

WET DOG

IN THE RAIN

When the skies open up and the rain pours down, it's time to pull on your wet weather parka and trousers. But some soldiers say the rainsuit smells foul and they don't like wearing it.

That smell comes from sweat deposited on the clothing and from the bacteria that feed on it. The smell might also come from a breakdown in the waterproof coating, especially on older clothing.

Getting rid of that wet-dog-in-the-rain funk calls for a thorough washing. Here's how it's done:

- Hand wash the parka and trousers with a cloth or soft-bristle brush in warm water and a mild laundry detergent. Never machine launder or dry clean. It's too rough on the polyurethane coating that waterproofs the rainsuit.



- Next, turn the clothing inside out and do the hand wash routine once more. That should remove odors.

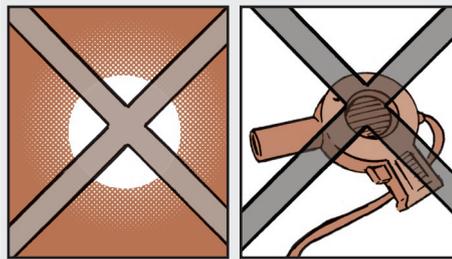
- Rinse thoroughly inside and out with clean water. Make sure you get rid of all the suds.



- Air-dry for 24 hours on a rust-proof hanger. Let the parka and trousers dry completely before you fold and store them. Storing them damp is an invitation for mildew to form.



- Never dry the clothing in direct sunlight. The sun causes permanent creases. And don't use direct heat—like machine dryers, hair dryers or space heaters. They cause the coating to dry out and crack.



SMITTY LOOKS MISERABLE! WHY DOESN'T HE PUT ON HIS RAIN GEAR?

HE SAYS IT SMELLS LIKE A WET DOG!

WHERE ARE HIS BDUs?

HE SAYS IT'S BATH NIGHT!



If washing doesn't get rid of the smell, then replace the parka or trousers.