Proper Wear and Maintenance of Cold Weather Clothing and Equipment

Presenter’s Name
Presenter’s Command
Local Contact Information

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Introduction

- Cold makes tasks more difficult, not impossible
- Prevention of cold injuries is a Command Responsibility
- ALL COLD WEATHER INJURIES ARE PREVENTABLE!!!
Outline

- Susceptibility Factors
- Types of Cold Weather Injuries
- Guidance for Cold Weather Operations
  - Clothing and Equipment
  - Food/Water
  - Personal Hygiene
  - Work Practices
- Conclusion
Is This You?

- Male
- E-4 or below
- Approximately 20 years old
- From a warm climate
- Less than 18 months time in service
- Uses tobacco, alcohol or medications
- Neglects proper foot care
Susceptibility Factors

- Previous cold weather injury
- Inadequate nutrition
- Alcohol and/or nicotine
- Dehydration
- Overactivity/Underactivity
- Long exposure to the cold
- Poor clothing and equip
- Sick or injured
- Acclimatization
- Ethnic/geographic origin
- Wind, cold, rain
- Age
- Discipline
- Physical stamina
- Inadequate training
Types of Cold Weather Injuries

- Hypothermia
- Frostbite
- Chilblains
- Immersion/Trench Foot
- Dehydration
- Carbon Monoxide Poisoning
- Snow Blindness
- Sunburn
Guidance for Cold Weather Operations

- Clothing and Equipment – your 1st line of defense
- Food and Water Requirements
- Personal Hygiene and Field Sanitation
- Work Practices
Clothing Principles

Insulate/Layer/Ventilation
The acronym COLD should be used when dressing for cold weather.

Keep it Clean
Avoid Overheating
Wear it Loose and Layered
Keep it Dry
Extended Cold Weather Clothing System (ECWCS)

Do you wear it well?
- Polypropylene undershirt/drawers
- Field liner coat/trousers
- Gore-tex coat/trousers
- Cold weather boots
- Handwear and accessories
ECWCS: Inner Layer

- Polypropylene Expedition Weight Underwear
- Primary wicking layer
- Worn directly next to the skin – no underwear!
- Zippered turtleneck for ventilation
- Temp range +40°F to -60°F
ECWCS: Intermediate Layer

- Polyester Fleece (Fiberpile) Jacket and Bib Overall (smoking jacket)
- Primary insulation layer
- High backed bib
- Quick release suspenders
- Temp range +40°F to -60°F
- (not issued at all installations)
ECWCS: Intermediate Layer

- Cold Weather Coat and Trouser Field Liners
  - Polyester dumbell quilted batting
  - Secondary insulation layer for extreme temperatures
  - Temp range +40°F to -60°F
ECWCS: Outer Layer

- Gore-tex Jacket and Trousers (parka, extended cold weather camouflage)
- Provides water repellency and wind resistance
- Armpit zippers for ventilation
- Windbarrier layer around waist
- Temp range +40°F to -60°F
ECWCS

- Protects between +40°F to -60°F
- Draws perspiration away from skin and repels water to outer layer for evaporation
- Changes with wearer’s needs
- No cotton or wool! (includes BDUs)
Footwear

- Intermediate Cold Wet Boot (ICWB) or Boots, Extreme Cold Weather Type 1
  - waterproof, breathable leather with Gore-Tex liner and Thinsulate thermal insulation
  - designed to keep water out, but can also keep dampness in
  - (Matterhorn/Rockies)
  - 1 pr nylon/cotton/wool socks
  - protects +40°F to -20°F
Footwear

- The Extreme Cold Weather Boot (Vapor Barrier-VB)
  - wear when -20°F or below; protects to -40°F inactivity and -60°F activity
  - insulation consists of wool felt sealed with an outer and inner layer of rubber
  - ensure airvalve is closed
  - trousers bloused over boots
  - 1 pr wool cushion sock
Handwear

- Light-duty leather glove with wool/nylon liner
  - provides inactive person with 30 minutes of protection from frostbite at 0°F
  - not waterproof; temp range +40°F to -20°F
**Handwear**

- **Mitten inserts and shells (Trigger Finger)**
  - 0°F or below; temp range +40°F to -60°F
  - can use trigger finger w/o inserts while firing with M16
  - do not touch cold metal, POLs with bare hands

- **Mitten set, extreme cold weather**
  - adjustable strap and buckle
  - wool pile
  - temp range +40°F to -60°F
Headwear

- Balaclava
- Pile cap
- Neck gaiter
- Wool scarf
- 70-80% of lost body heat escapes through the head
- When wearing kevlar, wear pile cap or balaclava underneath
Clothing/Equipment Problems

- Malfunctions occur more often during cold-weather
- Moisture from sweat or breathing can become trapped in clothing or sleeping bags
  - minimize overdressing
  - remove clothing layers upon entering heated areas or during strenuous physical activity
  - dry clothing by hanging in the tent
Clothing/Equipment Problems

- Restricted visibility: cold eyeglasses, goggles, and eyepiece sights fog over easily when warm, moist breath passes over them or when coming in from cold to warm areas

- Depth perception is reduced at 0°F and below. Visual acuity is reduced at -20°F and below or windspeed is over 20 mph.
  - compensate by increasing vigilance and slowing down
  - use antifogging compounds on eyeglasses and goggles
Clothing/Equipment Problems

- Loss of manual dexterity from wearing gloves and mittens
  - Lightweight polypro glove liners can be worn
  - Do not blow warm breath into gloves
- Metal can be dangerous to touch (contact frostbite)
- Moisture will condense on cold metal exposed to heat
  - if weapons are brought inside, they should be covered and placed near the floor to minimize condensation
  - clean and dry the weapon after it warms and before returning to cold
**Sleeping Equipment**

- **Modular Sleeping Bag System (MSBS)**
  - camouflage, water resistant, breathable bivy cover
  - lightweight patrol sleeping bag
  - intermediate cold weather sleeping bag
  - compression stuff sack (to store and carry the system)
  - system provides extreme cold weather protection to -50° F
Sleeping Equipment

- Use sleeping bag on top of insulated sleeping mat
- Layers of tree boughs or mats under the sleeping bag help prevent heat loss to the ground
- Shake out sleeping bag before using to add air to the lining, which improves its insulation
- Air out sleeping bag daily to evaporate moisture
Sleeping Equipment

- In tents, sleep in long underwear and socks with all other clothing hung up to dry.
- In improvised shelters, only boots and outermost clothing layer should be removed. Place clothing under the sleeping bag where it can add insulation without accumulating moisture from the body.
- Wear a balaclava while sleeping to protect the ears, neck, and face.
- DO NOT put head inside sleeping bag since moisture from the breath can accumulate.
- Arctic mittens can be worn on the feet while inside the sleeping bag.
- No sleeping in running vehicles.
Load-Carrying Equipment

- Small external pockets
  - use for small, high energy foods to be eaten on the move
- Large external pockets
  - use for rations for morning and evening meals, extra socks, scarf, spare cap
- External attachment points
  - attach sleeping mat to the bottom or under the top flap
- Main compartment
  - pack sleeping bag at bottom, use upper half for spare clothes, where they can be easily reached
Special Considerations for Tents, Heating, Ventilation

- Precautions associated with use of stoves/heaters
  - Train soldiers to set up, light, refuel, and maintain
  - Fireguards posted when in use
  - Keep stove pipe clean
  - Ensure ventilation within the tent
  - Remove snow from ground before tents set up
  - No unvented kerosene heaters in sleeping tents
  - Provide carbon monoxide training
Water Consumption

- 5-6 quarts of water/day
- Avoid nicotine and alcohol
- Hot juice or soup
- Protect water from freezing
- In emergency, melt snow and purify before drinking
- Dark, yellow urine is first sign of dehydration
Water Consumption

- Plastic canteen, when filled with water, will freeze quickly
  - carry canteen in interior uniform pocket or wrapped in clothing and placed in pack
- Do not fill canteen over 2/3 full to allow for expansion should ice form
- Insulated canteen, 1 quart
Food Consumption

- Caloric intake increases 25-50%
- Calories needed
  - moderate exertion - 4500 calories/day
  - extreme exertion - 8000 calories/day
- 4 standard MREs per day
  - 3 MREs = 3600 calories
- Plan for hot chow, warm beverages or heat MRE
Food Consumption

- Frequently snack throughout the day
- Carry emergency rations
- Eat large snack at night to keep warmer during sleep and prevent shivering
Personal Hygiene

- Change socks 2-3 times daily
- Brush teeth daily
- Change underwear at least twice weekly
- Keep clothes clean
- Wash hands, feet, face, groin daily (canteen baths or handy wipes)
- Shave at evening if possible
Individual Cold Weather Survival Kit

- Waterproof matches and fire starters (candles)
- Signaling devices (mirror, whistle)
- Knife
- Pressure bandage, lip balm, sunglasses
- Water container (metal for use in fire)
- Compass
- Emergency rations (MREs, trail mix)
- Foil survival blanket
- 5 m of strong nylon cord
- Small flashlight
Work Practices

- Proper cold weather training for acclimatization
- Practice performing duties while wearing cold weather clothing
- Ensure cold weather clothing is in proper working condition
- Feet, hands, exposed skin must be kept dry
- Maintain proper hydration, nutrition
- Minimize periods of inactivity
Work Practices

- Command emphasis on education and training
- Appropriate use of weather data, especially the wind-chill factor (see next slide)
- Liberal use of sick call
- Provide time and locations for thorough warming and clothing changes
- Use Field Sanitation Teams and buddy checks to prevent cold injuries
Conclusion

- Dress properly
- Drink plenty of fluids
- Eat right
- Keep in shape
- Get plenty of rest
- Minimize periods of inactivity in cold
- Maintain a positive attitude
Reference Materials

- TC 21-3 - Soldier’s Handbook for Individual Operations and Survival in Cold-Weather Areas, March 1986
- FM 31-70 - Basic Cold Weather Manual, April 1968
- FM 21-10 - Field Hygiene and Sanitation, 21 June 2000
- FM 4-25.11 - First Aid, December 2002
- TB MED 508 – Prevention and Management of Cold Weather Injuries, April 2005
QUESTIONS?
## Leader’s Guide

To Prevention of Cold Injuries Due to Exposure to Temperatures Below 50°F

Information on this card is provided to assist leaders in risk decision making and control development as part of the risk management process. Risk decisions and controls should be developed for all training. Leaders must ensure that these risk decisions/controls are implemented into unit training plans and that training is supervised.

### Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wind Chill Category (See Reverse)</th>
<th>Minimum Uniform</th>
<th>Other Factors</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Little Danger</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>POLY PRO (T&amp;B)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECWCS** (T&amp;B)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balaclava</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trigger Finger Mittens</td>
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<td>Gore-Tex Boots*</td>
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<tr>
<td>PFU SWEATS</td>
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<td>-- Increase leader surveillance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Knit Cap</td>
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<td>-- No facial camouflage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Gloves</td>
<td></td>
<td>-- Increase hydration</td>
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<tr>
<td>W/Inserts</td>
<td></td>
<td>-- Provide warm-up areas with hot drinks, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coat</td>
<td></td>
<td>-- Skin covered and dry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ear Protection Gloves</td>
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<td>Gloves</td>
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<td>Boots</td>
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<td><strong>Increasing Danger</strong></td>
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<td>POLY PRO (T&amp;B)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coat &amp; Trouser Liners</td>
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<td>ECWCS** (T&amp;B)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balaclava/Pilecap</td>
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<td>ECW Mittens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boots ECW (Type I)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PFU SWEATS</td>
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<td>-- Restrict non-essential outdoor training</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLY PRO (T&amp;B)</td>
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<td>-- Low activity: 30-40 min work cycle</td>
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<td>Balaclava</td>
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<td>-- Sedentary activity: 15-20 min work cycle</td>
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<td>Trigger Finger Mittens</td>
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<td>-- Use buddy system</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gloves</td>
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<td>-- No exposed skin</td>
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<td>Boots</td>
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<td><strong>Great Danger</strong></td>
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<td>POLY PRO (T&amp;B)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shirt, Cold WX Trouser Liner</td>
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<td>ECWCS** (T&amp;B)</td>
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<td>Balaclava/Pilecap</td>
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<td>ECW Mittens</td>
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<td>Boots ECW (Type II)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PFU SWEATS</td>
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<td>-- Consider indoor TNG</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLY PRO (T&amp;B)</td>
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<td>-- High intensity activity: &lt;15 min work cycle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balaclava</td>
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<td>-- Consider canceling low or sedentary activity outdoor TNG</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trigger Finger Mittens</td>
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<td>-- Cover all exposed skin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gloves</td>
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<td>Boots</td>
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* Gore-Tex Boots = Matterhorn/Rocky Mountain/or similar Gore-Tex insulated leather boots
** ECWCS = Extended Cold Weather Clothing System (Gore-Tex)