

Sapper Pac – The Tool Kit for Engineers

By Mr. Alan P. Schlie

Engineers are almost universal in their agreement to carry some tool on their belt or in their pocket. The most popular tool seems to be multi-pliers, with hundreds of types available from numerous manufacturers. The second most popular would probably be a tie between a pocketknife and a flashlight. Tool points and nut drivers would come in handy and can be attached to one of the multi-pliers' stems. Other tools are more specialized and might include a mine probe or a trip wire grapnel with throwing cord or a compass.

Considering the variety of situations a Soldier encounters in which a tool is needed, these are all good choices. But until now, each was carried individually or tossed into a pouch, presenting its own hazards. This is no longer the case; the United States Army Engineer School and the Program Manager for Sets, Kits, Outfits, and Tools (PM-SKOT) teamed to create the Sapper Pac as a Soldier Enhancement Program (SEP) initiative and placed the tools into a zippered pouch that allows easy access and prevents the items from inadvertently falling out while digging around for something else. The bags are modular lightweight load-carrying equipment (MOLLE)

compatible and available in black or Army combat uniform (ACU) camouflage pattern.

There are three versions of the Sapper Pac—one for sappers, another for squad leaders and platoon sergeants, and a third for platoon leaders. The Sapper Pac contains Gerber demolition explosive technician (DET) multi-pliers with numerous tool points and nut drivers, an Inova X1MT flashlight designed with a wand attachment for signaling and a stake attachment for planting in the ground, a sectionalized mine probe with shaft extensions and multiple metal and plastic tips, a credit card-size bendable trip wire grapnel with 15 meters of 550 cord, an inspection mirror, and a thumb saw that cuts through wood and metal. In addition to that, there is still room in the Pac for a memorandum book, a pen, a small tape measure, and a carabiner.

The Sapper Leader Pacs contain the same multi-pliers, flashlight, and tape measure. In addition, there is a folding saw with a full-length serrated blade for cutting wood and metal and a pencil-style knife sharpener. The difference between the two Pacs is that the squad leader version includes a Leica Laser Range Finder (LRF) that is accurate to 1,200 yards, and



Sapper Pac



Sapper Pac for Squad Leaders (with a Laser Range Finder)



Sapper Pac for Platoon Leaders (With a Thermal Imaging Camera)

the platoon leader version includes an Insight® Technology Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) with software to download the video captured to any laptop.

Sapper Pacs will become components of Squad Pioneer Tool Sets and be available in clothing sales stores in the near future, but units can obtain them now by using the following National Stock Numbers (NSNs):

Sapper Pac	5180-01-538-4213
Sapper Leader Pac (Squad)	5180-01-542-1075
Sapper Leader Pac (Platoon)	5180-01-539-5597

For more information, contact the Item Manager at (309) 783-0131, or e-mail <dan.stark@conus.army.mil>.



Mr. Schlie recently retired as a force documentation analyst with the Capabilities Development & Integration Directorate (CDID), United States Army Maneuver Support Center, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. A retired command sergeant major, he served in various capacities in Europe, Korea, and the continental United States throughout his career.