

*GTA 05-08-019

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

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**Headquarters, U.S. Army Engineer School
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PURPOSE

This graphic training aid (GTA) is a Soldier's guide to dealing with environmental concerns during training and 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 achieve the mission, protect the force, and reduce impacts.

Note. See FM 3-34.5 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 into 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 operations office (for training areas), environmental office, or facility engineers to determine specific information for training areas, areas of operations (AOs), or base camps/forward operating bases (FOBs).

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Take the following actions:

- Investigate environmental conditions, including hazards, for 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 procedures 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 3-34.5 if there is not an existing environmental SOP for the location.

TRAINING AREA/AREA OF OPERATIONS

Take the following actions 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 environmentally sensitive areas. Obey all signage.
- Properly backfill and smooth all excavations.
- Restore any disturbed areas to their natural condition and recover barrier materials.

VEHICLE MOVEMENT

Take the following actions 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

Take the following actions for litter control:

- Ensure that waste/trash disposal supplies are available.
- Follow the unit, training area, or base camp/FOB SOP regarding proper trash disposal.
- Segregate recyclable materials (metal, plastic, glass).
- Keep trash container lids secure.
- Police all areas for litter.
- Place all waste in 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.
- Do not discard Class V supplies (ammunition) in the trash.
- Do not discard classified material in the trash.

Note. If a cross-cut shredder is used, classified material can be discarded in the trash. Classified material usually needs to be burned if it is processed through a normal shredder. Contact the local Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence (G-2) for further guidance.

REFUELING

Take the following actions when refueling:

- Refuel at designated areas.
- Wear appropriate safety equipment (goggles, gloves) when refueling.
- 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 serviceable spill kit is located near the site, and know how to use it.
- 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

Take the following actions when responding to or preventing petroleum, oils, and lubricants (POL); hazardous material (HM); or hazardous waste (HW) spills:

- Minimize the use of hazardous materials, including POL, when possible.
- 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 (R-E-A-C-T) as follows:
 - ***Step 1.*** Protect yourself, assess the situation and evacuate the area if necessary. If it is safe for to respond, then **REACT**.
 - ***Step 2.*** Remove the source, stop the flow, close valves, shut down power to pumps.
 - ***Step 3.*** Envelop the contaminant flow.
 - ***Step 4.*** Absorb/accumulate the spill with spill kit materials (booms, dry sweep).
 - ***Step 5.*** Clean up the spill, dispose of spilled material, and containerize contaminated soil.
 - ***Step 6.*** Tell your supervisor and the unit EO about the spill. Complete a spill report.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL/HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Take the following actions 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 (markers, labels, tape, bung wrenches, secondary containment).
- Maintain a basic load of HM—do not stockpile. Coordinate with other units to manage HM inventories; for example, determine 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 turn in HM and pick up unused HM as free-issue. A HAZMART reduces disposal and supply costs, but requires an investment in manpower.

- Ensure that every HM/HW has a corresponding safety data sheet (SDS) available. The SDS helps determine the proper PPE for handling HM/HW, fire/hazard protection procedures, spill response procedures, and transportation requirements. Check with the EO, supply officer, or safety officer if an SDS is needed.

- Ensure that HM/HW is segregated properly in storage areas and accumulation points.
- Keep areas secure 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 guide for inspections:
 - **Containment.** Ensure that secondary containment is in place and in good condition. Empty water from containers 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 SDS 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 the 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

Take the following actions 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

Take the following actions when cultural/archaeological resources are present:

- Stop digging activity, and immediately report any 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

Note. Wetlands include ponds, streams, floodplains, bogs, marshes, or any other areas that are wet most of the time.

Take the following actions when in wetlands:

- Do not destroy wetlands.
- Avoid the following activities in wetlands when possible:
 - Vehicle traffic.
 - Soil-disturbing activities.
 - Vegetation destruction, including cutting trees.

PEST MANAGEMENT

Take the following actions 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

Take the following actions 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

Take the following actions during operations:

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

<p style="text-align: center;">CAUTION</p>

<p>These transformers may contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), which are known carcinogens.</p>
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- Contact the base camp/FOB environmental staff or engineers and the preventive medicine officer to identify environmental hazards/contaminants if a host nation, preexisting structure is being used.

- Avoid disturbing asbestos (if possible) if it is suspected to be present in buildings in the AO.

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

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	