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THE ENVIRONMENT AND REDEPLOYMENT: HOW TO TRANSITION A BASE CAMP

A Soldier's guide on how to environmentally close a base camp.



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Headquarters, U.S. Army Engineer School

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PURPOSE

This graphic training aid (GTA) will assist in redeployment planning after a contingency operation. The goal is to return the area of operations to the host nation in its predeployment condition or better. This reduces the liability of the U.S. Army and helps ensure good relations with the host nation.

RESTORATION

Planners determine how to restore the area of operations to good condition based on what occurred while it was occupied by troops. Units and Soldiers can help restore the area of operations by—

- Consolidating and providing environmental documentation to the planners.
- Cleaning and packing unit equipment and properly disposing of decontamination waste.
- Properly turning in hazardous waste.
- Preparing hazardous material for transportation.
- Submitting environmental site closure surveys and environmental condition reports.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

Ensure that environmental documentation is compiled and kept in a single location. This includes—

- Environmental baseline surveys.
- Environmental condition reports. (See Report Number E035, Field Manual 6-99.2.)
- Spill reports.
- Environmental inspections.
- Waste turn-in documents and removal manifests.
- Environmental site closure surveys. (See Appendix F, Central Command Regulation 200-2.)

EQUIPMENT CLEANING AND PACKAGING

Unit and individual equipment must be cleaned and packed for return to the home station. Animals, insects, plants, seeds, and other material from the host nation have the potential to affect individual health and the environment. Take the following actions to eliminate adverse effects:

- Thoroughly clean equipment.
- Properly dispose of waste water.
- Pack equipment according to unit load plans.
- Consolidate and stack tent floors and walkways.
- Police and consolidate unused Class IV supplies.
- Police and properly dispose of trash.

- Conduct a security sweep for classified material and sensitive communications security equipment.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL AND HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Before redeployment, turn in hazardous waste to the designated accumulation point and prepare hazardous material for shipment. Contact the unit supply officer, the Assistant Chief of Staff for Logistics, the unit movement officer, and/or the environmental officer for assistance.

Packaging and Transportation Requirements

When packaging and transporting hazardous material and hazardous waste—

- Refer to the material safety data sheet for specific packaging and transportation requirements and consult the unit movement officer and/or the environmental officer for additional information.
- Ensure that the contents are compatible with the packaging material.
- Use strong, sealed, leak proof containers to prevent materials from being released during transport.
- Properly label containers and clearly identify the contents.
- Securely block and brace containers to prevent movement.
- Palletize containers with the correct side up.

Note. Certain substances, such as flammable liquids, have specific transportation requirements. (See the unit standing operating procedure.)

Labeling Requirements

Use yellow identification labels (Figure 1, page 4) to properly label hazardous waste containers for turn-in.

Ensure that each hazardous material container is marked with a Department of Transportation hazardous material label or placard if possible. If labels are unavailable, use a stencil or marker to annotate containers with the proper information.

Note. Consult the unit movement officer or the environmental officer for the correct Department of Transportation hazardous material label or placard to use for each specific shipment.

Affix labels according to applicable Department of Transportation regulations before transporting hazardous material to an off-site location. Ensure that labels include the—

- Point of contact.
 - Name.
 - Telephone number.
 - Street address, city, state, and zip code.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

FEDERAL LAWS PROHIBIT IMPROPER DISPOSAL
IF FOUND, CONTACT THE NEAREST POLICE,
PUBLIC SAFETY AUTHORITY OR THE U.S.
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

GENERATOR INFORMATION:

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EPA ID NO.: _____ EPA WASTE NO.: _____

ACCUMULATION START DATE: _____

MANIFEST DOCUMENT NO.: _____

[_____]

D.O.T. PROPER SHIPPING NAME AND UN OR NA NO. WITH PREFIX

HANDLE WITH CARE!

Figure 1. Sample hazardous waste label

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITION REPORT

Complete environmental condition reports to document environmental impact during the operation of the base camp. These reports are used with the environmental baseline survey to determine current conditions and final disposition of the site.

The environmental condition report includes—

- A brief outline, which includes background information on the area of operations.
- A base camp map indicating the locations of spill sites, waste storage or disposal sites, and other environmental concerns or hazards.
- Locations of burn pits, aboveground and underground storage tanks, and wash racks within the surrounding area.

The environmental information reported about activities and spills that occurred during deployment helps planners determine what measures are needed to return the area of operations to predeployment conditions or better. Your actions will help reduce Army liability, enhance future U.S. and host nation relations, and ensure environmental protection.

ENVIRONMENTAL SITE CLOSURE SURVEY

At least three environmental site closure surveys—initial, preliminary, and final—will be conducted. The surveys identify issues that require mitigation before base camp transition and confirm that identified corrective actions are complete.

Some base camps may require an additional environmental site closure survey if the final survey does not fully meet the required completion timeline. This often occurs when there is a partial transition or a change in the estimated base camp transition date.

Initial Environmental Site Closure Survey

A trained environmental individual or team conducts the initial environmental site closure survey at the beginning of the base camp transfer notification process. The initial survey is normally conducted as soon as site transition has been decided (usually at least 180 days before the anticipated transition or transfer date). It identifies the environmental mitigation actions to be completed before transferring the base camp. The initial survey is reviewed, approved, and posted to the theater environmental portal.

Corrective Action Plan

A corrective action plan may be required for base camps. The plan addresses environmental mitigation actions required (cleanup method [troop or contract labor], resources required, estimated cost) to prepare the base camp for transition to the host nation. It is submitted to the theater environmental office within 2 weeks of completing the initial environmental site closure survey. The corrective action plan is updated after each subsequent environmental site closure survey, as necessary, until no further mitigation is required. Plan preparation is a team process, and the base camp environmental officer has primary responsibility for its timely completion. The base camp environmental officer also establishes the environmental cleanup work plan based on mission requirements. The responsible theater environmental officer assists with corrective action plan preparation and resource coordination as required. The final corrective action plan includes—

- A description of the environmental sites that require cleanup.
- The mitigation method to be used at each site.
- The environmental cleanup work plan for completing mitigation at each site.
- The scheduled start and completion dates of cleanup actions at each site.

Environmental Cleanup Work Plan

The environmental cleanup work plan provides the current cleanup status, identifies and schedules environmental site closures, allocates resources, and establishes coordination with the theater environmental office. The theater will use the environmental cleanup work plan to direct and prioritize environmental response and cleanup team contractor assets.

Preliminary Environmental Site Closure Survey

A trained environmental individual or team conducts the preliminary environmental site closure survey. The preliminary survey identifies environmental action items and verifies that items identified in the initial survey are complete or are in the process of being completed. The preliminary survey is conducted more than 90 days before the actual site transition. Multiple preliminary surveys may be required depending on the specific conditions and the transition schedule at each site. Certain facilities may not require a preliminary survey due to the nature of the site, such as minimal to no U.S. footprint or no corrective actions identified in the initial survey. The requirement for a preliminary survey is determined by the theater environmental office and is based on the findings and recommendations of the initial survey.

Final Environmental Site Closure Survey

A trained environmental individual or team conducts the final environmental site closure survey to ensure that all environmental items are properly addressed before the base camp transition/transfer date. The final survey is the last step in the site transition process, and a site will not be closed or transitioned until the final survey is approved by the theater environmental office. The final survey is conducted 7 to 14 days before base camp transition. Depending on the status of required mitigation, an additional final survey may be required before the theater environmental office gives final approval of the transition.

Note. See Field Manual 3-34.5 or theater-specific base camp transition guidance for additional information.
