

GTA 05-08-016

**THE ENVIRONMENT AND
REDEPLOYMENT:
HOW TO CLEAR A BASE CAMP**

*“A soldier’s guide on how to clear a base camp and
comply with host nation and federal laws.”*



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PURPOSE

This graphic training aid (GTA) will assist in redeployment planning following the contingency operation. In preparation for its return to the host nation (HN), the contingency area of operation (AO) should be restored to its predeployment condition or better. The environmental-baseline survey (EBS) and documentation of any release of hazardous waste (HW) or hazardous material (HM) and how they were handled will be useful at this time.

BASE CAMP CLEARING

Before redeployment, ensure that all HW has been turned in to the designated accumulation point. Prepare all HW and HM for proper shipment. If predeployment planning was accurate, there should not be much HM to prepare for shipment back to the garrison. Contact the Supply Officer (US Army) (S4) or Assistant Chief of Staff, G4 (Logistics) (G4) and the environmental-compliance officer (ECO) for assistance.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL AND HAZARDOUS WASTE PACKAGING TIPS

Certain substances, like flammable liquids, have specific transportation requirements. Use the following tips for HM and HW packaging:

- Consult the material safety data sheet (MSDS) for specific packaging and transportation requirements.
- Ensure that contents are compatible with packaging material.

- Use strong, tight containers to prevent materials from being released during transport.
- Label containers properly.
- Ensure that containers are securely blocked and braced.

CONTAINER PACKAGING REQUIREMENTS

Ensure safe transportation by properly packaging containers containing HM. Ensure that the containers are—

- Packaged according to MSDS guidelines. Consult your transportation officer (TO) and ECO for additional information.
- Compatible with the materials being shipped in them.
- Closed, sealed, and leakproof.
- Secured to prevent movement.
- Palletized with the correct side up and securely braced.
- Labeled and the contents are correctly identified.

CONTAINER LABELING REQUIREMENTS

Properly label all HW containers for turn-in. Use yellow HW “Environmental-Protection Agency (EPA)” labels (Figure 1) on all HW containers. Ensure that all HM containers are properly labeled with a Department of Transportation (DOT) HM label or placard. If labels are not available, use stencils or a marking pen to mark containers with the proper information.

NOTE: There are many DOT HM labels and placards indicating major classes and divisions of HM. Consult your TO or ECO for the correct DOT HM label or placard to use for your specific shipment.

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.: _____

DOT, PROPER SHIPPING NAME AND UN OR NA NO. WITH PREFIX

HANDLE WITH CARE!

Figure 1. Sample HW EPA Label

Affix a label to each HM package, according to applicable DOT regulations, before transporting it to an off-site location (Figure 1). Ensure that the following is completed on the label:

- Name (point of contact [POC]).
- Phone number.
- Address.
- City.
- State.
- Zip code.
- EPA identification number.
- EPA waste number.
- Accumulation start date.
- Manifest document number.
- Proper DOT shipping name and the United Nations (UN) or North American (NA) number with the prefix.

ENVIRONMENTAL-CONDITIONS REPORT

To document environmental damage and assess the condition of your camp, the task force engineer must perform a closure EBS report before your unit pulls out. This report is compared with the previous EBS report performed during the predeployment phase of the operation and shows what the United States (US) Army must clean up. Most reports will contain a—

- Brief outline containing installation and background information.
- Base camp map indicating spill sites, septic tanks, and other environmental concerns or hazards.
- Summary of environmental-compliance reports (ECRs) that lists significant environmental matters or events.
- Findings and determinations assessment indicating whether the camp conditions will impact the environment.

NOTE: For more information on EBS, refer to *Field Manual (FM) 3-100.4 (Appendix B)*.

You need to know if your camp poses a threat to the environment. The US Army has spent millions of taxpayer dollars to clean up environmental damages. Proper planning and careful execution when dealing with HM and HW can save your unit cleanup costs.

RECOVERY OPERATIONS

Recovery operations should include the following:

- Using only designated vehicle wash facilities and equipment.
- Confirming that the fighting positions, gun emplacements, and other excavated areas are properly refilled.
- Collecting communication and obstacle wires.

- Policing and removing all wastes and recyclables, such as litter and ammunition brass.
- Marking and reporting unexploded munitions.
- Reporting, containing, and cleaning up hazardous spills according to directives.
- Inspecting all sites before departing the AO.
- Performing a closure EBS to document the condition of the AO before departure.

NOTE: Refer to *FM 3-100.4* for additional information.