

ALARACT 253/2010

DTG: P 192028Z AUG 10

THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN SENT BY THE PENTAGON TELECOMMUNICATIONS CENTER
ON BEHALF OF DA WASHINGTON DC//AASA//

SUBJECT: CARE AND USE INSTRUCTIONS FOR FLAME RESISTANT ARMY COMBAT
UNIFORM (FR ACU) AND FR ACU WITH PERMETHRIN TREATMENT (FOUO)

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, REQUEST THE WIDEST POSSIBLE DISSEMINATION.

1. THIS MESSAGE IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE UPDATED INFORMATION ON FLAME
RESISTANT ARMY COMBAT UNIFORM CARE AND USE INSTRUCTIONS AND TO PROVIDE
INFORMATION ON THE ADDITION OF PERMETHRIN TO THE FR ACU.

2. BEGINNING IN JULY 2010 THE ARMY WILL BEGIN ISSUING FR ACU GARMENTS
WITH PERMETHRIN TREATMENT TO ALL DEPLOYING SOLDIERS. PERMETHRIN IS AN
INDUSTRY ACCEPTED SYNTHETIC INSECTICIDE THAT WILL PROVIDE THE WEARER
WITH PROTECTION AGAINST BITING INSECTS SUCH AS FLEAS, TICKS,
MOSQUITOES, AND FLIES, REDUCING THE POTENTIAL FOR VECTOR BORNE ILLNESS
AND DISEASE FOR THE LIFE OF THE UNIFORM. UNIFORMS WILL HAVE BOTH SEWN
IN LABELS AND HANG TAGS IDENTIFYING THEM AS PERMETHRIN TREATED. USE
AND CARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR UNIFORMS TREATED WITH PERMETHRIN ARE THE
SAME AS FOR UNTREATED UNIFORMS.

3. IN RESPONSE TO REPORTS OF PREMATURE FADING AND WEAR OF THE FR ACU
AND IN ANTICIPATION OF THE RELEASE OF PERMETHRIN TREATED UNIFORMS, THE
ARMY CONDUCTED A TWO PART STUDY TO DETERMINE THE BEST METHODS FOR
LAUNDERING BOTH TREATED AND UNTREATED UNIFORMS UNDER BOTH HOME AND
FIELD LAUNDERING CONDITIONS. THE APPROPRIATE PROCEDURES FOR LAUNDERING
OF THESE UNIFORMS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED TO THE APPROPRIATE ORGANIZATIONS
FOR INCLUSION IN STATEMENTS OF WORK FOR CONTRACTOR OPERATED LAUNDERING
FACILITIES.

4. WHEN LAUNDERING FR ACU GARMENTS, FOLLOW THE CARE AND USE
INSTRUCTIONS LISTED IN THIS DOCUMENT. WHEN FR ACU CARE AND USE
INSTRUCTIONS ARE NOT FOLLOWED, PREMATURE DEGRADATION OF PERFORMANCE
AND FADING BEYOND ACCEPTABLE TOLERANCES CAN RESULT. THIS MAY LEAD TO A
UNIFORM LIFE SPAN MUCH SHORTER THAN THE INTENDED 120 DAYS UNDER COMBAT
CONDITIONS. EXAMPLES OF IMPROPER CARE ARE: WASHING FR ACU GARMENTS IN
HOT WATER, USING BLEACH, AND/OR STRONG DETERGENTS. ALL OF THESE CAN
LEAD TO PRE-MATURE WEAR OF THE FR ACU GARMENTS.

5. AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTRACTOR OPERATED

LAUNDERING SERVICES MUST IMMEDIATELY ENSURE CORRECT LAUNDERING PROCEDURES, AS OUTLINED IN THIS ALARACT, ARE FOLLOWED. INCORRECT LAUNDERING PROCEDURES MUST BE IMMEDIATELY IDENTIFIED AND CORRECTED.

6. PRIOR TO MACHINE WASHING, HAND WASHING OR SERVICING FR ACU GARMENTS AT COMMERCIAL LAUNDERING FACILITIES:

6.A. REMOVE ALL PATCHES, AND ALL ITEMS FROM POCKETS.

6.B. CLOSE ALL HOOK AND LOOP (AKA "VELCRO") CLOSURES.

6.C. CLOSE ZIPPER ON COAT.

6.D. KNOT THE TROUSER WAISTBAND TIE.

6.E. TURN GARMENTS INSIDE OUT.

NOTE: TREATED AND UNTREATED GARMENTS MAY BE LAUNDERED TOGETHER ONLY UNDER FIELD OR COMBAT CONDITIONS.

7. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE FR ACU CARE AND USE PROCEDURES FOR HOME LAUNDERING.

7.A. USE MILD DETERGENT. NEVER USE BLEACH.

7.B. WASH IN COLD WATER (<85 F) USING PERMANENT PRESS CYCLE.

7.C. SET RINSE FOR COLD.

7.D. TUMBLE DRY ON LOW TO MEDIUM SETTING BETWEEN 140-160 F. NEVER TWIST OR WRING DRY. DO NOT HANG DRY IN DIRECT SUNLIGHT.

7.E. LIGHTLY BRUSH HOOK AND LOOP FASTENERS TO REMOVE DEBRIS.

8. INSTRUCTIONS FOR WASHING BY HAND.

8.A. USE MILD DETERGENT. NEVER USE BLEACH.

8.B. RINSE COMPLETELY.

8.C. HANG DRY ON A RUST-PROOF HANGAR. NEVER TWIST OR WRING DRY.

8.D. LIGHTLY BRUSH HOOK AND LOOP FASTENERS TO REMOVE DEBRIS.

9. PRIOR TO TURNING IN FR ACU GARMENTS AT COMMERCIAL LAUNDERING

FACILITIES:

- 9.A. FOLLOW ALL PREPARATORY STEPS FOR HOME OR HAND WASHING AND:
- 9.B. PRE-RINSE STAINS IN COLD WATER.
- 9.C. PRE-TREAT STAINS WITH COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE PRE-TREATMENTS.
- 9.D. IDENTIFY ALL STAINS TO LAUNDRY FACILITY PERSONNEL AT TIME OF TURN-IN.
- 9.E. ENSURE LAUNDRY BAGS ARE NO MORE THAN 2/3 FULL.
- 10. OTHER CAUTIONS.
 - 10.A. DO NOT USE CHLORINE BLEACH OR BLEACH ALTERNATIVES, FABRIC SOFTENER, OR STARCH.
 - 10.B. DO NOT DRY CLEAN OR COMMERCIALY HOT PRESS. DRY CLEANING OR COMMERCIALY HOT PRESSING THE FR ACU WILL PERMANENTLY DAMAGE THE GARMENT. DRY CLEANING WILL REMOVE THE PERMETHRIN TREATMENT.
 - 10.C. DO NOT APPLY HEAT OR AN IRON TO ANY HOOK AND LOOP FASTENER AREA; THIS WILL PERMANENTLY DAMAGE THE FASTENERS.
- 11. LAUNDRY FACILITY PERSONNEL SHOULD FOLLOW THE FOLLOWING INDUSTRIAL PROCEDURES WHEN LAUNDERING FR ACU GARMENTS AND PERMETHRIN TREATED FR ACU GARMENTS:
 - 11.A. PRE-TREAT STAINS (IF NEEDED)
 - 11.B. FLUSH BLOOD STAINS WITH COLD WATER

Step/Operation/Time (Minutes)/Temperature(F)/Chemicals*

1/Flush/5/90F/No detergent
2/Wash/1/8/120F/117 grams of detergent pH 11-12
3/Wash/2/5/90F/70/grams of detergent pH 11-12
4/Rinse/1/2 /90F/No detergent
5/Rinse/2/2/90F/No detergent
6/Rinse/3/2/90F/No detergent
7/Sour/4/90F/Sour - 93.3 grams
8/Extract/3/--/--

* The detergent and sour amounts stated are based on a 60 lb load and should be used as a guide only. Add detergent and sour per

manufacturer's recommendations.

12. POINTS OF CONTACT: LTC PHIL HALE, ARMY G-4, (703) 614-0222, EMAIL: PHIL.HALE@US.ARMY.MIL; OR MR. GARY PESANO, SOLDIER PROTECTION AND INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENT (703) 704-1938, EMAIL: GARY.J.PESANO@US.ARMY.MIL.

13. THIS MESSAGE WILL EXPIRE IN APRIL, 2016 UNLESS SUPERSEDED BY OFFICIAL GUIDANCE FROM HQ, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.//