

**Report Date:** 10 Apr 2013

**Summary Report for Individual Task  
031-508-3062  
Advise the Commander on the Effects of Obscurants  
Status: Approved**

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DISTRIBUTION RESTRICTION: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

DESTRUCTION NOTICE: None

**Condition:** You are a CBRN Officer/NCO operating in a field environment. One of your commander's courses of action for the current mission is to use obscurants. Your commander needs to know the most effective way to use obscurants for the mission. You have Field Manual (FM) 3-11.50 available. This task should not be trained in MOPP.

**Standard:** Advise the commander on obscuration effects, in a brief that includes effects of weather conditions, principles of obscurant operations, offense and defense operations, types of concentration obscurants, urban structures and effective method of disseminating an obscurant.

**Special Condition:** None

**Special Standards:** None

**Special Equipment:**

**Safety Level:** Low

**MOPP:** Never

**Task Statements**

**Cue:** None

**DANGER**

None

**WARNING**

None

**CAUTION**

None

**Remarks:** None

**Notes:** None

## Performance Steps

### 1. Advise on visual effects of obscurants.

a. Visual obscuration enhances protection by keeping technologically disadvantaged adversaries from accurately targeting U.S. forces while at the same time not restricting the maneuver of U.S. forces.

b. Visual obscurants impact the following equipment:

- (1) Sensory equipment.
- (2) Direct-view optics such as telescopes.
- (3) Binoculars.
- (4) Weapon sights.
- (5) Cameras.

### 2. Advise on infrared effects of obscuration.

a. Protects by defeating technologically advantaged adversaries from accurately targeting U.S. forces.

b. Employ when the hazards associated with visual observation, detection, and engagement are not a significant concern.

c. Infrared sensory equipment that require electromagnetic (EM) spectrum are:

- (1) Vehicle-mounted thermal viewers and weapon scopes.
- (2) Terminal homing and acquisition sensors.
- (3) Some laser designators and guidance links.

### 3. Advise on microwave effects of obscurations.

a. Protects by defeating technologically advantaged adversaries from accurately targeting U.S. forces.

b. Employ when the hazards associated with visual and infrared observation, detection, and engagement are not a significant concern.

c. Microwave sensory equipment that requires EM spectrum are:

(1) Ground-based and airborne radar systems such as battlefield surveillance radar (BSR), ground surveillance radar (GSR).

- (2) Counter mortar and battery radar.
- (3) Moving target indicator.
- (4) Synthetic aperture radar.
- (5) Side- and forward-looking radar.

(6) Terrain-following radar.

(7) Radar-guided smart weapons.

(8) Commercial satellite operations and microwave emitters.

4. Advise on the bispectral effects of obscuration.

a. Degrades proper operation of performance weapon system and equipment capabilities.

b. Bispectral obscurants are used to defeat the enemy's viewers and weapon guidance systems such as:

(1) Command line of site (LOS).

(2) Terminal homing systems on antitank (AT) and air defense missiles.

5. Advise on the multispectral effects of obscuration.

a. Degrade proper operation or performance of threat weapon system and equipment capabilities that require access to the visual, infrared, and microwaves portions of the EM spectrum.

b. Multispectral obscuration is used to disrupt adversaries intelligence collection efforts, including BSR & GSR, that are essential to locate target, and/or attack U.S. forces.

c. Multispectral obscuration degrades adversary viewers and high-energy, microwave directed energy weapons (DEWs).

(Asterisks indicates a leader performance step.)

**Evaluation Preparation:** Setup: A good time to evaluate this task is while in a field environment. Gather materials for disposal of hazardous waste according to federal, state, and local rules and regulations.

<b>PERFORMANCE MEASURES</b>	<b>GO</b>	<b>NO-GO</b>	<b>N/A</b>
1. Advised commander on visual effects of obscurants.			
a. Visual obscuration enhances protection by keeping technologically disadvantaged adversaries from accurately targeting U.S. forces while at the same time not restricting the maneuver of U.S. forces.			
b. Visual obscurants impact the following equipment:			
(1) Sensory equipment.			
(2) Direct-view optics such as telescopes.			
(3) Binoculars.			
(4) Weapon sights.			
(5) Cameras.			
2. Advised on infrared effects of obscuration.			
a. Protects by defeating technologically advantaged adversaries from accurately targeting U.S. forces.			
b. Employ when the hazards associated with visual observation, detection, and engagement are not a significant concern.			
c. Infrared sensory equipment that requires electromagnetic (EM) spectrum are:			
(1) Vehicle-mounted thermal viewers and weapon scopes.			
(2) Thermal homing and acquisition sensors.			
(3) Some laser designators and guidance links.			
3. Advised on microwave effects of obscurations.			
a. Protects by defeating technologically advantaged adversaries from accurately targeting U.S. forces.			
b. Employ when the hazards associated with visual and infrared observation, detection, and engagement are not a significant concern.			
c. Microwave sensory equipment that requires EM spectrum are:			
(1) Ground-based and airborne radar systems such as battlefield surveillance radar (BSR), ground surveillance radar (GSR).			
(2) Counter mortar and battery radar.			
(3) Moving target indicator.			
(4) Synthetic aperture radar.			
(5) Side-and forward-looking radar.			
(6) Terrain-following radar.			
(7) Radar-guided smart weapons.			
(8) Commercial satellite operations and microwave emitters.			
4. Advised on the bispectral effects of obscuration.			
a. Degrades proper operation of performance weapon system and equipment capabilities.			
b. Bispectral obscurants are used to defeat the enemy's viewers and weapon guidance systems such as:			
(1) Command line of sight (LOS).			
(2) Terminal homing systems on antitank (AT) and air defense missiles.			
5. Advised on the multispectral effects of obscuration.			
a. Degrade proper operation or performance of threat weapon system and equipment capabilities that require access to the visual, infrared, and microwaves portions of the EM spectrum.			
b. Multispectral obscuration is used to disrupt adversaries intelligence collection efforts, including BSR & GSR, that are essential to locate target, and/or attack U.S. forces.			
c. Multispectral obscuration degrades adversary viewers and high-energy, microwave directed energy weapons (DEWs).			

**Supporting Reference(s):**

Step Number	Reference ID	Reference Name	Required	Primary
	FM 3-11.50	Battlefield Obscuration	Yes	Yes

**Environment:** Environmental protection is not just the law but the right thing to do. It is a continual process and starts with deliberate planning. Always be alert to ways to protect our environment during training and missions. In doing so you will contribute to the sustainment of our training resources while protecting people and the environment from harmful effects.

**Safety:** In a training environment, leaders must perform a risk assessment in accordance with FM 5-19, Composite Risk Management. Leaders will complete a DA Form 7566 COMPOSITE RISK MANAGEMENT WORKSHEET during the planning and completion of each task and sub-task by assessing mission, enemy, terrain and weather, troops and support available-time available and civil considerations, (METT-TC). Note: During MOPP training, leaders must ensure personnel are monitored for potential heat injury. Local policies and procedures must be followed during times of increased heat category in order to avoid heat related injury. Consider the MOPP work/rest cycles and water replacement guidelines IAW FM 3-11.4, NBC Protection, FM 3-11.5, CBRN Decontamination. Everyone is responsible for safety. A thorough risk assessment must be completed prior to every mission or operation.

**Prerequisite Individual Tasks :**

Task Number	Title	Proponent	Status
031-508-3063	Maintain Fuel Supply Dump for Chemical Unit (Smoke Operations)	031 - CBRN (Individual)	Approved
031-508-3066	Determine Smoke Pot Requirements	031 - CBRN (Individual)	Approved
031-508-3061	Plan Smoke Operations	031 - CBRN (Individual)	Approved
031-508-3004	Conduct Smoke Reconnaissance	031 - CBRN (Individual)	Approved
031-508-3067	Control Smoke Operations	031 - CBRN (Individual)	Approved
031-508-3010	Select Smoke Generator Positions	031 - CBRN (Individual)	Approved

**Supporting Individual Tasks :** None

**Supported Individual Tasks :**

Task Number	Title	Proponent	Status
031-504-3010	Advise the Commander on Collective Protection (COLPRO) Measures	031 - CBRN (Individual)	Analysis

**Supported Collective Tasks :**

Task Number	Title	Proponent	Status
03-3-1003	Conduct an Obscuration Mission	03 - CBRN (Collective)	Approved
03-3-1022	Prepare for an Obscuration Mission	03 - CBRN (Collective)	Approved
03-2-3011	Conduct a Large Scale Obscuration Mission	03 - CBRN (Collective)	Approved
03-2-9209	React to Obscuration	03 - CBRN (Collective)	Approved
03-6-0010	Coordinate CBRNE Operations Support	03 - CBRN (Collective)	Approved

**ICTL Data :**

ICTL Title	Personnel Type	MOS Data
AOC 74A - Chemical Officer - 1LT	Officer	AOC: 74A, Rank: 1LT
MOS 74D - Chemical Operations Specialist - SL3	Enlisted	MOS: 74D, Skill Level: SL3
ALC CTL 2011	Enlisted	MOS: 74D, Skill Level: SL3