



DEFENSE INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL OPERATIONS (DIMO)



**“Operational Preventive Medicine:
Maintaining the Force in Peacekeeping,
Contingencies, and at Home”**

Mobile Education Team (MET)

MASL D309053

Background: There are never enough medics to treat every disease or non-battle injury (DNBI) casualty for any military service in any nation. Airmen, Soldiers and Sailors get sick and get hurt and this depletes the strength of the services, puts pressure on the healthy assets and uses resources. The most valuable resource in any military action is the power of the force itself. Whether you deploy in support of humanitarian assistance, disaster response, war or UN peacekeeping, losing a portion of your force to preventable problems is an unacceptable waste. Soldiers and the medics who watch over them, must be adequately prepared to address and mitigate many threats, such as vector and water-borne infections, environmental hazards and other non-battle related injuries. This highly interactive course gives medical personnel and commanders the tools to protect the health and strength of their military forces.

Summary and Program Scope: This course is operational, fitting between strategic and tactical. We provide skills for the officers responsible for health of the force, that they may directly improve outcomes and that they may advise their superiors competently to build policy and doctrine. The modular design of this course uses examples from different contingencies allowing participants to engage whatever their level of current preventive medicine skill. It covers multiple aspects of force health protection including a consideration of doctrine and preventive medicine policy writing. The Students will learn to: assess disease and health threats, analyze hazards particularly related to areas of current operations; develop appropriate countermeasures to mitigate or eliminate health risks and protect force strength. They will effectively communicate health risks, requirements and disease prevention value to commanders; and, communicate messages to troops necessary to minimize threats. Participants will review the deployment cycle and discuss force health protection in different stages of garrison or deployed settings. Issues like fitness, personal protective equipment, immunizations, medical intelligence, logistics, training and planning, surveillance, water and nutrition, psychological health, safety, communications, civil-military coordination, legal requirements post-exposure screening, family and societal integration, psychological impact or post-traumatic stress disorders will make up specific examples used to train participants in the art of prevention. Simulated exercises will immediately put skills into practice to protect the health and strength of troops.

Course Objectives: Participants will be able to assess and risk-stratify health hazards in the area of operations. Upon completion of the health hazards assessment, participants will be able to plan a series of countermeasures to mitigate or eliminate health risks and to protect force strength. Participants will be able to effectively communicate with commanders to gain support for allocation of resources and successful implementation of/adherence to force health protection measures among their troops.

Course Duration: 5 days; **Class Size:** 50 students is maximum; **How Offered:** Conducted in the host country by an MET; **Estimated Cost:** \$40,000-\$60,000.

Intended International Audience: Commanders and medical personnel in position of responsibility to protect the health of the men and women in uniform.

Points of Contact: Respective Air Force Security Assistance Training Squadron (AFSAT) Country Program Manager and Defense Institute for Medical Operations Program Manager, Claudette Hudson at (210) 292-0955, e-mail: alicia.hudson.1.ctr@us.af.mil.