

Providing Essential Environmental Protection for U.S. Army Soldiers

June 1, 2009



Since the Civil War, the U.S. Army has issued the Shelter Half (or Pup Tent) to soldiers as their primary unit of shelter. Historical accounts reference the Shelter Half as being used by virtually all units, however, there was often not enough time to set them up in combat zones. Sometimes the best a soldier could do was lay it down as a ground cloth and sleep on top of it.¹

The weight, environmental deficiencies and lack of ease-of-use of the outdated Shelter Half has the Army looking for an innovative, long-lasting solution to replace the obsolete Shelter Half.

The Challenge of Providing Environmental Protection

In Vietnam, the tropical climate did not encourage the use of the Shelter Half. It was issued and carried, but was more likely to be used as a poncho or as a ground cloth.²

Throughout the past century, the U.S. Army has been faced with the challenge of providing essential protection to Soldiers, while maintaining transportation, readiness and comfort.

Weight of the Shelter Half: The design of the Shelter Half, essentially, has not changed much in the past 100 years. That, along with the use of heavier materials, such as canvas, make the weight of the tent an unnecessary burden on each soldier's pack.

Lack of Proper Environment Protection: As the soldier's environment rapidly changes due to a variety of deployment locations, the fundamental unit of shelter needs to offer protection from rain, wind blowing sand, insects and other environmental factors.

Ease of Use: Setting and striking tents needs to be a quick, flawless and fluid exercise. Using tent products with multiple, individual poles, numerous parts and heavy materials makes setting up the tent challenging and transportation cumbersome. Misplacing parts is also a common occurrence.

The Solution: A Modern, Innovative Tent System

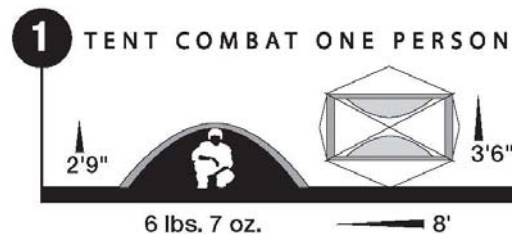
As the new millennium entered, the focus of the U.S. Army became finding a source for an improved, one-person combat tent system. A system that meets the needs of the individual soldier, in a wide range of environments – with all of the specifications being met for weight, quality materials, weather resistance and ease of use.

^{1,2} Olive-Drab.com. (May 2008). *What's New?*. U.S. Army Tent: Shelter Half.

The Eureka! Solution: Superior, Lightweight One-Person Tent

Eureka!'s solution is the TCOP, or Tent, Combat One-Person, a lightweight, freestanding, 3-pole dome tent with a bathtub floor. The TCOP incorporates all of the important features requested by personnel in the field . . . tough, dry and fast. The TCOP has a full coverage fly with blackout fabric, 2 vestibules for covered gear storage and 2 large, drop down doors with mesh windows. The entire upper body is constructed of breathable nylon for control of condensation and superior air flow.

28 square feet of space inside the main tent body - and an additional 17 square feet of storage space in 2 vestibules



Lightweight, yet Heavy Duty: The tent, fly and frame weigh only 6 lbs., 7 oz. and the pack out size of 7" x 18" fits easily into the standard rucksack or MOLLE pack. The frame is black, anodized and shockcorded 7075-T9 aluminum, perfect for multiple set and strike requirements over a long lifetime. The Eureka! warranty is best in class, with a two-year warranty in materials and workmanship

Superior Environmental Protection: Rugged in the field, proven on the front and made to meet the challenge, the TCOP includes a bathtub floor, full coverage blackout fly with taped seams and is designed of durable materials that meet or exceed government requirements. Each tent body is made from a polyurethane coated ripstop nylon and "no-see-um" netting for added protection from dust and small insects.

Ease of Use: The 3-pole dome tent design follows the same set and strike procedures most know from personal experience. There are two drop-down doors with mesh windows for quick entrance and exit. The fly provides 2 vestibule areas for an additional 17 square feet of gear storage. And, rather than individual pole sections, each frame is shockcorded together for quick, intuitive assembly. A repair kit, including all items necessary for in-the-field repair is packed with each tent.

Field Notes: From the Desk of Construction Electrician 1st Class Maxon



“While on Field Training Exercise in Mississippi, my unit had to evacuate our camp due to impending tornadoes. We had 30 minutes to grab essential gear, put any other personal gear in our TCOP’s, load up on trucks and go. A small security detail was left behind to tough out the coming storms.

When we returned the following morning, the camp was a pitiful site. Most all of our larger shelters were in some sort of collapse and EVERYTHING was soaked! Of 9 antennae, only 3 survived. Talking with

those who stayed behind – thankfully – no funnels touched down, but wind gusts easily (we believe) reached 60 mph and the rain was blinding. We were lucky! The best part though, **NOT ONE TCOP WAS LOST OR DAMAGED!!** And every single piece of gear stored in them was safe and dry. A true testament to the quality and design of these individual tents.”

The Eureka! Advantage

Soldiers eat in them, sleep in them and plan missions in them. Doctors operate in them and patients recover in them. In total, we’ve provided over 250,000 tents to the military . . . now that’s a company you can count on.

The Eureka! Tent Division of Johnson Outdoors Gear LLC has more than a century of tent and soft shelter experience and is the only full line tent manufacturer with design capabilities that serve camping, military and commercial canopy/rental markets.

Our commitment to innovation in all phases of design and manufacture led us, in 2006, to the design and introduction of the Rapid Deployable Shelter (RDS). Through a partnership with Hoberman Designs, Inc., this frame supported system uses synchronized gears for faster, easier set-up. The RDS can be mission ready in under 12 minutes . . . a critical component for operations in all branches of the armed forces.

And, over the past 100 years, Eureka! has been making history as the innovation leader in the tent industry . . . all including superior craftsmanship, attention to detail, consistent innovation and excellent comforts. Eureka!’s commitment is the same as it was 100 years ago: to provide the best gear at the best price. You can be sure that your Eureka! tent, shelter or pack will provide years of trouble-free service, no matter where your mission takes you.

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