

## CHAPTER 8 Care and Use of Military Equipment & The Big Red Battalion SOP

### BIVOUAC EQUIPMENT

#### PONCHO

The poncho is made of waterproof-treated nylon cloth. It is rectangular in shape and has a hood and neck opening in the center. There is a drawstring in the hood and one at the waist (Figure 8-1).

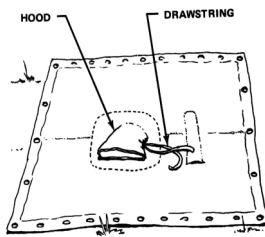


Figure 8-1

**Care.** To care for the poncho, hand wash in warm water and mild soap or detergent using a soft bristle brush. Then rinse it thoroughly, and hang it until completely dry if possible. Do not machine-wash, machine-dry, dry-clean, hot press, or hot-iron coated fabric items. Do not use cleaning fluid or bleach on coated items.

**Use.** The poncho may be used as a rain garment, shelter, ground cloth, or sleeping bag.

**Rain Garment.** Wear the poncho as a rain cape with your arms inside or with your arms outside for freedom of movement. To put on the poncho, slip it over your head and close the snap fasteners on each side. If you wear the poncho hood, adjust the drawstring for proper fit. Wear the helmet under the hood.



Figure 8-2

**Shelter.** Various types of shelters and lean-tos can be made by attaching ponchos to trees, tree branches, bushes, sticks, or poles. Always dig a ditch under the bottom edge of the shelter to drain off rainwater. Pitch the poncho with the hood closed, and use as a shelter for one person. Attach two ponchos to each other to make various types of shelters.

**Ground Cloth.** You can use the poncho as a ground cloth for shelters, and as a waterproof barrier between the ground and a sleeping bag.

**Sleeping Bag.** Use the poncho as a sleeping bag when the temperature is 50°F or above. Use it with a blanket or poncho liner for extra warmth. Spread the poncho flat on the ground, making sure the hood opening is tightly closed. If you use a blanket, place it on top of the poncho, fold the poncho and blanket in half lengthwise, and close the snap fasteners. Instructions for attaching the poncho liner to the poncho are on pages are covered in the Poncho Liner Section of this guide. If you use the poncho without a blanket or liner, snap the sides together and tuck the foot end under to keep your feet from sticking out. **CAUTION:** Do not close the snap fasteners when the poncho is used as a sleeping bag in combat areas. It cannot be opened quickly!

**Folding and Packing Methods.** When possible, completely air-dry the poncho before folding it. If it is necessary to fold the poncho while it is wet, unfold, air-dry, and refold it as soon as possible. The poncho can be folded and carried with your load-carrying equipment. Fold it in any manner, and carry it in the duffel bag or the field pack if space permits. Take care not to press it against sharp or rough objects which may cause damage. Fold the poncho for carrying on the individual equipment belt as shown in figure 8-3.

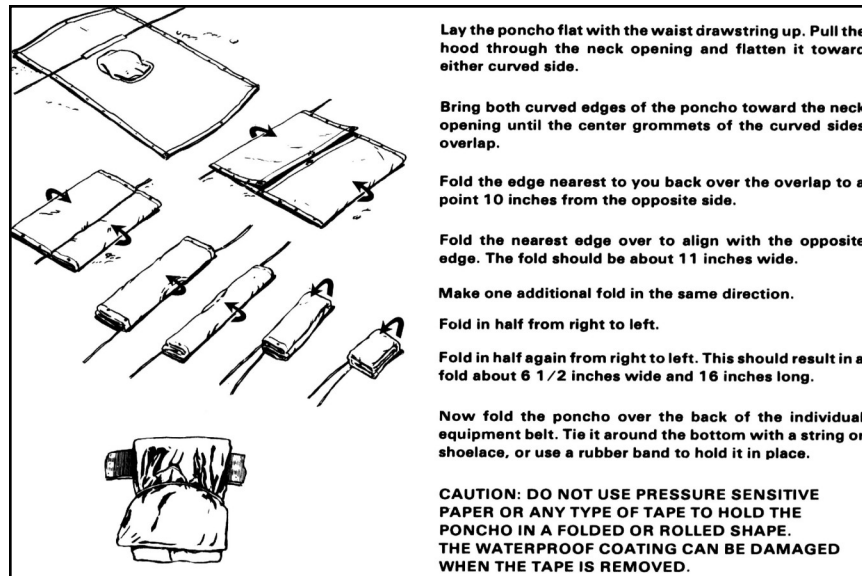


Figure 8-3

## PONCHOLINER

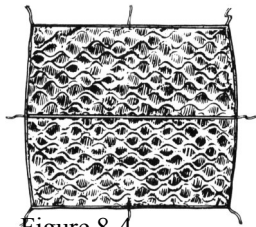


Figure 8-4

The poncho liner (Figure 8-4) is similar in size and shape to the poncho. It is made of polyester batting sandwiched between two panels of camouflage-patterned, lightweight nylon fabric. It has eight tie tapes to attach it to the poncho.

**Care.** Hand wash the liner with lukewarm water and a mild soap or detergent. **DO NOT BOIL IT OR HAVE IT DRY-CLEANED.**

**Use.** The poncho liner may be used as a blanket or with the poncho as a sleeping bag when the temperature is 50°F or above.

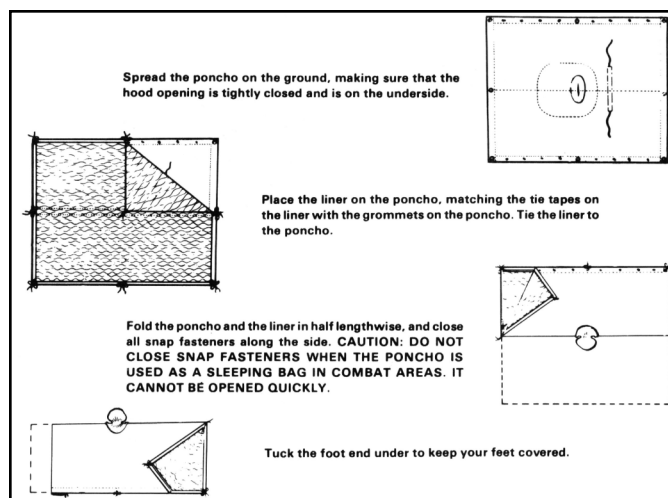


Figure 8-5

In some commands you may be told to roll up the poncho to prepare it for carrying.

## MODULAR SLEEP BAG SYSTEM

This system is constructed to insulate the user in environments ranging from mild weather to extremely cold weather. The system consists of two mummy style sleeping bags: the Patrol (green) and Intermediate Cold Weather (black). Each are constructed of water-resistant, ripstop nylon. Each sleeping bag is fully functional independently. For a temperature to  $-30$ , insert the Intermediate Cold Weather bag inside the patrol bag. Each bag is compatible with the vapor permeable bivy cover. When all three components are used together the system is rated to provide 4 hours sleep at  $-40$  degrees farenheit. A compression stuff sack and water proof woodland camouflage bivy cover are included and can be easily attached to a rucksack. Sleep system is non flammable and machine washable.



Figure 8-7



Figure 8-6

## FOAM SLEEPING MAT

The foam sleeping mat is used in place of the insulated pneumatic mattress. It is made of closed cell foam and weighs about is 1/4 pounds. It will not absorb water and stays flexible to temperatures of  $-100^{\circ}\text{F}$ .

**Care.** Clean the mat by brushing with a soft brush or sponging with soap and water.

**Rolling Method.** Lay the mat out with the tie tapes on the underside of the end farthest from you. Roll the mat as tightly as possible, wrap the tie tapes around the mat, and tie with a bow knot.

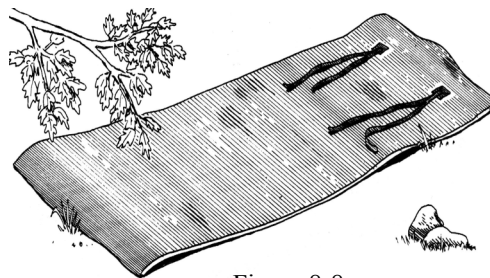


Figure 8-8

**Carrying Methods.** The rolled mat should be placed directly on top or directly beneath the three large cargo pockets on the field pack. Place the flap tie down straps over the mat, and pull them tight to hold the mat in position. If the mat is on top of the pockets, the pouch flap should be over the rolled mat as far as possible.

## Sleep System and Mat Configured for Carry on Medium Rucksack.

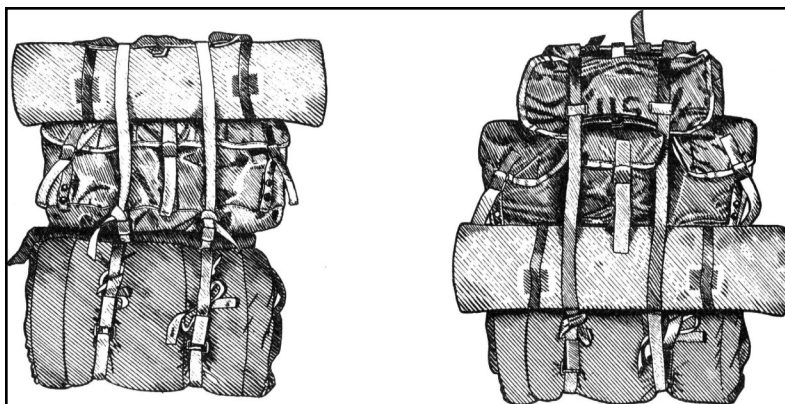


Figure 8-9

### FIGHTING AND EXISTENCE LOAD CONCEPT

The main purpose of the fighting and existence load concept is to lighten your load. You should only carry the items necessary for your mission. The load you carry should not include any item that can be carried another way. Because the type of mission, terrain, and environment will affect your clothing and equipment requirements, your commander may decide what items will be in your fighting or existence load.

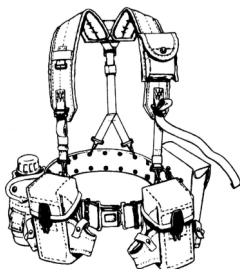


Fig 8-10 Typical Fighting Load

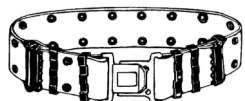


Fig. 8-11 Individual Equipment Belt

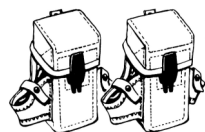


Fig. 8-14 Small-Arms Ammunition Case

**Fighting Load.** The typical fighting load is made up of essential items of individual clothing, equipment, weapons, and ammunition that are carried by you to complete the immediate mission of your unit. (See Figure 8-10)

**Individual Equipment Belt.** Carry the ammunition cases, entrenching tool carrier, and the canteen cover on the individual equipment belt. The belt comes in two sizes--medium for persons whose bare waist measures 30 inches or less; large for persons whose bare waist measures more than 30 inches.

**Individual Equipment Belt Suspenders.** The suspenders (Figure 8-13) support the individual equipment belt when the appropriate components are attached to the belt. Web band metal loops are provided on each suspender strap for attachment of small items such as the first aid/compass case or a flashlight.

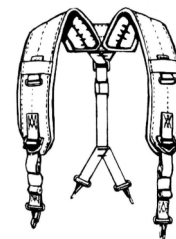


Fig. 8-13 Individual Equipment Belt Suspenders

**Small Arms Ammunition Case.** The small-arms ammunition case (Figure 8-14) holds three 30-round magazines (M16 rifle). The case has fragmentation grenade pockets on each side and a plastic fastener that can be opened and closed with one hand.

**Entrenching Tool Carrier.** This carrier holds the lightweight, collapsible entrenching tool.

**Canteen Cover.** The canteen cover holds the plastic canteen and metal cup. The cover has a small pocket attached for water purification tablets.

**First Aid Dressing/Compass Case.** This case holds either a first aid dressing or a magnetic compass.



Figure 8-15: Entrenching Tool Carrier



Figure 8-16: Canteen

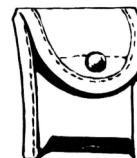


Figure 8-17: First Aid Dressing/Compass Case

## PROCEDURES FOR ASSEMBLING FIGHTING LOAD COMPONENTS

The procedure for assembling the fighting load components of the all-purpose lightweight individual carrying equipment (ALICE) follows.

**Fitting and Adjusting the Belt.** Try on the individual equipment belt, and determine the length needed for a snug--but not tight--fit. Then if you need to adjust the belt:

- Slide the two metal keepers away from the belt and the adjusting clamp. Unlock the adjusting clamp by spreading apart the looped webbing.
- Slide the adjusting clamp toward the belt buckle to loosen the belt and away from the buckle to tighten it. Squeeze the adjusting clamp to lock the belt in place; then slide the metal keepers so that one is next to the adjusting clamp and the other is next to the belt buckle. Each adjusting clamp should be about the same distance from the belt buckle.



Figure 8-18: Adjusting Individual Equipment Belt



Figure 8-19: Loosening and Tightening

**Attaching the Ammunition Cases to the Individual Equipment Belt.** Attach one ammunition case to the left side of the belt next to the belt buckle and the other ammunition case to the right side of the belt next to the buckle To do this:

- Pull each slide keeper attached to the case to an open position, and slide it over one thickness of the webbing. Make sure the slide keepers are vertical and the bottom holes are out beyond the webbing.
- Push each slide keeper down and into the holes to lock it.

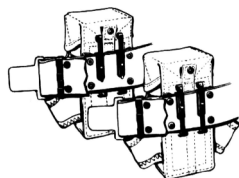


Figure 8-20: Slide Keepers on Ammunition Cases



Figure 8-21: Locking the Slide Keeper

**Attaching the Suspenders to the Individual Equipment Belt and Ammunition Cases.** To attach the suspenders to the belt and ammunition cases:

- Open all suspender snap hooks by pushing the hooks up and out of the retainers. Attach the back suspender snap hooks into the eyelet at each side of the two center top eyelets at the back of the equipment belt. Close the snap hooks (Figure 8-22).
- Attach the front suspender snap hooks to the eyelets on the back of the ammunition cases. Close the snap hooks.

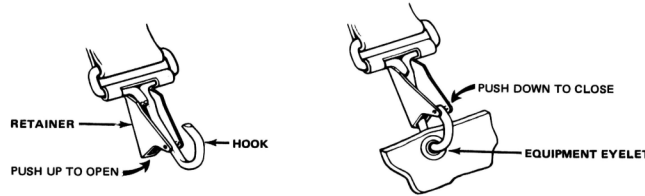


Figure 8-22: Snap Hooks

**Attaching the Entrenching Tool Carrier.** Using the two slide keepers on the back of the carrier, attach the carrier to the belt. Place the entrenching tool in the carrier so that the blade portion is to the back of the carrier.

**Attaching the Canteen Cover.** Using the two slide keepers on the back of the canteen cover, attach the cover on the right side as close as possible to the ammunition case.

**Attaching the First Aid Dressing/ Compass Case.** Using the slide keeper on the back of the case, attach the case to the webbing loop on the front of either shoulder.

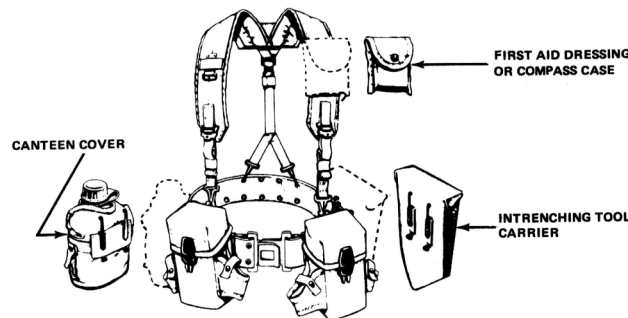


Figure 8-23: Attaching Remaining Items to Individual Equipment Web Belt

**Adjusting the Front and Back Suspender Straps.** After you have attached the equipment to the belt and suspenders, put it On and fasten the buckle. Adjust the length of the front and back suspender straps using the loose ends of the straps. Pull down on the loose end of each strap to raise the belt. Lift the end of each strap to lower the belt. Secure the loose ends of the straps with the elastic loops. When you are finished, the belt should hang evenly at your waist, and the yoke should be positioned comfortably. Although you can adjust the back strap yourself, you can do it easier by using the buddy system.

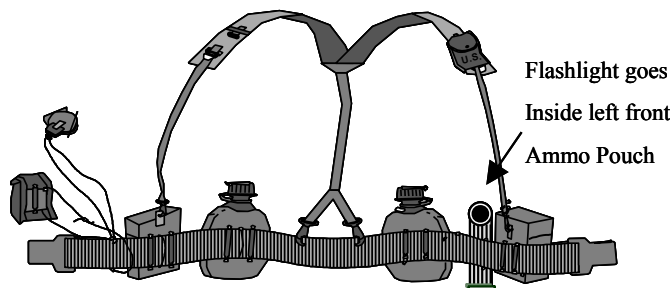


Figure 8-24

Figure 8-24 shows the approximate way **Big Red Battalion** cadets will configure their LBE (Load Bearing Equipment).

- Two canteens worn on either side if issued.
- Compass worn on right (As shown) or left side towards the front and secured.
- First Aid dressing and case placed on top left side of harness.
- Ammunition cases worn as shown. (Note Flashlight location)
- Additional gear is authorized if approved by the PMS.

## The **Big Red Battalion** LBE Standing Operating Procedure (SOP)

### EXISTENCE LOAD

The typical existence load consists of the fighting load plus those items which are required to sustain or protect you or which may be necessary for your increased personal and environmental protection. Unless other transportation is available, both the fighting and existence loads are carried by you, the cadet.

**Ground Troops Pack Frame.** Use the ground troops pack frame as a mount for the medium or large combat field pack.

**Pack Frame Straps.** Straps attached to the pack frame are a lower back strap, waist straps, and two shoulder straps. There is a quick-release device on each shoulder strap.

**Cargo Tiedown Straps.** Use issued or purchased cargo tiedown straps to secure equipment (such as the sleeping bag) to the pack frame.

**Medium Combat Field Pack.** Use the medium combat field pack to carry existence loads including clothing, rations, and personal items. The pack (Figure 8-25) has a pouch with a drawcord closure and three outside smaller pockets. These pockets are tunneled to the pouch so that long objects can be carried between the pouch and each pocket. The pouch also has a special inside pocket to carry the dismantled radio if necessary. The pouch flap has a pocket that can be opened by pulling two tabs apart. Small flat items can be carried in this pocket. Pressing the flap sides together closes it. Hangers are also provided to carry individual equipment or extra ammunition. This pack can be carried directly on your back or on the pack frame. In extremely cold climates, you must carry the pack on the frame. (The medium rucksack is the only one you will be issued as a cadet).

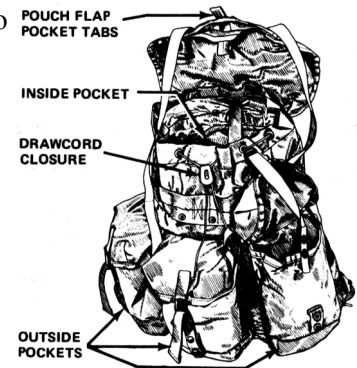


Figure 8-25: Medium Combat Field Pack

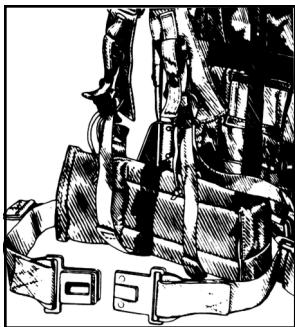


Figure 8-26: Back Strap

### PROCEDURES FOR ASSEMBLING EXISTENCE LOAD COMPONENTS

**Attaching and Adjusting the Lower Back Strap to Pack Frame.** The lower back strap (Figure 8-26) keeps the load away from your back and lets air circulate between your back and the load. The strap should be loose enough to curve in and fit against the lower part of your back. To attach the lower back strap:

- With the padded surface outward, insert each end of the strap through the metal loops on the bottom of the pack frame.

- Attach the quick-release strap to the back strap by threading the quick-release strap through the smaller metal loops on the back strap.

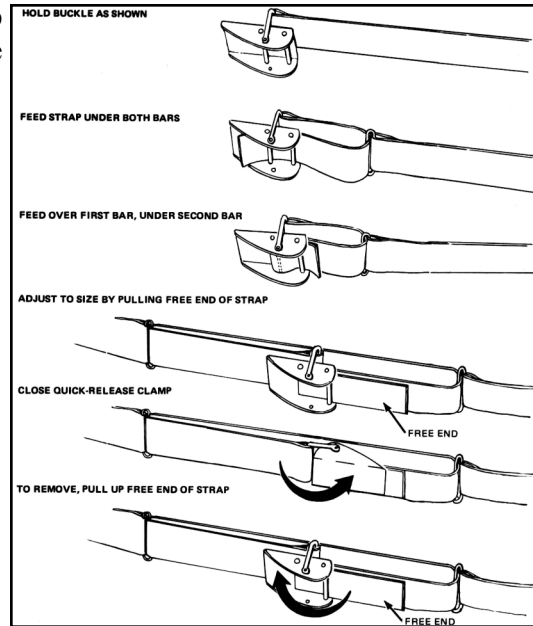


Figure 8-27: Adjusting the Back Strap Quick-Release

**Attaching Shoulder Straps to Pack Frame.** Both shoulder straps have quick-release assemblies on them. To attach the straps (Figure 8-28):

- Insert the looped end, from the inside of the frame, through the plastic grommet to the outside of the frame. Pass the other end of the shoulder strap through the loop, and pull tight (A).
- Insert the webbed strap on the shoulder pad through the metal keeper on the top of the pack frame (B). **Make sure the padded side faces inward and right and left strap are on the correct side.**
- Thread the webbing through the nonslip buckle and tighten.

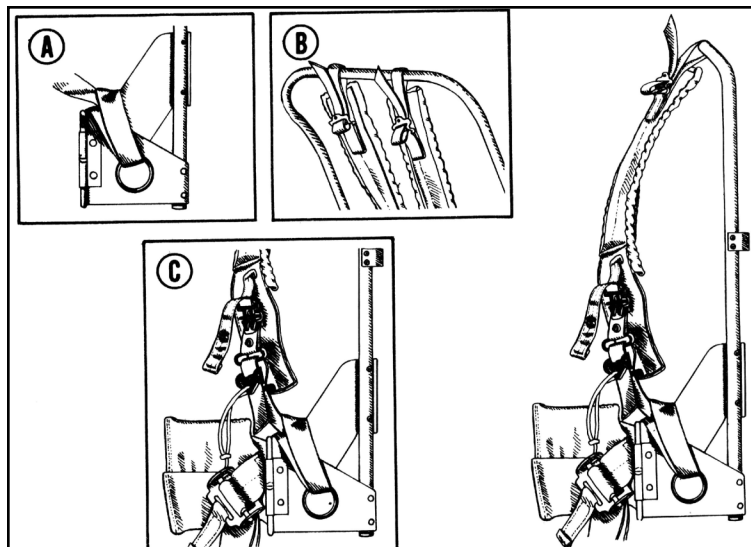


Figure 8-28: Attaching Straps to Pack Frame

**Attaching Waist Straps to Pack Frame.** The waist straps are threaded through the buckles on the outside of the lower back strap (C). The strap with the male buckle goes on the left side. The strap with the female buckle goes on the right side.



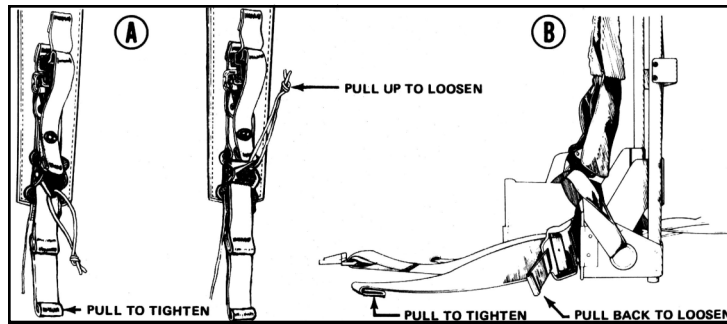


Figure 8-29: Adjusting Shoulder and Waist Straps

**Adjusting Shoulder and Waist Straps.** Adjust the shoulder and waist straps after you have put on the frame with the load you are going to carry. Each set of straps has adjustment buckles (Figure 8-29).

**Shoulder straps.** To lift the load on your back, shorten the strap by pulling down on the loose end of the webbing (A). To lower the load, lengthen the strap by pulling up on the cord.

**Waist strap.** To tighten the waist strap, pull the loose end of the strap on either side forward (B). To loosen the waist strap, pull the web strap on either buckle to the rear.



Figure 8-29: Medium Combat Field Pack & Frame

**Attaching Medium Combat Field Pack to Pack Frame.** To attach the medium pack to the pack frame:

- Insert the bare frame into the envelope on the back of the pack.
- Loop the strap located on the bottom of the pack around the frame twice.
- Buckle the end of the strap to the nonslip buckle.
- Attach and adjust the shoulder straps and waist straps as previously described.

**Attaching Shoulder Straps to Medium Combat Field Pack.** The medium pack may be carried using the shoulder straps without the pack frame. To attach the shoulder straps to the pack (Figure 6-??), insert the looped end through the D-ring on the bottom of the pack, pass the other end of the shoulder strap through the loop, and pull tight. Next, insert the webbing of the loose end of the shoulder strap through the metal loop at the top of the pack, making sure the padded side of the shoulder strap is facing inward. Then thread the webbing through the nonslip buckle and tighten. Adjust the shoulder strap as previously described.

**WARNING:** When you carry the medium combat field pack in extreme cold climates, you must wear it on the pack frame. Using the pack frame will prevent accumulation of sweat in the area where the pack contacts your back; this moisture can cause you to cool rapidly.

**Attaching Sleeping Bag.** When using the large combat field pack, always carry your sleeping bag inside the pack. When using the medium combat field pack, carry the sleeping bag inside or outside the pack.

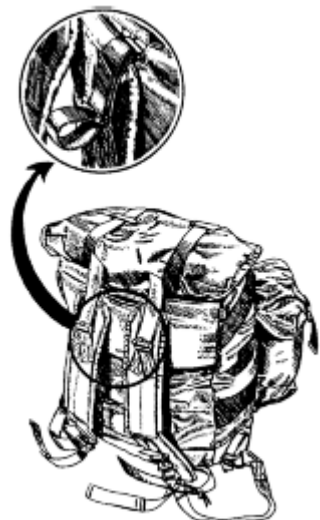
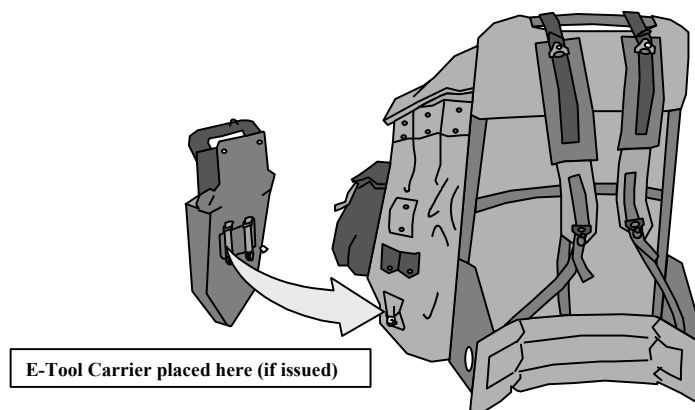
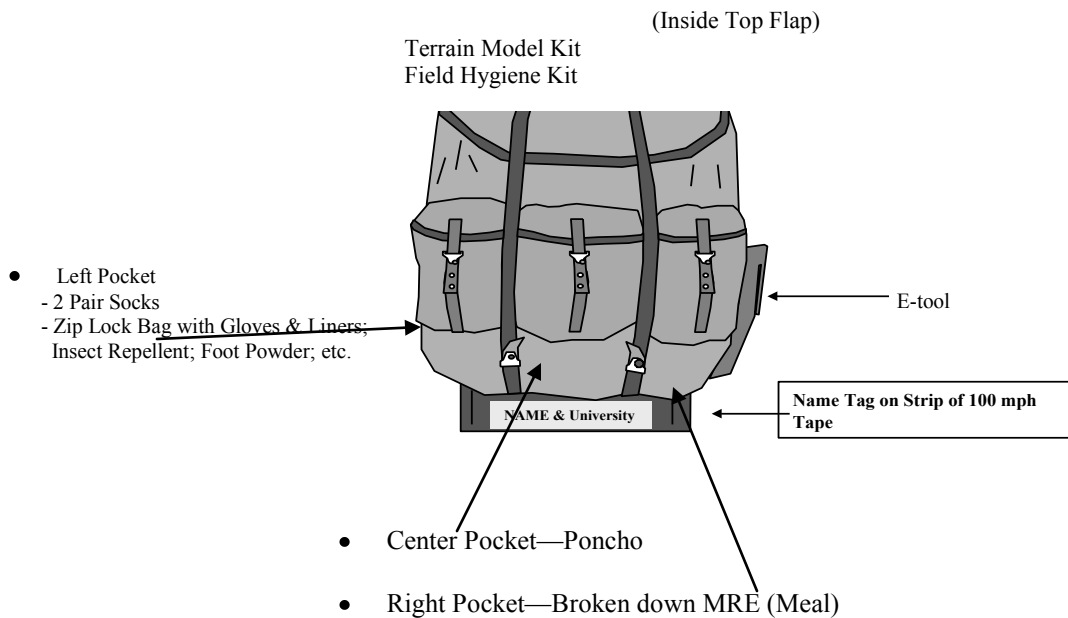


Figure 8-30: Attaching shoulder straps to medium combat field pack

To attach the bag to the outside of the pack :

- Using the cargo tiedown straps, pass the hook ends of the straps through the webbing loops on the bottom of the pack.
- Wrap the straps around the sleeping bag, and attach the ends of the straps as shown.
- Push the fasteners into the closed position, and tighten the straps.
- When using the puck frame with the pack (figure 4-30), pass the cargo tiedown straps under and around the horizontal bar of the frame after completing step one. Continue as described in steps two and three.

**The Big Red Battalion Ruck Sack SOP**



For detailed field training packing list, see current operation order and seek chain of command guidance. (MSIII's will have SOP for Advance Camp)