

with his own name on it, and we must provide him with the training opportunities and resources to do it properly.

Few resources are needed for a scarecrow dummy; the most vital one is the uniform. Most U.S. Army units do not issue uniforms to their soldiers for that purpose, and soldiers are understandably reluctant to make scarecrows out of the ones they have paid for. The solution is to issue salvage uniforms so that leaders can emphasize making dummies without worrying

about their orders causing wear and tear on the soldiers' personal property. This will be an added expense to the Army's logistical system, but it will cost far less to field a platoon of scarecrow dummies than to field, or bury, a single soldier.

All training, from combat training center deployments to local field training exercises, must be analyzed to see whether dummies can be employed in them. This article offers suggestions for only the most basic of scarecrow techniques. But it is important for our soldiers

to learn these fundamentals, because technology will soon add a new twist to the age-old scarecrow idea: When the age of robotics arrives, dummies will be able to shoot back.

Captain Robert A. Albino, a Special Forces officer, is assigned to 2d Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group. He previously served in the 8th Infantry Division, where he conducted personal experiments with scarecrow dummies. He is a 1986 graduate of the United States Military Academy.

SWAP SHOP



OPTICAL CAMOUFLAGE

The shine from binoculars, scopes, infrared viewers, night vision goggles, and even individual sun, wind, dust goggles (SWDGs) can give away your presence, especially in the open expanse of the desert, and draw enemy fire. Glint from an officer's binoculars gave away the Confederate attack at Gettysburg, killed the German Army's top sniper in World War II, cost an Israeli general an eye, and allowed a Marine gunnery sergeant to take out the Viet Cong's top sniper.

Visiting paratroopers from the former Soviet Union said recently that looking for reflections from our optics was a major scouting tactic in the Cold War. And during major U.S. Army exercises, at least one scout helicopter is usually assigned the sole mission of looking for optic reflections from ground forces.

You can shield binoculars by cupping your fingers around the outer lenses. But you can't cup your fingers around a weapon scope or around the SWDGs you're wearing or resting on your helmet.

A field expedient solution is to make lens covers from a pair of women's brown nylon pantyhose, preferably a pair

with the thicker nylon in the upper part. This technique will give you immediate camouflage for your optics while preserving their normal use.

FOR BINOCULARS AND SCOPES:

- (1) Cut off the ends (toes).
- (2) Stretch the fabric over the lenses.
- (3) Secure with a rubber band and tape.

FOR THE SWDG LENS:

- (1) Lay lens on the thicker nylon.
- (2) Outline shape with a pen, and cut out.
- (3) Stretch fabric over the lens as you return it to the frame, leaving a little overhang.
- (4) When lens is back in place, trim excess nylon from inside the goggles.

Industry has developed special lens covers that can be retrofitted to issue binoculars, vehicle headlights, sunglasses, sniper scopes, and infrared thermal sights such as those used on the Dragon and Javelin missiles. Hopefully, similar covers will also be developed for use on SWDGs and prescription eyeglasses.

(Submitted by Mike Sparks, U.S. Army National Guard, Raeford, North Carolina.)

