Tuner's Topics

Antenna Expediency

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Probably the most common tactical communications radio antenna is the whip antenna. It's practical, it's tough and it's reliable.

It can, however, break. Suppose you're out in the boonies, and your commander is counting on you for communications. But the whip upon which you were counting is broken in two pieces.

Don't worry. You can still communicate by building a field expedient antenna. Here's how you do it:

Take your knife (sand, a rock or another piece of metal will do as well) and scrape off all the paint in a three to six inch strip from both broken ends. Be sure to get the metal as clean as possible.

Splice the cleaned parts together by wrapping them tightly with copper wire, which you can get by stripping WD-1. If it's at all possible, solder the connection — though it will work without the solder.

To give your repair job added strength, simply splint a dry stick or branch on both sides of the break and wrap it tightly with whatever is available (tape, rope, WD-1).

Your field expedient antenna should look like the one in the illustration, and you should be ready to communicate.