



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY TRAINING AND DOCTRINE COMMAND
102 MCNAIR DRIVE
FORT MONROE, VIRGINIA 23651-1047

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

S: 1 Apr 09

ATCS-S

5 Feb 09

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: TRADOC FY 09 Heat Injury Prevention Plan

1. A review of TRADOC accident experience over the past 10 years shows that heat injuries are the leading cause of training-related accidental deaths within the command. The conduct of realistic and rigorous training in all weather conditions is critical to preparing our Soldiers for operational assignments. To ensure we are able to safely train these Soldiers, I expect commanders and leaders at all levels to balance the need for rigorous training against the hazards associated with training in a warm weather environment. I also expect you to execute a comprehensive heat casualty prevention program to mitigate the risks associated with this rigorous training.

2. Executed properly, heat casualty prevention can significantly reduce the incidence of heat injuries and will reduce the seriousness of those heat injuries that do occur. Soldiers at greatest risk are those with past heat injuries, those that have sunburn or other skin related conditions, are suffering from illness or taking medications, or have not yet acclimated to the climate. Soldiers that are highly motivated can be a special risk because they may be less apt to stop or slow down when they experience the initial indications of a heat injury. We must ensure all leaders understand these risk groups and know how to quickly recognize and treat heat injuries, which are the crucial elements to heat casualty prevention and Soldier survival.

3. In FY 08, we conducted a heat injury prevention special assessment. This study identified two failures we must not allow to reappear:

a. Failure to provide timely treatment to Soldiers displaying early symptoms of a heat injury.

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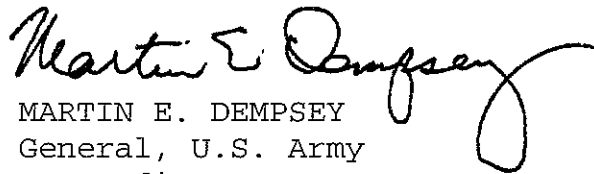
b. Lack of timely heat injury prevention command guidance.

Therefore, **NLT 1 Apr 09** all commanders and commandants will implement the enclosed TRADOC FY 09 Heat Injury Prevention Plan.

4. Finally, I want us to continue to find and share "best practices" associated with heat casualty prevention. I look forward to hearing about these during our Quarterly Executive Safety Council meetings. We cannot prevent the potential risks associated with rigorous training in all weather conditions; however, with planning, training, and leadership, we can prevent heat casualties from becoming heat injuries and can further minimize the seriousness of those heat injuries that do occur.

5. Report completion of subject plan requirements **NLT 1 Apr 09** to monr.atcs-s@conus.army.mil. Point of contact is Ms. Raceli C. Hulett, TRADOC Safety Office, DSN 680-2117, (757) 788-2117, raceli.hulett@us.army.mil.

Encl


MARTIN E. DEMPSEY
General, U.S. Army
Commanding

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FY 09 TRADOC Heat Injury Prevention Plan

1. **Mission.** Commanders/commandants take immediate action to prepare for hazards associated with the summer season by reviewing and updating policies and plans that address heat injury prevention, and provide training to all leaders, drill sergeants, instructors, and cadre that are involved with training Soldiers in a field or range environment.

2. **Current Situation.** A review of training accidents in TRADOC over the past 10 years indicates heat injuries are the leading cause of accidental death. A special assessment conducted across TRADOC during the spring and summer of FY 08 indicated:

a. Active participation by commanders and leaders throughout the training was evident.

b. Composite risk management (CRM) application was inconsistent. CRM worksheets were completed and approved at the appropriate level of leadership but often were not updated or revised to reflect the current conditions. Information derived from the application of CRM was not shared with all responsible leaders.

c. No standard was present to readily identify Soldiers that might be at greater risk due to medical conditions, medications, or a previous heat injury.

d. There was an overemphasis/reliance on heat categories and temperatures to assess the level of risk.

e. There was hesitancy to initiate immediate action at the first sign of heat related injury and failure to follow established procedures and policies that require use of ice sheets and evacuation.

f. There was a lack of timely heat injury prevention guidance from TRADOC.

3. **Concept of Operation.**

a. In addition to the requirements outlined in TRADOC Regulation 350-6, Appendix H-11, Prevention of heat and cold casualties, commanders/commandants will review their individual heat injury prevention plans to ensure they are current, tested, and address the following areas:

(1) CRM application. To be effective, CRM must be an ongoing process that is current and relevant to the present conditions and consider previous training and heat exposure. Documentation of the CRM process is important, but continuous communication of the risk levels and control measures is critical to effective prevention efforts.

(2) Identification of "at risk" Soldiers. Procedures to identify Soldiers at a greater risk for a heat or over-exertion injury must be standardized locally and effectively communicated.

(3) Response to a heat injury. Ensure local policies clearly define immediate actions in response to a heat injury or suspected heat injury. Timely intervention to lower body temperature can prevent a heat stress injury from progressing to a heat casualty. Emphasize the importance of immediate action to reduce body temperature. If a Soldier exhibits the signs or symptoms of a heat injury, take immediate action to cool the Soldier and evacuate. There can be no "stigma" attached to a Soldier self-identifying him or herself as under heat stress.

(4) Medical evacuation. Clearly define criteria for medical evacuation and identify medical support requirements. Ensure medical evacuation capabilities are inspected and rehearsed periodically.

(5) Ice sheets. Define requirements and responsibilities to ensure ice sheets are readily available in sufficient quantity to support units.

(6) Heat categories and wet bulb globe thermometers. Local polices should define heat categories and modifications or adjustments to training and uniforms under each category. Do not stress overreliance on heat categories and temperature readings as a measure of risk. Reinforce the importance of prevention and consideration of all factors that can contribute to a heat injury.

b. Training.

(1) Commanders/commandants will ensure all leaders, drill sergeants, instructors, and cadre who train Soldiers in a field or range environment complete heat injury prevention training.

(2) Minimum training requirements include but are not limited to completion of the TRADOC 2-hour block of heat injury prevention training. Training support packages, lesson plans, and other heat injury prevention material (such as handouts) are available on AKO at: <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/folder/13838475>.