

CHAPTER 7

SENTRY REMOVAL

Careful planning rehearsal, and execution are vital to the success of a mission that requires the removal of a sentry. This task may be necessary to gain access to an enemy location or to escape confinement.

7-1. PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

A detailed schematic of the layout of the area guarded by sentries must be available. Mark known and suspected locations of all sentries. It will be necessary—

- a. To learn the schedule for the changing of the guards and the checking of the posts.
- b. To learn the guard's meal times. It may be best to attack a sentry soon after he has eaten when his guard is lowered. Another good time to attack the sentry is when he is going to the latrine.
- c. To post continuous security.
- d. To develop a contingency plan.
- e. To plan infiltration and exfiltration routes.
- f. To carefully select personnel to accomplish the task.
- g. To carry the least equipment necessary to accomplish the mission because silence, stealth, and ease of movement are essential.
- h. To conceal or dispose of killed sentries.

7-2. REHEARSALS

Reproduce and rehearse the scenario of the mission as closely as possible to the execution phase. Conduct the rehearsal on similar terrain, using sentries, the time schedule, and the contingency plan. Use all possible infiltration and exfiltration routes to determine which may be the best.

7-3. EXECUTION

When removing a sentry, the soldier uses his stalking skills to approach the enemy undetected. He must use all available concealment and keep his silhouette as low as possible.

a. When stepping, the soldier places the ball of his lead foot down first and checks for stability and silence of the surface to be crossed. He then lightly touches the heel of his lead foot. Next, he transfers his body weight to his lead foot by shifting his body forward in a relaxed manner. With the weight on the lead foot, he can bring his rear foot forward in a similar manner.

b. When approaching the sentry, the soldier synchronizes his steps and movement with the enemy's, masking any sounds. He also uses background noises to mask his sounds. He can even follow the sentry through locked doors this way. He is always ready to strike immediately if he is discovered. He focuses his attention on the sentry's head since that is where the sentry generates all of his movement and attention. However, it is important not to stare at the enemy because he may sense the stalker's presence through a sixth sense. He focuses on the sentry's movements with his peripheral vision. He gets to within 3 or 4 feet and at the proper moment makes the kill as quickly and silently as possible.

c. The attacker's primary focus is to summon all of his mental and physical power to suddenly explode onto the target. He maintains an attitude of complete confidence throughout the execution. He must control fear and hesitation because one instant of hesitation could cause his defeat and compromise the entire mission.

7-4. PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS

Killing a sentry is completely different than killing an enemy soldier while engaged in a firefight. It is a cold and calculated attack on a specific target. After observing a sentry for hours, watching him eat or look at his wife's photo, an attachment is made between the stalker and the sentry. Nonetheless, the stalker must accomplish his task efficiently and brutally. At such close quarters, the soldier literally feels the sentry fight for his life. The sights, sounds, and smells of this act are imprinted in the soldier's mind; it is an intensely personal experience. A soldier who has removed a sentry should be observed for signs of unusual behavior for four to seven days after the act.

7-5. TECHNIQUES

The following techniques are proven and effective ways to remove sentries. A soldier with moderate training can execute the proper technique for his situation, when he needs to.

a. **Brachial Stun, Throat Cut.** This technique relies on complete mental stunning to enable the soldier to cut the sentry's throat, severing the trachea and carotid arteries. Death results within 5 to 20 seconds. Some sounds are emitted from the exposed trachea, but the throat can be cut before the sentry can recover from the effect of the stunning strike and cry out. The soldier

silently approaches to within striking range of the sentry (Figure 7-1, Step 1). The soldier strikes the side of the sentry's neck with the knife butt or a hammer fist strike (Figure 7-1, Step 2), which completely stuns the sentry for three to seven seconds. He then uses his body weight to direct the sentry's body to sink in one direction and uses his other hand to twist the sentry's head to the side, deeply cutting the throat across the front in the opposite direction (Figure 7-1, Step 3). He executes the entire length of the blade in a slicing motion. The sentry's sinking body provides most of the force—not the soldier's upper-arm strength (Figure 7-1, Step 4).

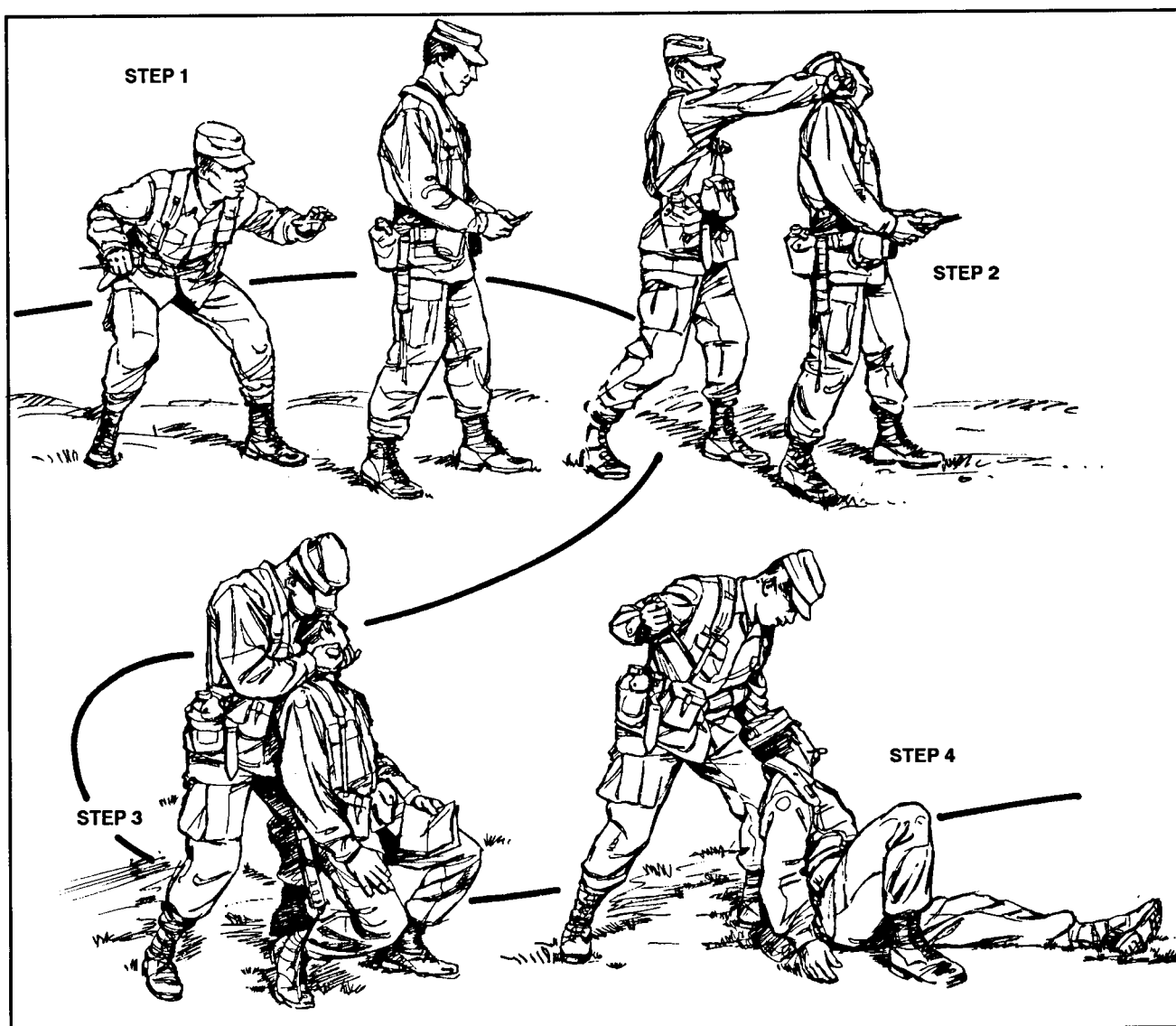


Figure 7-1. Brachial stun, throat cut.

b. **Kidney Stab, Throat Cut.** This technique relies on a stab to the kidney (Figure 7-2, Step 1) to induce immediate shock. The kidney is relatively accessible and by inducing shock with such a stab, the soldier has the time to cut the sentry's throat. The soldier completes his stalk and stabs the kidney by pulling the sentry's balance backward and downward and inserts the knife upward against his weight. The sentry will possibly gasp at this point, but shock immediately follows. By using the sentry's body weight that is falling downward and turning, the soldier executes a cut across the front of the throat (Figure 7-2, Step 2). This completely severs the trachea and carotid arteries.

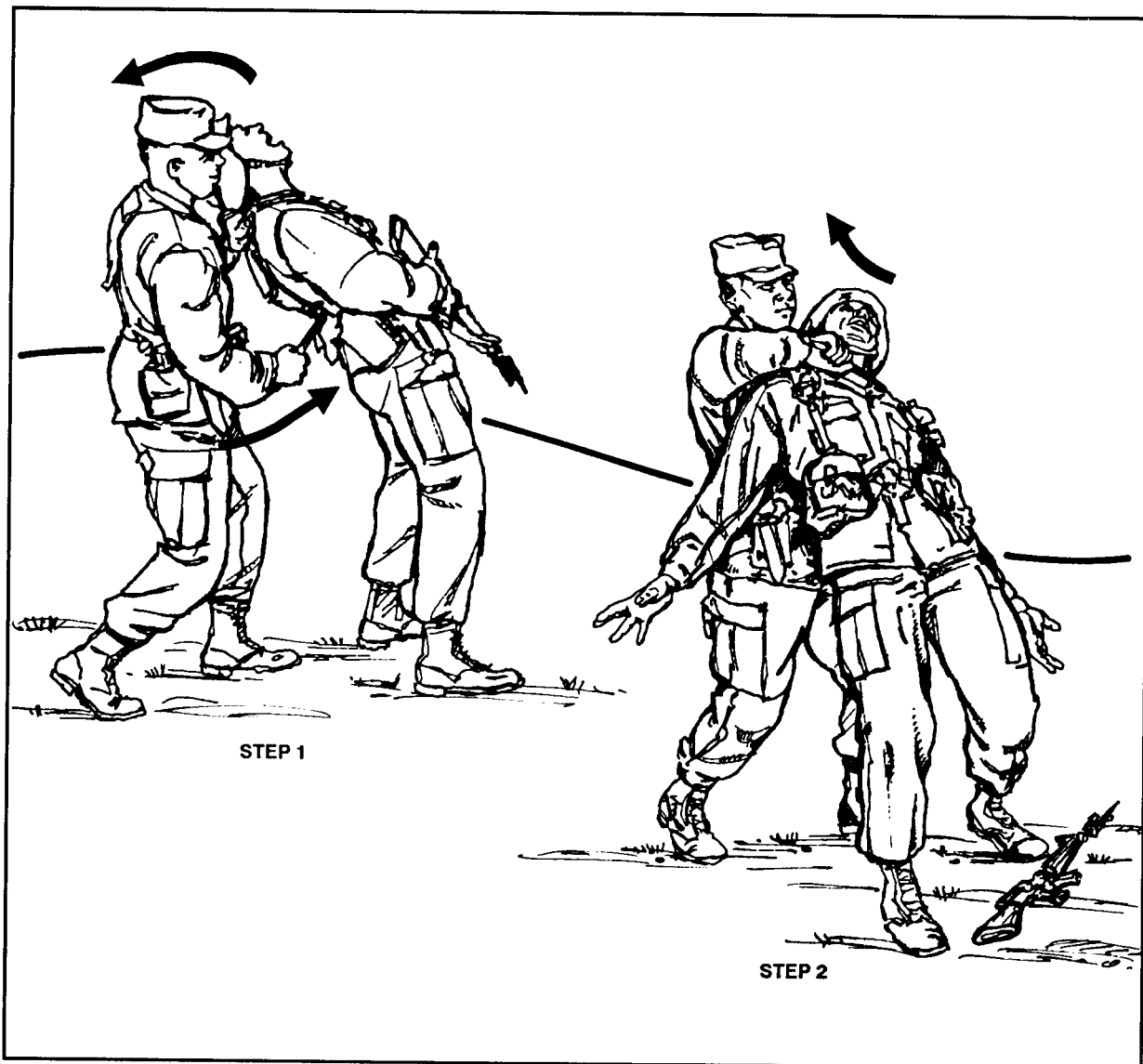


Figure 7-2. Kidney stab, throat cut.

c. **Pectoral Muscle Strike, Throat Cut.** The stun in this technique is produced by a vigorous strike to the stellate ganglia nerve center at the top of the pectoral muscle (Figure 7-3, Step 1). The strike is delivered downward with the attacker's body weight. Use the handle of the knife for impact. Care should be taken to avoid any equipment worn by the sentry that could obstruct the strike. Do not try this technique if the sentry is wearing a ballistic vest or bulky LCE. The sentry is unable to make a sound or move if the stun is properly delivered. The throat is then cut with a vertical stab downward into the subclavian artery at the junction of the neck and clavicle (Figure 7-3, Step 2). Death comes within 3 to 10 seconds, and the sentry is lowered to the ground.

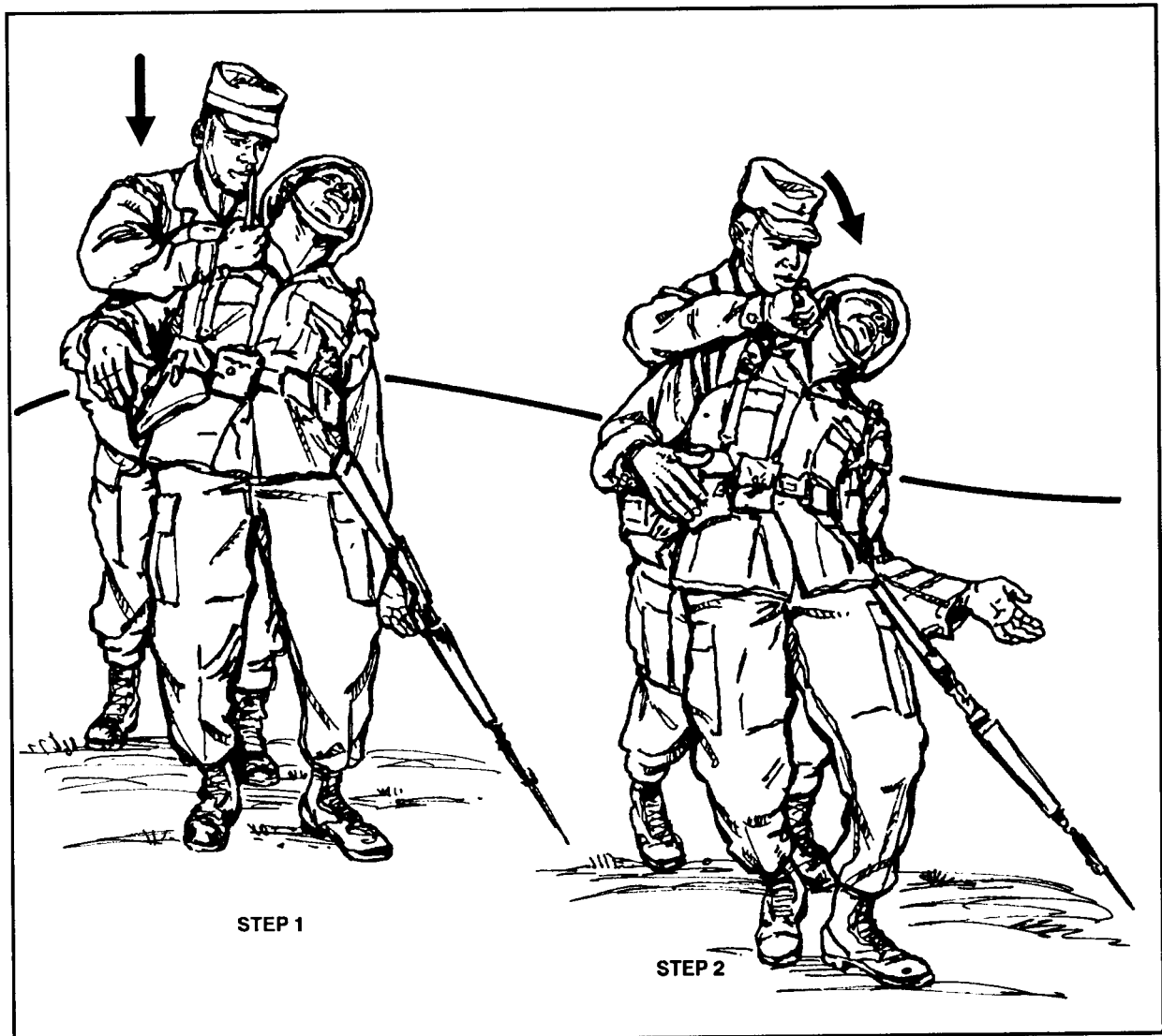


Figure 7-3. Pectoral muscle strike, throat cut.

d. **Nose Pinch, Mouth Grab, Throat Cut.** In this technique, completely pinch off the sentry's mouth and nose to prevent any outcry. Then cut his throat or stab his subclavian artery (Figure 7-4). The danger with this technique is that the sentry can resist until he is killed, although he cannot make a sound.

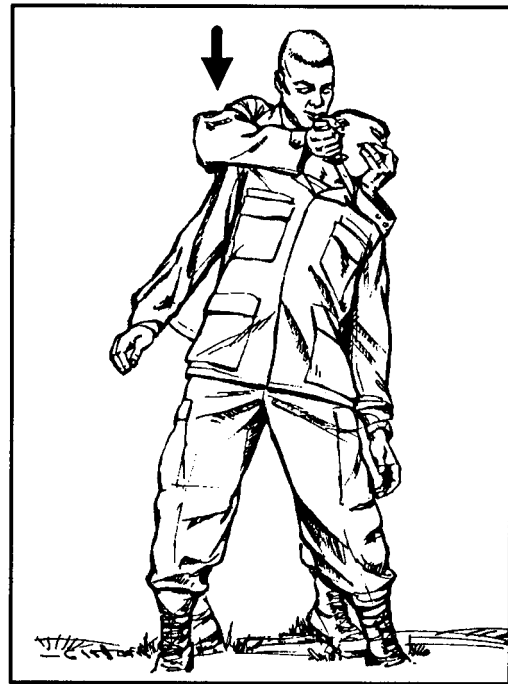


Figure 7-4. Nose pinch, mouth grab, throat cut.

e. **Crush Larynx, Subclavian Artery Stab.** Crush the sentry's larynx by inserting the thumb and two or three fingers behind his larynx, then twisting and crushing it. The subclavian artery can be stabbed at the same time with the other hand (Figure 7-5).



Figure 7-5. Crush larynx, subclavian artery stab.

f. **Belgian Takedown.** In the Belgian take down technique, the unsuspecting sentry is knocked to the ground and kicked in the groin, inducing shock. The soldier can then kill the sentry by any proper means. Since surprise is the essential element of this technique, the soldier must use effective stalking techniques (Figure 7-6, Step 1). To initiate his attack, he grabs both of the sentry's ankles (Figure 7-6, Step 2). Then he heaves his body weight into the hips of the sentry while pulling up on the ankles. This technique slams the sentry to the ground on his face. Then, the soldier follows with a kick to the groin (Figure 7-6, Step 3).

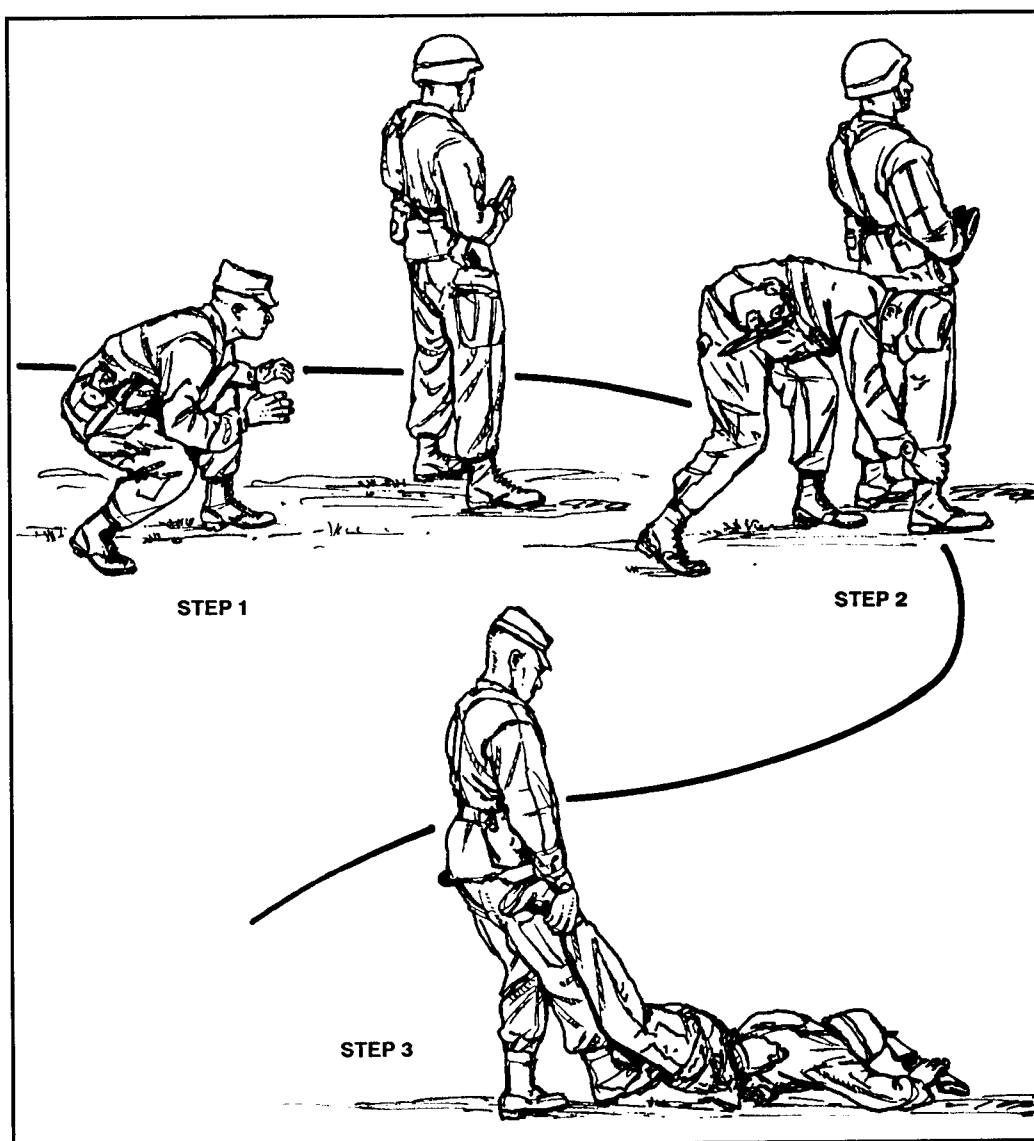


Figure 7-6. Belgian takedown.

g. **Neck Break With Sentry Helmet.** The soldier can break the sentry's neck by vigorously snatching back and down on the sentry's helmet (Figure 7-7, Step 1) while forcing the sentry's body weight forward with a knee strike (Figure 7-7, Step 2). The chin strap of the helmet must be fastened for this technique to work.

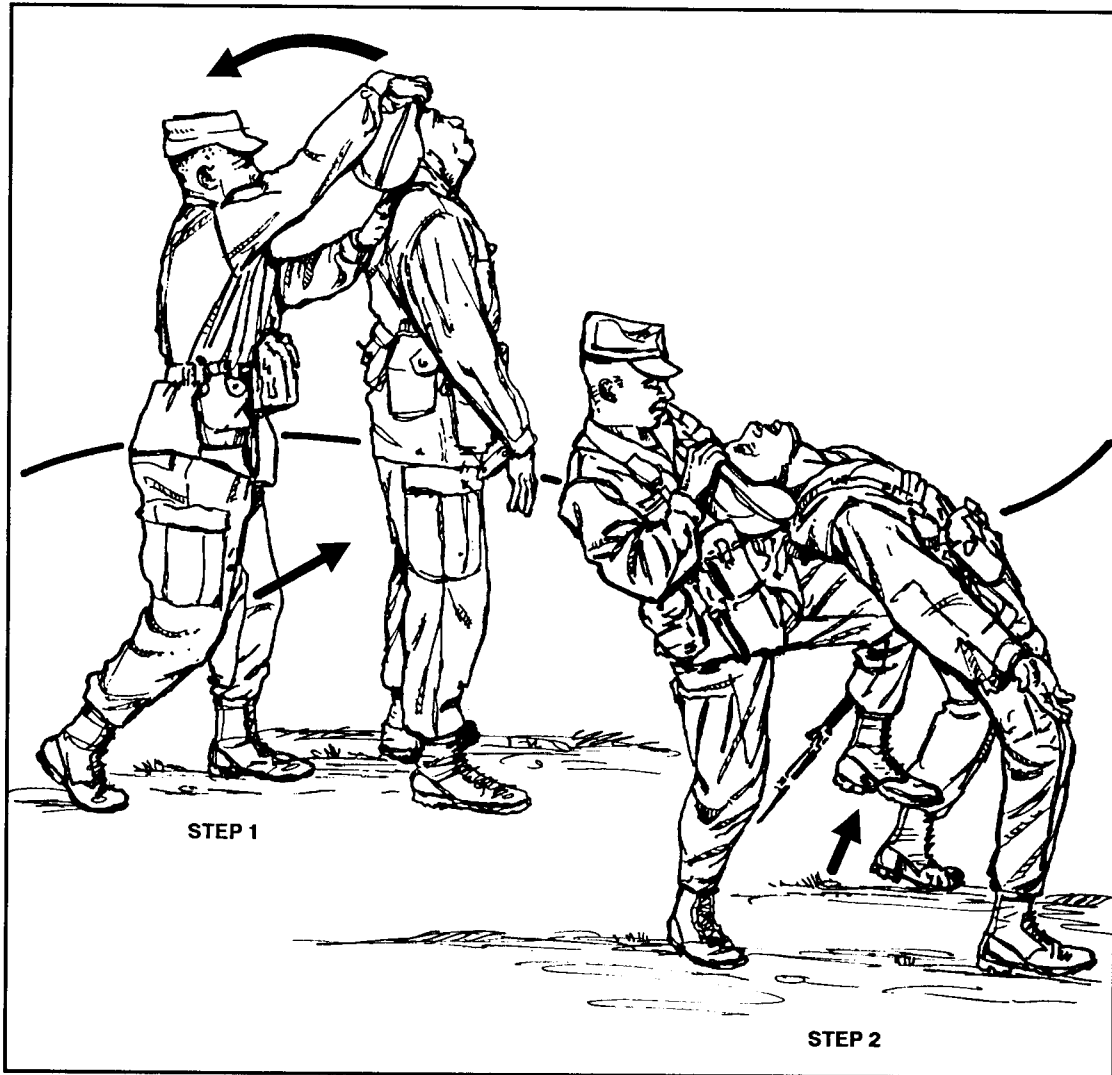


Figure 7-7. Neck break with sentry helmet.

h. **Knockout With Helmet.** The sentry's helmet is stripped from his head and used by the soldier to knock him out (Figure 7-8, Step 1). The soldier uses his free hand to stabilize the sentry during the attack. This technique can only be used when the sentry's chin strap is loose. The preferred target area for striking with the helmet is at the base of the skull or on the temple (Figure 7-8, Step 2).

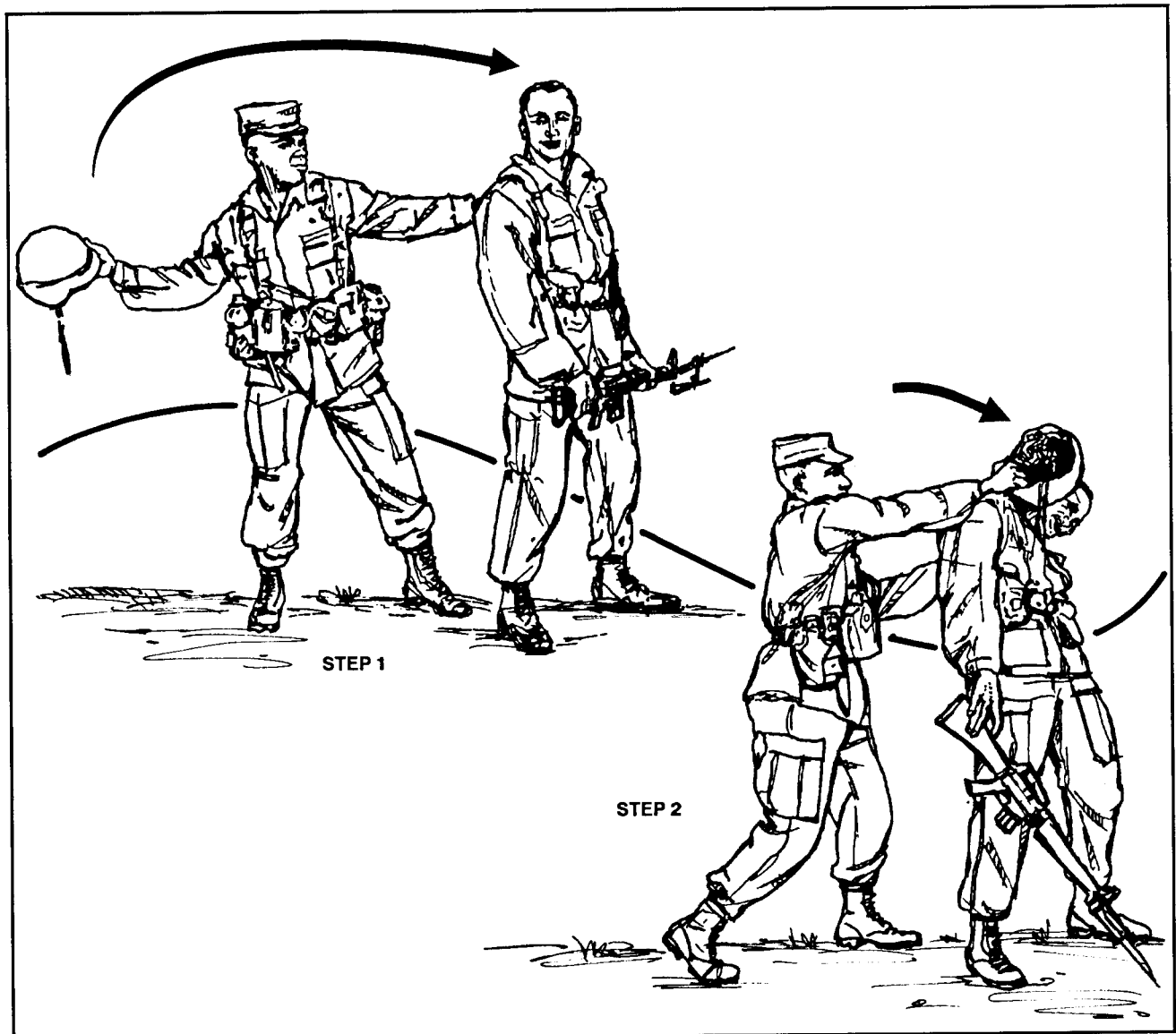


Figure 7-8. Knockout with helmet.

i. **The Garrote.** In this technique, use a length of wire, cord, rope, or webbed belt to takeout a sentry. Silence is not guaranteed, but the technique is effective if the soldier is unarmed and must escape from a guarded area. The soldier carefully stalks the sentry from behind with his garrote ready (Figure 7-9, Step 1). He loops the garrote over the sentry's head across the throat (Figure 7-9, Step 2) and forcefully pulls him backward as he turns his own body to place his hips in low against the hips of the sentry. The sentry's balance is already taken at this point, and the garrote becomes crossed around the sentry's throat when the turn is made. The sentry is thrown over the soldier's shoulder and killed by strangling or breaking his neck (Figure 7-9, Step 3).

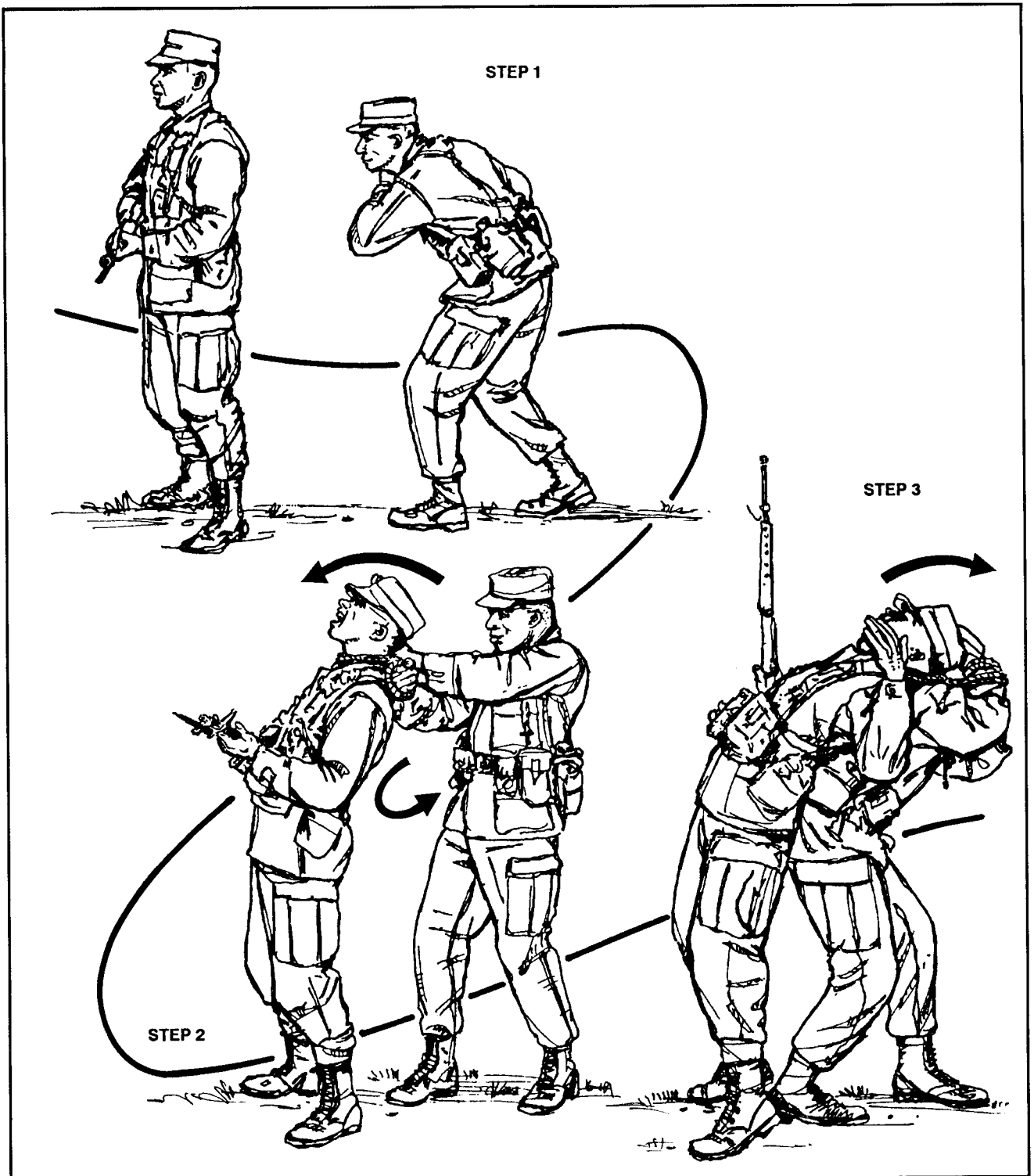


Figure 7-9. The garrote.