you can guess that we got our asses chewed out by our Battalion Commander later on, more of the captain's than mine.



## A WILD & CRAZY RIDE

Another incident comes to mind happened back in 1984. I was one of two Jumpmasters assigned to a C-130 aircraft fully loaded with paratroopers. The other Jumpmaster was my company commander, a real shit-head and asshole. Not for his toughness, but for his ignorance and blowing things out of proportion (obviously not a West Pointer).

We were flying around for about an hour in real strong altitude winds and it was banging the hell out of us at 1200 feet. The ground winds were even worse, but as usual we still attempted to jump. After what seemed like hours of tossing, turning and getting banged up in the aircraft, everyone started to get "real sick."

The pilot informed us over the intercom that the jump was a NO DROP! "Thank God," everyone said. Half the troops were already vomiting all over the aircraft, there wasn't enough "barf bags" around for all of us.

I disconnected my static line and took my seat in the rear of the aircraft with my head and body bent over ready to vomit myself. My company commander unhooked his parachute static line and took a seat on the "back ramp floor" of the aircraft, SMILING! He wasn't sick, yet....

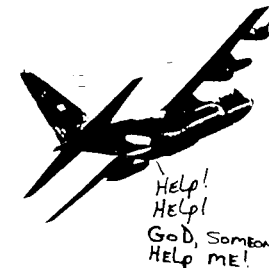
All of a sudden, we started to hit some violent air turbulence. It was so strong it somehow jarred the plane's locking mechanism loose to the ramp, (I guess it wasn't fully locked). The ramp started to go down, down, down and down with my company commander sitting right on the edge of the ramp. He started panicking and screaming, "Help! Help Me! God! Someone Help! I can't get up!" I heard him yelling, looked up and started laughing. I was too damn fucken sick myself to help him.

All of a sudden, the aircraft's loadmaster yells "Oh, Shit! And he came to his rescue and pulled him up and off the ramp. He then struggled to get the ramp back up with a mechanical hand lever, as the ramp's power switch was also malfunctioning.

My commander stood there sweating, scared shitless, and just about ready to cry. He turned to me angry and said (quote) "You asshole, why didn't you help me???" I was still so sick that all I could do was look up at him and say "Why should I, Sir? You had a fucken parachute on!" (And he never forgave me for this.)



HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF A 4 TON GOV'T VEHICLE WAS AIR-DROPPED AT 1200 FT AND THE PARACHUTE FAILED TO OPEN???????????? BUNKER DZ AT GRAF., GERMANY 1986-"AIRBORNE!"



UNITED NATIONS  
JOB OPPORTUNITIES

A couple of years ago I sent a letter to the United Nations Headquarters in New York requesting information on job opportunities. I was very much interested in working for the United Nations after I retired from the Army.

Unfortunately, I found out there's an age limit and cut-off, as well as selected occupational skills that they will accept. I did not fall within the age group and therefore could not apply. But I was able to find a few of my friends a job within the United Nations Field Services. One of them, a 38 year old US Army Sergeant First Class mechanic and computer knowledgeable operator, landed a job with the UN just 30 days prior to his retirement date. Before applying for this UN job, he sent out over 25 resumes to an assortment of different companies, both in Europe and the US.

I gave him a blank copy of my UN job application form as well as the address, and in less than 30 days he got a response back. He was offered a 6 month overseas job position in Somalia, and if he wanted to, he could stay longer. If not, he could request a transfer at the end of the six months to another UN mission. His basic monthly take home pay (including special allowances) was \$ 5,100 a month. NO BULL SHIT! He was clearing just over \$2,500 a month in the Army, and now he's making "5 Grand" (\$5,000) a month in Somalia. That's equivalent to pay that GENERALS make in the US ARMY.

Now don't confuse this with the UN Peace-Keeping Forces you see on television or in the newspapers. Those are foreign troops working under the UN flag and command in providing peace and humanitarian assistance to war torn countries. Due to the United Nations not having their own Army. They hire and accept only well trained, skilled and experienced people, known as "UN Field Service Officers."

Working for the United Nations Field Services is NOT FOR EVERYBODY. Just so you don't waste your time thinking you can get a job so easily with them. Enclosed is a list known as the UN Field Services Officers "General Guidance & Information" for prospective job applicants.

After reading over the criteria and qualifications for a UN Field Service Officer, and you have no doubt in your mind that you meet or exceed it, you can send away for your own job applications by writing to:

Chief, General Service Staffing Section  
Office of Human Resources Management  
Room DC1 - 0218  
United Nations Headquarters  
New York, New York 10017 (USA)

Or... ,



Chief, Field Personnel Unit  
Field Operations Division  
Room S-2280A  
United Nations Headquarters  
New York, New York 10017 (USA)

**NOTE:** The following was extracted from the UN's General Guidance & Information Guide for potential Field Service Officers.

This is only a general information guide. If any offer of appointment is made to a prospective candidate, a full and precise description of the terms and conditions of services will be provided in a later letter of appointment. They are subject to changes based on the UN Staff Regulations & Rules and may be changed at anytime by the decision of the General Assembly or under the authority of the UN Secretary General.

**DUTIES:**

1. The role of the United Nations Field Service category is to provide administrative, technical, logistical, supply and other support services to the United Nations peace-keeping missions and related activities.

The staff of the field service category, referred to as the Field Service Officers, are subject to assignments or rotations to existing or newly established peace-keeping operations or related activities wherever they may be, often on very short notices. United Nations operations may be required in many of the world's trouble spots and this can result in uncomfortable and possibly hazardous conditions of life and work. There are, nevertheless, a range of special compensations for Field Service Officers and many find intense personal reward in the job satisfaction generated by participation in such a unique, important, and worthwhile activity.

2. Field Service Officers are recruited under the following occupational groupings;

- (a) Security Officers - Safeguard United Nations property and personnel, and who may perform a range of other tasks and services depending on location and assignment.
- (b) Vehicle Mechanics - Manage, maintain and repair the fleet of United Nations vehicles. A Vehicle Mechanic is also responsible for the maintenance and repair of plant items at other peace-keeping operations, especially for diesel electric generators and motors.
- (c) Radio Technicians - Install, maintain and repair a full range of telecommunications, radios and electronic equipment used by the United Nations.
- (d) Radio Operators - Man the communications facilities and manage the traffic



through the various means of communications.

- (e) Electricians - Install, maintain and repair electrical installations and plants at each location. Electricians are also responsible for maintenance and repair of air conditionings and refrigeration installations.
- (f) Secretaries - Although multi-bilinguals are preferred, must be able to type and use an assortment of office equipment such as a word processor, computer, stenographic, etc. As well as being multi-talented in providing clerical support to a number of senior officials of each command or mission.

3. While recruitment into the Field Service is presently restricted to the occupation groups mentioned above, Field Service Officers may branch out into other fields of work as their careers advance or as circumstances demand. Security Officers, for example, may assume administrative, procurement and supply function as well as managing buildings and facilities, constructing and repairing observation posts.

4. Field Service Officers normally wear uniforms for ease of identification and to enhance their personal security. The United Nations provides all the uniforms and special work clothes as well as tools for technical staff.

5. Candidates wishing to be considered for positions with the United Nations Field Service need to fulfill the following requirements:

- (a) AGE: From 23 to 40 years old. Not a day before and not a day after.  
Note - Once in the UN Field Service, you can stay past 40 years old.
- (b) EDUCATION: Completion of secondary school or an appropriate technical school or the equivalent.
- (c) LANGUAGES: A candidate should have a good working knowledge of the English language. Knowledgeable or understanding the French, Arabic, or Spanish language is also desirable, but not mandatory.
- (d) HEALTH: A candidate appointed to the Field Service must be in first class physical condition. Successful completion of a stringent medical examination is a prerequisite for appointment.
- (e) DRIVING LICENSE: Each candidate must possess a valid driving license and be a skillful driver. Experience in driving 4 X 4 vehicles, trucks and buses is an asset. The driving ability of new recruits is tested on arrival in a mission area for the purpose of issuing United Nations driving permits.

6. In addition to the basic requirements mentioned above, candidates must possess the following experience and qualifications;

- (a) Security Officer: Relevant military police or civilian police experience with knowledge of the techniques required for safeguarding staff and property. A minimum of five years of experience is desirable. In addition to the driving



license for passenger vehicles mentioned above, a valid license for operating heavy trucks is required. A license for medium and heavy passenger buses is an asset. The variety of functions to be covered makes it desirable for candidates to have some technical skill, or administrative experience or both.

- (b) Vehicle Mechanic: At least five years of experience is required in the repair and maintenance of a range of motor vehicles, including 4 X 4, heavy duty trucks and plant items. There is a particular need for vehicle mechanics to be able to drive and operate recovery trucks. Candidates should also hold a certificate showing successful completion of an Apprenticeship and Tradesmen's Qualification, and be a fully qualified vehicle mechanic within the meaning of the guild in the candidates's country of origin.

A vehicle mechanic must be able to disassemble, reassemble, adjust, repair transmissions, clutches, differentials, brakes, axles, and align wheels and steering mechanisms as well. Must also be able to repair ignition system, generators and other electrical systems. Must know how to tune-up engines with the use of electronic testing equipment.

In addition, candidates should be proficient in handling power tools and measuring instruments, including calipers and micrometers as well as telescopic, trammel and pressure gauges. Familiarity with the safety rules and operating procedures and correct usages for cranes, hoists and general workshop equipment is desirable. Candidates should have experience in the repair and maintenance of generator sets from 4 KVA to 400 KVA.

- (c) Radio Technician: Candidates must hold a diploma from a Radio Technical School and have a minimum of five years of practical experience. Must be fully trained and qualified to install and maintain:

- Satellite earth stations using S.C.P.C. techniques
- Low density microwave point-to-point links
- Fixed H.F. transmitters up to 40 Kilo - Watts (KWatts)
- VHF/UHF fixed, mobile and portable two-way commo systems
- Electronic and electro-mechanical teletype equipment
- Frequency division multiplex channeling equipment

Also must be able to devise and erect omni-directional antenna and feeder-lines. They should be able and willing to climb antenna masts/towers and maintain power generators of up to 10 KVA capacity in a field environment.

- (d) Radio Operator: A minimum of five years of practical experience is required. Candidates must hold a First or Second Class Radio operating license issued by the Telecommunications Authority of the candidate's country of origin or present employment (e.g., Federal Communications Commission, Post Telegraph and Telephone, etc.). They must be able to:



- Operate a data based word processing computer system
- Type with a minimum touch-typing speed of 50 words per minute and read blind teletype tape for relay operations
- Operate and maintain telegraph and voice radio transmitters, receivers and ancillary equipment such as trailer power units.

They should be familiar with the erection of omni-directional and directional antenna for mobile radio stations and with frequency changes, tuning and emergency repairs for their operation in the field.

- (e) Electrician: Candidates must have four years of apprenticeship or similar vocational training and two years of practical experience in electrical systems and maintenance. Also, he or she must be able to:

- Repair electrical faults in switchboards, generators, motors, electrical control systems, outdoor installations, etc.
- Design simple installations and provide relevant diagrams.
- Undertake electrical installation and maintenance work which involve overhead wiring, underground cabling, distribution boxes, streets lights and interior wiring and the wiring of generating sets.
- Experience in the repairing and maintenance of refrigeration and air conditioning installations.

- (f) Secretary: Candidates must have five years of pertinent experience or any one of the following combinations; Full-time two year secretarial course and three years of experience. Or one year secretarial course and four years experience. They must be proficient in more than two languages with a combination of English as a first language and either French, Spanish or Arabic.

Candidates should be able to:

- Type in both languages at 50 words per minute and take dictation in one language at 90 words per minute and at 80 words per minute in the other.
- Take stenography in English at 90 words per minute.
- Operate a word processing personal computer.

7. Candidates will be required, as appropriate, to pass oral, written and practical examinations prior to recruitment.

8. Candidates are also evaluated in terms of personal suitability. The highest degree of integrity and discretion, devotion to duty, and the ability to adapt to new and different surroundings and work in an international, multi-cultural environment are amount the traits which are considered essential.

9. Mobility: The mission where Field Service Officers may be assigned to serve are classified into two categories; family missions and non-family missions. When assigned to a



family mission, a staff member is entitled to have his or her dependents accompany him/her at the expense of the organization whereas there is no entitlement for a staff member's family to accompany him/her to a non-family mission (and in many cases this may be forbidden).

An essential requirement of Field Service Officers is that they should be fully mobile at all times. In other words they should be prepared to relocate to other duty stations at only a few days notice which, in the case of relocation to non-family missions would have to be made without the family.

10. Duration of Appointment: Initial appointment to the Field Service is normally for a fixed period of one year. As service requirements continue and based on satisfactory performance, there is the possibility of renewal of the contract for a further fixed term, and later conversion to probationary status with a view to consideration for a permanent (career) appointment, conditional upon satisfactory service.

11. Salary: Basic salaries are fixed for each occupational group (as of 1 March 1992)

Rank	Position	Gross Salary	With Dependent	W/o Dependent
FS-2	Security Officer	\$27,833.00 net	\$21,585.00 net	\$20,414.00 net
FS-3	Vehicle Mechanic	\$32,202.00 net	\$24,293.00 net	\$22,913.00 net
FS-3	Radio Operator	\$32,202.00 net	\$24,293.00 net	\$22,913.00 net
FS-3	Electrician	\$32,202.00 net	\$24,293.00 net	\$22,913.00 net
FS-4	Radio Technician	\$37,444.00 net	\$27,442.00 net	\$25,807.00 net

The net salary is arrived at after deduction from the gross salary of United Nations Staff Assessment, which operates much like an income tax as the whole amount of the tax is withheld at the source. Each monthly salary check is, therefore, a "net" figure. In the event that the United Nations salary is legally subject to national income taxation as well as to Staff Assessment, the United Nations will, within certain limits, refund to staff members the amount of such income taxes payable in respect to the United Nations salary and emoluments.

12. Post Adjustment & Rental Subsidy: A staff member may be eligible for rental subsidy if he or she has to spend for rent more than an individual rental subsidy threshold. Or post adjustment payment is added to a members pay in order to maintain equivalent standards of living at different locations and assignments.

13. Allowances: Additional special allowances are given to staff members based on the location of assignment. A Field Service Officer may be eligible for a number of special allowances such as for Mobility (Travel), Hardship, Overseas Assignment, Dependency, Education, Foreign Language Skill, etc.

14. Leave: There are several types of leave a Field Service Officer is entitled to. Such as 30 Day Annual Leave, 3-6 Months Sick Leave, Special Home leave.

15. Social Security Provisions: A Field Service Officer is encouraged to participate in



a number of subsidies such as Life Insurance, Group Medical Care, Hospitalization Plan, Compensation Plan and a Pension Fund Plan.

16. Travel: A Field Service Officer is entitled to travel to the duty station and be reimbursed at the United Nations expense, unless he or she resigns before completing one year of service.

17. Shipment of Family and Personal Belongings: Are paid or reimbursed by the United Nations. But there are strict Rules & Regulations that apply to travel and or transportation of family and household (personal) goods. Reasonable costs of packing and crating of shipment within authorized limits will be reimbursed, but storage charges, other than those incidental to the shipment of the effects, will not be reimbursed.

**RANGER RICK'S COMMENTS:** This is a great opportunity for those of you who meet or exceed the prerequisites in becoming a UN Field Service Officer. But if the only MOS skill you have is Infantry, Ranger, Special Forces, etc, you need NOT TO APPLY. They are not looking for you warriors or Ramb Cowboys, just peace lovin, highly skilled, trained, technical personnel. To be blunt and right to the point.... MILITARY SUPPORT PERSONNEL ONLY. Yep, guys & gals, those rear echelon (REMFs) personnel most of you call "whimps & pussies." They will more than likely meet the qualifications and land a job with the UN. Sorry about that.....

### SPECIAL TIP

*When submitting a resume listing your skills & qualification.*

*Hire a professional resume writer to improve your chances.*



### DID YOU KNOW.....

**BELIEVE IT or NOT...**  
When a military operation is very successful, the planners are usually awarded (medals) for their efforts. But those of us who actually participated on the mission, we usually receive nothing for our efforts because "We Were Just Doing Our Jobs!"

Military G3/S3 staff planners who spend most of their time writing, developing, and planning a military operation, usually are the "least ones to know" what YOUR unit's capabilities are.

Supplies that you need the most, are usually on back order or in excess quantities in someone else's unit.

Supplies that you receive the quickest, are usually those that are needed the least.

By utilizing your subordinates more often during a ground combat operation, not only will it enhance and develop their leadership experience, but it will also reduce YOUR chances of being exposed or killed by enemy fire.

There is no such thing as a "Secure & Safe Area" in a combat zone.

Field (MASH) Hospitals are usually prepositioned in very good, tactical locations. Like right next to an easy, identifiable, terrain feature or a friendly military target.

### FAMOUS RANGER QUOTES:

To Those Troops Who Go To Bed Early.... "Early to bed, early to rise, and your girl/wife goes to bed with some other guy."

"Sex is only dirty when it's not done correctly."

Too bad all those leaders who claim to know how to successfully run or improve the Army can only be found at the NCO or Officer Clubs during "Happy Hour."

"Don't party with the night owls, if you can't soar with the eagles in the morning."

### THE WARNING SIGNS OF A SOLDIER WHO IS ADDICTED TO COFFEE:

#### Caffeine Overdose Signs

- 1) Cold Sweat
- 2) The Shakes
- 3) Heart Palpitations,

#### Caffeine Withdrawal Signs

- 1) Headaches
- 2) Nervousness
- 3) Irritability

Researchers believe that heavy coffee drinkers consume lots of caffeinated coffee to treat themselves for the most common psychiatric condition - "DEPRESSION."

The brain is only the second favorite organ part on a person's body, can you guess what is the first? (The Penis/Vagina)





## AUTHOR'S COMMENTARY

This is my favorite part of the Ranger Digest book, it's where I get to talk about whatever the hell I want. Just like Andy Rooney on "60 Minutes."

I read in the newspaper not too long ago about a Major General named William F. Garrison who had sent a handwritten letter to President Clinton accepting responsibility (or blame) for the failed mission and deaths of 18 American soldiers in Somalia. It happened in October when the Rangers were trying to capture a "Dirt Bag" Somalian clan leader named Mohammed Farrah Aidid.

That had to take an awful lot of guts and courage to come out and say, "It was my fault and I take full responsibility for it." You don't find leaders like that everyday in the military taking the blame for an unsuccessful operation, especially a General. Field grade officers (Majors and above) are notorious for taking credit for everything that goes right, and blaming others when something goes wrong. But not this General, no siree! He had a pair of balls and was not afraid of the consequences.

"General Garrison, I don't know who you are nor have I ever met you, sir. And I don't know too much about that one particular mission other than what I read in the newspaper. But any officer who has the intestinal fortitude (the balls) to stand up for his men, accept the blame when it doesn't go according to the plans, and puts his own career on the line by announcing it was his fault. Sir, you're my kind of a leader and I'd follow you from here to hell on any military mission, anytime, anywhere, anyplace under any odds or circumstances. God Bless You, Sir!"

By the way, taking out 300 Somalis in that operation was not a bad body count for a mission that was tagged "unsuccessful." In a country where they breed like rabbits and could care less about each other. You can look at it in this way.... That's 300 less bad guys to fight, 300 less mouths to feed, or 300 less sex organs that will ever have a chance to reproduce. Failed Mission? Ha! I think not, sir.

As for Secretary Aspin and his military weenies and ass wipes (technically known as "aides") who advise him on military matters. You've proved one theory fellas, "SOMETIMES SHIT DOES FLOAT TO THE TOP." Thank God for the wonderful Xmas gift that Secretary Aspin left for the Armed Forces, he resigned on January 20, 1994.

Speaking about shit floating to the top....have you been reading and keeping up with the latest promotion criteria? I read an article in the Army Times not too long ago about some new E-8/MSG promotion standards. (Yea, I'm retired - but I still read and keep up with the Army's never ending changes to the promotion system.)

According to the article, if your an E-7/SFC and eligible for promotion to E-8/MSG. You have one in four chances over a four year period to make Master Sergeant, that's if your in the primary zone. After that your chances become less, something like one in thirty (30). How did



they come up with this new system? Beats the hell out of me, but you better keep up with these promotion changes. I don't care if your a private or sergeant! If you intend to stay in the military, you better keep track of these never ending DA revisions and know what it takes to get ahead and promoted. It's your fault if you don't, buddy.

You can expect future promotions to be harder to make, less of them, and the competition for advancement to be fierce. And you can either take advantage of the college courses that the Army offers you and gain some decent rank before retiring. Or risk being 'booted out' of the Army before retirement for not making rank fast enough. The writing's clearly on the wall.

Here's a fine example:

I retired as an E-7/SFC with 21 years in the military and with 12 years in grade. I made my E-7/SFC rank within eight years in service. The only thing that stopped me from advancing to E-8 or E-9 was college education. No Bullshit!

I have always maxed or exceeded well above the average soldier in all the areas a promotion board is looking for in a good NCO. I received nothing less than "excellent" on all my NCOERS, and maintained high training scores in APFT, SQT, CTT, and Weapon Qualification. Not to mention always having one of the best squads and platoons in almost every unit that I served in during my 21 years of active duty.

And this is one of the reasons why I didn't do anything to improve myself in education. I figured that if I maintained an excellent military record and high training scores, it would get me promoted ahead the average NCO. So why in the hell do I need college education? If I made my SFC/E-7 in eight years, I should be able to make MSG/E-8 at least by my 13th year. Or worst, by my 18th year in service. WRONG! It didn't happen as I planned it.

In all those years that I was waiting to make E-8/MSG, I had no less than six Command Sergeant Majors and Colonels review my DA 201, 2-1, & Microfiche for derogatory information or errors. They were all fortunate enough to have served on past previous Promotion & Selection Boards at one time or another during their career.

Their responses were always the same, they'd say to me, "Ranger Rick, you have no doubt fulfilled all your leadership requirements for advancement to the next grade. High scores and ratings in almost every area of what a promotion & selection board is looking for in a good senior NCO. Excellent leadership reports, in top physical condition, highly knowledgeable of your MOS, no disciplinary actions, etc. But, you have not done anything to improve yourself where it really counts, EDUCATION! And this is what has stopped you from advancing in rank."

Of course, my smart ass response was, "What does the Army want? NCOs who can lead, shoot, know what their doing and are in top physical condition. Or do they want overweight, out of shape, non-shooting, weak, but "educated" leaders?"





Well, anyway... I really never had my eyes set on becoming a Command Sergeant Major. My real dream and goal was to become a First Sergeant of an Airborne Infantry or Ranger Company and lead it into combat someday. But that dream would never come true, instead I would retire as an E-7/SFC with "12 years in grade."

But, there's a good side to all this. As the years went by and the more I got past over for promotion. It made me very angry inside and I was determined to teach others how to be a good soldier and leader, as well as what it takes to get promoted to each other. "Bar none!"

So I wrote my first book called "The Do-It-Yourself Warning & Operation Order Handbook" back in 1984. It was sent to Fort Benning's Infantry Hall as a suggestion for a new training guide. But, they rejected it and sent it back to me. (Should it surprise you?)

I then located a private "Publishing & Printing Company" who was interested in my work, and they started to market the handbooks for me. And since 1985 when it was first released, over 5,000 copies have been sold annually. That's over 45,000 books so far as of today's date, March 1994.

I tried my luck at another book called, "The Squad Leader's Combat Field Status Pocket Book." It too was rejected by Fort Benning's Infantry Hall Center, and it too was sent to the same publishing and printing company. They also sell about 5,000 copies a year.

The total number of books I have written so far is seven (7), they are sold on and off U.S. military installations in the US and Overseas. What the Army rejected back then, the troops continue to buy today. My only question is... "Who the hell was running Infantry Hall back in 1984?"

And last, but not least, just 8 months shy of my intended retirement date, January 1st, 1993, I received official notification from the Department of the Army that I was on the 1992 Master Sergeant/E-8 promotion list. Out of 3,000 E-7/SFCs selected for Master Sergeant, I was Number # 12 in my MOS.

I was called to USASETAF Headquarters (my last assignment) to be congratulated, and asked if I wanted to withdraw my retirement request and accept the promotion (which by the way is against regulations...). I thought about it for a "few seconds," then gave my reply. Not just no, but "HELL, FUCK NO!" It's not my loss, but the Army's. And this boys & girls, is an honest to God true story, "No Bull Shit!"

Till next time kiddies...



*Rick Tscherne*

Ranger Rick Tscherne

(E-7 1/2 Retired)



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RCS: DAPCX-298

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY - PRIVACY ACT DATA

PROMOTION RECOMMENDED LIST - MSO (22 MAY 1992)

ALPHABETICAL SEQUENCE

NAME	SSN	RMOS	SEQ	NR	NAME	SSN	RMOS	SEQ	NR	NAME
HORNE ROBERT L	272	00002			TSCHERNE RICHARD F	118	00012			VAZQUEZ ROSARIO
WORTON JOHN A	762	00113			TUCKER EDWARD W	118	00017			VEGA ISMAEL II
						312	00117			VELASQUEZ PAV
						550	00017			WELF EDWARD

CERTIFICATE OF RELEASE OR DISCHARGE FROM ACTIVE DUTY					
1 NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)	2 DEPARTMENT, COMPONENT, AND BRANCH	3 SOCIAL SECURITY NO.	4 FROM	5 THRU	6 AREA AND COUNTRY
TSCHERNE, RICHARD FRANCIS	ARMY	118 00012	721215	760316	EURA-GERMANY-ITALY
10 GRADE (LAST)	11 DATE OF PROMOTION	12 RECORD OF SERVICE	13 RECORD OF SERVICE	14 RECORD OF SERVICE	15 RECORD OF SERVICE
E-7	1981	28	01	21	
16 ADDRESS (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)	17 CITY, STATE, ZIP	18 GRADE (LAST)	19 DATE OF PROMOTION	20 RECORD OF SERVICE	21 RECORD OF SERVICE
233 Mary St.	Baltimore, PA 21201	E-7	1981	28	01

9. AWARDS, DECORATIONS & CAMPAIGNS (CONT)	
NDSM-1/ASR-1/OSR-3/ARCOM-1/	
AAM-1/MS-1/NCOPDR-3/	
AGCM-2/MS-1/MS-2/MS-3/	
Prcht Badge (German) Rifle M-16 (XP)	
Qual Badge (90314) Ranger Tab	
Belgium Commando (Army) Badge/Belgium	
Prcht (Army) Badge/French Army Comdo	
Badge/Italian AF Prcht Badge/German	
Army MM Awd in Bronze ASTR PRCHTBAD	
MSM-2/ AAM-2/ AAM-3/ AAM-4/ AAM-5/	
NLT-DEF-SVC-MDL-2/ MSM 3	

SECTION III - SERVICE, TRAINING AND APPOINTMENTS AND REDUCTIONS (CONT)			
GRADE	COMP	EFFECTIVE DATE	DATE OF PROMOTION
PV1			720229
PV2			720629
PFC			730515
SP4			740131
SGT			741024
SSG			760826
SFC			810910

18 REMARKS	
Continuation-Item #13/Armed Forces Parachutist Badge/Belgium Armed Forces Parachutist Badge/Belgium Commando Badge/French Commando Badge/Italian Rifle Qualification Badge (Expert)/German Army Qualification Badge (Bronze)/NOTING FOLLOWS//	
Continuation-Item #14/ARCOM, 10 Weeks, 1980/Jumpmaster Course, 2 Weeks, 1983/Gateway to Italian, 1 Week, 1982/NOTING FOLLOWS//	
IMMEDIATE REEVALUATION THIS PERSON: 76015-811020/ 81101-851204/ 851205-890420/NOTING FOLLOWS//	
*DATA HEREIN SUBJECT TO COMPUTER MATCHING WITHIN DOD OR WITH OTHER AGENCIES FOR VERIFICATION PURPOSES AND DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL BENEFITS.//NOTHING FOLLOWS//	
19 A. MAILING ADDRESS (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE) (Include Zip Code)	
Via Casanova #13	
2011 Kazzellina Italy	
21 SIGNATURE (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE) (Include Zip Code)	
DAVID E. WATSON/MSO/DEAF/ARMY/ITALY	

REBUTTALED & WON!

REBUTTALED & WON!  
 REBUTTALED & WON!  
 REBUTTALED & WON!

Sergeant First Class Richard F. Tscherne, USA, Headquarters, 3d Battalion (ASB), 325th Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, North Carolina 28501-5100

10 TYPE OF SEPARATION	11 CHARACTER OF SERVICE (Include upgrades)	12 REENTRY CODE		
Resignation	Honorable			
13 RECORD OF ASSIGNMENTS				
DATE	UNIT	POSITION	GRADE	REMARKS
200208	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
200510	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197311	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197401	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197402	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197403	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197404	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197405	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197406	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197407	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197408	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197409	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197410	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197411	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197412	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197501	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197502	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197503	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197504	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197505	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197506	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197507	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197508	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197509	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197510	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197511	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197512	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197601	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197602	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197603	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197604	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197605	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197606	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197607	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197608	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197609	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197610	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197611	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197612	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197701	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197702	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197703	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197704	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197705	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197706	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197707	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197708	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197709	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197710	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197711	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197712	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197801	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197802	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197803	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197804	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197805	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197806	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197807	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
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197809	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197810	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
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197812	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197901	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197902	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197903	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197904	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197905	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197906	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197907	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197908	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197909	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197910	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197911	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
197912	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
198001	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
198002	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
198003	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
198004	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
198005	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
198006	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
198007	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
198008	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
198009	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
198010	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
198011	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
198012	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
198101	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
198102	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
198103	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
198104	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
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198107	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
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198109	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
198110	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
198111	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
198112	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
198201	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
198202	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
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198210	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
198211	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
198212	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
198301	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
198302	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
198303	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
198304	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
198305	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
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198411	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
198412	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
198501	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
198502	1st Infantry Division	1st Infantry Division (USARV) (A)	SGT	
198503	1st Infantry			



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR...

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

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

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

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

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

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

RANGER RICK TSCHERNE  
Retiree Section  
APO, A.E. 09630

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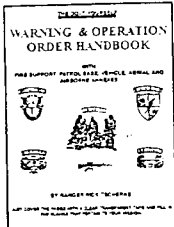


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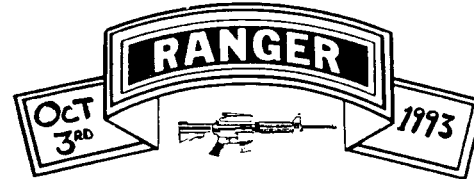
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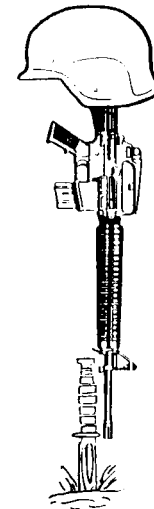
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 & SOLDIERS**

**WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES TRYING TO  
 GET RID OF A SOMALIAN WARLORD  
 NAMED AIDID, SO THAT OTHER SOLDIERS  
 WOULD BE SAFE FROM HARM.**



LET US NOT  
 FORGET  
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 THESE MEN

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