

APPENDIX G

SAFETY AND FORCE PROTECTION**G-1. Safety Policy and Program**

An effective safety and personnel protection program is essential to any unit. Leaders must stress the importance of constant vigilance to detect potential hazards and reduce or eliminate them.

a. Policy. Protection of the force is an Army policy to reduce and keep to a minimum accidental manpower (and monetary) losses, thus providing more efficient use of resources and advancing combat effectiveness.

b. Program. The FST's protection program should be designed to cover all operations and take into consideration all conditions peculiar to the specific operation of the unit. Implementation of the program includes the establishment of safety rules, procedures, and supervision (refer to AR 385-10).

G-2. Responsibility for Accident Prevention

a. Commander. The FST commander is responsible for ensuring that all activities are conducted in accordance with established safety rules, for determining causes of accidents, and for seeing that corrective action is taken immediately to prevent their recurrence. He must be aware of and enforce all safety regulations promulgated by higher headquarters. If a deviation from an established safety rule is desired, it is his responsibility to request permission for the deviation. He may appoint an individual of the team to serve as safety officer to carry out those functions outlined in AR 385-10.

b. Individuals. Team members should be made to realize that safety rules are established for their protection and for the protection of their patients as well. It is the individual's responsibility to follow all instructions and to use all safeguards when conducting specialized procedures and when operating equipment, machinery, and tools.

G-3. Principles of Accident Prevention

An effective unit protection program depends on the proper application of the following principles:

a. Stimulation of Interest. Emphasis on safety must be vigorous and continuous; it must originate with the commander. Group discussions, safety meetings, bulletin board notices, posters, and recognition of individuals for participation create interest in a safety program.

b. Fact Finding. This refers to the assembly of information concerning the occurrence and prevention of accidents. For each accident, the following facts should be determined:

- (1) Who was injured and what was damaged.
- (2) The time and place where the accident or injury occurred.

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- (3) The severity and cost of the accident or injury.
- (4) The nature of the accident or injury.
- (5) Measures that can be instituted to guard against future recurrences.

c. Corrective Action Based on Facts. Any corrective action that is adopted should be based on available and pertinent facts surrounding the accident or injury. Near accidents also should be reported with all available information so that hazards and unsafe procedures or conditions can be eliminated. Similarly, any procedure or condition that might be dangerous should be reported so that remedial action can be instituted.

d. Applicability. Practical safety controls should be provided in all planning, training, tactical operations, professional activities, and off-duty activities.

e. Safety Education and Training. The objectives of safety education and training are to develop the individual's safety awareness, so that tasks are performed with minimal risk to the individual and to others.

f. Inspections. The purpose of safety inspections is to eliminate the cause of accidents through specific, methodical procedures.

G-4. Unit Protection Plan

Items that can be included in any protection plan are listed below; however, the list is neither all-inclusive nor restrictive. Precautions for certain medical procedures or equipment are included here.

a. Accident Reporting. Basic to any unit protection plan is accident reporting. A definite procedure should be established that emphasizes prompt and complete reporting of all accidents or injuries (AR 385-40). The unit commander, or his designated representative, should investigate all accidents or injuries to determine the causes and take corrective action to prevent their recurrence. Any accident resulting in damage to equipment should be reported immediately. Continued operation of damaged equipment can subsequently result in injuries to personnel.

b. Fire Prevention.

(1) A unit fire plan or fire SOP should be included in the safety program. It should contain fire prevention guidance and information on what to do if a fire occurs.

(2) NO SMOKING signs should be posted wherever fire hazards exist. Smoking should be permitted only in designated smoking areas. Fire-fighting equipment should be available, and all personnel should be familiar with its location and operation. This equipment should be inspected frequently to determine if it is serviceable and operative. Fire drills should be conducted often enough for all personnel to be familiar with the procedures. Guard personnel should be alert to fire hazards at night. Gasoline, oil,

paint, and other flammables should be stored in approved locations and in authorized containers. Oxygen and acetylene tanks must be stored separately from other flammables.

c. Generators. Generators in the field produce the same potential electrical hazards that are found with electricity at permanent installations and demand the same precautions. Personnel working around generators or electrical wiring should remove rings and watches. Generators should be grounded; they SHOULD NOT be refueled while they are in operation.

d. Housekeeping. Operational areas must be kept clean and orderly at all times. Hazards to personnel and equipment can be eliminated or controlled by enforcing high housekeeping standards.

e. Heaters. When heaters are used, they should be watched closely for potential tent fires. Spark arrestors or flue guards on stove exhaust pipes and metal shields in stovepipe openings in tents should be used when heaters are in operation.

f. Vehicle Operation. Army Regulation 385-55 contains guidance on government vehicle operation.

g. Weapons and Ammunition. Continual command emphasis should be directed toward training each individual in the unit in the handling of weapons and munitions. Training should begin when an individual joins the unit. The commanders should ensure that all personnel are briefed on the handling and disposition of weapons which accompany patients to the treatment facility. Weapons of unit personnel should be cleared and placed on safety until otherwise required. Army Regulation 190-11 and FM 19-30 provide guidance on the physical security of weapons and munitions.

G-5. Accident Investigation and Reporting

a. Investigations. Accident investigation is necessary for accident prevention. Investigation seeks to determine the cause of accidents by finding the elements and sources from which accidents develop. Corrective measures may then be instituted.

b. Reporting. In accordance with AR 385-40, the Army's accident reporting system provides for the initial reporting of accidents at unit level. This is done to notify the higher echelon of command that a mishap has occurred; to record information that will identify causes and corrective actions, indicate trends, and provide a basis for formulating future plans; and to evaluate progress in accident prevention.

G-6. Hearing Conservation

a. The following guidelines are applicable primarily when the FST is not tactically deployed. However, when deployed in support of combat operations, a modified hearing conservation program should be adopted. Technical Bulletin Medical 501 provides the guidance on units' hearing conservation programs. Tactical SOPs may be developed by the unit from this bulletin.

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b. The FST will contact the supporting PVNTMED unit for identification of noise hazardous equipment, job sites, and exposed personnel. This will be accomplished by conducting noise-level surveys on the unit's excessive noise-generating equipment (that is, compressors, generators, and motor vehicles). This data will be used for planning and prioritizing screening tests for those individuals exposed to hazardous noise levels in their work environment.

c. Personnel identified in this survey will be entered in the hearing conservation program. They should be monitored for response to noise exposure and adequacy of hearing-protective devices by periodically testing hearing levels. Audiograms will be conducted annually, as a minimum.

d. Hearing protection will be issued to applicable personnel, and its use will be required when operating in proximity to generators, compressors, and tactical vehicles. Areas around this equipment should be indicated by placing NOISE HAZARDOUS AREA, HEARING PROTECTION REQUIRED signs as directed in the unit SOP.

G-7. Compressed Gas Cylinders

All compressed gas cylinders should be considered full for handling purposes. They should never be dropped or struck by any object. While cylinders are being transported in vehicles, they should be restrained to prevent them from falling. Cylinders must be protected from dampness and excessive temperatures. Smoking should be prohibited near a cylinder. Valve protection caps must be installed on each cylinder. Oxygen should be stored in sandbagged revetments and separated from other gases by at least 40 feet.

G-8. Flammable or Explosive Materials

Flammable materials or materials that are prone to explode must be kept in approved safety containers and away from Bunsen burners or heating elements. Acids used in maintenance and medical laboratory procedures should be stored in proper containers and used with caution.

G-9. Hazardous Waste

Refer to FM 8-10-1 for a detailed discussion of the handling and disposition of hazardous and medical waste.