

LESSON ASSIGNMENT

LESSON 1

Introduction to Field Sanitation Team Operations.

LESSON ASSIGNMENT

Paragraphs 1-1 through 1-5.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

After completing this lesson, you should be able to:

- 1-1. Given a list of terms match them to the correct definition.
- 1-2. Given a list of reasons for importance, select those related to the importance of the field sanitation team.
- 1-3. Understand the relationship between the FST and the unit commander for conducting Operational Risk Management (ORM).
- 1-4. Identify the requirements for selecting FST members and determining composition.
- 1-5. Identify the field sanitation team's roles as they pertain to sanitation and preventive medicine measures.

LESSON 1

INTRODUCTION TO FIELD SANITATION OPERATIONS

1-1. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

a. **Health threat.** Refers to an individual soldier's health. The term can include hereditary conditions that manifest themselves in adulthood, individual exposure to an industrial chemical or toxins where others are not exposed, or conditions that can result in other injuries and traumas that affect an individual's health but may not affect the health of the unit.

b. **Medical threat.** Refers to all "potential or continuing enemy actions and environmental situations that could adversely affect the combat effectiveness of friendly forces, to include wounds, injuries or sickness incurred while engaged in a joint operation.

c. **Disease and non-battle injuries (DNBIs).** Describes a person who is not a battle casualty, but who is lost to his organization by reason of disease or injury, including persons dying from disease or injury, or by reason of being missing where the absence does not appear to be voluntary, due to enemy action, or to being interned.

d. **Risk management.** A five-step process used in identifying and controlling hazards to protect the force and increase the chance of mission accomplishment. It is a continuous on-going process that begins with the receipt of the mission and is applicable to any situation and environment.

e. **Risk assessment.** The identification and assessment of hazards, the first two steps in the risk management process.

f. **Hazard.** Any actual or potential condition that can cause injury, illness, or death of personnel; damage to or loss of equipment or property; or mission degradation.

1-2. IMPORTANCE OF THE FIELD SANITATION TEAM (FST)

a. The forerunner of the FST was established during WW II when it became apparent that the control of malaria and other arthropod-borne diseases was beyond the capabilities of engineer and medical units, commanders of company-size units were required to appoint malaria control details. In 1956, animal pests were added to the duties of the malaria details. In 1958, health problems encountered in the field by the American Task Force in Lebanon focused on the need for a team with broader training and knowledge of the relationship of effective PMM to individual soldier health and unit mission accomplishment.

b. Later, the vector control detail became the Field Sanitation Team (FST). Training was expanded to include field water supply, food service sanitation, waste disposal, and personal hygiene. The major role of the FST in reducing DNBI is firmly established. When a commander meets a problem beyond the FST's best efforts, assistance is requested from supporting preventive medicine elements.

c. The reason the FST is important is because it is responsible for those preventive medicine measures (PMM) that affect units as a whole or are beyond the resources of the individual soldier (AR 40-5). This is an important responsibility because unit effectiveness is dependent on the health of its soldiers. When PMM breakdowns occur and units are unable to carry out their missions because soldiers are sick, the success of an army, the outcome of a war, and the fate of a nation may be seriously impaired. The success of operations is directly related to how well DNBI are prevented through effective PMM in the units. As a tactical measure, the units with sound PMM can maintain fighting strength and exploit strength, when the enemy may expect weakness due to disease and nonbattle injury.

1-3. FST and Operational Risk Management (ORM)

a. FST members will participate in the ORM process by assisting unit commanders in identifying Occupational and Environmental Health/Endemic Diseases (OEH/ED) hazards, and assessing the threat associated with these hazards. Commanders will be able to make better-informed decisions on risk assessments based upon valuable input from the FST.

b. Identifying OEH/EH hazards is the first step in risk assessment. Using a process framed in the context of the mission, enemy, terrain, troops, time, and civilian (METT-TC) to look for potential hazards simplifies the process. Determining both the severity of the hazard and the probability that soldiers will be exposed to the hazard are required to assess identified hazards. The level of severity from an OEH/ED hazard is determined by the classification of health threats. Once a health threat is determined to have the potential to render a field unit combat or mission ineffective it is classified as a medical threat.

1-4. FST REQUIREMENTS

a. Today the FST is a key part of an effective command. A team must consist of at least two personnel, and one must be a noncommissioned officer. For units with endemic medical personnel, they will be made a part of the FST. The important thing to remember is that the team should have enough members to accomplish its mission throughout the unit's area of operations. For units that consist of teams that operate individually, FST members should be placed in each team to provide support for the soldiers. FST members must be selected from personnel whose normal field duties will not provide ample time for their duties to be performed. Every FST member will be

trained and certified in field sanitation by supporting Preventive Medicine assets and have no less than 6 months time remaining with the unit.

b. The FST must also be equipped properly. AR 40-5 and FM 4-25.12 contain equipment lists of required items for a unit. For units within Forces Command (FORSCOM) units must refer to FORSCOM Regulation 700-2 for additional required items. Commanders must make a priority to ensure these items are on hand, serviceable, and repaired/replaced as necessary. Enough items should be acquired to support the entire unit, and these supplies should be placed where they can be used by the FST members, or issued to soldiers as needed. One central location may not accomplish this.

1-5. ROLES OF THE FIELD SANITATION TEAM

The commander is ultimately responsible for ensuring the health of the troops. Therefore, the commander must have a clear understanding of the direct relationship between a soldier's health and mission accomplishment and emphasize this at all levels. The commander appoints a functional FST to assist in ensuring that preventive medicine measures are practiced to a high degree at all levels. To properly assist the commander in assessing the medical threat, FST members must be able to perform several tasks.

a. Inspect unit water containers and trailers; check unit water supply for chlorine and disinfect as required.

(1) Water is essential to the army in the field. Inspection of water containers and the unit's water supply will help eliminate such water-borne diseases as hepatitis, typhoid, and amoebic dysentery.

(2) Checking the unit's water supply for the proper levels of chlorination will reduce the potential for chemical poisoning that occurs with excessive chlorination.

b. Direct Unit Field Food Sanitation Operations.

(1) The conditions under which food is transported, stored, prepared, and served can have a direct bearing on the success of a mission.

(2) Monitoring the units field food operations is vital to the soldiers' health, as well as the overall moral of the unit.

c. Direct unit field waste disposal operations.

(1) The proper disposal of all wastes is essential in preventing the spread of disease. Camps with improper waste disposal facilities soon became the breeding grounds for a multitude of pests such as flies and rats.

(2) As a member of the Field Sanitation Team you must assist the commander in the selection and construction of proper waste disposal devices.

d. Control arthropods and other animals in unit area. Directing and maintaining effective waste control, helps control arthropods and other animals in unit area.

e. Monitor status of PMM in unit against heat, cold, arthropod-borne illness, diarrheal disease, noise hazards, and toxic industrial chemical threats.

f. Assist in selection of the unit bivouac.

g. Supervise the construction of all field sanitation devices.