

CHAPTER 1

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Section I. Environmental Protection Stewardship

The Army environmental vision is to be a national leader in environmental and natural resource stewardship for present and future generations as an integral part of our mission.

SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
RESPONSIBILITY

We must take care of the environment (that is, practice environmental protection stewardship). The definition of stewardship is taking care of property while also caring about the rights of others. We must plan our operations without harming the environment. Good environmental protection stewardship lets leaders take care of soldiers and their families. It also saves resources vital to combat readiness. The Army's environmental concerns include the following.

- The Army has the huge task of reducing the environmental impact on its installations and units throughout the US and the world. Within CONUS, the Army owns 20 million acres of land (an area about half the size of Virginia). This shows the vastness of this task. Each area of our daily operation has some effect on the environment.

- The Army is renewing its emphasis on taking care of the environment. Petroleum units by their nature have a huge impact on the environment. It is critical for the leaders and soldiers in these units to follow safe, legal environmental practices. By doing so, they protect their health and the health of those around them. They also prevent long term environmental damage that can lead to fines and other legal actions.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
STEWARDSHIP GOALS

The Army no longer just complies with laws, they want to be a leader in environmental protection. To do this , the Army has set goals for its leaders. These goals include:

- Compliance. Ensure that all Army sites (CONUS, OCONUS) attain and sustain compliance in the face of changing requirements.

- Restoration. Clean up contaminated sites as quickly as resources permit to protect human health and environment.

- Prevention. Adopt and implement integration management approaches, procedures, and operations in all Army mission areas to minimize all environmental contamination and pollution. Do not receive a notice or violation or a fine for not following local, state, and federal environmental regulations.

- Conservation. Conserve, protect, and enhance environmental, natural and cultural resources, using all practical means consistent with missions, so that present and future generations may use and enjoy them.

- Planning. Consider the environment in the planning and decision making process, and initiate environmental planning early in the mission.

- NEPA. Integrate all NEPA procedures into operations.

ROLE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STEWARDSHIP IN LEADERSHIP

A leader who cares for the environment also cares for his people. He does this by reducing or eliminating undue health risks. He saves resources (soldiers or money) vital to his mission. He keeps training areas in excellent condition for training far into the future. He preserves cultural artifacts for study by future generations. He also teaches the basic moral duty of soldiers to protect and preserve the United States of America and its allies.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF PERSONNEL

Personnel at all levels must protect our environment. This includes soldiers, NCOs, officers, and unit commanders.

Soldiers' Responsibilities. In addition to specific environmental precautions a soldier must enforce in his duty performance, he is responsible for adhering to the following general practices.

- Follow installation environmental policies, unit SOPs, ARs, and environmental laws and regulations.
- Make sound decisions in everyday activities.
- Advise the chain of command on techniques to ensure environmental regulations are followed.
- Identify the environmental risks in individual and team tasks.
- Support the Army recycling program.
- Report HM and HW spills immediately.

NCO's Responsibilities. The NCO makes decisions that can impact on the environment. Some of the environmental standards he must practice are listed below.

- Always consider the environment in day-to-day decisions.
- Make sure soldiers know the Army's environmental ethic.

- Train soldiers to be good environmental stewards.
- Be committed to environmental protection.
- Identify environmental risk associated with tasks.
 - Plan and conduct environmentally sustainable actions and training.
 - Protect the environment during training and other activities.
 - Analyze the influence of the environment on your mission.
 - Integrate environmental considerations into unit activities.
 - Train peers and soldiers to identify the environmental effects of plans, actions, and missions.
 - Counsel soldiers on the importance of protecting the environment and the results of not complying with environmental laws.
 - Incorporate environmental considerations in AARs.
 - Support the Army recycling program.
 - Report HM and HW spills immediately.

Officer's Responsibilities. The officer is responsible for the welfare of his troops as well as the environment. His actions should reflect the following objectives.

- Build an environmental ethic in leaders.
- Train and counsel subordinate leaders on stewardship.
 - Lead by example.
 - Enforce compliance with laws and regulations.
 - Always consider the environment in making day-to-day decisions.
 - Make sure subordinates know the Army's environmental ethic.
 - Train subordinates to be good environmental stewards.
 - Commit subordinate leaders to protect the environment.
 - Analyze the influence of the environment on the mission.
 - Integrate environmental considerations into unit activities, to include identifying the environmental risks associated with unit tasks.

Unit Commander's Responsibilities. The commander must build an environmental ethic in his soldiers. The commander sets the tone for environmental compliance. He is totally responsible for complying with all applicable environmental laws in the unit. Commanders train their subordinates on stewardship and counsel them on doing what is right. They must lead by example and enforce compliance with laws. Some of their responsibilities are listed below.

- Consider the environment in making daily decisions.
- Know about the NEPA, HM, HW, HAZCOM efforts, and spill contingencies.
- Commit subordinates to environmental protection.
- Make sure officers and NCOs know the environmental ethic and train them to be good environmental stewards.
- Counsel officers and NCOs on the importance of protecting the environment and the results of violating laws.
- Ensure officers and NCOs comply with requirements when reporting hazardous substance spills.
- Ensure environmental concerns are addressed throughout the training.
- Identify and assess the environmental consequences of proposed programs and activities.
- Plan and conduct training that complies with environmental laws, including marking areas as "off-limits" during training exercises.
- Discuss environmental concerns during briefings, meetings, and AARs.

- Establish and sustain unit environmental awareness training.
 - Appoint an environmental compliance officer and a HW coordinator (the same person can serve both positions). These appointments ensure environmental compliance occurs at the unit level.
 - Ensure the unit SOP covers environmental considerations, conservation, natural resources, and spill procedures.
 - Support the Army pollution prevention/recycling program.
 - Report HM and waste spills immediately.
 - Conduct environmental self-assessment or internal environmental compliance assessments.
 - Meet with key installation environmental POCs.

Appointed Personnel's Responsibilities. These personnel are appointed by the commander and should receive formal training. Some of their responsibilities are listed below.

- Act as an advisor on environmental regulatory compliance during training, operations, and logistics functions.
- Serve as the commander's eyes and ears for environmental matters.
- Be the liaison between the unit and higher headquarters who are responsible for managing the environmental compliance programs and providing information on training requirements certifications that unit personnel need.

Section II. Hazardous Materials

GENERAL

Petroleum laboratory operations include the storage, use, and disposal of chemicals and petroleum products that are identified as hazardous to the environment. Proper use and control of these materials is necessary to protect the environment.

Environmental pollutants discussed in this section are hazardous wastes and hazardous materials.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

Hazardous waste is defined as any material left from a process, or resulting from maintenance, which poses a threat to human health or the environment. Spent chemicals and fuel samples fall into this category. Purchasing less hazardous or non-hazardous materials reduces the volume of hazardous waste that will require disposal.

Collection Points. Each base or unit shall establish a hazardous waste collection point. The hazardous waste shall be properly classified as to the potential for harm to individuals or the environment. Waste oil, spent fuel, samples, solvents, spent lab chemicals, and acids will be properly labeled and packaged for accumulation and handling. Personnel will deliver the identified waste, properly packaged and identified, to designated collection points. The DLA, or its designated agent, is responsible for designating pick-up collection points and evacuating the hazardous waste disposal site.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Hazardous material is defined as any material which, when taken internally, inhaled, or applied to (to come in contact with) the skin, may cause death or serious injury. Some examples are: flammable liquids and gases, corrosives, oxidizers, explosives, and toxins. Many of these substances are used by petroleum laboratory personnel. Proper handling and storing of chemicals is discussed in Chapter 10. It is also mandatory to store and maintain them

IAW appropriate directives. Personnel should be trained in spill prevention and control. For spills beyond your immediate capability, coordinate with the nearest battalion for assistance from the spill response team. Any environmental incident, accident or hazardous materials spill must be reported for follow-up and accountability procedures.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

At a minimum, a petroleum laboratory hazardous materials management plan should include:

- Supervision of the procurement, use, storage, and disposal of the materials as required by AR 200-1 and federal and state requirements.
- Establishment of proper procedures to protect public health and the welfare of the persons who are potentially exposed to these materials.
- Availability of required MSDSs for each type of chemical procured for laboratory operations.
- Proper storage for hazardous materials, to reduce the need for corrective actions.