

**\*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 a contingency operation. In preparation for returning it 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), the environmental conditions reports (ECRs), and documentation of any release of hazardous material (HM) and how it was handled will need to be obtained prior to clearing the camp.

## **HOW TO CLEAR CAMP**

Before redeployment, ensure that all hazardous waste (HW) and HM have been turned in to the designated accumulation point and prepared for proper shipment. If the predeployment planning was accurate, there should not be much HM to prepare for shipment. Contact the Supply Officer (United States [U.S.] Army) (S-4) or Assistant Chief of Staff (Logistics) (G-4) and the environmental officer (EO) for assistance.

## **PACKAGING TIPS**

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

- Consult the material safety data sheet (MSDS) for specific packaging and transportation requirements.
- Ensure that contents are compatible with packaging material.
- Use strong, sealable containers to prevent materials from being released during transport.
- Label containers properly.
- Ensure that containers are securely blocked and braced.

## 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 EO for additional information.
- Compatible with 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 clearly identified.

## LABELING REQUIREMENTS

Properly label all HW containers for turn-in. Use yellow HW Department of Transportation (DOT) labels (see figure 1) on all HW containers.

Ensure that all HM containers are properly labeled with a 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 EO for the correct DOT HM label or placard to use for your specific shipment.**



**Figure 1. Sample HW DOT Label**

Affix a label to each package according to applicable DOT regulations before transporting to an off-site location. Ensure that the label includes a point of contact with the following information:

- Name.
- Telephone number.
- Address.
- City.
- State.
- Zip code.
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) identification number.
- EPA waste number.
- Accumulation start date.
- Manifest document number.
- Proper DOT shipping name and United Nations or North American 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 or an Environmental Site Closure Survey (ESCS) before your unit pulls out. These reports are compared with the previous EBS report performed during the predeployment phase of the operation and shows what the U.S. Army must clean up.

Most reports will contain a—

- Brief outline containing installation and background information.
- Base camp map indicating locations of sewage treatment, HM/HW yards, spill sites, solid waste disposal areas, and other environmental concerns or hazards.
- Detailed information on what and where environmental threats were located on the camp with military grids noting the locations.
- Summary of ECRs that list significant environmental matters and events that have occurred since the original EBS was conducted. The ECRs amend the EBS.
- Findings and determinations statement indicating whether the camp conditions will impact the environment and what areas need remediation.

You need to know if your camp poses a threat to the environment. Normally, the larger the camp, the longer it will take for closure to occur. Proper planning and careful execution of all the different environmental media can reduce the time, effort, and expense it will require to close out a camp. The U.S. Army has spent millions of taxpayer dollars to clean up old environmental damages. Addressing them as they occur or preventing them from occurring is in the best interest of our troops and the HN population.

## RECOVERY OPERATIONS

- Use only designated vehicle wash facilities and equipment.
- Confirm that fighting positions, gun emplacements, and other excavated areas are properly refilled.
- Collect communication and obstacle wires.
- Police and remove all wastes and recyclables, such as litter and ammunition brass.
- Mark and report unexploded munitions.
- Report, contain, and clean up hazardous spills according to directives.
- Inspect all sites before departing the AO.
- Perform a closure EBS or ESCS to document the condition of the AO before departure.

**NOTE: Refer to Field Manual 3-34.5, *Environmental Considerations*, for additional information. You can also refer to the Environmental Baseline Survey and the Occupational and Environmental Health Site Assessment Handbook for more detailed guidance on areas to investigate and reporting formats.**