

ALARACT 289/2012

DTG: R 161325Z OCT 12

THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN SENT BY THE PENTAGON TELECOMMUNICATIONS CENTER  
ON BEHALF OF DA WASHINGTON DC//DALO-ZA//

SUBJECT: FACTORY TREATED ARMY COMBAT UNIFORMS WITH PERMETHRIN (ACU  
PERMETHRIN)

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. REQUEST THE WIDEST POSSIBLE DISSEMINATION

1. (U) REFERENCES:

- A. (U) NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, HEALTH EFFECTS OF PERMETHRIN  
IMPREGNATED ARMY BATTLE DRESS UNIFORMS (1994)/  
[HTTP://BOOKS.NAP.EDU/OPENBOOK.PHP?ISBN=NI000104&PAGE=R1](http://books.nap.edu/openbook.php?isbn=ni000104&page=r1).
- B. (U) UNITED STATES (U.S.) ARMY TRAINING AND DOCTRINE COMMAND  
(TRADOC), MEMORANDUM DATED 10 DEC 04, SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION FOR  
MANUFACTURER TREATED BATTLE DRESS UNIFORMS (BDU), DESERT CAMOUFLAGE  
UNIFORMS (DCU), AND ARMY COMBAT UNIFORMS (ACU) WITH PERMETHRIN.
- C. (U) OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL (OTSG), MEMORANDUM DATED 21 JUN  
05, SUBJECT: SAFETY OF PERMETHRIN TREATED UNIFORMS.
- D. (U) ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (ASD) MEMORANDUM, DATED 18 MAY  
07, SUBJECT: UPDATED POLICY FOR PREVENTION OF ARTHROPOD-BORNE DISEASES  
AMONG DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PERSONNEL DEPLOYED TO ENDEMIC AREAS/  
[HTTP://FHP.OSD.MIL/PDFS/128903- UPDATED POLICY FOR PREVENTION OF  
ARTHROPOD-BORNE DISEASES AMONG DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PERSONNEL  
DEPLOYED\\_TO\\_ENDEMIC\\_A.PDF](http://fhp.osd.mil/pdfs/128903-UPDATED%20POLICY%20FOR%20PREVENTION%20OF%20ARTHROPOD-BORNE%20DISEASES%20AMONG%20DEPARTMENT%20OF%20DEFENSE%20PERSONNEL%20DEPLOYED_TO_ENDEMIC_A.PDF).
- E. (U) OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL (OTSG), MEMORANDUM DATED 29 JAN  
08, SUBJECT: SAFETY OF PERMETHRIN TREATED UNIFORMS.
- F. (U) ARMED FORCES PEST MANAGEMENT BOARD, TECHNICAL GUIDE NO. 36,  
UPDATED: OCT 09, PERSONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES AGAINST INSECTS AND  
OTHER ARTHROPODS OF MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE/  
[HTTP://WWW.AFPMB.ORG/SITES/DEFAULT/FILES/PUBS/TECHGUIDES/TG36.PDF](http://www.afpmb.org/sites/default/files/pubs/techguides/tg36.pdf).
- G. (U) OFFICE OF FORCE HEALTH PROTECTION AND READINESS POLICY AND  
PROGRAMS, 29 DEC 10, PERMETHRIN IMPREGNATED CLOTHING/  
[HTTP://FHP.OSD.MIL/FACTSHEETDETAIL.JSP/FACT=27](http://fhp.osd.mil/factsheetdetail.jsp?fact=27).

H. (U) U.S. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC), CDC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TRAVELER'S HEALTH, REPELLENTS AND INSECTICIDES FOR USE ON CLOTHING/

[HTTP://WWWNC.CDC.GOV/TRAVEL/YELLOWBOOK/2012/CHAPTER-2-THE-PRE-TRAVEL-CONSULTATION/PROTECTION-AGAINST-MOSQUITOES-TICKS-AND-OTHER-INSECTS-AND-ARTHROPODS.HTM.](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2012/chapter-2-the-pre-travel-consultation/protection-against-mosquitoes-ticks-and-other-insects-and-arthropods.htm)

I. (U) U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) PESTICIDE INFORMATION ON PERMETHRIN/

[HTTP://WWW.EPA.GOV/PESTICIDES/FACTSHEETS/FACTORY-TREATED-CLOTHING.HTML](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/factory-treated-clothing.html)

J. (U) U.S. ARMY PUBLIC HEALTH COMMAND, ARMY COMBAT UNIFORM FACTORY PERMETHRIN TREATMENT, FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND POWER POINT PRESENTATION, SEP 12.

K. (U) U.S. ARMY PUBLIC HEALTH COMMAND, JUST THE FACTS, PERMETHRIN FACTORY-TREATED ARMY COMBAT UNIFORM, SEP 12.

2. (U) THE PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE FACTORY TREATED PERMETHRIN ACU (ACU PERMETHRIN).

3. (U) IN ORDER TO PROVIDE SOLDIERS WITH THE BEST POSSIBLE PROTECTION FROM DISEASE-CARRYING INSECTS, THE ARMY IS INTRODUCING A FACTORY TREATED PERMETHRIN ACU (COAT/TROUSERS) KNOWN AS THE ACU PERMETHRIN. EFFECTIVE OCT 12, THE ACU PERMETHRIN WILL REPLACE THE CURRENT ACU IN THE ARMY MILITARY CLOTHING STORES (AMCS). IN FEB 13, THE ACU PERMETHRIN WILL REPLACE THE NON-PERMETHRIN ACU AS AN ARMY CLOTHING BAG ITEM. CURRENT ACU'S PURCHASED AT AMCS PRIOR TO 1 OCT 12, WILL NOT BE RETURNED/EXCHANGED FOR THE ACU PERMETHRIN. IN MAY 13, THE ACU PERMETHRIN WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD/ARMY RESERVE ENLISTED SOLDIERS, AND THE SENIOR/JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS. THERE IS NO WEAR-OUT-DATE FOR NON-PERMETHRIN ACU'S.

4. (U) PERMETHRIN, CLASSIFIED AS A SYNTHETIC PYRETHROID, IS THE ONLY INSECT REPELLENT/INSECTICIDE REGISTERED BY THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) TO TREAT CLOTHING. IT HAS BEEN USED BY THE ARMY SINCE 1991 FOR SOLDIERS TO TREAT THEIR UNIFORMS INDIVIDUALLY OR BY A CERTIFIED PESTICIDE APPLICATOR. FACTORY TREATMENT ENSURES THE LABELED RATE OF PERMETHRIN IS CONSISTENTLY APPLIED TO THE ENTIRE UNIFORM WHEN COMPARED WITH INDIVIDUAL TREATMENT METHODS. FACTORY TREATMENT PROVIDES BETTER BITE PROTECTION FROM INSECTS, TICKS, AND OTHER ARTHROPODS FOR THE LIFE OF THE UNIFORM.

5. (U) THE ARMY OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL, CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, PAN-AMERICAN HEALTH

ORGANIZATION, NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, AND OTHER NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS ALL ENDORSE AND ADVOCATE THE USE OF PERMETHRIN TREATED CLOTHING AS A METHOD OF PREVENTING VECTOR BORNE DISEASE. AS RECENT AS 2009, THE EPA COMPLETED A HUMAN HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT REVIEW FOR PERMETHRIN IMPREGNATED CLOTHING AND CONCLUDED THE RISKS TO PEOPLE WEARING TREATED CLOTHING, AS WELL AS PEOPLE COMING INTO CONTACT WITH PEOPLE WEARING THE CLOTHING ARE BELOW THE AGENCY'S LEVEL OF CONCERN. THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES FOUND THAT UNIFORMS TREATED WITH PERMETHRIN AT THE RATE APPLIED IN FACTORY TREATMENT ARE SAFE TO WEAR AROUND FAMILY MEMBERS, INCLUDING INFANTS AND CHILDREN, AS WELL AS PETS. THE EPA AND THE SUBCOMMITTEE TO REVIEW PERMETHRIN TOXICITY FROM MILITARY UNIFORMS CONCLUDED THAT EXPOSURE TO PERMETHRIN FROM WEARING TREATED UNIFORMS IS UNLIKELY TO CAUSE ADVERSE HEALTH EFFECTS TO FETUSES OR NEWBORNS. FURTHERMORE, PERMETHRIN TREATED CLOTHING IS WIDELY AVAILABLE AT COMMERCIAL SPORTING GOODS AND OUTDOOR RETAILERS.

6. (U) MEDICAL LITERATURE INDICATES THAT SOLDIER EXPOSURE TO PERMETHRIN FROM WEARING PERMETHRIN-IMPREGNATED MILITARY UNIFORMS IS UNLIKELY TO CAUSE SKIN SENSITIZATION, SKIN IRRITATION, OR OTHER SKIN EFFECTS. EVEN THOUGH EXPOSURE TO PERMETHRIN-TREATED UNIFORMS IS UNLIKELY TO CAUSE ADVERSE HEALTH EFFECTS, PREGNANT AND NURSING SOLDIERS AND FEMALE SOLDIERS WHO ARE TRYING TO GET PREGNANT ARE AUTHORIZED TO WEAR NON-PERMETHRIN TREATED ARMY COMBAT UNIFORMS PRIOR TO THE WEAR OF A NON-PERMETHRIN TREATED MATERNITY UNIFORM. SOLDIERS WITH KNOWN OR SUSPECTED PERMETHRIN HYPERSENSITIVITY, PREGNANT AND NURSING SOLDIERS, AND FEMALE SOLDIERS WHO ARE TRYING TO GET PREGNANT MUST SEEK CARE FROM A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER TO OBTAIN A MEDICAL PROFILE EXEMPTING THE WEAR OF THE FACTORY TREATED PERMETHRIN UNIFORM. PERMETHRIN HYPERSENSITIVITY ONLY BASED ACU PROFILES SHOULD ALMOST NEVER RESULT IN ANY ACTIVITY OR DUTY ASSIGNMENT LIMITATIONS. SOLDIERS WITH MEDICAL (PERMETHRIN SPECIFIC) PROFILES MAY SPECIAL ORDER THE ACU COAT AND TROUSERS WITHOUT PERMETHRIN FROM THE LOCAL AMCS. RECEIPT OF SPECIAL ORDERS THROUGH THE AMCS IS APPROXIMATELY 4-6 WEEKS. THE MATERNITY ACU, AN ORGANIZATIONAL CLOTHING AND INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENT ITEM, CAN ONLY BE OBTAINED THROUGH THE CENTRAL ISSUE FACILITIES.

7. (U) PERMETHRIN FACTORY TREATMENT DOES NOT ALTER THE APPEARANCE OF THE ACU. THE PERMETHRIN FACTORY TREATMENT USES A SYSTEM THAT STRONGLY BINDS THE PERMETHRIN TO THE FABRIC. STUDIES CONDUCTED DETERMINED THAT ONLY TINY AMOUNTS OF PERMETHRIN RESIDUES WERE TRANSFERRED TO UNTREATED CLOTHING DURING LAUNDERING. THE EPA INSTRUCTS CONSUMERS TO LAUNDRER PERMETHRIN-TREATED GARMENTS, SUCH AS MILITARY UNIFORMS OR CIVILIAN CLOTHING, SEPARATELY FROM OTHER NON-TREATED GARMENTS. FOLLOW THE EPA LABEL INSTRUCTIONS SEWN IN THE UNIFORM WHICH STATE: "WASH TREATED

GARMENT SEPARATELY FROM OTHER CLOTHING." WHEN IN FIELD OR COMBAT SITUATIONS, REFER TO THE LABEL OR HANG TAG FOR ADDITIONAL LAUNDERING INSTRUCTIONS. IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE THE PROTECTION, THE ACU PERMETHRIN COAT/TROUSERS SHOULD NOT BE MIXED/MATCHED WITH THE CURRENT ACU COAT/TROUSERS.

8. (U) HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY (HQDA) POINT OF CONTACT IS MRS. BRYANT-HARPER, DSN 224-0956, COMMERCIAL 703-614-0956, OR E-MAIL: SHIRLEY.B.BRYANT-HARPER.CIV@MAIL.MIL.

9. (U) THIS MESSAGE WILL EXPIRE IN SEPTEMBER 2022 UNLESS SUPERSEDED BY OFFICIAL GUIDANCE FROM HQDA.