



## UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS AIR BASES WESTERN AREA MRRAMR  
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ABO 3400.1E  
G-3T

6 APR 2000

### AIR BASES ORDER 3400.1E

From: Commander  
To: Distribution List

Subj: NUCLEAR, BIOLOGICAL, AND CHEMICAL DEFENSE (NBCD) READINESS  
AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Ref: (a) MCO 3400.3E, Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical (NBC)  
Defense Training  
(b) MARFORPACO 3401.13D, Standard Operating Procedure  
for Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Defense  
(c) WgBul 1550, Schedule of Nuclear, Biological, and  
Chemical Defense School Classes for FY 00  
(d) MCO 1510.71, ITS System for Nuclear, Biological, and  
Chemical Defense OCCFLD 57  
(e) MCO 1500.51A, Marine Battle Skills Training (MBST)  
Program  
(f) MCO 3501.1, Marine Corps Combat Readiness &  
Evaluation System (MCCRES)

1. Purpose. To publish the requirements for Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defense (NBCD) for Marines and Sailors of Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area (MCABWA) and to implement references (a) through (f).

2. Cancellation. ABO 3400.1D.

3. Background. The ability for MCABWA Stations to survive a nuclear, biological, or chemical attack or an attack with a weapon of mass destruction (WMD) is dependent, to a substantial degree, on their NBCD readiness. It is mandatory that all commanders develop and maintain effective operating procedures, necessary supporting directives, and realistic training programs to minimize reduction in mission capability resulting from an NBC/WMD attack.

4. Summary of revision. This Order contains substantial changes and should be reviewed in its entirety.

5. NBC Defense Readiness and Training Requirements

a. General. The primary objective of individual and unit NBCD training is to develop the skills and proficiency necessary to survive a NBC/WMD attack and sustain operations in a NBC/WMD environment. The highly sophisticated NBC weapons found on the modern battlefield increase the level of training required to ensure the efficiency of the individual Marine and Sailor and success for the unit. Commanders must select training objectives

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and support the integration of NBCD into the unit's overall training plans. Only authorized training items and simulants designed for peacetime training use will be utilized. Also, NBCD training will be integrated into all levels of training. Attention to NBCD and associated operational and logistical considerations, particularly regarding sustained operations, will be an area of command emphasis during unit training exercises and evaluations.

b. Individual Training. All personnel must be trained to survive a NBC/WMD attack with minimum reduction in combat effectiveness. Sufficient training will be conducted to ensure that each individual attains the standards of proficiency outlined in the current editions of references (a), (d) and books 2-4 of reference (e).

c. Unit Training. Unit training is conducted to develop and maintain the capability to successfully accomplish the mission while under a NBC/WMD attack and sustain operations afterwards. Unit level NBCD training will vary considerably depending on unit size, mission and function. The standards set forth in the current editions of references (a), (b), (f) and NBCD doctrinal and medical treatment references listed in appendix A of reference (b) will be met by all MCABWA Stations. These references also contain guidance for unit training procedures. Effective training programs will be established accordingly.

d. NBCD Team Training. The formation and training of specialized unit NBCD teams, where required, is the responsibility of each Station Commander. Each Station's NBCD teams will be exercised and/or conduct training at least quarterly.

e. Annual Requirements. To attain standards of individual proficiency set forth in references (a) and (b), at a minimum, all MCABWA Marines and Sailors will achieve the following requirements. These are the minimum requirements and are not to be interpreted as restrictive when or where exceeding the standards is practical and feasible.

(1) Survival. To meet survival standards of proficiency in NBCD, the individual must be capable of the following:

(a) Recognize nuclear and chemical attacks and take immediate and appropriate action.

(b) Be aware of the effects of a biological attack.

(c) Recognize NBC alarms and hand and arm signals.

(d) Recognize the existence of a chemical hazard, indications of a biological attack and take immediate and appropriate action.

(e) Properly don, clear and check the field protective mask within 9 seconds of an alarm or recognition of a chemical or biological attack.

(f) Take protective measures and immediate actions against thermal radiation (light, flash, and heat), blast wave, and nuclear radiation effects of nuclear explosions.

(g) Carry out immediate decontamination: skin decontamination, personal wipedown and operator's spraydown.

(h) Follow procedures for field protective mask and individual protective equipment (IPE) removal.

(i) Properly don and doff IPE, and identify and apply the standard mission oriented protective posture (MOPP) levels.

(j) Be familiar with the procedures for performing basic body functions (i.e. relieving oneself, drinking, sleeping) while wearing IPE.

(k) Properly perform assigned missions and tasks while wearing IPE.

(l) Recognize the symptoms of chemical agent exposure that would be displayed by casualties and properly perform first-aid (self and buddy aid) to include assisted ventilation techniques when possible, and the use of appropriate components of first-aid/personal decontamination kit for injuries caused by chemical agents or nuclear weapons.

(m) Practice good personal health and hygiene, and participate in appropriate medical therapies as prescribed by military health services officials as protective measures to minimize effects of biological agent exposure.

(n) Properly operate appropriate individual NBC agent detection equipment.

(2) MOPP Conditioning. Units will conduct routine operations under NBC conditions for a minimum of 24 hours annually per reference (b). Commanders are cautioned that personnel require experience in order to work with any degree of efficiency and comfort while in MOPP equipment. Personnel should be conditioned by frequent wearing of the protective mask and clothing over increasing periods of duration.

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(3) Mask Confidence Exercise. Mask confidence exercise (MCE) training provides Marines and Sailors with the opportunity to experience how their individual protective equipment works, how the equipment protects them, how the equipment provides the confidence that they can survive and operate in an NBC environment, and how MOPP influences individual and unit conduct of military operations. "Harassment" and unnecessary actions and events are prohibited.

(a) A field protective mask and protective clothing confidence exercise (gas chamber), using authorized agents only (orthochlorobenzalmalonitrile) (CS), shall be conducted annually per calendar year for all personnel.

(b) This exercise will be conducted by, or under supervision of, Marines possessing military occupational specialty (MOS) 5702 or 5711. Only CS in a capsule form will be used in a gas chamber.

(c) Any field or tactical exercise where personnel are exposed to CS, and monitored by Marines possessing MOS 5702 or 5711, may be accepted as the annual MCE in lieu of a gas chamber exercise.

(d) All applicable safety requirements will be met without exception when utilizing CS for training. Exposure to CS is not an MCE requirement and the amount of CS utilized in a gas chamber will be the minimum necessary to accomplish the training.

(4) Field Firing Exercise. Each Marine will fire their table of organization (T/O) weapon and crew served weapons team will fire their weapon while masked at least once annually.

f. Local Command Sponsored Informal NBCD Schools

(1) Local command sponsored informal NBCD schools may be established as desired to assist in command-wide NBCD training efforts; particularly regarding collaterally assigned NBCD personnel or specialized team members.

(2) Informal NBCD schools established will adhere strictly to current doctrine and theory and should be utilized to supplement individual and unit level integrated NBCD training, not replace it. The current edition of reference (c) contains the schedule of NBCD classes offered at the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing NBCD school.

6. MCABWA Station Commanders' Responsibilities

a. MCABWA Station NBCD Readiness Requirements. Due to the predicted future continued proliferation of WMD, the very real potential for employment of WMD by terrorist organizations, and increasing ranges of theater ballistic missiles, renewed emphasis must be placed on basic NBCD readiness by the MCABWA Station Commanders in concert with overall force protection and physical security planning and activities. Basic NBCD capability requirements must be identified and necessary NBCD resources acquired to meet the determined requirements. In determining NBCD capability requirements, commanders must consider local or regional NBCD threats, potential OPLAN support missions, threats from conventional weapons or accidental damage to civilian industrial or power infrastructure, possibility of support from tenant commands, and potential lack thereof.

(1) All MCABWA Station disaster preparedness plans must address potential NBC threats and establish procedures to be followed in the event of WMD employment against MCABWA facilities. WMD disaster preparedness plans should be exercise as feasible.

(2) All military personnel assigned to MCABWA Stations are required to meet the individual NBCD training standards outlined in this order. Robust NBCD training programs are also critical to ensure readiness of deployable personnel assigned to MCABWA but owned by tenant commands.

(3) Medical personnel assigned to MCABWA Stations must be trained and prepared to provide care and treatment for NBCD casualties.

(4) If formation, organization, and training of NBCD teams are deemed necessary, they will be formed and trained in accordance with reference (b) and supporting references.

(5) NBCD personnel (MOS 5702/5711) assigned to MCABWA Stations will only be utilized in their primary billets to carry out the requirements listed above and caution will be exercised in the assignment of additional duties to preclude degrading overall NBCD readiness.

b. MCABWA Station NBCD Program Management

(1) Station disaster preparedness plans addressing NBCD will include the capabilities of tenant commands and coordinated accordingly. These plans however, must also address actions to take and personnel required in the event of tenant command(s) being deployed.

(2) MCABWA, G-3/NBC/G-4/G-8 and sub-unified chain of command as appropriate are to be notified if it is deemed there exists insufficient NBCD resources to meet determined NBCD requirements and/or for necessary support beyond local capabilities in the event of WMD employment against MCABWA facilities, unplanned incidental arrival of contaminated aircraft, personnel or equipment from external sources, or local surrounding communities.

(3) NBCD training beyond the individual level is routinely available via local tenant command or other service sponsored informal NBCD schools and formal joint service schools.

(4) The Chemical, Biological Incident Response Force (CBIRF) is a good source of information for mobile training teams to provide assessments or training, particularly in the area of consequence management of situations arising from WMD employment. CBIRF expertise is highly recommended to assist in the development of local disaster preparedness plans dealing with WMD issues.

c. MCABWA Station NBCD Operations

(1) In the event of a known WMD threat against MCABWA facilities, higher headquarters and tenant commands must be notified immediately and any necessary additional support requested. Consequence management of WMD effects is greatly enhanced if trained forces are already in place. The USMC CBIRF may be requested via the chain of command for deployment in the event of known or suspected terrorist WMD threats.

(2) Crisis Action Teams should be stood up to execute NBCD disaster preparedness plans that should include course of action checklists and reporting requirements. At minimum checklists must address; warning procedures, evacuation plans, sheltering in place, medical planning, monitor and survey requirements, decontamination, coordination required with local communities and external agencies, public affairs plan, and specific reporting processes.

(3) Standard NBC Warning and Reporting System (NBCWRS) report formats will be utilized for reporting incidents and subsequent actions taken. Initial reports will be sent "FLASH" precedence. Addresses on all NBCWRS reports will include higher, lower, adjacent and tenant commands.

(4) Every effort, not to preclude lifesaving or public safety, should be taken to gather evidence and properly collect samples of NBC agents employed to be safely forwarded with chain of custody to appropriate agencies for investigation and further actions deemed necessary.

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(5) Contamination control is critical to prevent a local hazard from becoming widespread, particularly to unprotected personnel, civilian workers, dependents and civilian communities. Public affairs plans are key to prevent unnecessary casualties and preclude panic.

(6) Widespread quarantine efforts may be required or requested and should be planned for, to include enforcement requirements.



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