

UNCLAS

SUBJECT: DECREASING VULNERABILITIES TO FOOD AND WATER SUPPLIES, FOOD
FLASHER 041500Z APR 03

1. THIS IS NOT A NEW THREAT NOTIFICATION, BUT RATHER HIGHLIGHTS THE ONGOING NEED TO ENSURE OUR FOOD AND WATER SUPPLIES ARE PROPERLY PROTECTED AGAINST SABOTAGE. INTENTIONAL CONTAMINATION USING BIOLOGICAL OR CHEMICAL AGENTS CAN DISRUPT MILITARY SUPPORT OPERATIONS, IMPAIR SOLDIERS' HEALTH, AND DEGRADE UNIT READINESS.

2. INSTALLATION-LEVEL FOOD AND WATER VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE IS NOW AVAILABLE IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY CENTER FOR HEALTH PROMOTION AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE TECHNICAL GUIDE 188 (USACHPPM TG-188). ALTHOUGH DESIGNED FOR INSTALLATIONS, CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS' COMMANDERS SHOULD INCORPORATE THE ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE IN THEIR AREA OF OPERATIONS.

3. COMMANDERS, WATER PURIFICATION AND DISTRIBUTION MANAGERS, AND FOOD SERVICE MANAGERS MUST REMAIN VIGILANT TO THE POTENTIAL THREAT AND TAKE APPROPRIATE PRECAUTIONS TO PROTECT FOOD AND WATER SUPPLIES IN GARRISON AND FIELD OPERATIONS.

4. FOOD SERVICE PERSONNEL ARE THE LAST LINE OF DEFENSE IN ENSURING THE SAFETY OF FOOD PRODUCTS SERVED TO THE U.S. MILITARY. WHEN RECEIVING PRODUCTS FROM PRIME VENDORS OR PRODUCE SUPPLIERS, PERSONNEL MUST DEMONSTRATE A HIGH LEVEL OF SURVEILLANCE TO ENSURE THE PRODUCT IS SAFE FOR CONSUMPTION.

A. ALL SUBSISTENCE PRODUCTS MUST BE PURCHASED FROM AN APPROVED SOURCE OF SUPPLY, AS STATED IN USAEUR CIRCULAR 40-657 AND VETCOM CIRCULAR 40-1, DIRECTORY OF SANITARILY APPROVED FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS FOR ARMED FORCES PROCUREMENT.

B. FOOD SERVICE PERSONNEL MUST BECOME FAMILIAR WITH DELIVERY ORGANIZATIONS AND PERSONNEL. REQUEST PROPER IDENTIFICATION IF UNFAMILIAR.

C. REFER ALL UNFAMILIAR BRANDS OF BOXES NOT PROPERLY MARKED TO THE U.S. ARMY VETERINARY SERVICES INSPECTORS FOR FURTHER INSPECTION.

D. ANY PRODUCT THAT APPEARS TO BE ADULTERATED OR TAMPERED WITH SHOULD BE SEGREGATED AND PLACED ON HOLD FOR FURTHER VETERINARY INSPECTION. ALL CASES MUST BE REPORTED.

E. STORAGE SPACES SHOULD BE ADEQUATELY SECURED AND MONITORED, WITH ACCESS TO FOOD SUPPLIES LIMITED TO APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL ONLY. SECURITY OF FOOD STORAGE AREAS CAN BE ACHIEVED BY USING LOCKING DEVICES, KEY CONTROL, PROPER ILLUMINATION, AND PERSONNEL IDENTIFICATION BADGES.

5. ANY INDICATION OF FOOD-BORNE ILLNESS SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY REPORTED TO THE U.S. ARMY VETERINARY SERVICE AND YOUR SUPPORTING PREVENTIVE MEDICINE OFFICER.

6. POINTS OF CONTACT AT THE ARMY CENTER OF EXCELLENCE, SUBSISTENCE ARE THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE OFFICER, DSN 687-4287, COM 804-734-4287; SENIOR FOOD SAFETY OFFICER, DSN 687-4286, COM 804-734-4286; CHIEF, QUALITY ASSURANCE DIVISION, DSN 687-3366, COM 804-734-3366.