

***GTA 05-08-019**

**The Soldier's Field Card:
Checklist for Environmental
Considerations During
Training and Deployment**

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PURPOSE

This GTA is a Soldier's guide to dealing with environmental concerns during training or deployment. Training and deployment usually have impacts on the environment. Soldiers and leaders should try to minimize negative environmental impacts; however, mission and force protection are always of paramount importance. This GTA will help to achieve the mission, protect the force, and reduce impacts. See *FM 3-100.4* for more information on environmental impacts.

In training and deployment situations, environmental considerations are an important aspect of Soldier health and mission achievement. Integrating environmental considerations in all aspects of training and deployment operations can support mission accomplishment, enhance unit readiness, improve living conditions, support community relations, and reduce cleanup costs. Work with the unit environmental officer (EO) to reduce the environmental footprint left during training and deployment activities.

The unit EO should contact the local range control office (for training areas), environmental office, or facility engineers to determine specific information for training areas, area of operations (AO), or base camps/forward operating bases (FOBs).

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The following actions should be taken:

- Attend the briefing on environmental considerations and hazard controls in the training area, AO, or base camp/FOB.
- Learn to recognize signage and off-limits areas.
- Report any discolored soil areas, dead vegetation, animals, and unknown chemicals to the chain of command.
- Work with the EO to ensure that job-related environmental training is kept current.
- Contact the EO for environmental questions and concerns.
- Check with the EO to determine proper battery management for turning in, recycling, and disposing of batteries.
- Modify the existing standing operating procedure (SOP) to meet site-specific needs. Modify the basic environmental SOP from *FM 3-100.4* if there is not an existing environmental SOP for the location.

TRAINING AREA/AREA OF OPERATIONS

The following actions should be taken when in a training area/AO:

- Use camouflage netting instead of vegetation to camouflage vehicles, equipment, and other items.
- Stay out of off-limits areas, and obey all signage.
- Backfill and smooth all excavations properly.

- Restore any disturbed areas to their natural condition.
- Recover all barrier materials.

VEHICLE MOVEMENT

The following actions should be taken during vehicle movement:

- Observe posted speed limits.
- Avoid neutral (locked-tread) steers and sharp turns when possible.
- Stay on designated roads when possible.
- Use ground guides (even during daylight hours).
- Do not drive through off-limits areas.
- Cross waterways at authorized ford sites only.
- Do not park near waterways.
- Carry spill response equipment, and report all spills to the chain of command.

LITTER

The following actions should be taken for litter control:

- Ensure that waste/trash disposal supplies are available at the location during predeployment if possible. If supplies are not available, take equipment to set up solid-waste disposal and recycling points.
- Follow the unit, training area, or base camp/FOB SOP regarding proper trash disposal.
- Segregate recyclable materials, such as metal, plastic, glass, and other recyclable materials.

- Keep trash container lids secure.
- Police all areas for litter.
- Place all waste at the solid-waste collection site at the unit training area or base camp/FOB.
- Do not burn or bury trash unless directed by the EO.

REFUELING

The following actions should be taken when refueling:

- Refuel at designated areas.
- Place drip pans, absorbent pads, or absorbent compounds under vehicles to catch drips or spills.
- Ensure that valves are closed and caps are secured when refueling is complete.
- Ensure that a spill kit is located near the site.
- Prevent spills as much as possible. If a spill occurs, follow the refueling-point spill response procedures and notify refueling-point personnel or the chain of command.
- Ground vehicles before fueling to prevent static charge.

PETROLEUM, OILS, LUBRICANTS, HAZARDOUS MATERIAL, OR HAZARDOUS WASTE SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

The following actions should be taken when responding to or preventing petroleum, oils, and lubricants (POL); hazardous material (HM); or hazardous waste (HW) spills:

- Minimize the use of hazardous substances, including POL.
- Carry and use drip pans, drums, and dry absorbent for spills.
- Contact the local spill response team if a spill occurs.
- Follow HM spill procedures as follows:
 - **Step 1:** Protect yourself, and evacuate the area if necessary.
 - **Step 2.** Stop the flow if possible to do so safely.
 - **Step 3.** Contain the contaminant flow and spread if possible to do so quickly and safely.
 - **Step 4.** Report the spill immediately, and notify the chain of command and unit EO.
 - **Step 5.** Clean up the spill and dispose of spilled material and contaminated absorbents according to the unit/local SOP, and contact the EO or facility engineers for guidance.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL/HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

The following actions should be taken when conducting HM/HW management:

- Ensure that HM/HW supplies are available in the area during pretraining and predeployment, if possible. If supplies are not available, take supplies to set up HM storage areas and HW accumulation points for the unit, including proper personal protective equipment (PPE), spill response equipment, and disposal supplies (such

as markers, labels, tape, bung wrenches, and secondary containment).

- Maintain a basic load of HM—do not stockpile. Coordinate with other units to manage HM inventories; for example, check if the training area or base camp has a HAZMART to reduce and distribute excess HM.

***Note:* A HAZMART is a center where units can take and pick up unused HM. A HAZMART reduces disposal and supply costs.**

- Ensure that every HM/HW has a corresponding material safety data sheet (MSDS) available. The MSDS will help determine the proper PPE for handling the HM/HW, fire/hazard protection procedures, spill response procedures, and transportation information. Check with the EO, supply officer, or safety officer if an MSDS is needed.
- Ensure that HM/HW is segregated properly in storage areas and accumulation points.
- Keep areas secured and away from site/camp borders to ensure that HM/HW cannot be used as a weapon by the enemy.
- Ensure that there is secondary containment for HM storage areas and HW accumulation points. Secondary containment should hold 10 percent of the total HM accumulated or HW stored or 110 percent of the largest container. If possible, provide overhead cover for HM storage areas and HW accumulation points or cover them with a tarp to reduce the amount of storm water contacting the containers.

- Locate HW accumulation points near the generation point; however, locate these points away from high-traffic, eating, recreational, and sleeping areas.
- Practice good housekeeping in HM storage areas and HW accumulation points. Maintain a minimum 3-foot aisle space between segregated HM/HW to allow emergency equipment easier access.
- Conduct routine inspections of HM storage areas and HW accumulation points. Use the following “C-H-E-C-K” system as a guideline for inspections:
 - **Containment.** Ensure that secondary containment is in place and in good condition. Empty water from the container on a regular basis, and properly dispose of water at the HW collection point.
 - **HM and HW locations.** Choose appropriate HM and HW locations, erect warning signs, and keep areas clean and orderly.
 - **Environmental documentation.** Maintain an MSDS for every HM/HW, update the unit SOP and spill response plan regularly, maintain drum logs and disposal documentation, and ensure that containers are properly labeled and marked.
 - **Containers.** Check the condition of containers, and keep containers of incompatible materials separate. Keep lids and bungs closed when containers are not in use, and arrange for turn-

in as containers near the full level (leaving appropriate head space or expansion capacity).

- **Kits.** Place spill, first aid, and emergency response kits near HM/HW locations. Ensure that PPE fits and that replacement items are available.
- Check with the EO to ensure proper turn-in of excess HM/HW.
- Know the training area, host nation, or Final Governing Standards (FGS) requirements for the management of HM/HW.

WILDLIFE

The following actions should be taken when wildlife is present:

- Do not harass, capture, touch, or kill wildlife.
- Do not feed wildlife.
- Follow the SOP and local regulations pertaining to threatened and endangered species.
- Stay away from endangered plant and animal habitats, when possible.

CULTURAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The following actions should be taken when cultural/archaeological resources are present:

- Stop digging activity and immediately report any prehistoric artifacts that are found to the EO or chain of command.
- Do not disturb, damage, or collect cultural/archaeological resources—**it is illegal.**

- Do not disrupt or vandalize cemeteries—**it is against regulations.**

WETLANDS

The following actions should be taken when in wetlands:

- Do not destroy wetlands.
Note: Wetlands include ponds, streams, floodplains, bogs, or any other areas that are wet most of the time.
- Avoid the following activities in wetlands, when possible:
 - Vehicle traffic.
 - Soil-disturbing activities.
 - Destruction of vegetation, including cutting trees.

PEST MANAGEMENT

The following actions should be taken when conducting pest management:

- Keep food in closed containers and packages.
- Use mechanical pest control, when possible.
- Use only approved off-the-shelf pesticides, fungicides, and insecticides. For regulated chemical pest management, request that the EO contact the training area/base camp for pesticide applicators.
Note: Only licensed individuals can apply regulated chemical pesticides.

WATER MANAGEMENT

The following actions should be taken for water management:

- Locate washracks and other cleaning facilities away from surface water sources.
- Check with the EO or preventive medicine officer to ensure that drinking water sources are safe.
- Recycle plastic bottles (when possible), if using bottled water.

OTHER

The following actions should be taken during operations:

- Report any leaking electrical transformers to the EO or chain of command.

CAUTION

These transformers may contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), which are known carcinogens.

- Contact the base camp/FOB environmental staff or engineers and the preventive medicine officer to determine if there are environmental hazards/contaminants if a preexisting structure (of the host nation) is being used.
- Avoid disturbing asbestos (if possible) if it is suspected to be present in buildings in the AO.

CAUTION
Asbestos is generally not harmful until it is disturbed. Once it is disturbed, the tiny fibers can damage the respiratory system if inhaled.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS OR RADIO CONTACT INFORMATION

Complete *Table 1* by inserting specific contact information next to the corresponding title.

Table 1. Contact Information

<i>Title</i>	<i>Contact Information</i>
Environmental Officer	
Base Camp or Site Environmental Staff	
Base Camp or Site Engineers	
Safety Officer	
Preventive Medicine Office	
Medical Officer	