

**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**  
FIELD MEDICAL TRAINING BATTALION-EAST  
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MCECST

**2401-IND-1001 Camouflage Self and Equipment**

**TERMINAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

1. Given an operational environment, camouflage materials, individual field equipment, an individual weapon, and while wearing an assault load, camouflage self and equipment to avoid detection and preserve the fighting force to accomplish the mission.

(2401-IND-1001)

**ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

1. Given a list of choices, identify the categories of camouflage in accordance with reference MCTP 3-01A Scouting and Patrolling.

(2401-IND-1001a)

2. Given a camouflage scenario, perform camouflage requirements to fit the operational environment in order to accomplish the mission in accordance with reference MCTP 3-01A Scouting and Patrolling.

(2401-IND-1001b)

1. **COVER AND CONCEALMENT:**

a. **Cover:** Is anything man-made or natural that provides protection from enemy fire.

b. **Concealment:** Is anything man-made or natural that hides you from enemy observation.

2. **CONCEALMENT PRINCIPLES:**

a. Remain motionless while observing. Anything in motion attracts the eye.

b. Use all available concealment.

c. Observe from the prone position (it offers a low silhouette and makes detection by the enemy difficult.

d. Blend with the background because contrasting colors are noticeable.

e. Remain in the shade because moving shadows attract attention.

f. Expose nothing that reflects light.

g. Distort or change the regular outline of objects. Most military objects have distinctive shapes that make obvious shadows and silhouettes.

h. Avoid the skyline. Figures on the skyline can be seen from great distances and are easily identified by their outlines.

3. **Concealment Techniques:**

a. When observing, look around an object's side if possible.

b. If you must look/fire over the top of concealment or cover, the outline of the head or helmet should be distorted.

c. Upon the approach of an airplane, takes a prone position, turns face-down, and remains motionless. If surprised by an airplane, remain in place and do not look up.

d. Cover exposed body parts such as the face, back of the neck, and hands with grease paint, mud or other materials to reduce sun reflection.

e. Camouflage for equipment can be improvised from garnishing or sandbags to prevent sun reflection.

f. In snowy terrain, white over-garments are worn.

g. The helmet cover outline should be distorted.

4. **FACTORS OF RECOGNITION:** Camouflage Factors which could give away your position are as follows:

- a. **Shape** - This is the outline or silhouette of an object. The human body, helmet and weapon have very distinctive shapes and are easily identified by a seasoned eye.
- b. **Shadow** - Shadows make objects stand out, especially if the background is a lighter color. A cast shadow is a silhouette of an object projected against its background. In desert environments, a shadow cast by a target can be more conspicuous than the target itself. Shadows may also help to hide an object as well.
- c. **Color** - Color contrast helps an observer, particularly at close ranges and when the background is homogeneous such as in the snow or in a desert terrain. The greater the contrast in color, the more visible the object will appear. Lighter shades of any color against a dark background tend to attract more attention than darker objects. Color becomes less of a factor as the distance increases. The human eye cannot discriminate color in poor light.
- d. **Noise** - Any sound can give your position away immediately. Military equipment has distinctive sounds that are easily recognizable by a trained enemy.
- e. **Texture** - This refers to an objects capacity to reflect and diffuse light. Rough surface appears darker than a smooth surface, even if both surfaces are the same color. Under normal conditions, smooth surfaces stand out from their background.

- f. **Position** - An object is often identified by its position in relation to its surroundings. Positions you think may give you an excellent site to over-watch or hide are also scrutinized by the enemy because they also know its value.
- g. **Movement** - Movement always attracts attention against a stationary background, and the faster something moves, the more likely it will be seen. Slow, regular movement is usually less obvious than fast, erratic movement. No movement is highly preferable to any shifting of positions.

## 5. CAMOUFLAGE DEFINED:

a. **Camouflage**: is the use of concealment and disguise to minimize the possibility of detection and/or identification of troops, material, equipment, and installations. **The purpose of camouflage is to provide concealment of military objects from enemy observation.** Camouflage can be divided into two sub-categories.

(1) **Natural camouflage** refers to anything produced naturally that can be used to aid in camouflaging ourselves or equipment. Nature provides us with trees, leaves, shrubbery, mud, and wide variety of other materials useful for camouflage. The drawback with natural camouflage is that it must be frequently replaced because it will die, fade, wilt or react in some manner making it lose its effectiveness.

(2) **Artificial camouflage** are man-made items designed to reduce the likelihood of detection. Examples are camouflage utilities, camouflage paint, netting, strips of burlap, and other man-made materials.

The advantage of artificial camouflage is their effectiveness usually lasts longer than natural camouflage. The disadvantage of artificial camouflage is that it is usually not as effective as natural camouflage.

6. **Operational Environment Camouflage**: Successful operational environment camouflage is the ability to recognize and take advantage of all forms of natural and artificial debris, vegetation and soil in order to match the operational terrain's dominant colors and patterns.

## 7. INDIVIDUAL CAMOUFLAGE

a. To camouflage yourself, equipment or position successfully, you must be able to recognize the best use of the natural and artificial means available to make yourself, equipment and position non-detectable to enemy observation.

(1) **Exposed skin:** All skin colors reflect light because of the natural oils in the skin. Remove all types of jewelry because of its sensitivity to light. The buddy system is recommended when applying camouflage. Shiny areas such as the forehead, cheekbones, nose and chin are painted with a dark color. Shadow areas such as around the eyes, under the chin and under the nose are normally painted with a light color. Skin exposed on the neck and the back of your hands are painted with a combination of both colors in an irregular pattern. Three methods of individual camouflage are blotching, striping and combination.

(a) **Blotching** is applying your camouflage colors to your skin in a puzzle pattern.

(b) **Striping** is completely covering exposed areas with a base color and then applying darker colors in a striped pattern.

(c) **Combination** is combining blotching and striping.

(2) **Camouflage Equipment and Position:**

(a) **Weapon:** Your weapon has an easily recognizable silhouette and has parts highly reflective to light. You may use either natural or artificial camouflage to break up the silhouette and use camouflage paint to tone down the light reflective parts of the weapon. The techniques you use to camouflage your weapon must not inhibit its effective use in killing the enemy.

(b) **Helmet:** The helmet is one of the most easily distinguishing features you wear. You can break-up the outline with natural camouflage using the local vegetation. Artificial camouflage such as strips of burlap or some comparable material can be attached to the helmet to break up the helmet's outline. If using, natural camouflage use the appropriate amount over your entire body. Recall natural camouflage has a limited life time before it becomes ineffective.

(c) **Gear:** Age and repeated cleanings will fade the color of your equipment. The faded color and distinctive

outlines of your equipment require effective camouflage to lessen enemy detection.

(3) **Position:** When possible, select a position not obvious or eye catching to the enemy such as next to the only tree in the area or cresting a hilltop. Use natural camouflage as and look at your position from the enemy's point of view.

(a) **Camouflage Nets:** Lightweight Camouflage Screen System (LCSS) Nets are a proven effective way to rapidly camouflage a position from overhead observation. LCSS is available through the Navy supply system in desert, woodland and arctic colors.

(b) **Camouflage Vegetation:** Use of branches and vines to temporarily conceal vehicles, equipment, and personnel are an excellent means to camouflage a position. However, foliage requires careful maintenance to keep the material fresh and in good condition. If branches are not placed in their proper growing positions, they may reveal friendly positions to enemy observers. Cutting large amounts of branches can also reveal friendly positions, so cut all vegetation away from target areas.

(4) **Don't Give Away Your Position / Camouflage Discipline:** Camouflage discipline refers to any action taken to maintain your concealment from the enemy. Remember concealment does not equal cover. Your life may depend on your ability to maintain your concealed position.

(a) Camouflage is continuous and around the clock. Your camouflage should be checked continuously and adjusted accordingly. Natural camouflage loses its effectiveness over time.

(b) Observation of noise and light discipline is absolutely critical. Eliminate all movement if possible. Movement or breaking noise or light discipline is the quickest way to be discovered.

(c) Litter discipline become critical when occupying a concealed position over an extended period of time. The general rule of thumb is "it comes with you it goes with you". Burying litter is an option; however, the earth must not look as though it has been disturbed.