

SECTION VI. VECTOR CONTROL: SHIPBOARD AND ASHORE

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**8-32. Shore Installations**

Pest management programs at shore installations are covered in DOD Directive 4150.7 series, OPNAVINST 6250.4 series, and NAVFACINST 6250.3 series. The Armed Forces Pest Management Board publication, Technical Guide No. 24, Contingency Pest Management, contains valuable information on the procurement and use of pesticides and pest control equipment. The above listed publication and references should be used in conjunction with control recommendations contained in this chapter.

**8-33. Advanced Bases and Disaster Areas**

Vector control components and disaster vector control survey teams serve as "Special Operating Units" and carry out the responsibilities described in article 8-3 under the direction of the supervising medical department.

**8-34. Flies**

a. **Relation to man.** The importance of many fly species to man is their capability of transmitting human and zoonotic diseases which

may seriously hamper military operations. In addition to the health aspect, virtually all fly species can be annoying pests of man. One of the most important of these pests is the house fly. While being a serious annoyance, it is capable of transmitting disease-producing organisms via its vomitus and excrement, and on its contaminated feet, body hairs, and mouthparts. Chief among these organisms are those that cause cholera, dysentery, and typhoid fever. Blowflies carry many of the same organisms. Their larvae sometimes develop in wounds or natural body openings causing a condition known as myiasis. The stable fly, unlike the above two insects, is a bloodsucking fly and is suspected of transmitting anthrax and tularemia. Sand flies transmit tropical and subtropical diseases. Punkies or biting midges, are minute bloodsucking flies that cause extreme annoyance to man in many parts of the world. Tsetse flies are bloodsucking and have considerable importance because they transmit the protozoan trypanosomes that cause human African sleeping sickness. Blackflies are small bloodsucking insects which are important as pests in areas of running streams, but even more so, as the vectors of filarial parasites in Mexico, Central America, South America, and Africa.

Horse and deer flies are bloodsucking insect pests that attack both man and animals and transmit tularemia. Eye gnats are non-biting flies that are attracted to wounds, pus, and secretions around the eyes and nose. In some parts of the United States they mechanically transmit the organism, which causes acute infectious conjunctivitis (pink eye).

b. **Biological Characteristics.** All flies resemble each other in having two wings and four major developmental stages (egg, larva, pupa, and adult). A summarized description of the biology of each of the principle types follows:

(1) **House Fly (*Musca domestica*).**

This fly is ubiquitous and consequently is possibly the most widely distributed insect pest of importance to mankind. Its eggs are deposited in decaying vegetable and animal matter such as garbage, contents of pit latrines, animal manure, spilled animal food, and soil contaminated with organic matter. The female may lay as many as 20 batches of eggs at 3 to 4 day intervals. Under favorable conditions the eggs hatch in 8 to 12 hours. The larvae (maggots), which are creamy white and grow to about 13 mm (0.5 in) in length, move about in the breeding medium to secure optimum temperature and moisture conditions. This developmental stage varies from 3 to 24 days but usually, in warm weather, it is 4 to 7 days. When growth in this stage is completed, the larvae crawl to the edge of the breeding medium, burrow into the soil or debris, and become encased in a brown pupal case. The pupal stage usually lasts 4 to 5 days but, under very warm conditions, only 3 days may be required. In cold weather this stage may last for several weeks. When metamorphosis (from the larval to adult stage) is complete, the adult fly breaks open the end of the puparium and crawls out. It works its way to the surface, expands its wings, and flies away. Mating occurs 1 to 2 days after pupal emergence. The adult is gray in color with a gray thorax marked by four equally broad, dark

longitudinal stripes. The mouthparts are non-biting and adapted to sponging. House-flies use a wide variety of material for food including organic filth, human foodstuffs, and agricultural waste. Because they can take only liquefied foods, they moisten substances with a "vomit drop" from their crop. This drop of fluid, often teeming with microorganisms, dissolves solid materials to be used as food. This fluid food is sponged up. This feeding method, combined with the habit of walking over organic filth, accounts for the ease that they transmit disease organisms to food, and cooking and eating utensils. The "fly speck" vomitus (light colored) and fecal discharge (dark colored) both serve as sources of contamination. When inactive, flies tend to congregate in certain preferred resting places. The proper use of residual sprays for house fly control requires that these resting places be determined. Indoors, flies tend to rest on over-head structures, particularly on cords and the edges of objects. Where temperatures remain high during the night, houseflies frequently congregate outdoors on fences, weeds, and in low branches of trees. Although houseflies usually stay within a short distance of the breeding sites, they may become dispersed for distances of several miles. In tropical and subtropical areas, houseflies continue breeding at varying rates throughout the winter. In temperate areas, depending on the weather, these flies survive the winter by pupal hibernation and semi-continuous breeding in protected situations.

(2) **Blowfly (*Calliphora*, *Chrysomya*, *Lucilia Phoenicia*, *Phormia*, etc.).** Blowflies, also known as bluebottle and greenbottle flies, are identifiable by their large metallic shining blue, green, or black abdomens. They usually deposit their eggs upon carrion; however, they will oviposit upon a wide range of fresh decaying refuse if carrion is not available. Eggs occasionally may be deposited in or near body openings of living animals, but clean healthy animals are rarely attacked. Upon emergence from the egg, the larvae feed for a short time on or near the surface.

As the necrotic tissue food source is depleted, they move into areas of less putrid material. When fully developed, the larvae leave the breeding medium and burrow into loose soil or sand to pupate. The life cycle varies from about 9 to 25 days. Blowflies are keenly perceptive to odors given off by carrion and, consequently, will fly long distances in response to this stimulus. Although blowflies may serve as mechanical vectors of disease organisms in the same way as houseflies, they do not present the same public health problem since they rarely enter dwellings. The larvae of these flies sometimes referred to as surgical maggots, have been implicated in myiasis.

**(3) Flesh Fly (*Sarcophaga and Wohlfahrtia*).** The flesh flies are medium gray in appearance and are often relatively large in size. They are distinguished from other domestic flies by the presence of three longitudinal black stripes on the thorax and a checkered effect on the usually red-tipped abdomen. These flies are commonly referred to as flesh flies since the larvae of some of them infect living flesh. Many species are known to breed prolifically in animal feces, especially that of dog. They differ from other domestic flies in that the females deposit larvae rather than eggs. The flesh flies are often very abundant, but they do not ordinarily enter habitations. They do not appear to be of importance to man from the standpoint of mechanical disease transmission, nor are they considered an important pest. However, they are important as an indication of unsanitary conditions and have been associated with cutaneous, genitourinary, intestinal, and nasopharyngeal-ophthalmomyiasis.

**(4) Bot and Warble Flies (*Cuterebra, Dermatobia Gasterophilus, Hypoderma spp., and Oestrus spp.*).** These flies cause obligate myiasis. Normally the larvae of bot flies (*Gasterophilus spp.*) inhabit the gastrointestinal canal of animals of the family Equidae. Larval development requires 10 to 11 months. In the rare cases of human infection, first stage larvae are found under the skin, giving rise to a creeping cutaneous myiasis. Treatment is by surgical extraction. Among the warble flies, the larvae

of *Dermatobia hominis*, whose eggs are carried by female mosquitoes, is found in the human skin in Central and tropical South America. The life cycle requires 3 to 4 months. Larvae of *Oestrus spp.* are found in the nasal cavities and cranial sinuses of sheep, goats, and related wild animals. In areas where numerous infested animals occur, man may become infested. In these cases, the larvae may be found in the buccal mucosa and conjunctive, but more frequently in the nasal cavities. Severe frontal headaches result. The larvae of *Hypoderma spp.* can be found under the skin of cattle, goats, deer, and large game animals. They can give rise to creeping eruption in man. Numerous human infections occur and the incidence is proportionally higher in children than adults. With man being an unnatural host, the larvae may migrate throughout the body (e.g., eyes dermal and subdermal tissue, the jaw, and possibly the spinal canal). Associated pain is severe, and while death may result, surgical removal is possible. *Cuterebra spp.* larvae commonly cause myiasis in rodents of many genera and rabbits. In these animals, severe infestations may lead to encapsulating dermal tumors. Occasionally dogs, cats, and man may become infected. Although rare, in human cases, the larva forms a boil-like lesion in the dermal and subdermal tissue, but the larvae are easily removed.

**(5) Stable Fly (*Stomoxys calcitrans*).** The stable or dog fly is bloodsucking and closely resembles the house fly in appearance. It is distinguished from other domestic flies by its piercing proboscis that protrudes bayonet like in front of the head. It normally breeds in wet straw, mixed straw, and manure or piled fermenting vegetation, such as grass, seaweed, and similar materials. Development requires 21 to 25 days. The stable fly is not attracted to and does not breed in human food, feces, garbage, and other filth that are attractive to the house fly. Consequently, it is not considered to be an important mechanical transmitter of human disease organisms. However, its painful biting habits make it a serious pest for morale. There is some evidence to implicate this fly with the transmission of anthrax and tularemia. Rarely, it becomes involved in accidental traumatic and enteric human myiasis.

**(6) Horn Fly (*Haematobia irritans*).**

The horn fly is a cattle pest related to *S. calcitrans*. The female prefers to oviposit in fresh cow feces. Upon hatching, the larvae crawl into the fecal mass, develop for 3 to 5 days, pupate under the pat and emerge as adults in about 7 days. The life cycle is completed in 10 to 14 days. The horn fly rarely bites man, but in large numbers it does cause annoyance.

**(7) Tsetse Fly (*Glossina* spp.).** Tsetse flies are easily recognizable by the way in which they fold their wings scissor-like above the abdomen when resting, the characteristic discal cell (cleaver shaped) in the wing, and the prominent biting mouthparts. These flies are restricted to the African continent south of the Sahara Desert. The female periodically produces a single, fully developed larva, which pupates almost immediately in loose soil, moss, or other accumulations of material. Usually, tsetse flies require bush, thickets, or forest to rest and breed. Open areas, savanna, or openings in the forest are preferred for feeding. Both sexes of these flies are bloodsuckers that feed on man and animals and transmit the protozoan disease, African trypanosomiasis (African sleeping sickness).

**(8) Sand Flies (*Phlebotomus* spp. and *Lutzomyia* spp.).** The flies of these genera are small and moth-like, rarely exceeding 5 mm (1/25 in) in length. Their bodies and wings are densely covered with hairs. The wings are either oval or lanceolate shaped and, when at rest, are held upward and outward to form a 60-degree angle with each other and the body. Only the females have piercing mouthparts for sucking blood. The males suck moisture from any available source. They have a wide distribution, occurring in such diverse places as deserts and jungles, but are absent from the colder regions of the Temperate Zones. They invade open dwellings to bite man during the evening and night, hiding in dark protected places during the day. Indoors, they may be found in dark corners and near the ceilings of sleeping quarters. While outdoors, they hide in masonry cracks, stonewalls, excavations, animal burrows,

hollow trees, and deep cracks in the soil. The eggs are laid where there is an abundance of organic matter and sufficient moisture for their development. They are weak flyers. Their mode of flight is characteristic in that for longer distances they have slow steady movement. For shorter distances they move in so-called "hops." Normally, their dispersal is limited to the immediate region of their breeding areas. The diseases these flies transmit to man are bacterial (*Bartonella*), viral (sand fly or pappataci fever), and protozoa! (*Leishmania* spp., kalaazar, oriental sore, and American mucocutaneous leishmaniasis).

**(9) Blackfly (*Simulium* spp.).** Blackflies are small, 1 to 5 mm (1/25 to 1/5 in) in length, dark, stout-bodied, humpbacked flies with short broad wings in which only the anterior veins are well developed. The antennae are short and stubby. The immature stages of blackflies develop in running water. Usually, masses of eggs are deposited singly directly on to aquatic plants, submerged logs, and water splashed rocks. However, some species drop their eggs while flying over the water surface and the eggs sink to the bottom. Following incubation, the eggs hatch and the larvae become attached by a caudal sucker to submerged objects. They are kept from being washed away by a salivary gland secreted silken thread. Larvae feed on microorganisms that are strained from the water after being swept into the mouth by a pair of fan-shaped filamentous structures on the head. They breathe by obtaining oxygen from the water through three small gills located dorsally on the last abdominal segment. The larvae pupate within the cocoon that it spins, firmly attached to a submerged object. Depending on the species and environmental factors such as temperature and availability of food, the total period of the aquatic life stages may vary from 2 to 14 weeks. Metamorphosis to the adult takes place within the cocoon. Upon emerging and rising to the surface, the fly takes wing immediately. Little precise information is available on the dispersal range of blackflies, but it is believed to be more than a mile, particularly in open terrain. Like mosquitoes, both sexes of blackflies feed on plant juices. The females also feed on the blood of wild and domestic animals and birds, while several

species regularly feed on man. Only the females bite. Due to the large size of the bite wound and the presence of fly secreted anticoagulant, the bites bleed freely and may become secondarily infected. Several species cause serious annoyance to man because of the habit of flying closely about the face and crawling or probing all exposed skin surfaces. The females vector the filarial parasites that cause onchocerciasis in man and animals, and the avian protozoan blood parasite, *Leucocytozoon*.

(10) **Biting Midges (Culicoides, Leptoconops, etc.).** These bloodsucking flies, often called no-see-ums, punkies, or salt-marsh sand flies, are extremely small [1 to 5 mm (1/25 to 1/5 in) in length] and have long slender antennae and narrow wings that are carried flat over the body. Although information on their breeding habits is not complete, some species are known to breed in fresh water inlets, tide-water pools, water-holding tree holes, wet decaying humus along densely shaded areas of streams, and in marshes and swamps. Adults may be found as far as 5 km (3 miles) from their breeding sites. The female inflicts a painful bite, attacking humans mainly in the evening and early morning hours.

(11) **Horse and Deer Flies (Tabanus, Chrysops, etc.).** Horse and deer flies are robust insects, with powerful wings and large rounded heads. They range in size from about that of a house fly to nearly 25 mm (1 in) in length. They prefer warm, sunny locations, and are especially active on humid days. Eggs are glued in layers or masses to rocks or vegetation overhanging water or damp soil. The egg stage usually lasts less than 2 weeks. Upon hatching, the larvae drop into the water or to the ground. Depending

upon the species, the larvae require 1 to several years to complete development. Mature larvae migrate to dryer soil for pupation where after 1 to 2 weeks the adult flies emerge. These flies inflict exceedingly painful bites and, when numerous, seriously interfere with outdoor operations or recreation. They are also known to vector bacterial (anthrax and tularemia), protozoan (trypanosomes), and helminthic (*Loa loa*) infections to man and/or animals.

(12) **Eye Gnat (Hippelates).** Members of the genus *Hippelates* are very small flies [1.5 to 2.5 mm (1/16 to 1/10 in) in length] which have been given the name “eye gnats” or “eye flies” because of their predilection for eye secretions. They are also attracted to wounds, pus, and sebaceous secretions. They are extremely annoying to man because of their persistent habit of swarming closely about the face. Although these flies are incapable of piercing the skin to take blood, their mouthparts are equipped with upturned spines that act as fine cutting instruments. With these structures, they are able to abrade the edges of sores and the conjunctival epithelium. The life cycles for many *Hippelates* spp. are not completely known. However, generalizations may be drawn from what is known about *Hippelates colusor*. Breeding continues year round but at a lower rate in winter. The eggs are deposited at weekly intervals in batches of 50 or less on or below the surface of loose, well-aerated non-putrid soil, which may contain fecal material and/or plant material. The average incubation time under optimum conditions (32 degrees C/90 degrees F) is about 2 days. The larvae feed on decaying organic material, including feces, and complete development in about 7 to 11 days. Pupation takes place close to the surface in the larval feeding medium and lasts 6 to 7 days.

c. **Control of Domestic Flies.** Successful control of domestic flies, when necessary, depends upon improved environmental sanitation in conjunction with selected application of insecticides. Prevention of fly breeding and entry into buildings reduces the potential for disease transmission and, simultaneously, increases the impact of any chemical used in reducing fly numbers.

(1) **Sanitation.** Effective sanitation measures and proper policing of grounds are of primary importance in fly control. This is particularly relevant in view of the increasing amount of insecticide resistance problems. With proper sanitation, less dependence needs to be placed on insecticides. Any fermenting or decaying organic matter, including human and animal feces, dead animals, fish and meat refuse, and discarded foodstuffs are potential breeding places for flies. Therefore, the elimination of all sources of attraction for flies is essential. Proper disposal of food service wastes, including all garbage and such liquids as wash water, reduces the attraction of flies to the dining facility area. Garbage should be deposited in well-covered containers which, when empty, should be washed regularly. These containers should be kept outside of dining facilities and preferably off the ground on a stand or rack. Effective disposal methods must be used for garbage, non-salvageable compressible waste, and rubbish. Refer to NAVMED P-5010, Chapter 9, Manual of Naval Preventive Medicine for Ground Forces which discusses field waste disposal methods.

## (2) Chemical Control

### (a) Control of Immature Stages

(1) **General.** Larviciding usually is not practical in a large operation because breeding places are too scattered for effective treatment. However, this method is indicated for control in areas of concentrated breeding, such as garbage-handling zones, livestock and poultry farms, and piles of compost materials and carcasses. In all larvicidal treatments, emphasis must be placed upon

getting the insecticide to the site where it can act upon the larvae. Extensive reliance on larviciding should be avoided since it probably precipitates the development of resistance. Latrine structures should be treated with residual insecticides. Human excrement in latrines normally does not produce many *M. domestica* because they do not propagate well in the semi-liquid media. On the other hand, the pestiferous and myiasis producing soldier fly, *Hermetia illucens*, breeds prolifically in the semi-liquid material in untreated latrines. When insecticides are used to destroy *H. illucens* larval populations, the media becomes semisolid in nature and thus, suitable for house fly breeding.

(2) **Insecticides.** Larvicides should be applied until the breeding medium is saturated to a depth of 50 to 75 mm (2 to 3 in). This usually requires large amounts of dilute spray. Since most larvicides also act as adulticides, spray applications should be directed to locations where the emerging adults will contact the chemical as they attempt to leave the breeding material. In most cases, adding sugar to the spray enhances the insecticidal activity of these insecticides by functioning as a fly attractant. Where the pit latrine contents are relatively dry, fly breeding can be controlled by sprinkling PDB over the pit surface at the rate of approximately 60 gm (2 oz) per latrine per week. This treatment is effective only when pits are deep, dry, and unventilated. Application of PDB at a rate of 60 gm per garbage container for home use gives control for 1 to 2 weeks.

### (b) Control of Adults

#### (1) Residual Application

(a) **General.** Should sanitation measures for fly control be found inadequate, application of residual insecticides to areas of fly congregation may be necessary to provide a satisfactory level of control. The surface areas to be treated include resting places in buildings, such as overhead structures, hanging cords, moldings, door and windows facings, tent lines, and tent exteriors. Resting places, such as building exteriors near breeding sites, open sheds;

garbage cans, shrubs, and low trees may also be treated with residual insecticides. For best results the places to be treated should be determined in advance, and application should be made only to the actual resting sites. These sites can best be determined with a flashlight at night and by looking for the presence of "fly specks." Spray equipment with a fan-type nozzle is recommended for residual applications, and surfaces should be thoroughly wetted. Paintbrushes and rollers can be used.

(b) **Insecticides.** Several insecticides can be applied as selective spot treatments, and will provide good temporary indoor control. Outdoors, if necessary, insecticides may be effectively sprayed on exterior surfaces around garbage cans, garbage racks, and screens. When spraying, cover infested areas thoroughly, avoid contamination of food or utensils, and do not use sugar mixtures. Do not permit personnel or utensils to contact wet treated surfaces.

(1) **Aerosol space spraying and area treatment.** Where residual and larvicidal applications and environmental sanitation fail to give satisfactory fly control, space sprays, dispersed as aerosols, can be used effectively for the prompt elimination of flies inside buildings. They have no lasting effect; frequent re-treatment is necessary. Aerosols may be used for area treatment outdoors when flies are active.

(2) **Poison baits.** In certain situations poisoned baits may be used effectively in the control of adult flies. Basic formulations of both liquid and dry baits consist of a strong toxicant and a fly attractant. Widespread use of baits in an area is not desirable. Bait applications should be used where large concentrations of flies are observed. The frequency of the application depends largely upon the existing fly breeding potential. Where the potential is high, repeated applications, even daily, are necessary. Usually the need for routine treatment stops after several weeks. Consequently, the frequency and amount of bait used can be reduced.

### (3) Miscellaneous Control Methods

(a) **Screens.** Screens are a necessary aid in preventing flies from coming in contact with personnel, food, and drink. The use of adulticides is much more effective where adequate screening exists. Screens should have an 18 x 18 mesh, should be designed to open outwards, and should be in direct sunlight whenever possible.

(b) **Fans.** High velocity electric fans, properly placed over doors or in positions that blow a direct air current against the doorway, tend to prevent flies from entering when the doors are opened. If the fans are properly placed they can be useful as a supplementary method of fly control in places where doors must be opened repeatedly (e.g., food service facilities).

(c) **Fly Paper.** This material may provide a useful index of fly populations during survey or investigational work, but it is relatively ineffective as a control method.

(d) **Baited Traps.** Many types of baited traps have been developed for fly control. They can provide adequate control providing enough traps are used. They do not provide adequate control where heavy fly populations exist.

#### d. Control of Stable Flies, (*Stomoxys* spp.)

(1) **Sanitation.** The first and most important step in the control of *S. calcitrans* is destruction or removal of their oviposition sites. Since stable flies breed in all types of damp decaying vegetable matter, this process involves finding the breeding places and then either destroying these sites or making them inaccessible to the flies. Where breeding is occurring in agricultural waste (e.g., straw, manure, and other organic refuse), standard recommended practices should be used for proper storage or disposal of these wastes. For example, they should either be kept dry or spread so thinly that they will not support fly breeding. Stable flies commonly breed in decomposing seaweed that is washed into windows on ocean beaches above normal tide levels.

Disposal of this material generally is not practical thus, necessitating selective larvicide use. The extent and frequency of larviciding can be reduced by careful surveys because it is known that any accumulation of seaweed that is submerged for 6 hours or more during the 2-week period required for development of the immature stages will not require chemical treatments. Such submersion is natural sanitation and kills most of the larvae and pupae.

## (2) Chemical Control

### (a) Control of Immature Stages.

Breeding may be controlled by thoroughly wetting the breeding material with an approved larvicidal spray where no direct threat to aquatic wildlife exists.

(b) **Control of Adults.** A number of insecticides are effective against more than one genus of fly, but the method of application would be different for each. For example, adult stable flies may be killed with the same materials and in the same manner as recommended for houseflies. However, poison baits are not effective for stable flies. Where these flies cause human discomfort and control measures are not feasible, such as protection of troops in the field, personal application of diethyltoluamide (DEET), a standard insect repellent, is recommended (see article 8-47).

e. **Control of Tsetse Flies (*Glossina* spp.).** Because of the diversity of habits among tsetse flies and the practical absence of a free-living larval form, they are difficult to control. Among the many types of control that have been or are being used are: traps, natural enemies (biological control), cover modification, control of host game animals, establishment of fly barriers consisting of clearings or thickets that would inhibit fly movement and/or reproduction according to the species involved, and quarantine areas. Aerosol space sprays have also been used effectively for adult control. Entire river courses have been treated, causing a reduction of up to 99 percent in adult *Glossina palpalis*.

*Glossina morsitans* normally does not breed along rivers and is more difficult to control because of large areas of forest that must be sprayed. Quarantine areas have been set up in various parts of Africa that consist of barriers along roads.

f. **Control of Sand Flies (*Phlebotomus* spp. and *Lutzomyia* spp.).** Sand flies have a very short flight range so elimination of potential breeding sites near an infested area will give relatively good control within a limited area. Elimination of these sites may include complete drainage and drying to remove moisture necessary for development. Stone and rocky areas may be covered with dirt; rock walls, and stone masonry may be either destroyed or faced-over with mortar to eliminate cracks and crevices. The flight habits of phlebotomine flies render the species vulnerable to the application of residual sprays. The adult flies frequently rest on outer walls before entering a building. They enter by a series of short, hopping flights with relatively long pauses. Once inside, they may linger for a time on the walls before seeking a blood meal source. Application of residual sprays with the equipment and dosages recommended for houseflies and mosquitoes is suitable for the control of sand flies. Sleeping quarters and rooms occupied after dark should be treated as well as doors, windows, and screens. An even greater margin of protection is obtained by spraying the outside of doors, windows, and +0.5 m of the wall surrounding these openings. The application of residual spray solutions to the interior surface of tents and around the openings, including the flaps, bottom edges, and ventilation openings is also recommended. Emulsion formulations should *not* be used on tents because they will break down the waterproofing and cause tents to leak during subsequent rains. In some situations, extending the spraying program to include outdoor applications of residual insecticides may expand local area control. This will deny the sand flies the customary outdoor shelters and/or breeding places, and present lethal barriers between the adult flies and the buildings to be protected.

g. **Control of Biting Midges.** For these flies, it must be determined whether the problem is serious enough to warrant control efforts because they are seldom completely successful. The most effective control is obtained while they are in the immature stages because at that time they normally are clustered. However, for biting midges, it is difficult to determine where breeding is occurring because of their habit of developing in the soil. In addition, the larvae are very small. Very careful survey work with soil flotation methods is necessary to demonstrate the presence of the larvae. This procedure is tedious and, even in the hands of experts, subject to a considerable number of false negatives. Any serious attempt to effect control of human biting midges must be preceded by an extensive and careful larval survey. Where the area supporting larval breeding can be determined, control of larvae can be obtained by the direct application of insecticides to the soil. This is an expensive procedure because control must be done on an area basis at periodic intervals to eventually eliminate entry by adults from surrounding uncontrolled areas. Such treatments must be thorough and, consequently, are also injurious to many forms of aquatic life. These treatments may also lead to a rapid buildup of insecticide resistant flies. Aerosol space spray treatments against the adults, which will be described below for blackflies and mosquitoes, is possibly the most effective control measure presently available for bringing relief to small groups of people. The camp and personnel protective measures recommended for mosquitoes (article 8-35 and 8-47 respectively) are all equally effective against biting midges. Their extremely small size must be kept in mind wherever mesh or fabric screening is to be used. In order to exclude biting midges, 20-mesh screening is required; however, this will seriously interfere with ventilation. Because of this problem, insecticide treatment of screens can provide considerable control and relief against flies lighting on or passing through them. A deficiency in this control method is that the insecticide on the screen is eventually covered with windblown dirt and dust particles.

h. **Control of Blackflies (*Simulium* spp.).** Blackflies are effectively controlled by the application of larvicides to the streams where the immature forms are developing. Where only one brood of blackflies emerges annually, a single treatment of streams should markedly reduce the fly population. If multiple generations are produced, the number of treatment should correspondingly be increased. Stream treatment should only be initiated when necessary to protect public health. Because of the long flight range of blackflies and heavy population pressures adjacent to the control area, aerosols or mist sprayers cannot be depended upon to provide adequate control. Although the biting rate of blackflies is usually much lower than that of mosquitoes, personal protective measures against them are considered to be essential. Generally, the measures described for protection against in-quarters mosquito bites (see article 8-35) apply equally to blackflies. Characteristically, blackflies crawl beneath clothing whenever the opportunity present. Therefore, tight-fitting cuffs and collars are important in preventing their bites. Protective netting and fabric must be a minimum 20 mesh per inch and 28 mesh for standard wire or fiber.

i. **Control of Horse and Deer Flies (*Tabanus* spp. and *Chrysops* spp.).** Control of these pests is difficult and frequently ineffective. Space applications of insecticides similar to those recommended for mosquito control may be effective under some conditions, particularly if applications are made when the adult flies are active. In areas of heavy populations of *Tabanus* and *Chrysops*, the use of adulticides has not proved to be overly satisfactory. The use of larvicides has the same drawbacks as described for the larval control of biting midges. The personal protective measures described for mosquitoes (see article 8-35) are fairly satisfactory for protection against these flies, except that current standard repellents are not always successful. Horse and deer flies will occasionally enter quarters, but not for biting; consequently, protection while in quarters is not a problem.

j. **Control of Eye Gnats (*Hippelates* spp.).** The eye gnat species, *Hippelates pusio* and *H. collusor*, are the most troublesome to man within the United States. Efforts to effectively control these species by the use of aerial and ground delivered sprays and aerosols have generally been unsuccessful. Because these flies commonly breed in fresh turned soil, successful control can sometimes be accomplished by modifying agricultural methods. This would include conversion of cropland to pasture and shallow disking when cultivation is necessary. Soil application of insecticides may have some promise. However, the success of the methods of agricultural and insecticide control is contingent on the biology of the flies, but all of the life cycle information is not yet known. Where eye gnat problems are encountered and in the absence of control measures known to be successful locally, the assistance of appropriate technical personnel should be obtained.

### 8-35. Mosquitoes

a. **Relation to Man.** Mosquitoes rank first in importance among the insects that transmit diseases to man. This is partially because their biting habits vary among genera and species with regard to habitat, time of day, and host type and availability. This variability is important because it causes exposure to and subsequent transmission of different disease organisms (e.g., periodic and non-periodic filariasis). The genera most frequently associated with disease transmission are *Aedes*, *Anopheles*, and *Culex*. Disease organisms vectored by mosquitoes to man include bacteria (tularemia), arboviruses (dengue, encephalomyelitis (Eastern, Western, St. Louis, West Nile, Japanese B, and Russian Spring-Summer), and Yellow Fever), protozoa (malaria), and filarial nematodes (*Wuchereria bancrofti*, *Brugia* spp., and *Dirofilaria immitis*). Besides serving as disease vectors, many species of mosquitoes are serious pests of man solely because of their irritating bites.

b. **Biological Characteristics.** Mosquitoes oviposit on the surface of water or on surfaces subject to flooding. Larvae hatch and

feed on organic matter in the water, pupate, and emerge as adults. Mosquitoes use a great variety of water sources for breeding. These include: ground pools, water in artificial containers, water-holding tree holes, and leaf axils. Adult mosquitoes, when not actively seeking food, rest in concealed places. Only the females feed on blood. Depending upon the species involved, the distance of dispersal from breeding areas varies from a few meters to many kilometers. Males normally do not fly long distances from breeding areas; consequently, any uncommonly large concentration of males usually indicates that the breeding area is near.

c. **Surveillance of Mosquitoes.** See article 8-56 for details on collection.

d. **Control.** Mosquito control methods are classified as being either permanent or temporary depending upon whether they are designed to eliminate breeding areas or simply to kill the present population. Aside from the elimination of artificial water holding containers in campsites, permanent control measures have a high initial cost and require considerable periods of time to complete.

(1) **Control of Immature Stages.** Temporary control of mosquito breeding is accomplished by treating water surfaces with larvicides. Larviciding equipment is described in Section VIII of this chapter.

(a) **Ground Larviciding.** Where no larval resistance to insecticides has been documented, solutions, emulsifiable concentrates, granules, and water-dispersible powders may be used effectively for larviciding with ground-operated equipment. The use of granules is indicated where heavy vegetation covers must be penetrated or where possible damage to crops (e.g., rice) is a consideration. Because the percentage of toxicant and application rate vary with the type of equipment used, species of mosquito involved, geographical area considered, and with the degree of resistance developed, current recommendations should be obtained from appropriate technical personnel (see articles 8-4 and 8-5).

(b) **Aerial Larviciding.** OPNAV-INST 6250.4 series defines the use of aircraft for the dispersal of insecticides that will not normally be approved unless recommended by a Navy medical entomologist or a NAVFAC applied biologist. The responsible Naval commander in overseas areas is authorized to approve aerial dispersal of insecticides by naval aircraft when he considers such dispersal to be justified and the operation is to be supervised by qualified personnel. Aerial dispersal for mosquito control will ordinarily be justified in the continental United States and other developed areas only under the following conditions:

(1) Where permanent control measures (e.g., drainage, filling) cannot be accomplished economically.

(2) Where there is no access to ground dispersal equipment.

(3) Where screening, repellents, space sprays, and residual treatments are not adequate to control vector borne diseases or to increase work efficiency.

(4) Where ground application of aerosols, mist, or other insecticidal formulations are ineffective in reducing or controlling heavy populations.

(5) Where it is economically more practical to treat a major breeding area with aircraft rather than ground control equipment.

(c) **Control in Water Containers.** Containers, such as empty cans and old tires in which mosquito larvae may breed, should be eliminated if possible. Those that cannot be eliminated should be treated with a larvicide to control and prevent breeding.

(2) **Control of Adult Mosquitoes.** Adult mosquitoes may be controlled by the application of residual and space sprays.

(a) **Indoor Control.** Space sprays are recommended for interior control of mosquitoes when immediate eradication is required. Space sprays can be effectively applied with an aerosol dispenser. Treatment with the standard aerosol dispenser should be at a rate of 10 seconds of discharge per 300 cu m (1000 cu ft) of space. Space sprays have little or no residual effect and must be reapplied whenever new mosquitoes enter the space. Where frequent re-entry is a problem, or where disease bearing mosquito species are involved, it becomes necessary to apply residual sprays to the surfaces on which mosquitoes are likely to rest. Residual sprays differ from space sprays principally in possessing a greater concentration of the toxicant material. Only insecticides with long-lasting effects are suitable for use in residual sprays. Where rough absorbent surfaces are involved, the use of a suspension made by mixing a water-dispersible powder is more effective than the use of either a solution or emulsion. When resistance to an insecticide is suspected, contact the nearest entomologist for assistance or advice. Equipment required for residual and space applications, is described in Section VIII.

(b) **Outdoor Control.** Treatment using aerosols or mists is recommended for the outdoor control of adult mosquitoes. When control of breeding sources is not possible, aerosols are considered to be a desirable method for preventing annoyance by mosquitoes in limited bivouac areas. Aerosols will often affect complete control within a limited region and will bring adequate protection for short periods. However, in any area where reproduction is continuous and dominated by migratory species, the use of aerosols alone is satisfactory only if done on a repetitive basis. When properly applied, aerosols do not leave dangerous or unsightly deposits. Where re-infestation is not a problem, such as in less populated areas, insecticide application by means of a mist blower may provide satisfactory control.

(1) **Aerosol use.** Aerosol operations should be accomplished when wind speeds are less than 6 knots and when a temperature inversion is present. Since aerosol applications are most effective against flying insects, they should be accomplished when the target species are active.

(2) **Residual sprays.** Residual sprays have a limited exterior applicability for the protection of small camps. When used, the spray is applied to all vegetation surfaces for an area of 30 meters or more around the place to be protected and to insect resting places within the bivouac area.

e. **Protective Measures**

(1) **Screening.** Living quarters in permanent or semi-permanent camps should be protected with 18-mesh screening. Where vector species are present, bed nets should be used as additional protection.

(2) **Personal Protection.** Personal application type insect repellents are discussed in article 8-47.

(3) **Camp Location.** In areas where disease-bearing mosquitoes occur, zones outside the camp perimeter should be off-limits to all military personnel, except as required. Furthermore, care must be exercised to locate camps as far as possible from native villages to avoid contact with potentially infected mosquitoes.

(4) **Chemoprophylaxis.** Routine administration of chemoprophylactic drugs is essential in malarious areas as a supplement to vector control.

**8-36. Lice**

a. **Relation to Man.** The infestation of lice on a human host is termed pediculosis. Human lice are responsible for the transmission

of louse-borne typhus, trench fever, and louse-borne relapsing fever. Louse-borne typhus, an historical medical problem, is one of the few serious insect transmitted diseases in which man serves as the infection reservoir. Trench fever is thought to be related to typhus fever. It does not kill, but it can be a debilitating epidemic disease among louse-infected troops. Louse-borne relapsing fever is caused by a spirochete. Although found throughout the world, it is most prevalent in parts of Europe, North Africa, and Asia. In addition to serving as the vector of these serious diseases, lice cause a great deal of misery for infested people. Human lice do not normally infest other animals.

b. **Biological Characteristics.** Three species of lice infest man: the head louse, *Pediculus humanus capitus*; the body louse, *Pediculus humanus humanus*; and the crab louse, *Pthirus pubis*.

(1) **Human Louse.** The body louse, *Pediculus humanus humanus*, and the head louse *Pediculus humanus capitus* are quite similar, differing principally in the part of the body normally occupied. The body louse is found upon the body, spending much of its time attached to the undergarments. The head louse is found upon the head and the neck, clinging to the hairs. The egg of the body louse is attached to fibers of the underclothing, whereas, the egg of the head louse, a "nit," is cemented to the hair. The eggs of the human louse are incubated by the host's body heat and hatch in about a week. Hatching is greatly reduced or prevented by exposure to temperatures above 37.8 degrees C (100 degrees F). Thus, it is apparent that regular washing or dry cleaning of clothes provides a reliable control method. Immature lice resemble the adult in body form and become progressively larger as development takes place. Frequent blood meals from a host are required. Lice die within a few days if prevented from feeding. Head and body lice are normally acquired by personal contact, by wearing infested clothing, or by using contaminated objects such as combs and brushes.

(2) **Crab Louse.** The crab louse is primarily found upon hair in the pubic and anal regions, but on occasion may be found in the eyebrows and other areas of the body. This insect feeds intermittently for many hours at a time and is also unable to survive more than a short time away from the host. Crab lice are spread mainly by physical contact, but also may be acquired from toilet seats or objects recently used by infested individuals.

c. **Control.** Control includes delousing of individuals, treatment of infested clothing, bedding, living areas, and toilet facilities and the prevention of new infestations. Human louse control measures should be coordinated with a medical officer.

(1) **Preventive Measures.** The following preventive measures, especially during crowded shipboard and tenting or refugee operations, should be taken:

(a) Avoid physical contact with louse-infested individuals and materials.

(b) Observe personal cleanliness, i.e., at least weekly bathing with soap and water and clothing changes (particularly under-clothing).

(c) Avoid overcrowding of personnel.

(d) Instruct personnel on the detection and prevention of louse infestation.

## (2) Individual Treatment Measures

(a) **For Head and Crab Lice,** insecticidal ointment and shampoos for individual treatment are available as prescription medication issued by the medical department. Apply the powder lightly to the hair and rub it in with the fingertips.

(b) **Body Louse.** For treatment of body lice infestations, wash all clothing and

bedding in hot water and repeat in 7 to 10 days. Since extra clothing, bedding, and toilet facilities serve as sources of re-infestation; these items should also be washed.

(c) **Head Louse.** Insecticidal shampoos are quite effective and available at military pharmacies.

(d) **Crab Louse.** Insecticidal ointments and shampoos are also available and quite effective. Do not bathe for at least 24 hours. One or two repeat treatments may be necessary.

## 8-37. Bedbugs (*Cimex Spp.*), Shipboard And Ashore

Bedbugs infest warm-blooded animals including man and are occasional pests aboard ships. They are not known to vector human diseases, but they are annoying and can seriously affect morale. Bedbugs are approximately 6 mm (1/5 in) in length, flat, reddish-brown, and wingless insects with sucking mouthparts. They have nocturnal movement and only feed on blood. Their bite usually produces small, hard, white swellings (wheals). Bedbug infestations are not necessarily associated with unsanitary conditions. They are often transported to clothing, baggage, and laundry and may be easily introduced into very clean quarters. Habitual hiding places of bedbugs, such as in the seams of mattresses, will often be obvious by the presence of dried black or brown excrement stains on surfaces where they congregate and rest. Bloodstains on the bedding may also indicate their presence. For control, light applications of an appropriate insecticide, recommended by the area entomologist, should be made to the sides and seams of mattresses, which are best treated by folding and placing them in the center of the bunk at a 45-degree angle. Other sites to be sprayed should include cracks and corners of the bunks, empty lockers, springs, canvas bottoms and grommets, stanchions, and behind all equipment close to bulkheads. Bunks may be made up and occupied after 4 hours of ventilation following application. Complete control should be expected within 10 to 14 days.

**8-38. Cockroaches, Shipboard And Ashore**

a. **Relation to Man.** Cockroaches are probably the most common and persistently troublesome arthropod pest encountered indoors. They are among the most adaptable insects known. It has never been demonstrated that cockroaches directly vector pathogenic organisms but, significant circumstantial evidence indicates that cockroaches maintain and disseminate pathogens. Bacteria, viruses, and protozoa have been isolated from them or their feces. Because of their habits and close association with man, they are well adapted for mechanical transmission of diseases such as amebiasis or other gastrointestinal disease organisms. This discussion is designed to provide information for effective control of cockroaches whether they are located aboard ship or ashore. Considerations concerning cockroach infestations include the following:

(1) Their presence is considered an indication of substandard sanitation by most people.

(2) They often cause anxiety and repulsion and may lead to entomophobia (fear of insects), which is of special consideration in regard to hospital patients' comfort and recovery.

(3) Cockroaches habitually disgorge portions of partly digested food and defecate wherever they go. They also discharge a nauseous secretion from oral and abdominal glands which leaves a persistent and typical "cockroach odor" on all surfaces contacted.

(4) Cockroaches defile, contaminate, or damage food, linens, books, utensils, and other supplies and equipment.

b. **Responsibility for Shipboard Cockroach Control.** The shipboard medical department has been charged with responsibility for pest control operations. Harbor craft and small vessels without a medical department representative should obtain assistance from the medical department and/or pest control shop of their local activity.

c. **Cockroach Biology and Identification.** An understanding of the habits and life history of the cockroach is a prerequisite to successful control. Those that are briefly described here are the most notorious from the standpoint of frequency and size of populations and affinity for indoor habitats. This is true regardless of climate or elevation since heated buildings and ships provide a relatively constant environment acceptable to the cockroach. They are omnivorous, adapting well to a variety of food sources, and prefer to be active under subdued lighting conditions.

(1) **German Cockroach, *Blatella Germanica***

(a) **Appearance.** The late egg stage is passed in a dark yellowish brown to tan colored capsule or egg case which is carried, protruding from the abdomen, by the female for about 2 weeks until, or shortly before, the eggs hatch. The female produces an average of 6 capsules, each containing up to 50 eggs. The young (nymphs) pass through 7 molts in 40 to 60 days. The life span is 6 to 10 months with 2 to 4 generations per year. The adult is tan or straw colored, about 15 mm long and distinctively marked with two longitudinal dark stripes near the head.

(b) **Habits.** This is the most common indoor species, especially in and around food service spaces and facilities. Infestation is a recurring problem in galleys, mess halls, exchange snack bars and cafeterias, coffee messes, bakeries, butcher shops, vegetable preparation rooms, and potato lockers. It frequently occurs in hospital wards in diet kitchens, food service carts, bed stands, lockers, soiled laundry hampers, and washrooms. Because of its size and wide distribution, the German cockroach is easily carried into fleet and shore facilities with provisions; especially fresh produce, bakery goods, soft drink cases, food and drink vending machines, and even laundry. This cockroach frequents secluded cracks and crevices in the walls, wood and metal trim, fixtures, electrical appliances, furnishings, and other similar places.

**(2) Brown-banded Cockroach, *Supella Longipalpa***

(a) **Appearance.** The dark reddish-brown egg capsules, containing an average of 15 eggs, are securely glued by the female in cracks, corners, and angular locations in furnishings, fixtures, clothing, and draperies where hatching takes place. Each female produces an average of 10 egg capsules. The young pass through 6 to 8 molts in about 3 months. This species is lighter in color and slightly smaller than the German cockroach, being somewhat less than 15 mm long. Two light yellow cross bands near the base of the adult's wings and two transverse light bands on the dorsal surface of the nymphs give this species its name. The female is quite broad with short wings while the male is more slender with the wings extending beyond the tip of the abdomen.

(b) **Habits.** The brown-banded cockroach prefers living rooms, dining rooms, bedrooms, and closets of dwellings. It is a common pest in hotels and motels and is often found on hospital wards. It is more secretive and less obtrusive in habits than other cockroach species, hiding in cracks of woodwork, furniture, drawers, lockers, wardrobes, closets, beds, and draperies. It may infest all parts of the premises. It is not considered a "food service area" species, as is the German cockroach.

**(3) American Cockroach, *Periplaneta Americana***

(a) **Appearance.** The dark reddish-black egg capsules, containing an average of 15 eggs, is firmly cemented to various substrates and often covered with debris. Each female produces an average of 34 capsules. The young emerge in approximately 35 days and molt 9 to 13 times over a period of 10 to 16 months before finally becoming mature. Hence the life cycle takes an average of 14 months and the total life span may take as long as 2.5 years. The adult is dark reddish-brown, approximately 35 mm long and the anterior dorsal plate behind the head has a conspicuous yellow posterior border strip.

(b) **Habits.** This cockroach has particularly filthy habits, frequently moving from shelters or breeding areas to food sources. It favors, and becomes abundant, in such places as damp basements, restaurants, bakeries, packing and slaughterhouses, food stores, crawl spaces under dwellings and other buildings, and sewage disposal plants. It often occurs in very large numbers in dumps; sewage manholes and conduits; and in steam tunnels and other sub-floor conduits in galleys. Therefore, its requirements for subsistence are met where there is a combination of food, warmth, dark seclusion, and high humidity. As previously noted, it commonly leaves these environs in search of food that makes the American cockroach a potentially dangerous disease vector. Its presence is often first recognized by finding its hard, dark, 3.2 mm (1/8 in) long fecal pellets.

(4) **Australian Cockroach, *Periplaneta Australasiae*.** This species is quite similar in appearance to the American cockroach except the adults have a yellow strip along one third of the outside margin of the fore wings and is approximately 32 mm in length. The habits of this cockroach are similar to those of other cockroaches; however, it is not commonly found indoors and has a more limited distribution. This cockroach can be particularly objectionable because of its unsightly, liquid, fecal droppings.

(5) **Other Cockroaches.** Several other species of cockroaches occasionally infest premises and include the following: Oriental cockroach, *Blatta orientalis*; Florida woods cockroach, *Eurycotis floridana*; brown cockroach, *Periplaneta brunnea*; Smokey-brown cockroach, *Periplaneta fuliginosa*; and Surinam cockroach, *Pycnoscelus surinamensis*. The more common cockroaches are identifiable by the general descriptions in this chapter. Descriptive characters of other important, but less frequently contacted species, can be found in readily available medical entomology manuals. In all instances, the target species should be identified before proceeding with control measures.

d. **General Control.** If the overall absence or near absence of cockroaches is to be achieved, it is essential that both sanitary and chemical control measures be established on a preventive rather than on a "trouble call" basis. Preventive control requires frequent inspections and thorough surveys. Prevention also includes good sanitation, prevention of entry, elimination of harborages, and supplemental chemical control when indicated.

(1) **Sanitation.** Active food preparation areas cannot be kept clean enough to eliminate existing cockroach populations by starvation. However, the following sanitation practices are of proven value:

- (a) All food materials should be stored so as to be inaccessible to cockroaches.
- (b) Garbage and other refuse should be placed in containers with tight-fitting lids and removed daily.
- (c) All food preparation areas, utensils, and equipment should be thoroughly cleaned after each day's use.
- (d) Foods should be restricted in berthing areas.
- (e) Cleanliness reduces available food for cockroaches and may determine the degree to which the population expands. As the level of sanitation increases the level of cockroach infestation decreases.
- (f) Reduction in food sources and general cleanliness may cause the population to forage further, thus, increasing the probability for cockroaches to encounter residual insecticides.

(2) **Prevention of Entry.** Although primarily important for ship's stores, items such as bagged potatoes and onions, bottle cases, and food packages must be inspected prior to storage or use to avoid re-infestation by cockroaches.

Since cockroaches may be transported in egg, nymph, or adult stages, care in inspection is necessary.

(3) **Harborage Elimination.** Cockroaches do not normally inhabit structures that lack suitable hiding places. As harborages are eliminated, populations are reduced and the use of chemicals becomes less needed. The sealing of cracks and crevices and general elimination of harborages is extremely important in cockroach control. Typical harborages include the following:

- (a) Old and torn insulation.
- (b) Holes for plumbing and electrical lines, as well as electrical switches and fuse boxes.
- (c) Areas between walls (false bulkheads).
- (d) Areas behind drawers, oven hoods, under counters, and serving lines.
- (e) Hollow-legs (e.g., stove legs and refrigeration and heavy equipment supports).

(4) **Surveys.** The importance of conducting cockroach surveys during routine sanitary inspections cannot be over-emphasized. Early detection of new or resurgent populations is essential for effective control efforts. The following points pertain to cockroach surveys:

- (a) Surveys should be performed by a PMT or other qualified personnel. The results from each inspection should be reported in writing to the commanding officer. Aboard ship, the medical department representative (MDR) should conduct a cockroach survey every 2 weeks and appropriately log the results.
- (b) Since cockroaches avoid light, they are often overlooked in routine daytime sanitation surveys. Some considerations that are helpful in detecting resting sites and harborages are:

(1) Pyrethrum, d-Phenothrin, and other pyrethroid aerosols will drive cockroaches from their hiding places within a few minutes. The spray should be directed into all cracks and crevices, breaks in insulation and pipe lagging, overhead wiring, deck drains, motor compartments of machinery, and metal supports under counters and tables. Treatment should also include areas behind splashboards and shields, false bulkheads, pictures, and bulletin boards. In many cases hard-to-eliminate infestations are due to cockroaches from an undetected breeding source, such as within walls or double floors. Do not overspray such areas because this may cause the cockroaches to migrate to new areas.

(2) A flashlight is necessary for surveying dark or dimly lit areas. Look for excrete around cracks and likely hiding places.

(3) While inspecting, keep in mind the cockroach's requirement of food, warmth, harborage, and moisture.

(4) It is necessary to stoop and crawl to conduct a good cockroach survey.

(5) Inadequate control programs aboard ship and elsewhere are invariably due in part to either a lack of or improperly conducted surveys.

(5) **Chemical Control.** Complete reliance on chemical control would be undesirable due to potential human insecticide exposure. This method is meant to supplement sanitary control measures. Some aspects of chemical control include:

(a) **Residual Contact Application.** Crack and crevice treatments in food preparation and service areas can provide good cockroach control. The insecticide must be applied where the insect lives. Therefore, most spray applications will be made to cracks and other harborages where cockroaches have been found during the survey. For this type of application use a low-pressure, fine-pin stream aimed directly into the crack. The

angle of application is important because the greater the angle of the stream to the crack, the less the insecticide will penetrate. Crack and crevice treatment with pin-stream applications offers the additional advantage that the insecticide material is less likely to be washed away during routine cleaning procedures. Contact the local DOD Pest Management Professional for current recommendations on insecticide selection.

(b) **Aerosol Application.** Food service areas and other infested compartments can be effectively treated with aerosol crack and crevice sprays. The success of this method depends on proper insecticide dispersal equipment and the insecticide formulation. An example of this type of application would be a crack and crevice treatment using an aerosol formulation such as d-Phenothrin.

(c) **Bait Application.** Bait applications are an effective, environmentally sound method of cockroach control. Combat TM is a bait station, which can be used virtually anywhere for cockroach control. The bait is odorless, non-volatile, and does not product air contamination. The material works as a slow acting stomach poison and takes typically 1 to 2 weeks to affect control. It is contained in a tamper-proof bait station, which prevents exposure or accidental contact. Combat TM is also available in easy to use gel bait formulations for crack and crevice treatments. It is low in toxicity to humans and safe for use around sensitive electronic equipment. Insecticide baits can be used in fuse boxes, electrical outlets, around stoves, ovens, heaters, refrigeration units, food vending machines, behind false bulkheads, and enclosed motor areas. Baits can be used in all locations where liquids present the danger of electrical shorting or fire. Bait should be kept dry to be effective. Remove and replace as required.

(d) **Contact Powder Application.** Location and treatment is the same as with baits. Both aerosol spray and powder formulations of boric acid are available for cockroach control.

They are excellent for false bulkhead treatments and are long lasting, as the material does not chemically degrade rapidly if kept dry. This material also works as a stomach poison and can take up to weeks to control an infestation if used alone. Contact powder formulations are a good complement to Combat TM applications. This material can be used very effectively behind false bulkheads.

(e) **Frequency of Treatment.** One week after the initial residual treatment, a survey should be conducted and all active harborages retreated. Frequency of treatment is dependent on results from continued surveys. Insecticides should be applied only when and where needed, resulting in effective control with minimal contamination of the environment. Repeated control failures should be reported to the nearest military entomologist (articles 8-4 and 8-5).

(f) **Preparation of Spaces for Aerosol Treatment**

(1) The spaces to be treated shall be thoroughly cleaned. Particular attention should be paid to collections of grease on and around countertops, deep-fat fryers, vents, and food serving lines.

(2) Secure all areas to be treated and evacuate all unnecessary personnel except those conducting the spray operation.

(3) Put all exposed foods into protected compartments. Remove all cooking utensils from the space before treatment.

(4) Open all cabinet doors.

(5) Open all drawers in a stair-step fashion with the bottom drawer removed and placed on the floor.

(6) All hatches that do not have covers or cannot be adequately sealed must be fitted with a plastic or paper cover and taped.

(7) The electrician should then secure both exhaust and supply ventilation. Vent openings should be covered with plastic.

(8) Seal cracks, as well as doors that will not be used during the treatment phase, with masking tape.

(9) Post warning signs on all entrances to spaces under treatment.

(10) All pilot lights and other open flames must be secured before application. The operator must wear goggles, an approved respirator, gloves, and coveralls.

(g) **Treatment.** The actual treatment can only be accomplished by certified pest control operators.

(h) **Exposure time.** The airtight integrity must be maintained for at least 30 minutes and preferably 1 hour. Treated areas should be vented for 30 minutes prior to re-entry.

(i) **Post Treatment Cleanup.** Immediately following ventilation, all roaches and egg capsules should be collected and removed. This will serve to remove those cockroaches receiving sub-lethal dosages, and the egg capsules that the female while attempting to escape treatment frequently drops.

(6) **Supplies and Equipment.** Equipment required for operation and maintenance of a proper and safe cockroach control program includes the following items:

(a) One gallon, hand-compressed air sprayer.

(b) Spare parts for the sprayer.

(c) Approved respirator and refill cartridges.

(d) Neoprene or nitrile gloves.

- (e) Goggles.
- (f) Coveralls.
- (g) Flashlight.
- (h) Tools (screwdriver, wrenches, and pliers).

(7) **Nonstandard Methods and**

**Materials.** OPNAVINST 6250.4 series requires all locally procured pesticides and equipment be technically reviewed and approved before procurement. Fleet units can obtain such approval from Navy entomologists stationed at any NAVENPVNTMEDU, DVECC, or from a NAVFAC field division applied biologist (see articles 8-4 and 8-5). Consult the Navy-wide Shipboard Pest Control Manual and NAVSUP Publication No. 486 for the correct procedures in procurement of pesticides and equipment to be used aboard ships.

e. **Cockroach Control in Naval Hospitals and Child Care Centers.** Cockroach control should be an integral part of a hospital pest prevention and control program. Cockroaches are only one of the many economically important vectors and pests, which justify a concerted, organized pest prevention and control program. The cumulative losses, damage, spoilage, and detrimental effects on health and welfare caused by pests and vectors represent a significant liability for the average Naval hospital or activity and justify the expenditure of funds for control. Special consideration should be given to the following:

(1) As a general rule, insecticides shall not be used in infant nurseries, operating rooms, pediatric wards, intensive care units, coronary care units, or other spaces where critically ill or debilitated patients are confined. Areas of this type should be kept free of insects by proper sanitation and construction. When insecticide treatment becomes necessary in such areas, temporary quarters shall be found for patients

during the application and for a minimum of 4 hours after treatment to avoid solvent vapors. Only synergized pyrethrin and pyrethroid aerosols are currently recommended because they leave little residue, but will give immediate kill of all life stages except eggs. This treatment will not provide long-lasting control and frequent reapplications may be necessary. However, if a concentrated sanitary effort is combined with the use of residuals in surrounding rooms, effective control should result. The appropriate area entomologist can supply additional information regarding this type of control.

(2) Combat TM baits can be used for cockroach control in hospitals and childcare centers.

### 8-39. Stored Products Pests, Shipboard And Ashore

a. **General.** Stored products pests include more than 100 different species of insects, most of which are moths and beetles. They infest a wide variety of subsistence supplies including cereals, flour, farina, grits, candy, pet food, and any other non-canned food plus various animal fiber items, e.g., blankets, uniforms, and boots. Stored product pests are usually either rodents (see article 8-44) or insects. These stored products insects (SPI) include the saw-toothed grain beetle, flour beetles, warehouse beetle (Trogoderma), Indian Meal moth, and many others.

b. **Important References.** Military Standard (MIL-STD) 904B, DOD Standard Practice, Detection, Identification, and Prevention of Pest Infestation of Subsistence; Defense Supply Center Philadelphia Instruction (DSCPI) 4145.31, Integrated Stored Product Pest Management; Naval Supply Instruction (NAVSUPINST) 4355.6 series, Department of Defense Veterinary Food Safety and Quality Assurance Program; NAVSUP Pub 486, Chapter 5, Receipt, Inspection and Stowage; and the Navy-wide Shipboard Pest Control Manual are all important references concerning stored products pests.

c. **Detection of SPI**

(1) **Finding Infestations in Storerooms** is a tedious operation unless the insect populations are large enough to render the product unfit for human consumption (1-7 insects per pound depending upon the species) and spreading to other food products. Food items at highest risk include farina, grits, pet food, and any food that has been packed for at least 6 months.

(2) **Infestible Products.** It is essential that infestible products be checked upon receipt. Those near or past the inspection test date (shelf life) must be checked monthly to find the insects before they destroy the product and contaminate other products on the ship or in the storage facility.

(3) **Inspection Responsibilities.** Army veterinary food inspectors ashore conduct facility, vehicle, and product inspections. Aboard ship, the MDR is authorized and should conduct product (Class 9) inspections as per NAVSUPINST 4355.4 series, while the ship is not in port to extend shelf life as appropriate. Aboard ship, the MDR should conduct a stored product pest survey every month and appropriately log the results.

(4) **Pheromone and Food Attractant Traps.** Pheromones are chemicals secreted by an organism that cause a specific reaction by the other members of the same species. Because the pheromones are so specific, an entomologist needs to be consulted to determine if these traps are appropriate for a particular area and which traps should be used. Some of the traps for crawling insects also have a food attractant in them.

d. **Reporting Responsibilities.** All infestations must be reported. Check the NAVSUPINST 4355.4 series to determine if medical has the responsibility for your command and the appropriate reporting channel.

(2) DD 1222 (FEB 62), Request for and Results of Tests, must be submitted to the nearest entomologist, along with the insects to correctly identify the infesting insects and to document the occurrence of a product infestation. Submission of this report aboard ship is the medical department's responsibility. Further requirements and explanation of DD 1222 are found in MIL-STD 904 series and the Navy-wide Shipboard Pest Control Manual. This form is available at: <http://www.dior.whs.mil/forms/DD1222.PDF>.

(3) Suspected Hazardous Food Item message is required in addition to submitting a DD 1222 when insects are found in food. Directions on proper submission are found in NAVSUP Publication 486.

e. **Sanitation.** All broken containers, torn sacks, and spilled foodstuffs should be removed promptly; decks should be swept and vacuumed before receipt of new stores.

(1) Infested items must be isolated or promptly disposed of to prevent contamination of other materials.

(2) Spilled food is an open invitation to insects and rodents, it is the responsibility of inspectors to document every sanitation problem and for management to correct the deficiency.

f. **Insect Control.** Contact the area entomologist to determine if space treatment and/or residual pesticide application is appropriate for the particular storage area. Once a product is infested but still consumable, freezing it for 2 weeks will kill all life stages of the insects except the eggs. Allowable levels of infestations are outlined in MIL-STD 904 series.

**8-40. Mites**

a. **Relationship to Man.** Based upon their habitats, mites of medical importance may be classified into four groups: nest-inhabiting mites parasitic on birds and rodents, and which occasionally bite man, mites parasitic on animals and which occasionally bite man, mites parasitic on man, and food-infesting mites that occasionally bite man.

(1) **Nest Inhabiting Mites.** All of these mites live within the nests of birds and rodents and only bite man when deprived of their normal hosts. Medically, the house mouse mite is the most important member of this group, since it vectors rickettsial pox from mouse to man.

(2) **Mites Parasitic on Birds and Rodents.** These mites are parasitic on rodents, birds, and reptiles and the larvae may occasionally bite man. The term "chigger" is applied to the larvae of certain species of this group. Many of these species cause dermatitis to man, and a few transmit scrub typhus (Tsutsugamushi disease), a severe and debilitating rickettsial disease of man endemic to some land areas of the Far East.

(3) **Mites Parasitic on Man.** This group includes the well-known scabies or itch mite. The scabies mite is transmitted through close body contact and may appear wherever social conditions cause excessive crowding of people. This mite burrows in the horny layer of the dermis, causing an intense itching, especially at night, and occasionally erythema.

(4) **Food-Infesting Mites.** Many species of mites infest dry foods (e.g., bread, cheese, cereals, and smoked meats). Some of them can also cause a contact dermatitis to workers handling infested materials. These mites also have been associated with respiratory complications (e.g., asthma exacerbation or bronchial inflammation) when they or their by-product antigens are inhaled. There are also

reports of urinary tract infestations that cause irritation, urethral stricture, and a predisposition to secondary infection. Ingestion of mite-infested food may lead to gastrointestinal disturbances.

b. **Biological Characteristics.** Mites can be recognized by the fact that they lack distinct body segmentation. They are usually very small, some being less than 0.5 microns (1/2000 of an inch) long. After hatching from the eggs, mites pass through three developmental stages: larva, nymph, and adult. The larva has six legs, while the nymph and adult forms have eight. In the species that transmit scrub typhus, the larval forms are parasitic on rodents, and incidentally parasitic on man. These larvae are quite small and usually red or pinkish in color. They feed on lymph and serous fluids and epidermal tissues, which are partially predigested by secretion of salivary fluids into the host's skin during feeding. The nymph and adult stages of these mites are free-living and feed on eggs of small insects and related invertebrates. The adult females oviposit on the ground. The larval chiggers are found most often in damp areas covered with vegetation such as margins of lakes or streams shaded woods and high grass or weeds.

c. **Control**

(1) **Nest-Inhabiting Mites.** Elimination of the house mouse mite and other important species of this group is principally dependent on host control. It may be necessary, in the case of infested structures, to apply residual sprays in the manner recommended for the interior control of flies and mosquitoes. If man regularly inhabits the structure, the application of residual insecticide should be restricted to infested areas only.

(2) **Mites Parasitic on Birds and Rodents.** The chiggers of these mites are of primary importance to man. Most are not disease vectors, but may be extremely pestiferous.

(a) **Protective Measures.** Personnel operating in an endemic scrub typhus area where chiggers constitute a health hazard should be required to use repellents and repellent impregnated clothing (article 8-47).

(b) **Control Measures**

(1) Clearance of vegetation.

Locations used as campsites should be prepared as fully as possible before the arrival of occupying units. All vegetation should be cut or bulldozed to ground level and burned or hauled away. Chiggers customarily live only in damp shaded soil; therefore, procedures that expose the ground to the drying effect of sunlight will help to eliminate them. After a thorough clearing, the ground usually dries sufficiently in 2-3 weeks to kill the mites. Personnel engaged in clearing operations must use protective measures.

(2) Use of Insecticides. When troops must live or maneuver for periods of time in chigger-infested areas, it is recommended that area control with residual application of insecticides be accomplished. The effectiveness of any residual insecticides will vary with both the species of chigger and the area involved. Consequently, for adequate results, experimentation with materials and application rates may be necessary. Application can be achieved by using sprays, emulsifiable concentrates, wettable powders, or dust. With sprays, the amount of water needed, as a diluent will vary, depending on the per-minute output of the equipment used and on the kind and density of vegetation present. It takes approximately 50-1001 per hectare (7.5-10.5 gallons per acre) of diluted spray to treat turf or similar areas and approximately 2001 per hectare (21 gallons per acre) for thorough treatment of heavy vegetated areas.

(3) **Mites Parasitic on Man.** A medical officer should supervise control measures for scabies or itch mites, when practical. Control consists of treating infested individuals with a topical ointment or shampoo and heat sterilization of clothing and bedding.

(4) **Food-Infesting Mites.** Control of these mites is achieved by disposing of infested materials, sanitation of food storage and handling areas, and the use of effective residual sprays.

**8-41. Ticks**

a. **Relation to Man.** Ticks are annoying pests because of their bite and their ability to precipitate tick paralysis. Their greatest importance is related to the diseases they are known to transmit to man and animals. Some of the organisms causing disease include bacteria (tularemia, Lyme disease, Q fever, and endemic relapsing fever), rickettsia (Rocky mountain spotted fever, Lyme disease, and tick borne typhus), viruses (Colorado tick fever, Russian Spring-Summer encephalomyelitis, and Louping ill) and protozoa (babesiosis and anaplasmosis).

b. **Biological Characteristics.** There are four stages in the development of a tick: egg, larva, nymph, and adult. The eggs are laid on the ground, in cracks and crevices of houses, or in nests and burrows of animals. They may be laid in one large batch or in smaller groups. The period of incubation varies from 2 weeks to several months. The larval stage, identifiable by the presence of six legs, is very small upon emergence from the egg. Usually the larva requires at least one blood meal before it develops into the eight legged nymphal stage. All nymphs require at least one blood meal and one or more molts of the exoskeleton before the nymph undergoes metamorphosis to the adult stage. Some adult ticks require a blood meal before copulation while others do not. The two principle types of ticks are hard and soft ticks. The hard ticks, which include the genera *Amblyomma*, *Boophilus*, *Dermacentor*, *Ixodes*, *Rhipicephalus*, and others are identifiable by their distinct hard dorsal covering the scutum. They attach themselves to the host during feeding and remain there for a considerable period of time before engorgement is completed. The larva and nymph take only one blood meal each. The adult female takes a single blood meal before dropping off the host to digest the blood and lay a single large batch of eggs. Most hard ticks have either two or three hosts during their development.

The soft ticks have four genera, Antricola, Argas, Ornithodoros, and Otobius and lack a scutum. These ticks have much the same habits as bedbugs, hiding in cracks or crevices in houses or in nests of their hosts and coming out at night to feed on the blood of the host for a short period. The larvae and nymphs generally feed several times before molting. The adult female feeds a number of times, laying a small batch of eggs after each feeding.

c. **Control**

(1) **Protective Measures**

(a) Avoid infested areas whenever possible.

(b) Wear protective clothing such as: High-top shoes, boots, leggings, or socks pulled up over the trouser cuffs to help prevent ticks from crawling onto the legs and body. At the end of the day, or more often, the body should be thoroughly inspected for attached ticks, making sure that none have migrated from infested to fresh clothing or bedding.

(c) Personal application of the standard issue topical insect repellent is effective against immature ticks and to a lesser extent the adults. Uniforms treated with a Permethrin product are effective against all stages of ticks. See article 8-47 for details.

(d) All ticks found on the body should be removed at once. The best method for removing attached ticks is to grasp them with forceps at about a 45-degree angle from the skin. Pull them slow and steady until they release. Do not twist! Care should be taken not to crush the tick or to break off the embedded mouthparts that could be a source of infection. The wound should be treated with an antiseptic. Where hair is not involved, the use of tape is an effective means for removing tick larvae and nymphs from the skin.

(2) **Control Measures**

(a) **Clearance of Vegetation.**

Clearing vegetation from infested areas will aid in the control of ticks and is recommended for bivouac and training grounds. All low vegetation should be uprooted with a bulldozer and burned or cut and hauled away.

(b) **Use of Insecticide**

(1) **Outdoor.** In situations where troops must live or maneuver for periods of time in tick-infested zones, area control by residual application of sprays, dusts, or granules should be achieved. The effectiveness of any insecticide will vary with both the species and the area involved. Experimentation with various dosages and materials may be required. Sprays should be made by mixing either an emulsifiable concentrate or a wettable powder and water. Oil solutions should be avoided because they cause plant damage. The amount of spray mixed will depend on the volume output of the equipment used and on the kind and density of vegetation to be sprayed. It takes approximately 1901 per hectare (20 gal per acre) of spray to treat lawns or similar areas, and 4751 per hectare (50 gal per acre) or more for thorough coverage of wooded or brushy areas. Vegetation should be sprayed at a height of 0.6 m (2 ft). Application rates for dusts will vary from approximately 2-5 kg per hectare (2-5 lb per acre), depending upon the insecticide and terrain. Insecticides should be applied as early in the year as ticks are noticed. One application may be effective for an entire season, but if ticks re-infest the area it may be necessary to repeat treatment.

(2) **Indoor.** The brown dog tick, *Rhipicephalus sanguineus*, frequently becomes established in dwellings and is difficult to control. A residual emulsion spray is the treatment of choice in this situation. Apply spray thoroughly to all possible harborages, including baseboards, around door and window

moldings, behind pictures, under furniture, around the edges of rugs, on curtain and draperies, and in all cracks. A second or third treatment may also be needed. Residual treatments in living spaces are to be made in infested areas only. This tick is usually introduced into living spaces by dogs; so control procedures should also include a thorough residual spraying of the spaces occupied by the dog at night, and a weekly treatment of the dog as directed by a veterinarian.

#### 8-42. Fleas

a. **Relation to Man.** Like most other bloodsucking parasites, fleas have been implicated in the transmission of diseases. The oriental rat flea, *Xenopsylla cheopis*, is of great importance in the transmission of the plague bacillus which alone is sufficient to rank fleas among the more important insect vectors. Other genera of fleas transmit endemic or murine typhus and may act as the intermediate hosts for some parasitic worms. Gravid females of the "chigoe" or burrowing flea, *Tunga penetrans*, penetrate the skin to complete their development, causing ulcerating lesions on the feet of man and of animals. Fleas found outdoors are frequently referred to as "sand fleas;" however, they do not breed in the sand without animal hosts.

b. **Biological Characteristics.** Fleas are ectoparasites of birds and mammals. They are small, laterally compressed, hard-bodied insects that lack wings, but are equipped with legs especially adapted for jumping. The nest or burrow of the host is the breeding place and contains the egg, larva, pupa, and frequently the adult flea. The eggs are oval, pearly white, and dropped randomly on the ground, floor, or animal bedding where they hatch into larvae in a few days. Flea larvae are tiny, cylindrical, and maggot-like with either legs or eyes. They feed on organic matter and grow for about 2 weeks. When they are ready to pupate, the larvae spin silken cocoons that are somewhat viscid so that particles of dust, sand, and lint stick to them.

Most fleas do not remain on their host continuously. Unlike most bloodsucking insects, fleas feed at frequent intervals, usually once a day. This is because fleas are easily disturbed while feeding and seldom complete a meal at one feeding. The "chigoe" flea is exceptional in that the fertilized female burrows into the skin of its host, particularly between the toes, under the toenails, and in the tender part of the feet. Here, nourished by the host's blood, the eggs within the female develop and the abdomen swells to almost the size of a pea. The posterior end of the flea lies level with the surface of the host's skin. The mature eggs are expelled through the ovipositor at the tip of the abdomen. The female then shrivels up and drops out or is sloughed during tissue ulceration.

#### c. Control

##### (1) Protective Measures

- (a) Avoid infested areas when possible.
- (b) Wear protective clothing or at least roll the socks up over the trouser cuffs to prevent fleas from jumping on the skin.
- (c) Personal application of standard issue insect repellent is effective for short periods (see article 8-47).

##### (2) Treatment of Breeding Areas

- (a) In infested buildings, apply residual sprays as emulsions or suspensions on floors, rugs, and on wall surfaces to a height of about 0.6 m (2 ft) above the floor.
- (b) Flea-infested areas such as yards and under buildings should be treated with a residual emulsion. To prevent entries into structures, spray the foundation to a height of 0.6-0.9 m (2-3 ft). Vegetation should also be treated to a distance 1.5 m (5 ft) from the base of the foundation.

(c) When flea-borne diseases are present, rat burrows should be dusted with an insecticide prior to conducting rodent control measures. This prevents fleas from leaving dead or trapped rats and migrating to other animals or human hosts in the area.

### (3) Treatment of Infested Animals.

Because indoor flea infestations normally originate from pets, a program for controlling such infestations must include treatments of these pets. Dogs and cats are best treated under the care and direction of a veterinarian. Bedding used by pets should be simultaneously treated.

## 8-43. Reduviid Bugs

a. **Relation to Man.** Reduviid or cone-nose bugs of several genera, *Panstrongylus*, *Rhodnius*, and *Triatoma*, are important to man as vectors of the protozoan parasite, *Trypanosoma cruzi*, which causes Chagas' disease or American Trypanosomiasis. These insects occur in South and Central America, Mexico, and in the Southwestern United States. The infected insect bites man, defecates during feeding or soon afterward, and the infected feces is introduced into the bite by scratching or rubbing. Infection can also take place through contamination of the conjunctive, mucous membranes, wounds, or scratches.

b. **Biological Characteristics.** Human biting reduviid bugs are nocturnal, blood-sucking insects that are about 13-19 mm (1/2-3/4 in) in length. The anterior half of the wing is leathery and the posterior half membranous; the head is cone-shaped with a proboscis divided into three sections which are folded under, between the front legs; and the abdomen is flared out and upward to form a depression for wings. The stages of the life cycle consist of an egg, nymph, and adult. The nymphs are similar to the adults except for being smaller and having underdeveloped or partially developed wings. The eggs are barrel-shaped and are deposited in dusty corners of houses or in nests and burrows of animal hosts. The young nymphs hatch from the eggs to obtain blood meals from their hosts

and shed their skins, developing into larger nymphs in the process. This is repeated through five nymphal stages to the adult stage. The entire life cycle requires 1-2 years. The normal hosts of these insects include rodents, bats, armadillos, and sloths. To man, their bite is usually painless and will not disturb a sleeping person. There is usually no reaction to the bite, but in some cases bitten individuals have experienced symptoms of dizziness, nausea, and intense itching on various parts of the body.

c. **Control.** Destruction of reduviid bugs is difficult. Screening and otherwise making dwellings insect proof can prevent their invasions. Nests of wood rats and other host animals should be eliminated in the general area of dwellings, particularly under structures. For chemical control, suspensions or emulsions should be used as a residual treatment on the interior walls and floors. Shelters or huts with palm-thatched roofs should be avoided as bivouac areas.

## 8-44. Rodents, Shipboard And Ashore

a. **General.** Rodents have associated with man for ages. Several species are particularly well suited for specialized conditions found both aboard ship and ashore. The distribution of rodents is worldwide; consequently, the problem of control presents itself during operations in any geographical location.

b. **Relation to Man.** Rodents such as rats, mice, and ground squirrels may serve as reservoirs for plague, endemic typhus, tularemia, and other debilitating diseases. The problem of contamination of supplies and direct property damage by rodents may also be considered.

c. **Important Species.** The semi-wild forms, which live in the jungles, forests, and wastelands, have little or no contact with man and are relatively unimportant in rodent control. However, military operations and occupation may change this situation. The most important rodents from the medical and economical viewpoint are:

(1) **Norway Rat.** The Norway, brown or gray rat, *Rattus norvegicus*, is a comparatively large animal, weighing approximately 280-480 gm (10-17 oz), with a tail that does not exceed the combined length of head and body. This rat is present wherever human activity creates suitable harborages and there is an adequate food supply. It prefers to burrow for nesting and is mainly found in basements, embankments, on lower floors of buildings, in drains and sewer lines, and in the holds and decks of ships. Preferred foods include meat, fish, or flesh mixed with a diet of grains, vegetables, and fruit. In the absence of these, any foodstuffs may be eaten.

(2) **Roof Rat.** The gray bellied, Alexandrian or roof rat, *Rattus rattus alexandrinus* is a good climber and may be found living in trees, vines, building lofts, overhead wiring, and upper decks of ships. The body is generally elongated, the ears are long and the tail exceeds the combined length of the head and body. There are many color and body-type variations. The black or ship rat, *Rattus rattus*, a subspecies variant of the roof rat, *Rattus rattus alexandrinus*, is an excellent climber and is frequently found on ships. These rats prefer seeds, cereals, vegetables, fruit and grass, but may subsist on leather goods, chocolate, and even weaker members of its own kind.

(3) **House Mouse.** The house mouse, *Mus musculus*, is commonly associated with man and may cause serious damage to foodstuffs and other valuable materials. Various species of field mice may on occasion enter habitations in search of food and shelter, but they do not present a major problem.

d. **Control and Prevention of Rodents Ashore.** Rodent control programs should include elimination of food and shelter, rodent proofing of structures, use of rodenticides, and glue boards and snap traps.

(1) **Elimination of Food and Shelter.** Proper handling of food and prompt disposal of garbage keeps food from being available and is important in rodent control programs. Food storage structures should be completely rodent-proofed. All supplies should be stockpiled on elevated platforms so that no concealed spaces exist. Garbage should be put in tightly covered containers, which should be placed on concrete slabs or platforms, and the area should be frequently and carefully policed. If wet garbage must be placed in landfills, the refuse should be completely covered to prevent its use as a feeding source for rodents.

(2) **Rodent Proofing.** Rodent proofing is not generally feasible for troops in the field. However, where structures are built, all necessary openings should be covered with 28 gauge, 95 mm (3/8 in) mesh galvanized hardware cloth, doors should be self-closing, tight-fitting, and if giving access to galleys and food storage rooms, equipped with metal flashing along the base. Walls and foundation should be of solid construction.

(3) **Rodenticides.** For destruction of rodents in camp areas, the use of rodenticides can be effective. Because most rodenticides are toxic to man and domestic animals, they should be used only by appropriately trained personnel. Single dose anticoagulant compounds are the rodenticides of choice under most conditions. These materials prevent blood clotting and cause capillary damage, which leads in most cases to internal hemorrhage, resulting in death. At concentrations recommended for rodent control, most anticoagulant agents are not detectable or objectionable to rodents. Brodifacoum and bromadiolone are two examples of single dose anticoagulants.

(a) Adequate exposure to anti-coagulant baits is contingent on the establishment of a sufficient number of protected bait stations. This can be accomplished by placing tamper-proof bait boxes in rooms or areas where there is a potential for rodent activity. Every container of poisoned bait should be labeled POISON with red paint in English and in the local language if in a non-English speaking area.

(b) The frequency of bait station inspections and bait replenishments depend upon the degree of infestation encountered. The length of time required for rodent control will vary generally from 1 week to a month depending upon the availability of alternative food supplies and other factors.

(c) Baits should be kept dry during use to maintain maximum acceptability and toxicity. Where premises are particularly vulnerable to reinvasion, it is often practical to maintain tamper-proof bait stations after control has been attained. Maintenance of control is obtainable as long as sufficient bait is maintained.

(d) In tropical and semitropical areas where rodent infestation is commonplace and not confined to buildings, control efforts must include areas surrounding the buildings. Basically, the same exposure technique should be used in employing baits for indoor control. The main difference is that a larger number of bait placements should be made in areas where the rodents are known to feed.

**(4) Snap Traps and Glue Boards.** These have shown to be effective in markedly reducing infestations when placed properly in the area of rodent activity. Placement should be the same for both types of rodent traps. It is frequently effective to use snap traps in conjunction with glue boards.

(a) Rodents, being creatures of habit will frequently avoid the traps as new items in the environment. Tests show that within 2-3 days, these traps are accepted as part of the environment. This technique is especially effective if the traps are unset and baited with food. Bait the traps with food items the rodents have been observed feeding on in the area of the infestations. All trap baits should be wrapped in 5 cm (2 in) gauze squares before attachment to the trigger to prevent removal of the bait without springing the trap. This is when the traps should be set to spring, not before. The catch is usually excellent the first and second nights.

(b) Traps should be tied to overhead pipes, beams or wires, nailed to rafters, or otherwise secured wherever black greasy rub marks indicate runways.

(c) On the ground, rodents normally run close to the walls. Consequently, the traps should be set at right angles to the rodent runways with the trigger pans toward the bulkhead. Boxes and crates should be positioned to create passageways where the rodents must pass over the traps. They also should be placed so as not to be visible from the passageway entrance.

(d) Although unbaited traps with the trigger pan enlarged with a piece of cardboard or lightweight metal may be used in narrow runways, trapping is usually more effective when accomplished with baited triggers. Preferred trap baits vary with the area and species of rodent involved, and include bacon rind, nuts, fresh coconut, peanut butter, raw vegetables, and bread or oatmeal dipped in bacon grease.

(e) Service all traps regularly to remove rodents and replace the bait.

(f) For infestations not controlled by trapping, contact a Navy entomologist or applied biologist.

**e. Control and Prevention of Rodents Aboard Ship.** Shipboard rodent control programs should include proper sanitation, pierside inspections, use of rat guards, illumination and movement restrictions, and glue boards and snap traps.

(1) **Sanitation.** The elimination of food and shelter through proper handling of food and prompt disposal of garbage and rubbish will reduce the attractiveness of the ship to rodents.

(2) **Pierside Inspections.** Inspections of all subsistence items and cargo for rodent signs, such as droppings, hair, and gnawing or live rodents are essential in attempting to maintain a rodent free ship.

(3) **Use of Rat Guards.** Foreign quarantine regulations require that rat guards be used by naval vessels when berthing in ports where plague is endemic to prevent introduction of rodents on the ship. Rat guards should be a minimum of 36 inches in diameter and mounted at least 6 feet from the closest point to the shore or 2 feet from the ship. Specific Atlantic and Pacific Fleet instructions apply.

(4) **Illumination and Movement Restrictions.** Rodents are basically nocturnal. Therefore, gangways and landing ramps shall be well lighted at night to discourage rodent movement aboard. Gangways and other means of access to the vessel shall be separated from the shore by at least 1.8 m (6 ft) unless guarded to prevent rodent movement. Cargo nets are similar devices extending between the vessel and shore and must be raised or removed when not in actual use.

(5) **Rodent Control.** Glue boards and snap traps are the method of choice for rodent infestations aboard ship. The methods on ship are the same as that ashore. On the deck, glue boards or snap traps should be set behind objects that are stacked close to a bulkhead, along rows of boxes, and between crates and barrels forming runways. The traps should be set at right angles with the trigger end toward the bulkhead. They should be tied or nailed down to prevent an injured rodent from crawling off. All trap baits should be wrapped in 5 cm (2 in) gauze squares before attachment to the trigger to prevent removal of the bait without springing the trap.

(6) **Deratization Certification.** A certificate of Deratization (rat-free) or a Deratization Exemption Certificate is required for naval vessels entering most foreign ports. Requirements for this certification are detailed in BUMEDINST 6250.14 series, Procurement of Deratting/Deratting Exemption Certificates.

#### 8-45. Insect Control on Submarines

a. **General.** The exclusion and sanitation measures detailed for insect control on surface vessels apply for submarines. However, eradication of an established infestation presents a special problem because repeated residual treatments with insecticides may produce undesirable air contamination.

b. **Residual Insecticides.** In most cases, the use of residual insecticides is the method of choice for insect control in submarines. However, residual insecticide application is authorized only when in port and when outboard ventilation for a minimum 24 hours is possible. Residual insecticides authorized for use on submarines are:

(1) Combat TM bait stations can be used for cockroach control aboard submarines while underway. The bait is odorless and nonvolatile, and does not produce air contamination. It is contained in a tamper-proof bait station that prevents exposure or accidental contact. It is low in toxicity to humans and safe for use around sensitive electronic equipment.

(2) Synthetic pyrethroid (2.0% d-Phenothrin) is a low-pressure aerosol in a hand held, non-refillable container. This material can be used as both a flushing agent to determine the extent of cockroach infestations and a residual crack and crevice treatment. D-Phenothrin can be used only when the boat is in port and is not expected to submerge for a period of 24 hours after application. The boat's exhaust air must either be discharged overboard or used by the engines for a period of 24 hours following application.

(3) Insecticides and equipment must *not* be transported or stored on submarines, with the exception of Combat bait stations (up to 144 stations may be onboard). The respective submarine tenders maintain a supply of insecticide and insecticide dispersal equipment.

(4) Personnel responsible for application and storage of materials must be certified pest control operators as per BUMEDINST 6250.12 series.

**8-46. Common Venomous Arthropods**

a. **General.** Injury produced by venomous arthropods is more common than generally realized. Millions of people in the United States are affected by these arthropods each year. About 25,000 of these envenomizations result in severe injury and about 30 result in death. This mortality contrasts markedly to the usual 14 deaths per year that are caused by poisonous reptiles. Clinical manifestations associated with envenomization include anaphylactic shock, hemolysis, necrosis, paralysis, cardiopulmonary dysfunction, allergenic asthma, and antigen induced dermatologic manifestations.

b. **Venoms.** Venoms produced by arthropods are mixtures of four toxic types: vesicating (blister beetles), neurotoxic (black widow spiders), cytolytic (brown recluse spider), and hemolytic (horse flies).

c. **Venomous Arthropods of Importance**

(1) **Centipedes.** Centipedes are fast moving, dorsoventrally flat, elongate arthropods having one pair of legs per body segment. All centipedes contain venom-producing glands that are connected by tubes to claws that are modified appendages on the first body segment. The potential for these arthropods to inflict injury on man is contingent on the size of the claw and its ability to penetrate the skin. Injected venom causes a considerable amount of pain, but rarely death. When death occurs, it is believed to be a result of an anaphylactic reaction. The wound should be disinfected and a medical officer consulted.

(2) **Millipedes.** These arthropods are slow moving, rounded, elongated arthropods with two pairs of legs per body segment. Many millipedes exude a vesicating fluid and may cause injury to persons handling them. Some are capable of squirting vesicating venom some distance and may cause severe injury to the eyes as well as the skin.

(3) **Scorpions.** Scorpions are venomous arachnids that rarely sting man, and then, only when provoked. Although few species are deadly, all stings should be considered dangerous because of the hemolytic and neurotoxic venom properties. The signs and symptoms associated with these stings vary with species and may include tachypnea, tachycardia, nausea, glycosuria, epigastric pain and tenderness, excessive salivation, slurred speech, tissue discoloration, and necrosis. The ground scorpions have a predominantly hemolytic toxin that is generally associated with swelling and except in the young, old or debilitated, death is uncommon. On the other hand, the venom of bark scorpions has a dominant neurotoxin that does not cause swelling and is more often associated with death.

(4) **Spiders.** Spiders are venomous arachnids and in most cases are considered to be beneficial because they feed on other arthropods. Bites of black or brown widow spiders (*Latrodectus mactans* and *Latrodectus geometricus* respectively), and the brown recluse spider, *Loxosceles reclusa*, are serious and of considerable medical importance. The venom of the *Latrodectus* spp. is strongly neurotoxic, causing severe symptoms of extreme pain, abdominal cramping, profuse perspiration, respiratory distress, and speech inhibition. Only 5 percent of untreated cases are fatal. The venom of *L. reclusa* is strongly hemolytic and vesicating, causing progressive tissue necrosis.

(5) **Blister Beetle.** When these beetles are touched, they exude a drop of vesicating fluid through the membranes of the appendage joints. The active ingredient of this fluid is cantharidin. Upon dermal contact, this fluid causes formation of serious blisters that eventually break, the released fluids causing satellite blisters. Bacterial secondary infection is common. Medical attention for affected individuals is considered important.

(6) **Hymenopterous Insects.** Member species of bees, wasps, yellow jackets, hornets, and ants are high in number and are the most

common sources of serious envenomization. The stings of these insects can be quite painful. Although the composition of hymenopterans venoms varies, most of them have a predominantly hemolytic factor associated with a smaller fraction of neurotoxin. Reactions between individuals exposed to a specific venom may vary considerably. For example, a bee sting may cause no effect or it may precipitate death. A serious manifestation of hymenopteran hypersensitivity is anaphylactic shock occasionally accompanied by regurgitation, encopresis, enuresis, rapid decrease in blood pressure, atypically slow pulse, prostration, debilitation and possibly death.

(7) **Caterpillars.** Caterpillars, the immature form of many species of Lepidoptera, may cause mild to severe contact dermatitis, nodular conjunctivitis, respiratory pain, headache and convulsions by injecting hemolytic venom into the skin by the tiny stinging (urticating) hairs that cover their bodies. These hairs may be present on not only the caterpillars, but on the egg covers, cocoons, and adults. The hairs may become airborne after being broken off, or be present in soil after the exoskeleton has been shed or the caterpillar is killed. An association with hairs from these sources can cause pulmonary inflammation and edema and/or dermal involvement. Injury by urticating caterpillars is seasonal, usually occurs in the spring, and is most common among children playing in trees or shrubbery. The most important species of these caterpillars in the United States are the puss caterpillar, *Megalopyge opercularis*; saddleback caterpillar, *Sibine stimulea*; range caterpillar *Hemileuca olivariae*; crinkled flannel moth, *Lagoa crispata*; and the slug caterpillar, *Adoneta spinuloides*. Tape can be used to mechanically remove imbedded hairs or spines.

(8) **Allergens.** Insect allergens may be a significant causative factor in clinical allergic respiratory involvement, especially of the seasonal type, as shown by skin test reactions to insect extracts. Some insects associated with clinical conditions include mayflies and fungus gnats, which may cause asthma; caddisflies, which may

cause asthma and coryza; and bees, which occasionally precipitate hypersensitive airborne particles. Aphids, beetles, and house flies may cause allergic rhinitis or asthma. Stored food insects may be a significant factor in mite dust allergy, while household insects may be a causative factor in house dust allergy.

d. **First Aid for Envenomization.** First aid for envenomization depends upon the nature of the venom, but the following general procedures are recommended:

(1) Take the victim to a physician immediately. If this is not possible, call a physician immediately for advice.

(2) If marked swelling or discoloration occurs at the site of envenomization, the venom is probably hemolytic, hemorrhagic, or vesicating. Keep the victim warm and quiet until a physician is consulted.

(3) If little or no swelling or discoloration occurs at the site of envenomization, the venom is probably neurotoxic. Apply ice to the site or, if possible, immerse the affected part of the body in ice water. Do not let the measures delay getting the victim to a physician.

(4) A physician must be reached if anaphylactic shock symptoms appear. During transportation or until medical assistance arrives, treat the patient symptomatically.

e. **Treatment of Envenomization.** Treatment of envenomization varies with the type of envenomization and the nature and severity of the symptoms. Neurotoxic envenomization is treated with specific antivenoms or with intravenously injected gluconate, epinephrine or adrenaline. Cytolytic envenomization often requires prolonged symptomatic treatment. Hemorrhagic envenomization, when severe, is treated with vitamin K. Urtication is treated by washing the skin with a bactericidal soap and a course cloth to remove any remaining hairs. Administer antihistamines. Vesicating envenomization is treated by draining

the blisters with a sterile hypodermic needle, followed by application of magnesium sulfate compresses, and careful disinfection of the blisters to prevent secondary infection. Anaphylactic shock is treated by use of a tourniquet and subcutaneous injections of epinephrine. Allergic reactions are treated symptomatically with antihistaminic, adrenergic, spasmolytic, and anticholinergic drugs.

f. **Prevention of Envenomization.** Prevention of envenomization differs with the species of arthropod involved. The best technique is education, especially of children, to avoid venomous forms. The information given should be pertinent to the biology of the venomous species. For example, individuals hypersensitive to stinging Hymenoptera should wear light colored, smooth fabrics, and avoid leather or suede. It is advisable to keep hair covered, avoid scented cosmetics, stand still when approached by bees, wasps, or hornets, and confine outdoor activity as much as possible to times when temperatures are below 15.6 degrees C. (60 degrees F.).

g. **Control of Venomous Arthropods.** Specific residual insecticides are recommended for control of venomous arthropods. However, control of infestations of venomous species frequently requires special considerations because of their diverse nesting habits. Consequently, it is recommended that the area entomologist be consulted when control measures are being considered.

#### 8-47. Use of Repellents

a. **Purposes.** Most repellents act as contact materials, keeping insects from biting when they touch the protective chemical with their mouthparts or feet. Some repellents may be sufficiently volatile so that insects refrain from coming close to the treated surface. Repellents may be used as undiluted liquid concentrates or formulated as solutions, emulsions, creams, lotions, powders, solid stick forms, or aerosols. Repellents offer protection from bites of mosquitoes, blackflies, biting gnats, biting midges,

and fleas and may provide some protection against ticks, larval and adult mites. Repellents are designed primarily to repel biting insects and are not generally effective against the venomous arthropods.

b. **Protection Time.** The period of effectiveness of repellents varies with environmental conditions, concentration of the active ingredient, arthropod species, and activity of the treated person. Repellents are removed from the skin by absorption, evaporation, abrasion and dilution by perspiration. Consequently, the period of effectiveness is considerably reduced through strenuous activity, especially in warm humid weather. Clothing repellents may remain effective for several weeks depending on leaching due to washing, dry cleaning, rainfall, and perspiration among other factors.

#### c. Personal Application Repellents

(1) **Lotion.** Insect repellent, Personal Application, 3M, NSN 6840-00-284-3982. This repellent is packaged in 2 oz. tubes and contains 33 percent DEET. This lotion may damage lacquer, paint, and some plastics. A small quantity is squeezed from the tube into the palm of the hand. The palms of the hands are rubbed lightly together with a washing motion and rubbing then covers the arms. If long-sleeved shirts are worn, the repellent should be applied to the underside of the arms and under the cuff. Additional repellent is then placed into the palm and the procedure is repeated, carefully applying repellent to the exposed areas of the body. The repellent will cause a burning/drying sensation if allowed to contact mucous membranes; consequently, repellents should *not* be applied near the eyes or the lips. Continued exposure of repellents in the folds of the axilla, elbow, and knee will often produce dermal irritation in hot, humid conditions. The back of the neck, ears, and the hairline should be coated carefully. It is important that if a shirt is being worn, that the repellent be especially applied to the neck under the collar and particularly low on the neck if a collar is lacking. Any dermal area

that is not treated is subject to attack. When DEET is used, supplementary applications may be necessary every 6 to 10 hours, depending upon loss through sweating, wading in streams, contact with wet foliage, and similar activities.

**(2) Clothing Application Repellents.**

Permethrin clothing-applied repellent may be applied by aerosol can, NSN 6840-01-278-1336, or as an emulsifiable concentrate, NSN 6840-01-334-2666. Material is applied by sprayer to the outer surface of clothing. All individuals may apply the aerosol; only a DOD certified pesticide applicator may apply the concentrate. On clothing, permethrin remains effective for up to 6 clothes washings with the aerosol formulation and up to the life of the clothes (1 year of field battle dress uniform use) for the emulsifiable concentrate formulation. Used in combination with DEET and

with the proper wear of the uniform (sleeves down, collar buttoned), permethrin clothing treatment provides the most effective means of pre-venting bites from most bloodsucking arthropods.

d. **Additional Information on Personal Repellent Use.** Information can be found in the Armed Forces Pest Management Board Technical Guide No. 24, Contingency Pest Management Pocket Guide, this guide is available at: [http://www.cdmha.org/toolkit/cdmha-rltk/PUBLICATIONS/tim24\\_25jul2000.pdf](http://www.cdmha.org/toolkit/cdmha-rltk/PUBLICATIONS/tim24_25jul2000.pdf); and Armed Forces Pest Management Board Technical Guide No. 36, Personal Protective Measures Against Insects and Other Arthropods of Military Significance, this guide is available at: [http://www.afpmb.org/coweb/guidance\\_targets/ppms/TG36/TG36.htm](http://www.afpmb.org/coweb/guidance_targets/ppms/TG36/TG36.htm).