

# INFANTRY NEWS



A **PATTERN REDESIGN** of the battle dress uniform (BDU) has resulted in problems with sleeve tightness in the temperate and hot-weather versions. The problem applies to a small percentage of soldiers and will be corrected in future procurements.

Meanwhile, each soldier who buys or receives a BDU coat should try it on before leaving the store to ensure a comfortable fit when the sleeves are rolled. If the sleeves are too tight, a soldier may have to buy the next larger size.

Soldiers who have already bought BDU coats with sleeves that are too tight may exchange them at any Army Military Clothing Sales Store (AMCSS). The coat being returned should be in serviceable condition and should fit the soldier properly except for the sleeves.

To test for sleeve tightness:

- Roll the sleeves up, but don't use an excessive number of rolls. The standard is two folds up and one down with the camouflage pattern out. Sleeves should be rolled up no more than three inches above the elbow.

- Salute, while exerting maximum effort to flex the biceps muscle, and test for space. There should not be enough space to insert a finger between the fabric and the arm.

- Leave the insignia attached at the time of return to verify ownership; you may remove it once the tightness has been confirmed by AMCSS personnel.

The exchange of BDUs because of variances in color or shade between trousers and coats (due to wear) is not authorized.

The attachment of issue insignia to new uniforms will apply for both officers (one-time exception) and enlisted personnel in accordance with Paragraph 5-5, Issue and Attachment of Insignia, of Army Regulation 700-84, Update 14, dated 28 Feb 1994.

Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve personnel will use their normal procedures for exchanging the defective uniforms.

This policy will be in effect until 30 September 1995.

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**THE OBJECTIVE** Individual Combat Weapon (OICW), which will replace the M16, M4 carbine, and M203, will substantially increase a soldier's survivability through its extended range, using both kinetic-energy and high-explosive bursting munition capability. Contracts have been awarded for system design and critical subsystem technology demonstration.

The OICW, one of several advanced technology demonstration efforts in the 21st Century Land Warrior program, is the lethality component of the program, which also includes advancements in communication, integrated headgear, climate control, and body protection capabilities.

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**COMBAT CASUALTY BLANKETS** can be used to avoid hypothermia or help save the life of a soldier already experiencing hypothermia when weather conditions suddenly change.

Seemingly benign weather conditions (moderate to high temperatures mixed with precipitation and wind chill) can change rapidly at unforeseen times and places. The effects of such conditions, along with wet clothing and fatigue, can cause the body core temperature to drop dramatically. These effects can be fatal if immediate steps are not taken to change the ambient skin exposure conditions to reduce the loss of body heat from the victim's skin surface.

The Army supply system has some of these lightweight, inexpensive blankets. The Infantry School recommends that

commanders at all levels consider keeping either or both of these casualty blankets, commonly referred to as "space blankets," on hand.

Requisitioning information is as follows:

- Blanket, Combat Casualty Lightweight (12.3 ounces), Waterproof, Aluminized Plastic, 84" x 56", OD/Silver, Price: \$3.70, NSN 7210-00-935-6665.

- Blanket, Combat Casualty Lightweight (2.6 ounces), Waterproof, Aluminized Plastic, 96" x 56", OD/Silver, Price: \$3.80, NSN 7210-00-935-6666.

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**THE AN/PRC-139 TACTICAL** handheld radio is undergoing modifications under a recent contract. The modifications will allow the three-pound radio full 16-kbps data interoperability with the Army's SINCGARS (single-channel ground and airborne radio subsystem) tactical radio in the single-channel mode.

The radios will be an integral part of the Army's upcoming Advanced Warfighting Exercise Warrior Focus, one of the key tests of the digital battlefield concept. (See Commandant's Note, pages 1 and 2 of this issue.)

These will provide wireless connections between the dismounted soldier system unit computers through links with other AN/PRC-139 or SINCGARS radios.

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**21ST CENTURY FIELD** sanitation methods are available today. A recent **INFANTRY** article, "Slim, Rommel, and Preventive Medicine" (January-February 1994), discussed the importance of preventive medicine in maintaining combat power, and most preventive medicine programs begin

with field sanitation.

Anyone who has served in uniform can recall a variety of latrines, ranging from the primitive to the most modern, that have served our soldiers, and foreign armies share similar experience. During the war in Vietnam, U.S. forces employed airborne sensors to detect enemy base camps and staging areas by the ammonia compounds and other traces emitted by their latrines. As technology continues to advance, it will be possible to find ever smaller units by these means, and this reveals yet another reason to find a replacement for the old traditional field latrine. Finally, today's heightened emphasis on environmental protection will have its own impact on how field latrines are employed. Fortunately, a solution is at hand.

The Defense Construction Supply Center (DCSC), in Columbus, Ohio, currently stocks three products that have proved beneficial:

- The Disposable Urinal Bag, National Stock Number (NSN) 4510-01-379-0177, costs \$2.15 and contains a polymer enzyme that converts urine into a lemon-scented gel. It is leak and spill-proof, odorless, and nontoxic, and can be disposed of in a trash container.

- The Solid Waste System, NSN

4510-01-379-1341, costs \$2.92, has the same characteristics and also contains tissue paper and a moist towelette.

- The Daily Restroom Kit, NSN 4510-01-379-0190, contains two urinal bags and one solid waste bag and costs \$5.99.

Each of these products is designed to fit in the cargo pocket of the Army's battledress uniform (BDU). They were issued to U.S. forces in Haiti; units using them experienced a .5-percent incidence of diarrhea, a rate approximately 24 percent below that experienced by units not using the kits under similar conditions.

Preventive medicine is just one element of force protection, and these advances in the area of field sanitation are a step in the right direction.

Further information on these products can be obtained by contacting Maxine Copeland, DCSC-CMBA, at DSN 850-1258 or commercial (614) 692-1258.

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AMERICAN MILITARY University (AMU), a distance education graduate school with headquarters in Manassas Park, Virginia, has received accreditation from the Distance Education and Training Council, an ac-

crediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. More than half of the students enrolled are on active duty or in reserve status.

Students may specialize in any one of four areas of study—Land Warfare, Naval Warfare, Air Warfare, or Defense Management. AMU's catalog contains approximately 135 courses, with 30 to 40 offered each semester. This selection is one of the most extensive arrays of military-oriented courses available anywhere in the country.

AMU accepts up to 15 semester hours of transfer credit for accredited graduate work completed elsewhere, for professional military education that has been evaluated for graduate credit by the American Council on Education, and for significant experience. Thus, members of the military services and civilians may already have a head start toward the 36 hours required for the Master of Arts in Military Studies degree.

The university's accreditation means that eligible military students may apply for the Tuition Assistance Program or the Montgomery GI Bill. Military personnel should check with their Education Service Officers for details.

For further information concerning enrollment, contact the school at (703) 330-5398 or FAX (703) 330-5109.

