

d. Mine Fields. Breaches in enemy and friendly mine fields may be marked with infra-red beacons to facilitate the passage of troops and vehicles during hours of darkness.

28. SECURITY MEASURES. Attention is invited to the fact that several of the means and methods of employment discussed in this chapter are entirely lacking in security. Ordinary visual signals, such as colored smoke, flags, visible lights and panels will be as readily detected and acted upon by an alert enemy as by our own troops. This also applies to the use of loud audible signals such as bells, horns, and sirens. The use of infra-red light and radio homing devices is by far the most secure method of assembly.

CHAPTER 5

ORGANIZATION AND EQUIPMENT

29. ORGANIZATION. The specific mission assigned to a ground force pathfinder team will determine the number of personnel required to make up the team. In general, a pathfinder team will consist of one officer, serving as team leader, sufficient electronic aid operators to man the beacons required, and sufficient visual aid operators to install visual aids with minimum delay. When additional technical specialists are added by the air force commander, the entire unit functions as a team under the team leader or senior officer performing the mission. The organization shown herein is not mandatory but is intended to serve as a guide to the commander responsible for the employment of pathfinder troops.

30. INDIVIDUAL CLOTHING. The clothing worn by pathfinder troops during combat operations will be dictated by the climate, terrain, means of transportation, and tactical situation. In general, the pathfinder should travel light, taking only such excess clothing as is essential to self-preservation during the performance of a mission. Additional clothing, blankets, etc., may be obtained from casualties after accomplishment of the mission.

31. INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENT. As in the case of clothing, the individual equipment utilized during combat operations will be that dictated by the specific mission. Certain items, such as the electronic and visual aids are prescribed by the air force commander after agreement with the ground force commander to whom the ground force pathfinder teams are assigned for duty. Other items commonly utilized are listed in the following subparagraphs with a brief discussion of the use of the equipment.

a. Weapons. Firearms should be limited to the Cal. .30 light machine gun, M1 rifle, BAR, Cal. .45 pistol, and Cal. .45 sub-machine gun. By so limiting the choice of weapons the types of ammunition required are kept

to a minimum. This facilitates resupply of individuals within the team during combat.

(1) Pistol, Cal. .45 M1911A1. A weapon designed for close combat, particularly valuable to pathfinders required to land by parachute due to the speed with which it may be put into action upon landing and prior to release from the parachute harness.

(2) Rifle M1. This weapon should be the principal weapon of the team due to its characteristic accuracy and fire power. At least two such weapons should be equipped with grenade launchers to facilitate the use of offensive grenades and pyrotechnic projectiles.

(3) Gun, sub-machine, Cal. .45. Used for close-in protection of electronic aids during and after installation.

(4) Gun, machine, Cal. .30 M1919A6. One per team for security. Serves as base of fire during movement of the team when engaged with the enemy and gives covering fire to team members during the installation of aids in the presence of the enemy.

(5) Knife, trench or short bayonet. Used as an offensive weapon in close combat and serves as complement to pioneer tools in preparing demolition charges, clearing vegetation, and similar tasks.

b. Miscellaneous Equipment.

(1) Watch, wrist w/luminous dial. Precise timing and strict adherence to schedules of arrival of aircraft makes this item mandatory for each team member.

(2) Binoculars. Used to view incoming formations of aircraft at maximum distance from predesignated pinpoint to expedite changes in direction of flight.

(3) Compass, Lensatic. Used in surveying advanced airfields, map reading, initial establishment of visual aids, and in movement cross-country at night.

(4) Flashlight, TL-122 () w/adaptor M-384 and infra-red filter. Used for assembly and signalling at night, illumination of maps, charts, MOI, and aircraft arrival schedules.

(5) Metascope, Type US/F. Facilitates night assembly and reorganization. (See par 26)

(6) Pioneer tool roll. Contains shovels, picks, mattocks, sledges, and axes. Used for removing obstacles from advanced landing fields.

(7) Tool, entrenching M-1943. Used for the digging in of electronic aids and preparation of personnel cover. Complements equipment found in pioneer tool roll.

(8) Projector, pyrotechnic. For visual signalling. Very valuable for giving landing instructions during instrument weather (see par 62b) when radio silence is in effect.

(9) Tool equipment, TE-33. Consists of knife, pliers, and belt pouch. Used for installing antenna systems, changing batteries, and other electrical repair.