



DEFENSE INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL OPERATIONS (DIMO)

Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Peacekeeper Training Mobile Training Team (MTT)

Background: Outbreaks on Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in West Africa in 2014 have occurred explosively in 3 countries, at smaller levels in several others, and pose a continued threat in still other Ebola-endemic nations. Unfortunately, this region also has a legacy of war and civil disorder, and continues to receive multinational troops under United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (PKO). The threat of Ebola may lead a contributor nation to feel reluctance to commit troops to PKO. Ebola may pose a real or perceived threat to the lives of individual soldiers, and may worry a nation about Ebola importation facilitated by its re-deploying soldiers.

Program Scope: In addition to a small number of key topic discussions, students progress through a series of first-responder case exercises to learn principles and see “tricks” they might encounter on missions or at base. Problem solving exercises cover a variety of possible peacekeeping scenarios and post deployment / returning soldier case exercises. For Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) experience, participants are trained with both an impermeable gown/hospital type ensemble and with Tyvek and Tychem whole body suits. Use of a written gear donning/ doffing checklist and mandatory use of an expert observer/ safety officer teaches a strict (and potentially lifesaving) adherence to protocol, particularly for gear removal. Students are tested for cross-contamination by sprinkling a UV-visible powder on their PPE, then receiving examination under ultraviolet light to let them (and the class) see where they had unknowingly contaminated themselves with deadly Ebola virus. Each student is then trained further, and individually examined for proficiency by an instructor. A final Field Training Exercise (FTX) is conducted in a space configured as an EVD holding/ temporary treatment area. Students set up an Entry Control Point (ECP) and triage area in the event they discover or receive suspect Ebola cases in their camp. Some students wear full Tyvek-based PPE and man ECP/triage and clinical holding areas, while others are taught a patient actor role (which includes simulated bleeding, vomiting and diarrhea). After one exercise cycle there is a reset and change of roles. The exercise teaches participants how to perform duties in the PPE, how to detect and respond to breaches in protection, and how to organize members into functional teams. Training includes the handling of hostile, anxious and altered-mental status Ebola-infected persons.

Course Objectives: The course has 3 objectives:

1. Teach peacekeeping troops and first responders how to recognize people with Ebola Virus Disease (EVD);
2. Develop competence in the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and confidence in its ability to protect;
3. Understand administrative strategy for EVD patient triage, movement and holding/transfer.

Course Duration: 2 days; **Class Size:** Maximum class size is 100, classroom/field setting.

How Offered: The course is conducted in the host country by a Mobile Training Team (MTT).

Intended International Audience: This 2-day mobile course can accept up to 100 participants. The target audience includes peacekeeping troops and their medical support units.

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