

The Definitive Guide to Infiltration by Infrared

INTRODUCTION

It's a warm summer night, the moon isn't shining at all, and there is a slight breeze rustling the trees. You've always been curious about all those ornate items in your next-door neighbor's yard, or just what's inside that locked shed at the construction site across the way, but the thought to explore them has never occurred to you until tonight. It's 3:00 in the morning, completely silent out except for the rustling trees, and you're dying to do some exploring, but you aren't sure what you should bring, what you should wear, and how you should plan your infiltration. Here is where this guide comes in: I will outline the basics of such nighttime infiltrations, such as necessary knowledge, equipment, and tactics. You must always be prepared.

KNOWLEDGE

Why sneak around yards, construction sites, and other interesting places?

Why not? There is a thrill in exploring a "forbidden" area, and once an operation is completed successfully, you will feel a great sense of satisfaction. You successfully slipped into a restricted area, perhaps under the nose of a security guard or other undesirable, and made it back without anyone knowing you were ever there.

What should my objectives be?

That's up to you to decide. Some infiltrators may wish to infiltrate, explore and exfiltrate without leaving a single trace of intrusion, and others may wish to steal or destroy with the possible motive of vengeance, monetary gain, or just because they can. It is my objective to infiltrate, explore and extract without leaving a single trace of intrusion. I do not personally endorse stealing or destruction during an operation, but many choose to do it anyway. It's truly up to you to decide what your objectives will be during an operation. However, for any operative, one singular objective should always be observed:

DO NOT GET CAUGHT.

Isn't it illegal to sneak into people's houses and into public places?

Depending upon where you go, yes. Sneaking into someone's house constitutes breaking & entering, a serious crime that carries with it fines and/or jailtime. Sneaking into a public place constitutes at best trespassing, and at worse, breaking & entering as well. Vandalizing or stealing property is quite obviously a criminal offense as well.

What else do I need to know before going on an operation?

You must know your own abilities; your strengths and weaknesses, and you must know how far you are willing to go. You must be ready for any possible scenario. You must "Prepare for the worst, hope for the best". You must have an understanding of basic stealth tactics, and a knowledge of equipment, and how and when to utilize it. This will be discussed in the rest of this guide.

BASIC EQUIPMENT

For any successful nighttime infiltration, you must have these basic items:

-A solid, relatively quiet pair of boots. They must provide good ankle support, not be excessively loud, and must be a dark color (dark blue or black). You must be comfortable walking, running, climbing, sneaking and crawling in them. Boots of the Magnum (registered/copyright) name brand suit these criteria well. Look around your local military surplus store, or police/SWAT/military outfitter. More will be written on stealth walking later.

-A pair of dark Navy blue military BDU's (Battle Dress Utility). These consist of a pair of cargo-type pants that tie off at the ankle, and are usually constructed of either 100% Ripstop cotton or a mixture of cotton and polyester. 100% Ripstop cotton will serve most purposes nicely. The other part of the BDU uniform is a jacket, with four large cargo pockets and two slash pockets. This is less necessary; a long-sleeved shirt that matches the BDU pants will do nicely. One note; ensure that the pants fit you right, because excess material can rub together and produce unwanted noise.

-A good pair of binoculars. Even at night, these will come amazingly in handy. The thing to remember is, CLARITY comes before magnification. Even if they are only 8 or 10-power binoculars, they will serve you just fine if they produce a clear, sharp image. Go to your local sporting goods or outfitter and have a look at the displays. Learn to focus them properly (For most binoculars, you first close your right eye and turn the middle focus wheel until the image is clear, and then you close your left eye, open your right, and turn the diopter eyepiece until the image is perfectly clear for that eye, then you are done). The ones that produce the crispest, sharpest, most resolute image are the ones you want. Also, try to find a rubber-armored pair, but if this is not possible, you will need to exercise a little caution with your binoculars. They can be damaged by a fall on hard ground, or crushed, should you accidentally lie on them. Lastly, do not be fooled by the \$10-dollar pair that has 16X magnification; it is almost certain to be junk.

-A good high-intensity flashlight. You will seldom need this, but they do come in handy, and are a necessary addition to your gear. The SureFire (registered/copyright) name brand is the most famous of these lights. Look around gun stores, or many sporting goods stores for these. An excess amount of power is not needed; a light with a 60-lumen rating will do perfectly. If possible, procure the red filter for this light; it makes the intense beam marginally less visible (but NOT invisible), and will preserve your natural night vision, should you have to turn the light off suddenly.

-A good fixed-blade knife. The chief function of your knife is not weapon-oriented; rather it is tool-oriented. You will need a solid knife to pry things open, or to cut cables/wires/brush that is in your way, and countless other things. You must ensure it is non-reflective, sharp, and not excessively long or heavy. Cold Steel (registered/copyright) produces many fine knives that meet this requirement, and their prices are lower than many competitors.

-Night vision For most operations, a basic, \$100-\$200 1st-generation monocular will be all you need. One with about 2X magnification is good; it is not too much, but the extra magnification will help you see farther-off dark spots. You of course can opt for a pair of night vision goggles, procureable online (search for "night vision goggles"), or you can get a more advanced generation, be it 2nd, 3rd, or even the newest 4th. It all depends on your wallet. As a general rule; goggles are always more expensive than a monocular, and the higher the generation, the more the cost. They very easily reach the \$1000, \$2000, \$3000, and up to even \$10,000 range for the most advanced implements. A thing to remember

about night vision is to never activate a device in bright light, whether artificial or natural. Night vision works by amplifying existing light and then sending the amplified photons into a "wall", to put it simply, within the device, which produces the image you see. If too much light is sent through, it will cause a nasty and permanent "bloom" effect that will render the device useless. As a final note, night vision tints everything green because the human eye picks up varying contrasts the fastest in this part of the spectrum. You may hate the tint at first, but you will get used to it.

-A solid prybar. This is a simple item, available at any good hardware store. Think of it as a miniature (about 6-10 inches) crowbar. It will not take up too much space, and will serve you well for door-prying, or lifting manhole covers, and countless other things. If you end up with a stainless-steel model, simply spray-paint it black so it does not reflect any light. The paint will chip away with use, but it can easily be retouched.

-A pair of gloves Thin, smooth leather, or latex/PVC medical personnel gloves, for preventing fingerprints.

That covers the absolute most basic, bare-bones loadout for an operation. It will be all you need for a neighborhood mission, but if you plan to do something more elaborate, your gear list will expand. Most of these items can be fit into your BDU pants/jacket pockets (take care not to let anything clink together), so a bag is not needed. Should you prefer, though, a dark fanny pack usually does the trick. They take up less space, require less attention than a backpack, and will hold more gear than you might realize.

TACTICS

Recon: Before you can begin planning your mission, you must have good information as to where you are going, and what you will encounter. You should spend some time scanning your desired target; finding paths, looking for security guards (and if necessary, memorizing their paths), entry and exit points, learning about other security measures taken, etc. This can be done in the day, although you should use caution if you plan to use binoculars or anything of the like. Play casual tourist-observer; do not be secretive or suspicious about what you are doing, and if in view of other people, do not scan an area for too long.

Stealth walking and general motion must be discussed. In general, you must watch your step constantly, move very slowly, and keep low. Try to avoid sticks, dry weeds, gravel, and other such noisy surfaces. To stealth-walk, you simply must crouch down at the knees and creep slowly along, touching your advancing foot lightly to the ground while keeping your other foot well-planted, should you need to step back on it. If your boots have harder soles, you need to take care not to let them make the trademark boot noise with your steps. Take it slowly and make each step deliberate. To maintain balance, place your hands out to in front of and slightly to the sides (but keep them relatively close to your body), palms down. Before going on an operation, practice inside your home - try to silently cross your wooden floor, or even sneak up on a family member and surprise them. Master the skill of stealth walking before you ever even begin planning your operation. A general stealth tip is to stay in the darkest spot possible. Should someone come along, crouch down in any available cover, do not make any sudden movements, and do not panic. If you were careful and concealed yourself correctly, you will not be discovered. This is also perhaps the most crucial time to be silent. Silence must be exercised throughout the entire mission, but when someone is in close proximity, you must be quieter than an ant.

Next, you must learn to disguise traces of your infiltration. This includes footprints, fingerprints, damaged or tampered locks, out-of-place items, and anything of the like. If possible, do not step somewhere where you will leave footprints, but if you plan to cross sand or anything similar, cover the soles of your boots with duct tape, so you only leave a blank footprint. This is still undesirable, however; it will arouse suspicion, but so long as you weren't witnessed, it will be hard to trace the footprints to you. Fingerprints are most obviously dealt with by wearing gloves. You should opt for thin, smooth leather gloves, or even latex/PVC gloves; the type worn by healthcare personnel. They do not need to be worn all the time, but they should be donned before you touch a doorknob, lock, keyboard, window, anything. In the (unlikely, if you're doing things right) event that you leave a trace and an area is dusted for fingerprints, you will not have left any. Lastly, you must learn to leave everything as you found it - if you must tamper with a lock or pick it (For information on how to pick a lock, check around www.totse.com's articles. There are many accurate and informative guides on the subject), lock it back up when you are finished. Avoid moving or disturbing any item you do not have to. If you enter a room, try to develop a "picture" in your mind of how it looked, so you can rearrange everything correctly upon your exit, should you decide to handle anything.

This guide is a good beginning point for the amateur nighttime operative, but it is by no means finished. There is an infinite amount of variables to any operation, and many many additions that can be made. This guide is only intended to help you get started on planning an operation. If you are planning something more elaborate, you must use your own mind and figure out what additional equipment you will require (do research), and what other skills, tactics or knowledge you should possess/learn before going on an operation. If you have any questions, I'm Infrared on the [totse.com](http://www.totse.com) bbs, and you can ask me there. Stay alert, watch your back, and also, have fun with nighttime operations. It is a very rewarding experience.

-Infrared

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