

Appendix D

Individual Camouflage

D-1. Description.

a. *Responsibility.* Each soldier is responsible for camouflaging himself, his equipment, and his position. Camouflage will reduce the probability of the enemy placing aimed fire on the soldier.

b. *Materials.* The soldier uses natural and artificial materials for camouflage. Natural camouflage includes defilade, grass, bushes, trees, and shadows. Artificial camouflage includes BDUs, LCSS, skin paint, and natural materials removed from their original positions. To be effective, artificial camouflage must blend with the natural background.

c. *Camouflage Discipline.* Noise, movement, and light discipline all contribute to individual camouflage. Effective noise discipline muffles and eliminates sounds made by soldiers and their equipment. Movement discipline minimizes movement within and between positions and limits movement to routes that cannot be readily observed by the enemy. Light discipline controls the use of lights at night. Examples are not smoking in the open or walking around with a flashlight on.

d. *Dispersal.* Dispersal, the spreading of soldiers and equipment over a wide area, is a key, individual survival technique. It creates a smaller target mass for enemy sensors and weapon systems. Dispersal, therefore, not only reduces casualties and losses in the event of an attack but also makes enemy detection efforts more difficult.

D-2. Camouflage Considerations. Every soldier should have a detailed understanding of the recognition factors described in Chapter 3. While all of these factors remain important when applying individual camouflage, some are of critical concern.

a. *Movement.* Movement draws attention, whether it involves vehicles on the road or individuals walking around positions. The naked eye, as well as infrared and radar sensors, can detect movement. Soldiers should minimize movement while they are in the open. They should remember that darkness does not prevent observation by an enemy equipped with modern sensors. When movement is necessary, slow, smooth movement attracts less attention than quick, irregular movement.

b. *Shape.* The soldier should use camouflage materials to break up the shapes, outlines, and shadows of positions and equipment, as all three are revealing factors. As shadows can visually mask objects, soldiers should stay in shadows whenever possible, especially when moving. When conducting operations close to the enemy, disguise or distort the shape of the helmet and the human body with artificial camouflage materials, as they are easily recognized by the enemy at close range.

c. *Shine and Light.* Gloss or shine can also attract attention. Pay particular attention to gloss and shine caused by light reflecting from smooth or polished surfaces, such as mess kits, mirrors, spectacles, watch crystals, windshields, and starched uniforms. Plastic map cases, dust goggles worn on top of the helmet, and clear plastic garbage bags also reflect light almost as well as windshields and mirrors. Cover or remove these items from exposed areas. Vehicle headlights, taillights, and safety reflectors not only reflect light, but also reflect laser energy used in weapon systems. Cover this equipment when the vehicle is not in operation.

Red filters on vehicle dome lights and flashlights, while designed to protect the soldier's night vision, are extremely sensitive to detection by night vision devices. A tank's red dome light, reflecting off the walls and out through the sight and vision blocks, can be seen from as far as 4 kilometers away with a starlight scope. Red-lensed flashlights, as well as cigarettes and pipes, are equally observable. To reduce the chances of detection, soldiers should replace red with blue-green filters and practice strict light discipline. Soldiers should also use measures to prevent shine at night, because moonlight and starlight can be reflected as easily as sunlight.

d. *Color.* The contrast of skin, uniforms, and equipment with the background helps the enemy to detect opposing forces. Individual camouflage should blend with the surroundings; or at a minimum, objects must not contrast with the background. Therefore, the proper camouflage technique is to blend colors with the background or to hide objects with contrasting colors.

D-3. How to Camouflage. Before camouflaging himself, his equipment, and his position, a soldier should study the nearby terrain and vegetation. His reconnaissance should incorporate an analysis of the camouflage considerations listed above. He then chooses camouflage materials that best blend with the area. When moving from one area to another, change camouflage as required. What works well in one location may draw fire in another.

a. *Skin.* Exposed skin reflects light and may draw attention. Even very dark skin, because of natural oils, will reflect light. Camouflage paint sticks cover these oils and also provide blending with the background. Avoid using oils or insect repellent to soften the paint stick because doing so defeats the purpose by making the skin shiny. Soldiers applying camouflage paint should work in pairs and help each other. Self-application may leave gaps, such as behind the ears. Paint high, shiny areas (forehead, cheekbones, nose, ears, and chin) with a dark color. Paint low, shadow areas with a light color. Paint the exposed skin on the back of the neck, arms, and hands with an irregular pattern. When camouflage paint sticks are not available, use field expedients such as burnt cork, bark, charcoal, lamp black, or mud. Soldiers must be aware that mud contains bacteria, some of which is harmful and may cause disease or infection. Consider mud as a last priority for field-expedient paint.

b. *Uniform.* BDUs, which have a camouflage pattern, often require additional camouflage, especially when operating very close to the enemy. Soldiers should attach leaves, grass, small branches, or pieces of LCSS to their uniform and helmet. These items will assist in distorting the shape of the soldier and in blending colors with the natural background. The BDU provides visual as well as NIR camouflage. Do not starch BDUs; doing this counters the infrared properties of the

dyes. Replace excessively faded and worn BDUs because they lose their camouflage effectiveness as they wear.

c. Equipment. Soldiers should inspect their personal equipment to ensure that shiny items are covered or removed. Take corrective action on items that rattle or make other noises when moved or worn. Soldiers assigned equipment such as vehicles or generators should be knowledgeable of the appropriate techniques to camouflage them (Chapters 3 through 6).

d. Individual Fighting Position. The reader should review the procedures for camouflaging positions listed in Chapter 6, Section II. This section emphasized some of those procedures and pointed out additional considerations when camouflaging individual positions.

(1) Spoil and Camouflage Materials. While building a fighting position, soldiers should camouflage it and carefully dispose of the earth spoil. They must also remember that too much camouflage material applied to a position can actually disclose it. Soldiers should obtain camouflage materials from a dispersed area to avoid drawing attention to the position due to the Stripped area around it.

(2) Camouflage Process. Camouflage the position as it is built. To avoid disclosing a fighting position, soldiers should observe the following guidelines:

- Do not leave shiny or light-colored objects exposed.
- Do not remove shirts while in the open.
- Do not use fires.
- Do not leave tracks and other signs of movement.
- When aircraft fly overhead, refrain from looking up, as one of the most obvious features on aerial photographs is the upturned faces of soldiers.

(3) Inspection. When camouflage is complete, inspect the position from the enemy's viewpoint. Check camouflage periodically to see that it stays natural looking and conceals the position. When camouflage materials become ineffective, change or improve them.