

Medical Force Protection: Greenland

Medical Force Protection countermeasures required before, during, and after deployment to the “area” are as follows:

Major Threats

Greenland is a relatively developed country with health and environmental conditions similar to those of the United States. The medical threat is very low, and no special precautions are needed for the typical traveler or port visitor. Force Protection measures similar to those in typical CONUS field operations will suffice.

Requirements before Deployment

1. **Before Deploying report to Medical to:**
 - a. Ensure your Immunizations are up to date, specific immunizations needed for area: **Hepatitis A, MMR, Polio, Typhoid, Yellow fever, Tetanus (Td), and Influenza.**
2. **Get HIV testing if not done in the past 12 months.**
3. **Make sure you have or are issued from unit supply: DEET, permethrin, bednets/poles, sunscreen and lip balm. Treat utility uniform and bednet with permethrin.**

Requirements during Deployment

1. Consume food, water, and ice only from US-approved sources; **"Boil it, cook it, peel it, or forget it"**.
2. Involve preventive medicine personnel with troop campsite selection.
3. Practice good personal hygiene, hand-washing, and waste disposal.
4. Avoid sexual contact. If sexually active, use condoms.
5. Use DEET and other personal protective measures against insects and other arthropod-borne diseases. Personal protective measures include but are not limited to proper wear of uniform, use of bed nets, and daily “buddy checks” in tick and mite infested areas.
6. Minimize non-battle injuries by ensuring safety measures are followed. Precautions include hearing and eye protection, enough water consumption, suitable work/rest cycles, acclimatization to environment and stress management.
7. Eliminate food/waste sources that attract pests in living areas.
8. Avoid contact with animals and hazardous plants.

Requirements after Deployment

1. Receive preventive medicine debriefing after deployment.
2. Seek medical care immediately if ill, especially with fever.
3. Get HIV and PPD testing as required by your medical department or Task Force Surgeon.

GREENLAND
VECTOR RISK ASSESSMENT PROFILE
(VECTRAP)

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1. GEOGRAPHY: **Terrain** - Glacial mountains and cool coastal regions. **Climate** - Greenland's climate is cold and harsh. Average summer temperatures along the southwest coastal region of Greenland are near 50 degrees Fahrenheit. In the interior, the average temperature in February is -53 degrees F and the average July temperature is 10 degrees F. Snow can and does fall during any month. Sudden and blinding blizzards may occur anytime and anywhere. Troops should be trained in cold weather management and personal protection.

2. VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES:

a. **Rabies**, although seldom reported in Greenland, is enzootic in arctic fox populations in the circumpolar area.

3. DISEASE VECTOR INFORMATION:

a. None available.

4. DISEASE AND VECTOR CONTROL PROGRAMS:

a. Prevention and Control: Prevention and control of vector-borne diseases are limited to avoiding the bites of potential vectors by the mandatory use of personal protective measures and/or direct control efforts against the vector. Personal protective measures should include: screened eating and sleeping areas, protective clothing (DEET jackets), insect repellents (DEET), and the use of insecticide aerosols in sleeping quarters.

5. Important References:

Contingency Pest Management Pocket Guide - Fourth Edition. Technical Information Memorandum (TIM) 24. Available from the Defense Pest Management Information Analysis Center (DPMIAC) (DSN: 295-7479 COMM: (301) 295-7479). Best source for information on vector control equipment, supplies, and use in contingency situations.

Control of Communicable Diseases Manual - Edited by A. S. Benenson. Sixteenth Ed. 1995. Available to government agencies through the Government Printing Office. Published by the American Public Health Association. Excellent source of information on communicable diseases.

Medical Environmental Disease Intelligence and Countermeasures - (MEDIC).
September 1997. Available on CD-ROM from Armed Forces Medical Intelligence
Center, Fort Detrick, Frederick, MD 21702-5004. A comprehensive medical
intelligence product that includes portions of the references listed above and a wealth of
additional preventive medicine information.

Internet Sites- Additional information regarding the current status of vector-borne
diseases in this and other countries may be found by subscribing to various medical
information sites on the internet. At the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention
home page subscriptions can be made to the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly
Report(MMWR)and the Journal of Emerging Infectious Diseases. The address is
www.cdc.gov. The World Health Organization Weekly Epidemiology Report (WHO-
WER) can be subscribed to at www.who.int/wer. The web site for PROMED is
www.promedmail.org:8080/promed/promed.folder.home.

Although PROMED is not peer reviewed, it is timely and contains potentially useful
information. The CDC and WHO reports are peer reviewed. Information on venomous
arthropods such as scorpions and spiders as well as snakes, fish and other land
animals can be found at the International Venom and Toxin Database website at
www.uq.edu.au/~ddb fry/. Information on anti-venom sources can also be found at that
site. Information on Poisonings, Bites and Envenomization as well as poison control
resources can be found at www.invivo.net/bg/poison2.html.