MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION


1. REFERENCES.
   c. Joint Culinary Center of Excellence (JCCoE) Implementation of Army G-4 Shelf Life Extension policy Guidance for Army-Owned Operational Rations, 4 March 2013 (Encl 2).
   d. Department of Defense Veterinary Service Activity Implementation Instructions for Department of the Army-Owned Operational Rations (OPRATS) Shelf Life Extension Policy, 13 March 2013 (Encl 3).

2. PURPOSE. To provide additional guidance to USAPHC veterinary food inspection personnel on the inspection and shelf-life extension of OPRATS.

3. APPLICABILITY. The below procedures will be followed by all personnel within the Veterinary Services Portfolio of the Army Institute of Public Health (AIPH) (i.e., all Veterinary Services personnel assigned or attached to the USAPHC performing the below-specified missions).

4. RESPONSIBILITIES. USAPHC commanders at all levels will ensure widest dissemination of and compliance with this memorandum.

5. PROCEDURES.
   a. Inspections.
      (1) Veterinary food inspection (VFI) personnel will perform an inspection to determine further disposition within 30 days of the OPRATS’ inspection test date (ITD).
(2) For rations found to be serviceable, VFIs must make a statement in the ‘Narrative Comments’ section of the DLA Troop Support Form 5117 (supplemented by a MEDCOM Form 817, if requested by the accountable officer) directing immediate use of OPRATS found to be fit for issue and continued storage. Rations will be extended IAW paragraph b. below. At the end of the extension period, (upon request) VFIs will provide the accountable officer a DA Form 7538 stating that “the rations are unfit for their intended purpose IAW JCCoE memo.” No further veterinary food inspection action will be taken on any Army-owned operational rations that have exceeded their extension period.

(3) For rations found to be unserviceable, VFIs will provide a completed DA Form 7538 with the appropriate block marked that indicates that the subsistence items inspected are found to be either unfit for their intended purpose or unfit for human consumption. No further veterinary food inspection action will be taken on lots of subsistence. Army-owned rations found to be unfit for human consumption will additionally be entered into the Army Food Management Information System (AFMIS).

(4) Although the most important goal is to ensure that the rations are wholesome, VFIs are reminded that during organoleptic evaluation of the rations to use monographs and item descriptions, as applicable, to assist in identifying deteriorating conditions.

b. Shelf-life extensions.

(1) Meals Ready-to-Eat (MREs) and other individual OPRATS can be extended under normal circumstances for up to but no longer than, six (6) months past their original ITD. Every attempt should be made to issue these individual rations before the end of the new extension.

(2) Unitized Group Rations (UGR) Heat and Serve, and Express may be extended under normal circumstances for up to, but no longer than, 90 days past their original ITD.

(3) Semi-perishable components of UGRAs may be extended for no more than 90 days past their original ITD; its frozen components may be extended for no more than 45 days past their original ITD.

6. SUPERSESSION NOTICE. This is a new policy.
MCHB-IP-V

7. Point of contact is AIPH Food Protection Program, at DSN 867-2627, commercial 410-417-2627, email: usarmyapg.medcom-phc.mbx.iph-vet@mail.mil.

FOR THE DIRECTOR:

Encls
1. Dep of Army Memo
2. Joint Culinary Center Memo
3. DODVSA Memo

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ROBERT G. WEBB
COL, VC
Director, Veterinary Services Portfolio
DALO-SUF

SUBJECT: Over-Aged Operational Ration Extension Policy for Army Owned Rations

1. Operational rations owned by Army that have met or exceeded the Inspection Test Date (ITD) will be allowed a one-time extension provided by Veterinary Food Inspectors.

2. Authorized guidelines to request an extension for US Army Veterinary Service is as follows:

   (a) For Meals Ready-to-Eat and other individual operational rations, foodservice management personnel will request an extension no longer than six months.

   (b) Perishable products no more than 45 days.

   (c) Semi-perishable products no more than 90 days.

3. Foodservice management personnel will request a Subsistence Serviceability Certificate at the end of the extended shelf life from Veterinary Service.

4. Foodservice personnel will discard all commercial items in modules with an expired open code date and transfer usable items to dining facilities for immediate consumption at the end of the shelf life extension.

5. Foodservice management personnel must remain vigilant and aware of rations exposed to extreme temperature fluctuations which will shorten the shelf life. This will jeopardize the quality and accelerate a Vet inspection prior to the ITD.

6. Theater Food Advisors and Senior Veterinary personnel will coordinate for exception on issues related to OPTEMPO, stock levels and food risk evaluation when low inventory status is in question.

John C. Skelly
DAC, GS-15
Acting Chief, Food Liquid Logistics, and Field Services Division

Encl 1
MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

4 March 2013

ATSM-CES

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Joint Culinary Center of Excellence (JCoE) Implementation of Army G-4 Shelf Life Extension Policy Guidance for Army Owned Operational Rations.

1. References:
   a. AR 30-22, Army Food Program, 24 July 2012
   b. DA Pamphlet 30-22, Operating Procedures for the Army Food Program

2. Purpose. This memorandum mandates implementation and provides clarification for the 20 November 2012 Department of the Army G-4, Over-Aged Operational Ration Extension Policy for Army Owned Rations. This memorandum applies to all foodservice personnel worldwide that are responsible for Army Owned Rations.

3. Procedures.
   a. The Joint Culinary Center of Excellence is providing guidance on the handling of over-aged operational rations (OPRATS) once they have met their Inspection Test Date (ITD). The Army G-4 has authorized a one-time extension for Army Owned OPRATS that have exceeded their Inspection Test Date (ITD).

   b. Foodservice management personnel requesting shelf life extensions from the US Army Veterinary Service must follow the guidance provided in this memorandum and the policy referenced from above. The following instructions are to be followed:

      (1) Meals Ready-to-Eat (MREs) and other individual OPRATS can be extended under normal circumstances for up to but no longer than six (6) months past their original ITD. During their six (6) month extension every attempt should be made to issue these individual rations before the end of their shelf life extension.

      (2) Unitized Group Rations (UGR) Heat and Serve and UGR-Express can also be extended under normal circumstances for up to but no longer than 90 days past their original ITD.
ATSM-CES

SUBJECT: Joint Culinary Center of Excellence (JCCoE) Implementation of Army G-4 Shelf Life Extension Policy Guidance for Army Owned Operational Rations

(3) UGR-A's semiperishable components can be extended for no more than 90 days and its frozen component should not be extended for more than 45 days from their original ITD.

c. Based on the Army G-4 policy a Subsistence Serviceability Certificate will be requested from Veterinary Services at the end of product shelf life extensions. Once the Serviceability Certificate is received Foodservice management personnel will follow the below guidance:

(1) Meals Ready-to-Eat (MREs) and other individual OPRATS. Follow procedures outlined in DA PAM 30-22, paragraph 5-69 (Unfit subsistence) and 5-70 (Disposal procedures).

(2) Unitized Group Rations (UGR). Ensure foodservice personnel attempt to salvage all usable closed coded items and discard all other commercial items in the modules with an expired open code date. Then coordinate transfer of usable food and non-food components to Dining Facilities (DFACs) for immediate consumption and or use. For example, closed coded #10 cans of vegetables and serviceable paper products. Follow procedures outlined in DA PAM 30-22, and paragraphs referenced above for all non usable items.

4. Exceptions to this policy will be coordinated through the Joint Culinary Center of Excellence, Quality Assurance Division.

5. POC for this action is Mr. Rick Byrd, Chief, Quality Assurance Division, at 804-734-3366.

Encl
Army G-4 Memo

DAVID P. STAPLES
DOO, GS-14
ACES OD, JCCoE

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Shelf Life Extension Policy Guidance for Army Owned Operational Rations

CF: (CONT)
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USAREUR, G-4 (w/encl)
USARPAC, G-4 (w/encl)
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8th ARMY, G-4 (w/encl)
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE VETERINARY SERVICE ACTIVITY (w/encl)
MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: US Army Veterinary Services Implementation Instructions for Department of the Army Operational Rations (OPRATS) Shelf Life Extension Policy

1. References.

   a. AR 30-22, Army Food Program, 24 July 2012.

   b. AR 40-656, Veterinary Surveillance Inspection of Subsistence, 28 August 2006.

   c. AR 40-657, Veterinary/Medical Food Safety, Quality Assurance, and Laboratory Service, 21 January 2005.


   e. Joint Culinary Center of Excellence (JCCoE) Implementation of Army G-4 Shelf Life Extension policy Guidance for Army Owned Operational rations, 4 March 2013.

2. This policy applies worldwide to all US Army Veterinary service units, for inspection of Army owned OPRATS only.

3. The requirements found in reference e, (see encl) will be adhered to for extending Army owned OPRATS, with the following additional guidance:

   a. When OPRATS reach their inspection test date (ITD), veterinary service inspection personnel will inspect the OPRATS and determine further disposition.

      (1) The ITD stated in paragraph 3.a, is the date marked on the case at the assembler. This ITD will not be re-calculated based on controlled atmospheric storage. For Army owned rations, the ITD marked on the case is the ITD to be used when providing extensions.

      (2) If the OPRATS are found unwholesome, a DA 7538, Subsistence Serviceability Certificate, will be issued condemning them as "Unfit for Human Consumption". Inspection results will be entered into AFMIS.
DODVSA
SUBJECT: US Army Veterinary Service Implementation Instructions for Department of the Army Operational Rations (OPRATS) Shelf Life Extension Policy

(3) If the OPRATS are found wholesome, the shelf life extensions required in reference e will be applied, and a MEDCOM form 817 will be issued, directing immediate use of the rations.

b. For Meals Ready to Eat & Individual Rations (MRE and IR): At the end of the extension period, food service Accountable Officers will request DA 7538. The DA 7538 will be completed as "Unfit for Intended Use", IAW reference e. At that point, these MRE and IR are disposed of IAW DA Pam 30-22, Paragraph 5-69-70, without further Veterinary Service inspections. If prior inspection has not been conducted IAW paragraph 3.a.(1). above, MRE and IR will be inspected and if found unwholesome, a DA 7538, Subsistence Serviceability Certificate, will be issued condemning them as "Unfit for Human Consumption". Inspection results will be entered into AFMIS.

c. For Unitized Group Rations (UGR): At the end of the extension period, food service Accountable Officers will request DA 7538. The DA 7538 will be completed as "Unfit for Intended Use" IAW reference e. UGR will be salvaged, and useable food and non-food components will be issued to DFACs for immediate use. Open dated and distressed components will be disposed of IAW DA Pam 30-22, Paragraph 5-69-70, without further Veterinary Service inspections. For OCONUS UGR, the MEDCOM 817 will be annotated with the following statement: "These rations are not suitable for shipping back to CONUS."

4. This policy will be reviewed and updated annually by the undersigned.

5. Point of contact for this action is Mr. Michael Killian, 210-808-2872, or michael.p.killian.civ@mail.mil

3 Encls
1. JCCoE Implementation Letter
2. G4 OPRATS Memo
3. Flow Chart

BOB E. WALTERS
COL, VC
Director, Department of Defense
Veterinary Service Activity
DODVSA

SUBJECT: US Army Veterinary Service Implementation Instructions for Department of the Army Operational Rations (OPRATS) Shelf Life Extension Policy

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USARPAC Veterinarian
21 MAR 2013

Rations Reach ITD

Veterinary Service Inspects

Unwholesome

Condemn; issue DA 7538 for unwholesomeness; enter into AFMIS.

Wholesome

* MREs & Individual Rations (MRE & IR): At end of extension period, Accountable officer will request DA 7538 Unfit for Intended Use IAW JCCoE memo. MRE & IR are disposed of IAW DA Pam 30-22, Paragraph 5-69-70, without further Veterinary Service inspections.

Extend to limits IAW JCCoE memo; VETS will issue MEDCOM 817 directing immediate use.

* Unitized Group Rations (UGRs): At end of extension period, Accountable officer will request DA 7538 Unfit for Intended Use IAW JCCoE memo. UGRs will be salvaged and useable food and non-food components will be issued to DFACs for immediate use. Open dated and distressed components will be disposed IAW DA Pam 30-22, Paragraph 5-69-70, without further Veterinary Service inspections.

Additional Guidance.

Applies to Army Owned operational rations only.

Immediate use correlates to disposition instructions found in AR 40-656, Appendix C.

For OCONUS Rations, the MEDCOM 817 will be annotated with the following statement: "These rations are not suitable for shipping back to CONUS."