

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Medications

A. DOD insect repellent system components.

(1) All personnel deployed to the SOUTHCOM AOR must strictly adhere to the concurrent use of all three components of the DOD insect repellent system which are: permethrin treated civilian clothes or uniforms, DEET on exposed skin, and properly worn uniform.

(2) Field uniforms. Personnel will deploy with at least 2 Operational Camouflage Pattern (OCP) uniforms (each OCP is good for 25 washes).

(3) Permethrin uniform treatment methods. Uniform treatment with permethrin must be accomplished prior to deployment. The four DoD-approved permethrin uniform treatment methods are: 1) IDA kit; 2) aerosol spray can; 3) two-gallon sprayer; 4) factory treatment. Refer to Ref H for specific uniform compatibility with and necessity for treatment methods.

(4) Individuals authorized to deploy or travel in civilian clothes will treat clothing worn during operations with DOD permethrin aerosol spray (NSN: 6840-01-278-1336) IAW the label instructions. Field clothing includes civilian attire which is defined as all exterior clothing, and any trousers and collared shirt worn in an operational setting. Any fabric may be treated. However, the ability of permethrin to bind to clothing fabrics and be retained for 6 weeks or 6 washings may vary by fabric type. Individuals should deploy with a minimum two sets of permethrin-treated civilian clothes (long sleeves and pants). Do not use any permethrin product on hats, headgear, underwear, PT uniforms, t-shirts, or NOMEX uniforms. Spray only the outer surfaces.

(5) Do not dry clean permethrin treated uniforms or civilian clothes as this will remove the permethrin.

(6) DEET skin repellent: insect/ arthropod repellent lotion, NSN: 6840-01-284-3982. All personnel will deploy with four tubes for initial issue or any other DOD-approved DEET-based skin repellent product on the NSN list containing between 30-35% DEET.

B. Other Vector Countermeasures:

(1) Bed net, pop-up, self-supporting low profile bed net (SSLPB), treated with permethrin repellent, green camouflage, NSN: 3740-01-516-4415 or coyote brown, NSN: 3740-01-518-7310. If the pop-up bed nets are not readily available, obtain any other military or commercially-available bed net. These are critical for protecting SM. Bed nets are not required for personnel deploying to Guantanamo bay, Cuba (GTMO).

Point of contact for this Memorandum is The USSOUTHCOM Surgeon's POC is the Chief, Public Health & Force Health Protection MAJ Elizabeth Ortiz, at COMM: 305-437-2486/1327 or DSN 567-2486/1327 Elizabeth.Ortiz13.mil@mail.mil.