

Field Hygiene based on Austrian Missions

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Summary: A primary responsibility of the hygiene support in missions is maintenance of health through the prevention of diseases in humans as well as in military animals. Identifying all possible risks and threats to the health of all personnel and animals deployed in a specific Theatre of operations, from terrain, climate, endemic and epidemic disease, special environmental hazards.

The hygiene officer or staff has to identify, audit and supervise measures in order to advise commanders on their implementation.

Special attention has to focus on camp location, quality of water, food, sanitary facilities, vector control, wildlife, waste disposal and the management of sewage and grey water.

This presentation is pointing out the different areas of field hygiene based on practical experiences of the speaker in different Austrian missions from 2002 till now (Kosovo, Iran, Sri Lanka, Syria/Golan Heights, Chad, Mali, Bosnia and Lebanon).

Conclusions: Veterinary Public Health and Camp Hygiene are extremely important in a mission setting but quite often considered only a nuisance.