

Field Management of Chemical and Biological Casualties Handbook

Fifth Edition

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Introduction

A turning point in world history began near the end of the 20th century as the Soviet Union fell and new anti-Western threats emerged, challenges that will persist well into the coming century. The ability and will to wage war on a large scale has not diminished, only shifted to new players. Strident nationalism, religious extremism, and long-suppressed ethnic rivalries have emerged, resulting in vicious warfare. Economic investment and economic power have given military muscle to nations that, even 10 years ago, were struggling just to feed their people. As a consequence of these unprecedented world challenges, the threat faced by the United States has broadened. It now includes formerly democratic governments, members of regional cooperative alliances, and terrorist groups. Throughout the world, nations and terrorists are attempting to produce, or have already produced, agents of chemical and biological warfare and the means to employ them.

This publication provides information relative to specific US Army tactics, techniques, procedures, and tasks associated with health service support. It is written from the point of view of a conventional forward-deployed, ground-based medical element performing patient operational decontamination and thorough patient decontamination operations while providing medical treatment at Roles 1 through 3. This handbook will serve as a guide for the mission of providing health service support to chemical and biological casualties.

