DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL
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REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DASG-PPM-NC

4 March 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, ATTN: Command Surgeon, 60 Ingalls Road, Fort Monroe, VA 23651-1047

SUBJECT: Floor Space Requirement for Basic Trainees

1. Per request from the Commander, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), the guidance in AR 40-5, Preventive Medicine, paragraph 12-7b (2), is revised as follows:

a. The recommended minimum sleeping space allowance for persons in basic training is prescribed at 72 square feet per person, exclusive of stairs, halls, latrines, utility rooms, recreation areas, storage rooms, or other administrative areas. All available billeting will be used to achieve this goal. Additionally, TRADOC should, to the greatest extent possible, program recruits for basic training so as to avoid exceeding this recommendation.

b. During periods of surge and mobilization, after the above recommendations have been implemented, the standard may be temporarily relaxed, allowing less than 72 square feet per trainee. Under these circumstances, trainees should be afforded the maximum floor space possible. The absolute minimum allowable trainee floor space shall be 40 square feet per trainee.

c. New construction and renovation projects shall observe the 72 square foot requirement.

2. When trainee floor space decreases significantly below 72 square foot per trainee, commanders can expect a higher incidence of communicable disease in trainees. To mitigate this risk, Commanders should have cadre emphasize the following in all trainees:

a. Wash hands often. Particularly after latrine use, before touching food, and after sneezing or blowing one's nose.

b. Keep hands away from eyes, nose, and mouth.

c. Cover one's mouth with one's sleeve when sneezing or coughing.

d. Drink liquids to stay hydrated.

e. Follow Dining Facility (DFAC) suggestions for a balanced diet.

f. Look after one's Battle Buddy Notify the Drill Sergeant if Battle Buddy feels ill.

These recommendations are outlined on posters that the TRADOC Surgeon and the Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (CHPPM) collaboratively developed. These can be found on the TRADOC Surgeon website at http://www.tradoc.army.mil/surgeon/index.htm under "Personal Hygiene Information", Part I, II or III. Recommend placing these posters in areas frequented by basic trainees such as the barracks and DFAC.

3. This memorandum will remain in effect until DA Pam 40-5 is published. AR 40-5, Preventive Medicine, currently in revision, will not address this subject. This memorandum has been coordinated with the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, proponent for AR 210-50, Housing Management, which contains the same standard.

4. POC for this memorandum is COL DeFraites at DSN 761-3146, Commercial (703) 681-3146 or e-mail Robert.defraites@otsg.amedd.army.mil.

FOR THE SURGEON GENERAL:

Major General
Deputy Surgeon General