UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
OFFICER CANDIDATES SCHOOL
TRAINING COMMAND
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FIELD SKILLS I

TERMINAL LEARNING OBJECTIVE(S)

1. Given an order with a mission to conduct combat operations, while wearing a fighting load, prepare for combat, by ensuring the individual is prepared to accomplish the mission. (0300-PAT-1004)

2. Given a patrol order, assigned weapon, and an assignment in a patrol, while wearing a fighting load, perform individual actions in a patrol without compromising the integrity of the patrol. (0300-PAT-1008)

3. Given an operational environment, camouflage materials, individual field equipment, and individual weapon, while wearing a fighting load, camouflage self and equipment to avoid detection and preserve the fighting force to accomplish the mission. (MCCS-IND-1002)

4. Given water and hygiene items, perform individual field hygiene to prevent injuries and to maintain health and preserve the fighting force to accomplish the mission. (MCCS-IND-1003)

ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVE(S)

1. Given a warning order, while wearing a fighting load, select gear and provisions to ensure that you are prepared to accomplish the mission. (0300-PAT-1004a)

2. Without the aid of reference, while wearing a fighting load, inspect gear, to ensure all equipment is present and operable and the individual is prepared to accomplish the mission. (0300-PAT-1004b)

3. Given a Warning Order with a mission to conduct combat operations, while wearing a fighting load, conduct rehearsals to ensure all members of the team understand the mission, and their role. (0300-PAT-1004c)

4. Given a patrol order, assigned weapon, and an assignment in a patrol, while wearing a fighting load, prepare for combat IOT carry out the mission. (0300-PAT-1008a)

5. Without the aid of references, select the correct definition of camouflage without omission. (MCCS-IND-1002a)

6. Without the aid of references, given camouflage paints, apply personal camouflage in one of three accepted patterns without omission. (MCCS-IND-1002b)

7. Without the aid of references, given actual items or a written description, apply the principles of camouflage to your physical environment without omission. (MCCS-IND-1002c)

8. Without the aid of references, given actual items apply the principles of cover to enhance survivability without omission. (MCCS-IND-1002d)

9. Without the aid of references, given actual items apply the principles of concealment to enhance survivability without omission. (MCCS-IND-1002e)

10. Without the aid of reference, maintain personal hygiene in the field to prevent injuries and to maintain health and preserve the fighting force to accomplish the mission. (MCCS-IND-1003a)
11. Without the aid of reference, clean equipment in the field to preserve function and enhance hygiene. (MCCS-IND-1003b)

1. **PREPARATIONS PRIOR TO COMBAT.** When your Marines are preparing for a mission of any type, you must be certain that everyone is ready and everything is in order. If a weapon isn’t working, if a radio’s batteries are dead, if you don’t have enough water or rations, the success of your mission and the safety of your Marines are threatened. As a Marine Corps Officer, it will be your job to ensure that your Marines have all the necessary clothing and equipment, that the equipment is in working order, that sanitary conditions are met, and that the platoon can operate effectively when called on. You do this through pre-combat checks and pre-combat inspections. Such inspections build unit cohesiveness and prevent boredom and complacency.

   a. **Pre-combat Checks (PCCs) and Pre-combat Inspections (PCIs).** Ensure that you and your unit are adequately prepared to execute operations and training according to standard. They are the detailed final checks that all units conduct before and during training and combat operations. You must perform checks and inspections before each event or exercise to check personnel, equipment, vehicles, and mission knowledge. By requiring your unit to adhere to standards, you ensure that every individual and every piece of equipment will be combat ready. Pre-combat checks and inspections are an individual and leader responsibility. It is impossible to overstate their importance. Individual Marines are responsible for ensuring through their PCCs that all equipment necessary for the mission is on hand. As a leader, you are responsible for checking during PCIs that the equipment is serviceable and for making corrections.

      Checks and inspections are your greatest asset to combat those twin enemies of unit readiness—apathy and complacency. It is human nature for people to get used to their surroundings and begin to overlook minor problems. By ordering regular inspections, you will be able to correct small problems before they become big problems. Some common checks prior to beginning a mission include but are not limited to:

      • Weapons and ammunition
      • Uniforms and equipment
      • Mission-essential equipment
      • Understanding of the mission and of specific responsibilities
      • Communications signals and equipment
      • Rations and water
      • Camouflage
      • Deficiencies noted during earlier inspections.

   b. **Rehearsals.** Like PCCs and PCIs, rehearsals are important in preparing for a given mission or task. Rehearsals do not check gear and equipment, but rather the individual and unit readiness. They help to ensure all members of the unit understand their appointed tasks and that they are capable of fulfilling their duties. Also, like PCCs and PCIs, rehearsals keep the unit ready and from becoming complacent. Rehearsals provide “practice” prior to a mission; they also allow individuals and small units to understand their specific mission in relation to the overall mission. Rehearsals are an important check that should always be completed prior to departing friendly lines. Some rehearsals include but are not limited to:

      • Unit formations and movement
      • Weapon malfunction drills
      • Individual action drills
      • Actions upon enemy contact drills
      • Contingency Plans

2. **CAMOUFLAGE.** Camouflage is the use of concealment and disguise to minimize the possibility of detection and/or identification of troops, materiel, equipment, and installations (Camouflage is anything you use to keep yourself, your equipment, and your position from looking like what it actually is).
a. **Principles of camouflage.**

(1) Study the terrain and vegetation in your area of operation. A Marine must recognize the dominant color and pattern of the terrain in which he is working and must change the appearance of his clothing and equipment to blend in with the terrain.

(2) Camouflage is continuous. When moving from one area to another check your camouflage, the goal is to always blend with your surroundings.

(3) Remove all shiny objects. Shine comes from reflective objects that are exposed or not toned down such as belt buckles, jewelry, or glasses.

(4) Any object that reflects light and cannot be removed should be camouflaged.

(5) When using camouflage always remember that objects are identified by their outline, shadow, texture, and color. The principle purpose of camouflage in the field is to prevent direct observation and recognition.

b. **Camouflaging exposed skin.**

(1) Exposed skin reflects light and attracts the enemy's attention. Even dark skin will reflect light because of its natural oil.

(2) Paint shiny areas (forehead, cheekbones, nose, and chin) with a dark color.

(3) Paint shadowed areas (around the eyes, under the nose, and under the chin) with a light color.

(4) Paint exposed skin on the back of the neck and hands.

(5) There are three types of camouflage techniques. They are splotching, striping, and combination of the two.

(6) Use the buddy system when applying camouflage.

c. **Camouflaging individual gear.**

(1) Helmet:

   (a) Camouflage the helmet by breaking up its shape and smooth surface.

   (b) Use foliage, burlap, or cloth strips to break up the outline of the helmet.

   (c) Hang foliage or cloth strips over the rim of the helmet to break up shadows under the helmet.

   (d) Do not allow the foliage to stick up like plumes as head movements cause the foliage to move and give away your position.

(2) Web Gear and Packs:

   (a) Change the outline of all web gear on your body with strips of cloth or netting.

   (b) When using netting, garnish is tied to it to break up the outline. Netting should be kept to a minimum and not allowed to hang loose as it could snag on trees, briars, etc.

(3) Weapon:

   (a) Be careful when applying camouflage to the weapon so that the normal operation is not interfered with, and nothing is applying pressure to the barrel.
(b) Attach strips of cloth or netting to the stock, hand guards, and sling.

d. **Inspect and maintain camouflage.**

   (1) Inspect camouflage from enemy’s point of view.

   (2) Check, or have your buddy check, your camouflage periodically to ensure it stays natural looking and effective.

   (3) Change and improve your camouflage when it becomes ineffective.

3. **COVER.** Is defined as protection from the fire of hostile weapons.

   a. **Types of cover**

      (1) Natural

         (a) Ravines and hollows

         (b) Reverse slopes

         (c) Large rock formations

         (d) Depressions in the earth (micro-terrain)

         (e) Large trees (logs, stumps)

      (2) Artificial

         (a) Fighting positions

         (b) Trenches

         (c) Bunkers

         (d) Walls

         (e) Rubble and craters

         (f) Destroyed equipment

   b. **General considerations.**

      (1) Select routes that provide the best possible cover.

      (2) Avoid open areas (danger areas) if at all possible. When you must cross them, move quickly.

      (3) When moving forward under fire, choose the next available piece of cover before you move and then move quickly to it. When rushing use the phrase “I’m up, they see me, I’m down.” Stop and drop behind your pre-selected cover.

      (4) When selecting defensive positions, make the best use possible of the pre-existing cover.

      (5) Cover that protects you from one type of fire may not be effective against another type of fire. For example, a reverse slope will protect you from rifle and machine gun fire but not from the high angle fire of mortars or M203’s.
4. **CONCEALMENT.** Concealment is protection from observation or surveillance from hostile air and ground observation, but not from hostile fire. It hides or disguises a Marine’s route of march, position, or equipment. Cover will provide concealment, but not all concealment will provide cover. Proper use of camouflage will increase the effectiveness of concealment.

   a. **Types of concealment.**

      (1) Natural

         (a) Terrain

         (b) Vegetation

         (c) Weather

         (d) Darkness

      (2) Artificial

         (a) Camouflage netting

         (b) Camouflage clothing

         (c) Camouflage painted equipment

         (d) Camouflage techniques

   b. **Concealment techniques.**

      (1) Light discipline

      (2) Avoid letting sunlight reflect from knives, compasses, binoculars, watches, etc.

      (3) At night, maintain strict control over the use of lights, pyrotechnics, matches, etc.

      (4) Noise discipline

      (5) Pad or silence equipment that rattles.

      (6) Lower the volume of radios to the lowest possible setting.

      (7) Use only hand and arm signals for internal communication.

      (8) Keep all noise to an absolute minimum inside a defensive position.

   c. **Movement**

      (1) Use all available concealment. Always act as if you are being watched.

      (2) Blend with the background. Contrasting colors are very noticeable.

      (3) Stay in the shade. Moving shadows attract attention.

      (4) Break up regular outline of objects. Most military objects have a distinctive shape that makes shadows and silhouettes obvious.
(5) Keep away from the skyline. Figures can be seen and identified from great distances by their outlines.

(6) A trained observer can detect movement from as far as 1,700 meters with the naked eye.

d. **Observing and Firing at The Enemy**

(1) Remain motionless when observing the enemy, movement attracts attention.

(2) Observe and fire from the prone position when not using a fighting hole. The prone position presents the smallest possible silhouette/target to the enemy.

(3) Observe and fire around the side or through your cover or concealment.

(4) Avoid lone trees, rocks, fence corners, and other prominent landmarks that are easily used as reference points for enemy fire.

5. **PERSONAL HYGIENE.**

a. **Personal Cleanliness.**

(1) **Skin.** Wash your body frequently from head to foot with soap and water. If no tub or shower is available, wash with a cloth and soapy water, hand sanitizer or wipes, paying particular attention to armpits, groin area, face, ears, hands, and feet.

(2) **Hair.** Keep your hair clean, neatly combed, and trimmed. At least once a week, wash your hair and entire scalp with soap and water. Also, shave as often as the water supply and tactical situation permit. Do not share combs or shaving equipment with other personnel.

(3) **Hands.** Wash your hands with soap and water, hand sanitizer or wipes after any dirty work, after each visit to the head, and before eating. Keep your fingernails closely trimmed and clean. Do not bite your fingernails, pick your nose, or scratch your body.

b. **Care of the Feet.** Wash and dry your feet daily. Use foot powder on your feet to help kill germs, reduce friction on the skin, and absorb perspiration. Socks should be changed daily. After crossing a wet area, dry your feet, put on foot powder, and change socks, as soon as the situation permits.

c. **Care of the Mouth and Teeth.** Regular and proper cleaning of the mouth and the teeth helps prevent tooth decay and gum disease. The most healthful oral hygiene is to clean your mouth and teeth thoroughly and correctly after each meal with a toothbrush and toothpaste. If mouthwash is available, use it to help kill germs in your mouth. To help remove food from between your teeth, use dental floss or toothpicks. Twigs can also be used for toothpicks.

6. **CLEAN EQUIPMENT.**

a. **Clothing and Sleeping Gear.** Wash or exchange clothing when it becomes dirty (situation permitting). Wash or exchange sleeping gear when it becomes dirty. If clothing and sleeping gear cannot be washed or exchanged, shake them and air them regularly in the sun. That greatly reduces the number of germs on them.

The purpose of ensuring clean gear is to guarantee you are not contracting germs or diseases which will make yourself or the unit combat ineffective. Throughout history there have been more injuries due to disease from bad hygiene than actual combat. By ensuring you properly clean your gear it will ensure you are able to stay in the fight and your gear functions as it is intended.
### REFERENCE

| Camouflage                        | FM 5-20   |
| Combat Skills of the Soldier      | FM 21-75 |
| Commander's Tactical Handbook     | MCRP 3-11.1A |
| Field Hygiene and Sanitation      | MCRP 4-11.1D |
| Marine Rifle Squad                | MCWP 3-11.2 |
| OCS Standard Operating Procedures | OCSO P1530.3_ |
| Scouting and Patrolling           | MCWP 3-11.3 |

### TITLE

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- **Combat Skills of the Soldier**
- **Commander's Tactical Handbook**
- **Field Hygiene and Sanitation**
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