

CHAPTER 4

UNIT FIELD SANITATION TEAM

FIELD SANITATION TEAM CONCEPT

During the latter part of WWII it became apparent that more “firepower” was needed at the unit level to counter the medical threat. (Remember Togatabu Island and the jungles of Burma?) To answer this need the field sanitation team (FST) concept was developed.

Selected members from each company-sized unit were designated to receive special training in DNBI prevention so they could advise the commander in PMM for DNBI. This training enabled the unit commander to provide for control of insects, proper disinfection of water, and safe food supplies. As a result of using field sanitation teams, commanders were able to reduce losses due to DNBI.

FIELD SANITATION TEAM TASKS

Today's unit field sanitation teams serves as advisors to the commander concerning those PMM that should be taken by individuals and the unit to prevent DNBI. To properly assess the medical threat (disease/illness risk) the team members must be able to perform several tasks, to include:

- Inspect water containers and trailers. *
- Disinfect unit water supplies. *
- Check unit water supply for chlorine. *
- Inspect unit field food operations. *
- Inspect unit waste disposal operations. *
- Control arthropods and other animals in unit area. *
- Train unit personnel in use of individual PMM. *
- Monitor status of PMM in unit. *

- Assist in selection of bivouac site.
- Supervise the construction of all field sanitation devices.

SELECTION OF PERSONNEL

Selection of personnel for the unit field sanitation team should be based on the following:

- Units having organic medical personnel, such as company aidmen, **WILL** use them as the field sanitation team.
- The team members should be personnel whose normal field duties will allow them to devote sufficient time to field sanitation activities.
- Each individual selected should have at least 6 months of duty remaining with the unit on the date of appointment.
- At least one member must be an NCO when organic medical personnel are not available.

SCOPE OF FIELD SANITATION TEAM OPERATIONS

Conducts control operations in the field and within the unit areas in garrison as directed by the commander. The field sanitation team is in a training status under normal garrison conditions. During mobilization the field sanitation team will perform sanitation duties.

Ensures that unit leaders are supervising the disinfection of unit water supply. Instructs the troops in methods of individual water purification.

Assists the commander by inspecting food service operations.

Monitors the construction of garbage and soakage pits and inspections for proper disposal of waste.

Monitors the construction of field latrines and urinals, and inspects for proper sanitation.

Provides prime time training in the use of individual PMM.

Applies pesticides as required/necessary for the control of arthropods.



TRAINING

Members of the field sanitation team are required to receive training in basic sanitation techniques, disease control, and individual PMM, to include—

- Use of insect repellents, uniform impregnants, and protective clothing.
- Use and repair of screening and bednets.
- Use of residual and space insecticide sprays.
- Rodent control measures.
- Food service sanitation.
- Unit waste disposal.
- Water purification procedures, to include determination of chlorine residual.
- Personal hygiene.
- Heat/cold injury prevention to include WBGT determination and use of the windchill chart.

- Other subjects as they relate to the medical threat in the unit's area of operation.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR FIELD SANITATION TEAM THE BEST IN THE BATTALION

Select soldiers you know and can rely on.

After they're trained use them during:

- ARTEP's
- FTX's
- Prime time training on PMM.
- Predeployment training on the medical threat in the area of operation.

NOTE

Do not let your field sanitation team be just another IG requirement. Make it an asset you can use. Your FST has a critical role and can assist you in protecting the health of unit personnel.