

APPENDIX E

FORCE PROTECTION**Section I. UNDERSTANDING FORCE PROTECTION****E-1. Protection**

Protection has four components: force protection, field discipline, safety, and fratricide avoidance. Force protection, the primary component, minimizes the effects of enemy firepower (including weapons of mass destruction), maneuver, and information. Field discipline precludes losses from hostile environments. Safety reduces the inherent risk of nonbattle deaths and injuries. Fratricide avoidance minimizes the inadvertent killing or maiming of friendly troops by friendly fires.

E-2 Force Protection

Force protection consists of those actions necessary to prevent or mitigate hostile actions against DOD personnel (to include family members), resources, facilities, and critical information. It coordinates and synchronizes offensive and defensive measures to enable the joint force to perform while degrading opportunities for the enemy. It includes air, space, and missile defense; NBC defense; antiterrorism; defensive information operations; and security to operational forces and means. Force protection does not include actions to defeat the enemy or protect against accidents, weather, and disease. The increased emphasis on force protection at every echelon stems from the conventional dominance of Army forces. Often unable to challenge the Army in conventional combat, opponents seek to frustrate Army operations by resorting to unconventional means, weapons, or tactics. Force protection counters these threats. Force protection at all levels minimizes losses to hostile action. Skillful and aggressive counter-reconnaissance keeps adversaries from seeing the friendly forces while they are defining enemy actions and positions. Effective OPSEC keeps the adversary from exploiting friendly information. Proper dispersion helps reduce losses from enemy fires and terrorist action. Camouflage discipline, security operations, and field fortifications do the same. At the operational level, base protection and lodgment area security contribute to force protection. Theater missile defense forces protect installations and civilian populations from over-the-horizon strikes by conventional warheads and weapons of mass destruction. Army air and missile defense units complement the joint air component's control of the air.

E-3. Field Discipline

Field discipline, a second component of protection, guards soldiers from the physical and psychological effects of the environment. A hostile environment can sap soldier strength and morale far more quickly than enemy action. Soldiers adapt to the point that they outperform their fully acclimatized opponents, who may be native to the region. This mastery can only stem from thorough preparation and training in field craft skills. Commanders take every possible active measure and precaution to keep soldiers healthy and maintain their morale. Such actions include securing equipment and supplies from loss or damage. Commanders ensure systems are in place for adequate CHS, quick return of minor casualties, and PVNTMED. They provide effective systems for maintenance, evacuation, and rapid replacement or repair of equipment. Tactical commanders take care of their soldiers' basic health needs and prevent unnecessary exposure to debilitating conditions.

FM 4-02.4

E-4. Safety

Safety is a third component of protection. Operational conditions often impose significant risks to soldiers' lives and health and make equipment operation difficult. Trained crews and operators must know the capabilities and limitations of their weapon systems. Commanders must know how to employ them. In designing operations, commanders consider the margins of human endurance. They balance the benefits and risks of sustained, high-tempo operations. In combat, fatigue extends reaction times and reduces alertness. Fatal accidents, loss of combat power, and missed tactical opportunities can follow. Command attention to safety and high levels of discipline lessen those risks, particularly as soldiers reach exhaustion. Safe operations come from enforcing standards during training. While taking calculated risks, commanders assume the obligation to embed safety in the conduct of all operations.

E-5. Fratricide Avoidance

A fourth component of protection is fratricide avoidance. *Fratricide* is the unintentional killing or wounding of friendly personnel by friendly firepower. The destructive power and range of modern weapons, coupled with the high intensity and rapid tempo of combat, increase the potential for fratricide. Tactical maneuvers, terrain, and weather conditions may increase the danger of fratricide as well. Commanders seek to lower the probability of fratricide without discouraging boldness and audacity. Situational understanding, positive weapons control, control of troop movements, and disciplined operational procedures, coupled with good leadership, can do this. Reducing fratricide increases soldiers' willingness to act boldly, confident that misdirected friendly fires will not kill them.

Section II. RISK MANAGEMENT, SECURITY MEASURES, AND TERRORISM CONSIDERATIONS

E-6. Risk Management

Risk is the chance of injury or death for individuals and damage to or loss of vehicles and equipment. Risks and/or the potential for risks are always present in every combat and training situation the medical platoon faces. Risk management must take place at all levels of the chain of command during each phase of every operation; it is an integral part of all tactical planning. The battalion commander, company commanders, staff, and all soldiers must know how to use risk management, coupled with fratricide reduction measures, to ensure that the mission is executed in the safest possible environment within mission constraints. For additional information on risk management, refer to FM 100-14.

E-7. Preventive and Protective Security Measures

Preventive and protective security measures should be taken by military units and individual soldiers to protect themselves and their ability to accomplish their mission while deployed. These measures include

OPSEC, communications security, and antiterrorism considerations. The commander develops an antiterrorism plan to institute passive defense measures. The commander must constantly evaluate security plans and measures against the terrorist threat in order to effectively identify security requirements. Terrorism can occur within the US or overseas. Commanders must remain vigilant regardless of where the unit is physically located. Unit training should include orientation to the terrorist threat and countermeasures to be taken at both the individual level and the unit level. For an in-depth discussion of CHS for combatting terrorism operations, refer to FM 8-42.

E-8. Terrorism Considerations

Terrorism considerations that commanders and staffs should consider when they address terrorism is the several relevant characteristics of terrorists and their activities. The first consideration is that anyone can be a victim. (Some terrorists still operate under cultural restraints, such as a desire to avoid harming women, but the planner cannot count on that.) Essentially, there are no innocents. Secondly, attacks which may appear to be senseless and random are not. To the perpetrators, their attacks make perfect sense. Acts, such as bombing public places of assembly and shooting into crowded restaurants, heighten public anxiety. This is the terrorists' immediate objective. Third, the terrorists need to publicize their attack. If no one knows about it, it will not produce fear. The need for publicity often drives the target selection; the greater the symbolic value of the target, the more publicity the attack brings to the terrorists and the more fear it generates. Finally, a leader planning for antiterrorism must understand that he cannot protect every possible target all of the time. He must also understand that terrorists will likely shift from more protected targets to less protected ones. This is the key to defensive measures.

a. Medical units/elements have specific protections afforded to them under the provisions of the Geneva Conventions. The CHS commander/leader must understand that these protections probably will not be recognized nor adhered to by terrorist elements. The CHS commander/leader in developing his force security plan should not consider the Geneva Conventions as a protection from attack by terrorist elements.

b. Terrorists rely on surprise and the victim's confusion at the time of the incident. Antiterrorism involves physical security, OPSEC, and the practice of personal protective measures by all personnel. Commanders and staffs must plan their response to terrorist threats and incidents. Combatting terrorism is an aspect of force protection and is the responsibility of commanders at all levels at all times. Properly planned and executed, the Army antiterrorism program will reduce the probability of surprise while discouraging attack by raising the risk to the attackers. For additional information on combatting terrorism, see Appendix O of FM 8-10-6.