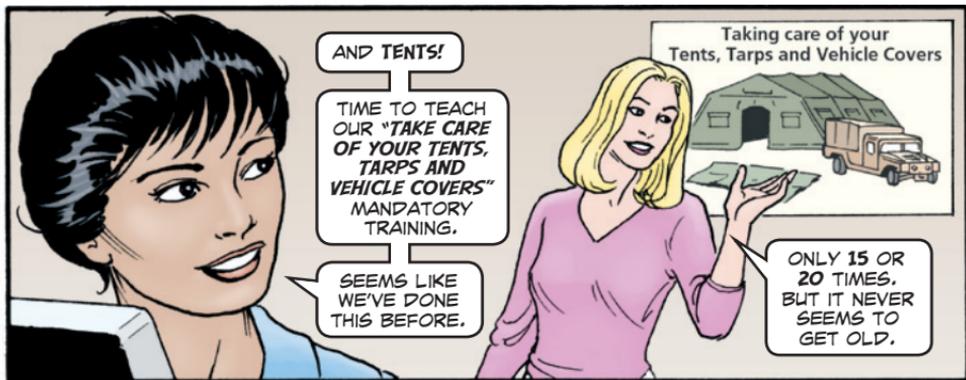
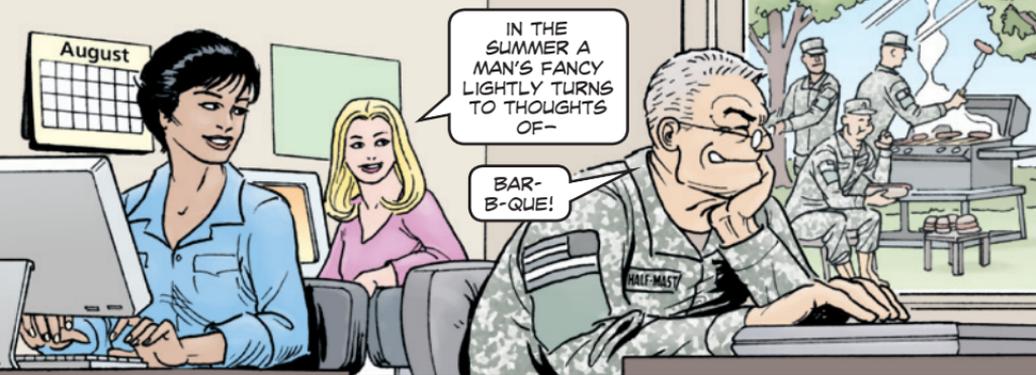
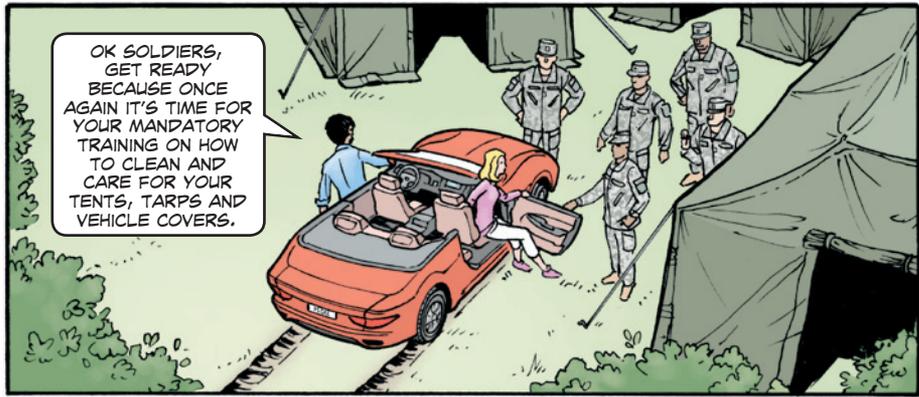
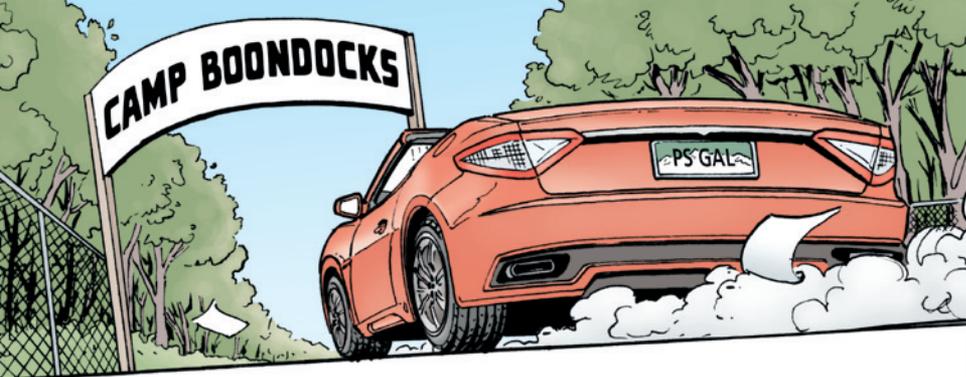


Tents, Tarps,
Vehicle Covers...

The Meaning of Cleaning





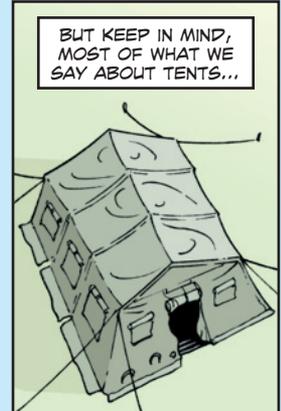
OK SOLDIERS, GET READY BECAUSE ONCE AGAIN IT'S TIME FOR YOUR MANDATORY TRAINING ON HOW TO CLEAN AND CARE FOR YOUR TENTS, TARPS AND VEHICLE COVERS.



CAN'T WE TAKE THIS COURSE ONLINE?



THROUGHOUT MOST OF THIS LESSON, WE'LL BE REFERRING TO TENTS.



BUT KEEP IN MIND, MOST OF WHAT WE SAY ABOUT TENTS...



...ALSO APPLIES TO TARPS...



...AND VEHICLE COVERS...

...ESPECIALLY WHEN WE DISCUSS CLEANING, DRYING AND STORING.



Play Taps for Canvas

JUST A BRIEF NOTE BEFORE WE START... WE'LL BE DISCUSSING VINYL-COATED POLYESTER TENTS.

AS YOU KNOW, THERE'S NOT MUCH COTTON DUCK CANVAS AROUND ANYMORE.

THAT MEANS THE SUPPLY SYSTEM HAS NO CANVAS REPLACEMENT PARTS OR TENT SECTIONS...



OH, NO!



OH, WOE!

...AND NO CANVAS SHEETS FOR REPAIRING TEARS.

IT ALSO MEANS FIELD MAINTENANCE NO LONGER REPAIRS CANVAS.

IF YOU HAVE CANVAS, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING IT!

THE ARMY DOESN'T SUPPORT IT.



Why Clean Your Tent?

WHEN TENTS RETURN FROM THE FIELD, THEY'RE OFTEN DIRTY, WET, SOILED WITH TREE SAP, BIRD DROPPINGS, OIL OR GREASE.

THEN, WITH **NO CLEANING**, THEY'RE FOLDED WET AND STORED IN DARK, CRAMPED QUARTERS.

THAT'S A BREEDING GROUND FOR MILDEW AND ITS MUSTY ODOR!



MILDEW PENETRATES THE COATING OF THE TENT FABRIC AND EVENTUALLY THE COATING SEPARATES FROM THE FABRIC.



ONCE THIS HAPPENS, THE FABRIC IS **NO LONGER WATERPROOF.**

THAT'S THE MAIN REASON TO CLEAN AND DRY YOUR TENT...

...**TO PREVENT MILDEW!**



Cleaning

HERE'S THE ROUTINE FOR WASHING YOUR TENT...



1. Set up the tent. It's easier to clean that way.
2. Use a soft-bristled brush and a solution of mild soap and warm water. Gently scrub the fabric by hand. Clean both the inside and outside of the tent.

USE A SOFT-BRISTLED BRUSH AND MILD SOAP AND WATER.



3. Never machine-wash a tent. The agitators might tear the fabric or pull apart the seams. All that tossing and tumbling might even wear off the fabric's waterproof coating.
4. Also wash the poles with soap and water. It's especially important to wash metal poles exposed to salt water, or else they'll corrode.

5. **Zippers** get jammed with grit, dirt and sand. And just like poles, metal zippers exposed to salt water can corrode. So wash them.
6. Rinse all of the tent...fabric, poles and zippers...thoroughly with clean water.
7. Afterwards, use zipper lube, NSN 9150-00-999-7548. Close the zippers and rub a little lube over the teeth. Move the zippers up and down to spread it. If you're out of lube, use some bar soap or a candle.



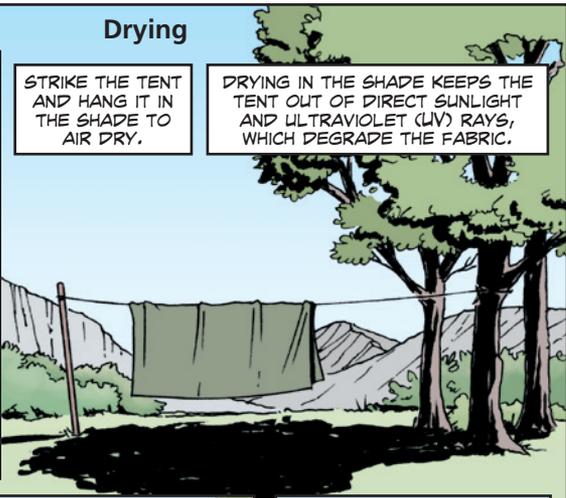
SPREAD A LITTLE ZIPPER LUBE ON THE TEETH.

Drying

WIPE AWAY EXCESS WATER WITH CLOTHS OR TOWELS.



STRIKE THE TENT AND HANG IT IN THE SHADE TO AIR DRY.

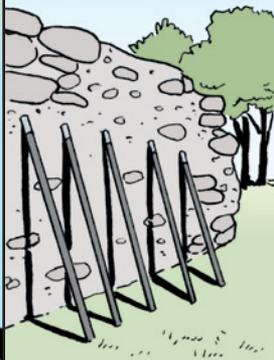


DRYING IN THE SHADE KEEPS THE TENT OUT OF DIRECT SUNLIGHT AND ULTRAVIOLET (UV) RAYS, WHICH DEGRADE THE FABRIC.

NEVER SPREAD THE TENT ON THE GROUND, WHERE MOISTURE WILL KEEP IT FROM DRYING.



TO DRY THE POLES, LEAN THEM AGAINST AN UPRIGHT SURFACE.



CHECK THE TENT FOR DRYNESS, ESPECIALLY THE HEAVIER, DOUBLE-STITCHED PLACES SUCH AS SEAMS.



Storing

MAKE SURE THE TENT'S COMPLETELY DRY BEFORE LOOSELY FOLDING AND STORING IT.



A DAMP TENT INVITES THE SPREAD OF MILDEW.



THIS LOOKS NICE 'N' COZY!! C'MON, FELLAS!

STORE THE POLES ONLY AFTER THEY'RE DRY.



STORE THE TENT ON A PALLET OR SHELF...



...IN A COOL, DRY, WELL-VENTILATED PLACE.



NEVER STORE IT ON THE GROUND OR OUTSIDE WHERE THERE'S DEW.



Cleaning Mildew

IF YOUR VINYL-COATED POLYESTER TENT **ALREADY** HAS MILDWE, HERE'S HOW TO CLEAN IT OFF...



1. Dilute household chlorine bleach by mixing one cup of bleach per one gallon of water.

Remember, bleach can cause skin, eye and nose irritation. Avoid skin/eye contact. Don't inhale the vapors. Bleach can damage or discolor clothing, including ACUs. So, wear protective clothing when handling bleach:

Item	NSN
Safety/splash goggles	4240-00-269-7912
Face shield	4240-00-542-2048
Rubber gloves	8415-00-266-8677
Full body apron	8415-00-082-6108

2. Brush or spray the diluted bleach on the mildew.
3. Clean the area with a soft-bristle brush until all mildew is removed.
4. Thoroughly rinse the cleaned area with water.
5. Completely dry the tent before folding and storing.

JUST ONE MORE THING TO ADD...

NEVER USE CHLORINE BLEACH ON **COTTON DUCK CANVAS** TENTS!

IT CAN **WEAKEN** THE FABRIC, **REMOVE** THE COLOR AND **REDUCE** WATER REPELLENCY AND FLAME RESISTANCE.



SO ANOTHER YEAR OF CLEANING AND CARING FOR TENTS, TARPS AND VEHICLE COVERS TRAINING GONE BY.

I THINK THESE SOLDIERS LEARNED A LOT TODAY.



WHAT DO YOU THINK HALF-MAST IS UP TO RIGHT NOW?

PROBABLY UP TO HIS NECK IN RIB BONES!

