



ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

24 APR 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS

SUBJECT: Basic Training on the Use of Personal Protective Measures to Prevent Diseases Carried by Insects and Other Arthropods

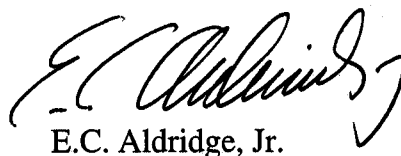
I request your assistance in getting training critical to the protection of the health of Department of Defense (DOD) personnel into basic training manuals and appropriate training courses for all DOD military personnel. The training at issue concerns the use of personal protective measures for prevention of diseases carried by insects and other arthropods.

Throughout military history, more combat power has been lost due to disease and non-battle injury (DNBI) than to direct combat action. Many DNBI cases are due to preventable insect-borne disease. We must ensure our personnel train as they will fight by incorporating the use of personal protective measures against insects in the basic and sustainment training for all soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen. Recent reports on our Gulf War experience from the Rand Corporation and the Office of the Special Assistant for Gulf War Illnesses have also noted that there is apparently widespread misuse of insect repellent chemicals due to a lack of such training.

Component training manuals and courses should include, at a minimum, the basic information outlined in the attachment. This information can be modified to suit your own doctrinal requirements and the formats of your training manuals and courses.

If properly indoctrinated during basic and sustainment training, DOD personnel would already know the techniques needed to protect themselves when training in or deployed to areas with actual threats from insect-borne diseases. This training would further increase the health and sustainability of our forces.

My point of contact for additional information or consultation is Captain Gary Breeden, MSC, USN, Executive Director, AFPMB. He may be reached at (301) 295-8305 or DSN 295-8305.



E.C. Aldridge, Jr.

Attachment:
As stated



cc:

ASA (M&RA)

ASA (IL&E)

ASAF (MRA&E)

ASD (Health Affairs)

ASN (I&B)

ASN (R&RA)

Director, Joint Staff

General Counsel, DOD

Inspector General, DOD

OSAGWI

USD (P&R)

PERSONAL PROTECTION FROM MOSQUITOES AND OTHER BITING ARTHROPODS

The Armed Forces Pest Management Board publication, Technical Guide Number 36, "Personal Protective Measures against Insects and Other Arthropods of Military Significance," <http://www.afpmb.org/pubs/tims/tims.htm>, contains detailed information on the following essential elements of effective personal protection against insects:

USE PERSONAL REPELLENTS

Apply skin repellent containing the active ingredient DEET (NSN 6840-01-284-3982) to all exposed skin according to label instructions.

USE CLOTHING REPELLENTS

Treat the entire uniform with permethrin clothing repellent (NSNs 6840-01-284-3982, 6840-01-334-2666, 6840-01-278-1336) according to label instructions.

WEAR THE UNIFORM PROPERLY

Wear shirts and collars closed, sleeves rolled down and buttoned, trouser bottoms tucked into boots.

USE PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Sleep under a mosquito bed net (e.g., NSN 7210-00-266-9736). Where tactical situation permits, wear an insect head net (8415-00-935-3130) over military head gear or an insect proof mesh jacket (NSNs 8415-01-483-2988/3002/3004/3007/3008). All net material should be treated with the permethrin repellent.

FOLLOW MEDICAL ADVICE

When chemoprophylaxis exists for a disease (e.g., malaria), take it in accordance with medical advice. Treat insect bites and stings in accordance with medical advice.