

**Manufactured By  
Propper International Sales, Inc.  
Designed By ARC'TERYX Equipment Inc.  
Improved Load Bearing Equipment**



**ILBE Pack System (Fig. 1)**



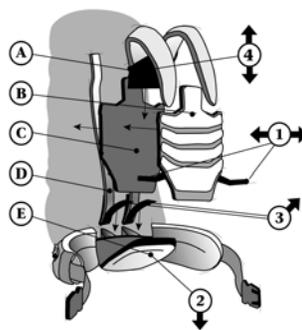
**Main Pack (rucksack)**



**Assault Pack**

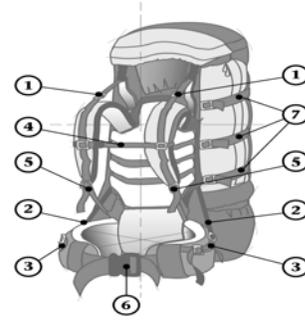


**Hydration System**



**Detailed Components (fig 3.)**

- a. Shoulder Strap Assembly
- b. Molded Back Pad
- c. Frame Sheet (removable)
- d. Aluminum Frame Stay
- e. Lumbar Pad



**Pack suspension components (Fig. 2)**

1. Upper load stabilizers
2. Load distribution struts
3. Lower load stabilizers
4. Sternum strap
5. Shoulder strap adjusters
6. Hip belt buckle
7. Compression straps

## Procedures to Wear Your ILBE Pack

### 1. Main Rucksack

a. **Frame Stay.** To achieve the best fit possible and to realize the true weight distribution/carriage capabilities of this engineered pack system, the frame stays in the pack, which are designed to distribute the weight of the pack to the shoulders and hip regions, should be curved to conform with the wearer's particular back shape. The frame stays come with "factory" curves that represent 95% of all back shapes the pack will encounter. However for exceptionally short or tall Marines/Sailors, these factory curve frame stays may have to be re-shaped for a better fit. For specifics on how these stays should seat on the shoulders and back areas or how to be adjust the stays consult the ILBE user manual (<http://pubs.ala.usmc.mil>). If the pack becomes subject to an unusually large force (such as being dropped from a high point while being fully loaded or from being crammed into a quad-con during mass troop movements, prior to donning the packs again, inspect the frame stays and re-apply their curves. This will maintain the proper weight distribution/carriage capabilities of the pack system and provide for maximum comfort.

b. **Hip Belt.** The ILBE Pack System comes equipped with a men's medium belt and is 3-D molded to ensure full contact over the entire surface area of the hip belt regardless of the hip shape of the wearer. This "stock" hip belt will accommodate about 95% of all Marines/Sailors who wear the pack. However, for individuals with unusually small or large waists, your issue point stocks both women's medium and men's large belt sizes. Mention this fact upon issue to the issuing attendant.

**Fine-Tuning Your Hip Belt.** ... is possible by adjusting the angle at which the webbing exits the front of the padding. Tilting the webbing upward tensions the top of the hip belt more, causing a flaring of the bottom of the belt. Conversely, tilting the webbing downward slightly will cause the hip belt to take on a straighter appearance and may alleviate discomfort due to pressure along the top of the belt. To tighten the hip belt, pull on the webbing material at either side of the hip belt buckle.

c. **Shoulder Straps.** To adjust the position where the shoulder straps seat on the top of the shoulders refer to the following sequence:

- (1) Release the velcro tabs running from the bottom corners of the main back pad to behind the frame sheet. (**Figure 3, #1**)
- (2) Release the velcro strip at the top of the lumbar pad and swing the lumbar pad downward. (**Figure 3, #2**)
- (3) Slide your hand underneath the molded back pad and locate the bottom edge of the plastic sheet that the shoulder straps are sewn to.
- (4) Separate the velcro securing the shoulder straps to frame sheet. (**Figure 3, #A & #C**)
- (5) Remove the shoulder straps and move them up or down as desired, ensuring they are positioned evenly and allow the velcro to re-attach. (**refer to Figure 3, #4**)

(6) Check that the shoulder straps are properly tensioned. There should be slight tension in the shoulder straps when the upper load stabilizers are pulled. The upper load stabilizers will bring the pack closer to the body and help snug it in to the back, but they should not be used to compensate for a poor frame stay fit.

(7) Apply proper tension on the upper load stabilizers. Pinch the end of the strap between index finger and thumb and pull on strap. **DO NOT** apply too much tension on the upper load stabilizers. This would result in undue strain on shoulder and neck muscles, reduced head clearance and poor frame stay fit. To maximize the upper load stabilizer function, their ideal angle is 45 degrees. Individual preference, however, may range from 30 to 60 degrees. This angle minimizes the tension required in the straps to maximize their main functions of load transfer and stabilization. **Note: The main rucksack comes equipped with emergency disconnect buckles for quick release of the pack system.**

d. **Load-lifter Straps.** To adjust the position of the center of gravity (weight) for the pack while in route, located on the front of the shoulder straps you will find the load-lifter straps. Pulling down or paying-out on these "load-lifter" straps will move the pack upward or downward on your back respectively. Pulling down on the load-lifter straps will raise the center of gravity (weight) more on the shoulders. Paying-out (releasing) the load-lifter straps will drop the center of gravity (weight) lower onto the back and hip region.

e. **Sternum Strap.** Adjust this strap to better secure the pack around the chest region. Applying this strap will reduce the side-to-side motion of the top part of the pack system. **ENSURE THIS STRAP IS DISENGAGED FIRST BEFORE RELEASING BOTH THE SHOULDER STRAPS AND WAIST BELT STRAPS. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN THE WEIGHT OF THE PACK TRAVELING UP TO THE NECK AREA AND WILL LIKELY RESULT IN INJURY TO THE NECK.**

f. **Mortar Tube (Irregular Shaped Equipment) Pouches.** Place irregularly shaped equipment into side pouches and pull on the compression strap(s) to tighten until item is secured.

### 2. Assault Pack

a. **Hip Belt.** The assault pack comes with a "one size fits all" waist belt. Adjust the diameter of the belt by pulling or paying-out webbing material found on either side of the hip belt buckle.

b. **Shoulder Straps.** The assault pack comes with "one size fits all" shoulder straps. Adjust the size of these straps by pulling down or paying-out webbing material at strap buckle. Like the main rucksack, the assault pack shoulder straps comes equipped with emergency disconnect buckles for quick release of the assault pack.

c. **Sternum Strap.** Adjust this strap to better secure the assault pack around the chest region. Applying this strap will reduce the side-to-side motion of the top part of the pack system. **ENSURE THIS STRAP IS DISENGAGED FIRST BEFORE RELEASING BOTH THE SHOULDER STRAPS AND WAIST BELT STRAPS. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN THE WEIGHT OF THE ASSAULT PACK TRAVELING UP TO THE NECK AREA AND WILL LIKELY RESULT IN PERSONAL INJURY.**

3. **Hydration System.** The ILBE Pack System comes equipped with a 100 oz hydration system designed to keep the Marine/Sailor well hydrated while on the move. Flexibility has been built into this component in that the item can either be worn by using the shoulder straps or employing the "caribeener" type clips found on the system. "Caribeener" style clips have been included so Marines/Sailors can affix the hydration system onto gear that contains MOLLE weave attach points. To best preserve the form, fit, and function of the hydration system, attach all (6) attach points provided onto MOLLE weave attach points.

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**Procedures for Care of the ILBE Pack**

**1. Washing.** For best cleaning results, disassemble pack components before washing. Remove excessive dirt and grease from the pack using a plastic bristle brush, mild soap and warm water. For tougher stains, domestic carpet spot-remover can be used. DO NOT use full strength chlorine bleach or any other "industrial" household or automobile cleaner on any component of the ILBE Pack System. Do not use "CLP", "Dip-tank" solvent, or any other "lubricant" to clean or coat the pack. Employment of NBC decontaminating solution (mild bleach) will spot and weaken the Cordura fabric. Constant use of this solution on the pack will eventually cause the pack material to fail. DO NOT use a metal bristle brush. DO NOT put the pack into a washing machine. After cleaning, allow to air dry. DO NOT put the pack into a drier, the oven or subject to the exhaust of mechanized vehicles. The excessive heat will emulsify the foam portions of the pack and alter its capacity to carry weight as designed. DO NOT use an iron on the pack. DO NOT dry clean. Re-assemble the pack after all components have completely dried.

**2. UV and Sun Exposure.** While the pack system has proven durable in all climates and environments, care should be observed when leaving the pack exposed to intense sunlight or UV sources for prolonged periods of time. **Since the pack system contains "foam elements" which may be weakened by exposure to intense heat, care should be taken to place these areas out of direct sunlight or heat sources. When staging packs (especially in a hot desert environment), stage the pack with its back panel and hip belt facing the ground. If time permits, remove the hip belt place inside the pack. Avoid subjecting these foam elements to direct vehicle exhausts. When staging packs on the side of AAVs/AAAVs, LAVs, or Tanks, reverse the hip belt so the backside of the hip belt touches the metal surface. This will also form an insulative barrier between the hot skin of the vehicle and the rest of the pack system.**

**3. Water Exposure.** Prolonged exposure to water (especially salt water) will accelerate deterioration of the waterproofing coating inside the ILBE Pack System. Keep the pack system as dry as possible, however if the system components should become soaked - squeeze the excess water out of the foam components (hip belt, shoulder straps, and back pads) and place the pack system in a dry location. **After being exposed to salt water, at first available opportunity, rinse and clean the pack system thoroughly with fresh water.** Again, for best cleaning results, disassemble pack components before cleaning. Allow to air dry completely and then re-assemble.

**4. Field Expedient Repairs.** While repair of the ILBE Pack System is designed to be conducted at the issuing facility, there may be times when evac of this item is not possible. For repairing failures in the pack material or stitching, use a #69 bonded nylon or a higher thread. Additionally, use Seam Grip™, Free Sole™, ShooGoo™ or any other urethane-based sealer to repair tears in the fabric. Evac to authorized repair facility at first opportunity, but leave field-expedient repairs intact. These will be undone and repaired properly by personnel at the issuing facility.

**5. Storing Your Pack.** For all storage procedures, loosen the load-lifter straps, shoulder strap adjustments and hip belt adjustments; keep the pack system out of direct sunlight and extreme heat sources; keep the pack system dry; and empty all contents from the hydration system. If other than water was used in the hydration system, clean and dry the interior of the hydration bladder before storing.

a. To store for a short period of time (1 week to 8 months):

(1) Vertical Storage. Assemble all components and hang the pack system by the carrying handle located near the top of the main pack. **Do not have heavy objects hanging from the MOLLE Weave Points. Over time, the weight of these objects will weaken the seam stitching around these MOLLE Weave Points.**

(2) Horizontal Storage. To best preserve the curved shape of the hip-belt, remove and reverse the hip-belt. Place the pack system flat, back-panel side facing down. The ILBE packs may be stacked. Stack packs (up to 6 high) flat with their hip belts reversed, back panels facing down. Alternating packs in a head-to-toe fashion, so the hip belts do not fall directly on top of each other.

b. Storing the ILBE for long periods of time (8+ months): Follow all procedures for storing the ILBE plus if possible, reduce the load of the pack, thereby reducing the forces acting on the stitching areas of the pack. **Do not have heavy objects hanging from the MOLLE Weave Points. Over time, the weight of these objects will weaken the seam stitching around these MOLLE Weave Points.**

**6. User Manual.** For more complete instructions on wearing and caring for the ILBE Pack System consult with the item's User Manual located at <https://pubs.logcom.usmc.mil>. Enjoy your new ILBE Pack System!