

APPENDIX C

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE

C-1. Modern Warfare and the Medical Threat

The characteristics of modern warfare that define the medical threat include the following

a. Significant increases in wounded casualties beyond the capability of the HSS system to provide timely medical care.

b. Enemy combat operations in friendly rear areas interdicting lines of communication and disrupting vital combat support and combat service support activities. This will seriously impact on the ability of HSS personnel to retrieve and evacuate wounded, sick, and injured soldiers and provide them timely medical care.

c. Prolonged periods of intense, continuous operations under all types of conditions that tax soldiers to the limits of their physiological and emotional endurance.

d. Premeditated attack upon medical organizations, personnel, or Class VIII, medical materiel; although this action is not currently anticipated, it may occur. Also, a steady erosion of battlefield medical resources will result from—

- The level of combat intensity, heavy use of supplies, and the ever-increasing range of indirect fire weapons.
- The enhanced lethality, wounding capability, and destructive properties of munitions.
- The collateral and residual effects of conventional, nuclear, biological, and/or chemical weapons.
- The actions of terrorists (individuals or groups) directed against defenseless targets, especially to hospitals and medical facilities.

e. Infectious diseases that pose a major threat to combat forces. These may be in the form of naturally occurring endemic diseases or diseases introduced as a biological weapon.

f. Environmental factors such as extremes in temperature and altitude and the presence of poisonous animals, plants, and insects. These are

important considerations as causative agents of disease and injury casualties.

g. Application of advanced technologies to enhance existing weapons and munitions and the development of new weapon systems. These may provide the health service support system with new diagnostic and treatment challenges. Excellent examples of technology driven developments that we may confront include—

- Engineered biochemical compounds used as biological warfare agents.
- Genetically engineered micro-organisms used as biological warfare agents.
- Directed energy weapons consisting of high- and low-energy lasers and high-energy microwave, radio frequency, and particle weapons.
- Enhanced blast effect weapons used against personnel.
- New flame and incendiary compounds and munitions.
- Enhanced nuclear weapons with increased lethality from radiation.
- Possible mind-altering agents.

C-2. Aspects of Medical Intelligence

Medical intelligence, which is a functional area of technical intelligence, is that category of intelligence resulting from the collection, evaluation, analysis, and interpretation of foreign medical, biotechnological, and environmental information. See FM 8-10-8 for specific information.

C-3. The Significance of Medical Intelligence

Medical intelligence is critical to strategic and tactical planning and operations to conserve the fighting strength. It is a highly technical area which must be complete (collected, evaluated, analyzed, and interpreted) so that the end product is technically accurate and contains all required information.

a. At the strategic level, the objective of medical intelligence is to contribute to the formulation of national and international policy predicated in part on foreign military and civilian capabilities of the medical or biological scientific community.

b. At the tactical level, the objective of medical intelligence is to provide intelligence evaluation and analyses of the following factors in the theater:

- Conditions concerning people or animals.
- Epidemiological information (incidence, distribution, and control of infectious diseases).
- Plants.
- Enemy's field health service support.
- New weapons systems or employment methods that could alter health service support planning factors.
- Medical implications of contamination from NBC weapons based on

employment tactics and chemical or biological agents used.

- Antidotes to protect against the nuclear, biological, or chemical threat.
- Weather and/or terrain implications.

Medical intelligence also assists in identifying captured enemy materiel and equipment and how it can be used in treating enemy prisoners of war (EPW).

C-4. Integrating Medical Intelligence

If medical intelligence confirms or reveals a new threat based on the types of wounds or the types of diseases being treated, the appropriate medical staff officer advises the tactical commander. Tactical planners can use this information to counter these threats, and HSS planners can use the intelligence to develop HSS responsive to the demands of the area of operations. See FM 8-10-8 for a detailed discussion on how to obtain medical intelligence; how to determine medical intelligence requirements; how medical personnel report information gained through casual observation of activities in plain view of the discharge of their duties; and on the handling of captured medical materiel.