

Night Vision Goggles

Nighttime traditionally has been seen as a time of strategic vulnerability in a combat environment. Under cover of darkness enemies can move unseen to take up positions that can cause significant problems. During past conflicts such as World War II and Vietnam, night was a time of great anxiety and fear, as enemy would often sneak past defenses and attack unprepared defenders. Fortunately, such past vulnerabilities have been turned into strengths thanks to advances in technology. Because Night Vision Goggles (NVGs) are now widely used, marines have confidence in their ability to dominate combat in darkness. Night vision goggles (or other similar devices) work by magnifying ambient light and by illuminating light that isn't normally visible to the naked eye (such as infrared light). Such an ability to see light even when all appears to be dark can drive away fear, instill confidence and provide an important advantage. It can mean the difference between success and failure.



The Message

There will be times in life when you will be surrounded by darkness, and it feels like all is wrong in your life. In such times, confusion can reign, bringing with it fear and frustration. However, it is possible to learn to see light in the midst of darkness. Remember that there is always light, even if it isn't visible to the naked eye. We just need the ability to see it. Spiritual faith can illuminate even the darkest times with meaning and

purpose, allowing individuals to navigate through seemingly hopeless situations. Hope is the ability to see light in dark times. It grows out of a faith, in yourself and your abilities, and/or in something greater than yourself, whether it be friends and family, the Marine Corps, a religious community or a higher power. Think about your own personal NVGs and the underlying beliefs that power them. What can you do to use them more as a tactical advantage in your life? How can you train yourself to see light in the world around you, even when, at first glance, it feels like all is dark?

(JT)