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The Inspectors Thoughts....

How many times have you had the need to be able to sneak up on somebody,
enter
a building unnoticed, or simply walk around without being seen, or heard?
Well,
if you are a normal person, you probably have had it at least once.

This months column is on Evasive Principles, and how you can get started
in a
world of hidden adventure.

The first thing you need to worry about is how visible you are. There are
many
myths about camouflage. Yes, camouflage does work, and very well at that. I
have
been within 3 feet of a person with his flashlight shining on me, yet my
form
was to broken for him to pattern me into a human figure. Thats what
camouflage
does. The green is for the tree, and brush, black for the shadows, and
brown
for the dirt and foilage. The more camouflage the better. Face nets,
gloves,
socks, shoes, wallets, and underwear are all easy to find at your local
sporting good store. Along with your outerwear, you need footwear. This
should
carefully be chosen. One of the best pairs of shoes you can use are the
black
karate shoes. Well.. they might not look good, but they provide very
dark,
comfortable movement, as well as quietness. Another usefull item is a
camouflage watch band. They not only protect the face of your watch, but
they
keep light from reflecting off of it, giving away your location.

Entering Buildings

When you find the place you want to explore, trash, or just go into,
there are
several things you must think about. First, is their a security system
gaurding
the building? How secure is the place? Where are you going once you get
in? You
should whenever possible, explore the building, making a mental map of
it,
during open hours when you will be unnoticed. Watch for things like
magnetic
reed switches on the windows and doors, cameras, and beam breakers
between
doors and halls. Obviously, some things may be placed where you cant see
them,
(pressure mats, motion detectors..etc) so you should be carefull and
remember

the places you saw that looked to ungaured. Also remember that some cameras may be placed for effect. Mountain West sells dummy camers for about \$200. There is absolutly no way to distinguish the difference between these and real cameras, so don't get too smart on the James Bond crap. Basically get a feel for what you are getting into.

The Big Night

Once you have explored the place and you know what youre after, it's time for planning. Planning involved what you are going to take with you, who you take with you, (there is saftey in pairs, and one could always be a lookout), and when you go. Some of the things you may take are flashlights, with the lense painted red with fingernail polish, or a red filter. Remember, white light travels the furthest, and if there is anything you don't want to do, it's put yourself in the spotlight. Red light is more easily absorbed by objects, yet has poor range. When you, and if you decide to take somebody with you, fill them in on the facts, where you are going, for what and why. There is nothing stupider than having somebody tag along, who speaks out loud, is clumsy and light minded, he can only get you caught.

How To Enter The Building

Entering buildings obviously depends on the location and what type of building. If the place is on Main street, youre not going to walk in the front door. Most places have a back door, usually in an alley or dark corner. This should be your first choice. If the building has a second story, there is a possibility of the owner not thinking too heavily about locking all sliding glass windows or doors, unless you are looking at a museum or FBI office. One very good way of entering buildings, but mostly overlooked is with a lockpick. Lockpicks have had bad rumors put on there name. No, you can't pick a lock in 5 seconds, but the facts are nice. Within about 2 weeks of getting myself a pick, I could open a master lock, the big ones, in about 3 seconds, and the little ones in about 5. Schlage locks are more difficult that masters, but they are not impossible. A good pick can be bought for about \$30.00. You don't want to have to break anything while entering the building, and for heavens sake, were gloves when

touching any smooth, non-natural surface. Surgical gloves do just dandy!
Let's
say, for the sake of time and space, that you managed to enter the
building
unnoticed. Now what? Well, the best thing to do is lay flat on the ground
and
sit for about 10 minutes. This will allow your night vision to get into
the
swing of things. Watch out for retina burn in. This is when you look out
of the
center of your eye. Since most of the time, you are doing this, the
center of
the retina becomes de-sensitized. If you look out of the corner of your
eyes,
things will be clearer.

Movement

So you have to move around, huh? Well, here are a couple of pointers.
Move
slowly, about 10 feet, and wait. Just listen. Chances are, if you have
been
discovered, the owner or guard won't try to sneak up onto you, he will
most
likely just turn on his light, and scan the room. This is why you have
been
remembering the path you took, on the way in. If Somebody finds you, the
best
thing to do, unless you know you can take him, is run. As soon as you hit
a
shadow, drop and hold your breath. He will run past you, possibly shining
his
light on you, but you are spread out like a tree, or a stump.

Tell us about it..

So you just trashed a building, getting card numbers, a few passwords,
and
other goodies. Don't keep it to yourself! Tell us about how you did it.
Be a
hero, not a herpi! Don't tell Eugene, the town nark, however, or you may
find
some interested people, other than your friends.