



DEFAUS 18

VEHICLE CAMOUFLAGE KITS

PITCHER

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ABSTRACT



Defence vehicle camouflage equipment is made on an ad-hoc basis; there is currently no method of standard manufacture or method of safe carriage on all roads.

- **Shroud.** The effectiveness of a shroud is up to the abilities and time available to a soldier. Shrouds are usually made from hessian material, sewn by hand and fitted loosely to a vehicle. Alternatively, shrouds can be old parachutes. These shrouds have a number of problems:
 - poorly fitted or positioned on vehicle – not effective
 - made to different standards - no set standard
 - time intensive to manufacture
 - no access to vehicle and equipment when shroud lowered (doors and antenna mounts)
 - fire hazard:
 - vehicle exhaust when charging batteries with engine running
 - hessian / parachutes highly flammable.
 - hessian rots and smells when wet
 - needs to be replaced regularly - lasts for one or two exercise periods
 - no safe method to lift a shroud wrapped camouflage nets onto the top of vehicles.
- **Camouflage Nets, Poles and Equipment.** Current defence policy directs that, due to the poor tie down and carriage system, camouflage nets, poles and equipment cannot be carried on top of the vehicles on public roads; instead they are carried



PROPOSAL AND OUTCOMES

loose in the vehicle or trailer (also a safety issue). This takes up valuable space; there is very little space in the vehicle to start with. On arrival in an exercise area the bundle of shroud wrapped camouflage nets and the poles are placed onto the vehicles (also a safety issue – lifting and method of tie down).

Assembly

Generally, the current procedure to assemble the camouflage net is to lay the poles and equipment on the ground next to the vehicle and then lower the camouflage net, this usually results in the poles and spreaders being tangled in the net as it is assembled.

Concept

A fitted canvas drop down shroud, tailored to the vehicle, with access to the doors and antenna mounts. The proposed design will have a staged effect, where the first 'layer' would drop down and only cover the windows; a second stage would then drop down and touch the ground. Designed to fold up and hold the camouflage nets, poles and equipment with engineered tie down points (to fix to the vehicle), with handles for two man lift. With correct tie downs fitted, the folded complete Vehicle Camouflage Kit could be carried on the vehicle while driving on public roads. The sides of the shroud when down, would have pockets and elastic tape on each side to hold the camouflage poles, spreaders (mushrooms), pegs and a small sledge hammer.