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## POINT PAPER

**Subject:** Personal Protective Items

1. **Purpose:** To provide justification for issuance of personal protective items (foot powder, insect repellent, sunscreen, and lip balm) to soldiers in initial entry training (IET) and initial military training (IMT).

2. **Assessment:** The requirement for issuing personal protective items to initial entry soldiers is established in Army regulation and common table of allowance. The issuance of these items at the outset of training reinforces the practice of their regular use in the deployed environment and protects IET/IMT soldiers from environmental injury and infectious illness while in training.

3. **Recommendation:** The requirement for issuance of foot powder, insect repellent, sunscreen, and lip balm is reiterated in the next change or revision of TRADOC Reg 350-6, Enlisted Initial Entry Training (IET) Policy and Administration.

#### 4. Discussion Points:

- The issuance of foot powder, sunscreen, and lip balm is prescribed in AR 612-201, Initial Entry/Prior Service Trainee Support (RCS MILPC-17(R1)), 1 May 03, table 2-5. The issuance of insect repellent is prescribed in CTA 50-970, Expendable/Durable Items (Except Medical, Class V, Repair Parts and Heraldic items), table 1 (<https://webtaads.belvoir.army.mil/usafmsa/>) (login and password required).

- Damage to the skin and lips can be prevented by use of sunscreen and lip balm. There were 153 cases of sun damage to the skin and lips requiring visits on sick call at training installations in 2003.
- Infection of the feet with the fungus that causes athlete's foot can be prevented with an antifungal foot powder. There were 917 cases of athlete's foot requiring visits on sick call at training installations in 2003.
- Insect repellent protects against biting insects, including mosquitoes (which transmit West Nile virus); and deer ticks (which transmit Lyme disease). There were 54 cases of Lyme disease requiring visits on sick call at training installations in 2003.
- In addition, it is important for trainees to develop the habit of using insect repellent when they are deployed. Biting insects have been the cause of leishmaniasis (215 cases in 2003) and malaria (50 cases in 2003) in deployed environments.