DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
DEPUTY COMMANDING GENERAL (INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING)/
COMMANDING GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY ACCESSIONS COMMAND
90 INGALLS ROAD, BUILDING 100
FORT MONROE, VIRGINIA 23651-1065

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

S: 28 May 2004
27 April 2004

ATAL-CG

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Initial Entry Training (IET) Heat Injury Prevention 2004

1. References:

a. TRADOC Regulation 350-29, Prevention of Heat and Cold Casualties, 16 July 2003.

b. TRADOC Regulation 350-6, Enlisted IET Policies and Administration, 15 August 2003, paragraph 3-28 and Appendix J.

c. Technical Bulletin Medical 507, Heat Stress Control and Heat Casualty Management, 7 March 2003, paragraph 5-2f.

2. The threat of heat injury exists throughout TRADOC's IET training environment. Heat injury and illness pose a significant threat to Soldiers and to successful mission accomplishment. Preventing heat injuries in IET Soldiers and cadre requires IET Commanders to train their leaders and Soldiers in heat injury prevention; to survey and assess heat hazards for every training event; to implement controls that mitigate risk without inappropriately eliminating realism or rigor; and to assess the outcome of implemented control measures.

3. Commanders and leaders must enforce standard measures to modify training/physical activity and uniform wear to manage risk for each heat condition. Risk mitigation involves careful monitoring the Wet Bulb Globe Thermometer (WBGT) at every training site (and not from a central location). Risk Mitigation also involves following the work/rest/hydration strategy for each heat category. Risk mitigation does not mean risk "elimination." Our Soldiers will train and learn to survive in all weather conditions.

4. Leaders will establish drinking schedules based on the training event and expected heat category. Commanders will establish procedures for monitoring Soldier hydration (for example, using Ogden hydration cords to monitor each Soldier's fluid consumption). Commanders will ensure water re-supply is available (every 3 hours or less, if possible). Fluids that are readily available and made more palatable (by cooling to 50-60°F or lightly flavoring) are more likely to be consumed and should be available for Soldier hydration.

5. To avoid hyponatremia (a condition caused by drinking too much plain water), fluid consumption will not exceed 1 quart per hour or 12 quarts per day. Body cooling must be initiated as soon as possible for heat casualties and will be facilitated by maintaining an Igloo cooler of iced sheets at every training location. More information on iced sheets can be found in TB Med 507, para 5-2. f. at: http://chppm-ww.apgea.army.mil/documents/TBMEDS/tbmed507.pdf .

6. Training information on heat injury prevention can be found in reference 1a above at: http://www.tradoc.army.mil/tpubs/regndx.htm. Additional heat injury prevention resources, such as the heat stress card, heat risk manual, and heat injury prevention posters, can be found at: http://www.tradoc.army.mil/surgeon/information.htm and http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/heat/.

7. Leader training will be completed no later than 15 May 2004, then promptly reported to the TRADOC Surgeon's Office. The TRADOC Surgeon's office will verify and report each unit's heat injury leader training completion NLT 28 May 2004. The TRADOC Surgeon and TRADOC Safety offices will maintain contact with their TRADOC installation counterparts in order to closely monitor actual heat injuries during the warm weather/heat injury season.

8. Informed, aggressive IET leaders who maintain situational awareness and implement appropriate injury prevention measures will keep our Soldiers healthy and safe while eliminating preventable heat injuries.

9. Points of contact in the TRADOC Surgeon's Office are COL Greg Jolissaint, jolissaintjg@monroe.army.mil, and MAJ Jennifer Cummings, jennifer.cummings@monroe.army.mil, (757) 788-2097.

Dennis D. Cavin

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Deputy Commanding General
Initial Entry Training

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