

ARMY COMBAT BOOTS: FROM THE GROUND UP

IF A SOLDIER'S BEST FRIEND IS HIS RIFLE, NEXT IN LINE MAY VERY WELL BE HIS BOOTS.

AFTER ALL, BOOTS PROTECT HIS FEET, ABSORB SHOCK AND PROVIDE TRACTION.

WHEN HIS COMBAT BOOTS HIT THE GROUND, HE TRUSTS THEY'LL SEE HIM THROUGH THE MISSION.

CONSIDERING HOW WELL YOUR BOOTS SUPPORT YOU, YOU NEED TO RETURN THE FAVOR BY SUPPORTING THEM.



START BY GETTING SOME BACKGROUND ON THE NEW FRESH-SIDE-OUT STYLE ARMY COMBAT BOOTS—BOTH TEMPERATE WEATHER AND HOT WEATHER.

ONCE YOU GET ACQUAINTED WITH THE BASIC FEATURES, THEN READ ON TO LEARN ABOUT FITTING, BREAKING IN, CLEANING AND CARE.

Features



BOTH THE TEMPERATE WEATHER AND HOT WEATHER ARMY COMBAT BOOTS SHARE THE FOLLOWING FEATURES...

- currently issued in the Soldier's clothing bag
- authorized for wear with the Army combat uniform (ACU)
- breathable, flesh-side-out tan cattlehide leather
- removable cushion inserts
- combination leather and nylon upper
- combination speed laces and eyelets
- oil-resistant, durable rubber outsole
- shock absorbing midsole for reducing injuries



TEMPERATE WEATHER BOOTS ALSO HAVE THESE FEATURES...

- leather pull tabs and comfort ankle collars



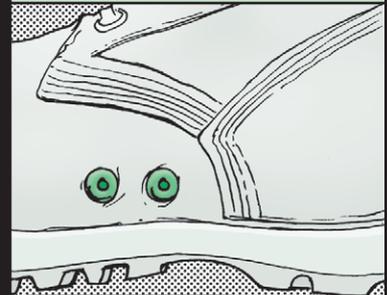
Pull tab helps you get a grip

- flame- and heat-resistant
- liquid fuel-resistant
- authorized for flight and combat vehicle crewmen



AND HOT WEATHER BOOTS ALSO HAVE THESE FEATURES...

- padded comfort collars
- drainage eyelets on inner arches



Drainage eyelets help keep boots dry

Fitting

Pull on your boots, seating the heels firmly in place. Lace them up. The boots should feel snug but not tight. There should be some room between the tip of the boot and your big toe—at least $\frac{3}{4}$ inch. You'll need that extra room when your feet swell.

Recommended Socks

WEARING THE PROPER BOOT SOCKS HELPS KEEP FEET DRY AND COMFORTABLE, PROMOTES A BETTER FIT AND PROTECTS AGAINST BLISTERS.

HERE ARE NSNs FOR THE RECOMMENDED SOCKS...

Army Green Boot Socks

Size	NSN 8440-01-508
XX-small	3356
X-small	3357
Small	3359
Medium	3360
Large	3362
X-large	3364

Breaking In

Do not break in boots by soaking them in water or baking them in an oven. That just degrades the leather. Break them in gradually. Start by walking or marching in your boots for short distances. Over time, work your way up to longer distances. Be alert to any blisters. They're a sign your boots may not fit well or you're not wearing the proper socks.

Cleaning

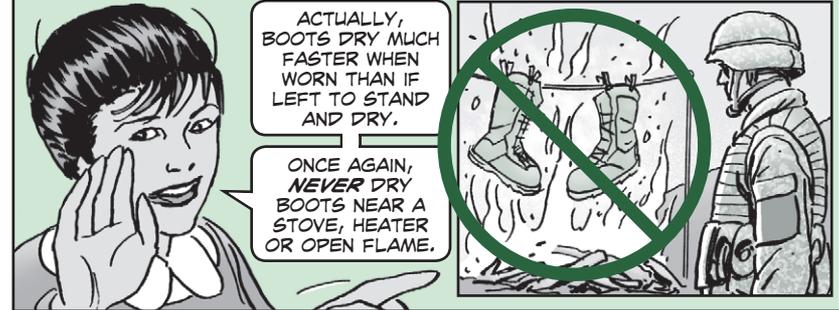
The boots are made for easy upkeep. Clean off dirt and mud with a stiff nylon brush. Then wash lightly in warm water. Do not clean your boots with soap. And never use alcohol or oil-based cleaners. They can damage the boots. Air dry the boots in the sun or shade. To protect the leather and nylon, never dry them near a stove, heater or open flame.



Drying

Temperate weather boots are waterproof. Hot weather boots have drainage eyelets to help drain water. Both types of boots are made with water-resistant materials. Even so, the boots can become damp or wet from sweat or from water pouring over the top of the boot.

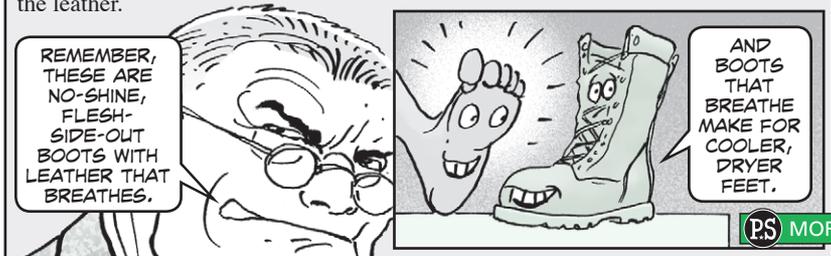
If your boots become wet, shake out the water and change into dry socks. Continue to wear the boots. Just make sure you change into dry socks regularly.



Waterproofing and Polishing

As stated earlier, temperate weather boots are already waterproof, and hot weather boots are designed to drain water and dry quickly. **So don't apply waterproofing products to them.** That just clogs the pores in the leather so it can't breathe. Heat and moisture get trapped inside, making your feet uncomfortable. These products also increase the boots' drying time and degrade the leather.

The same thing holds true for polishing. **Don't apply polish to your boots.** You'll clog the pores and discolor the leather.



Outsole

Your boots come with a replaceable rubber lug outsole. Don't wear out the boots past the outsole into the softer midsole cushion. You could end up damaging your boots and injuring your feet. When the outsole wears out, replace the boots.

Outsole worn out? Replace boots

