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**NUCLEAR WEAPONS EFFECTS AND
RESPONSES CASUALTY AND
DAMAGE ASSESSMENT FOR
EXERCISES**

**Edition D Version 1
JANUARY 2016**



NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

ALLIED EXERCISE PUBLICATION

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CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. Purpose

This publication provides, for exercises and training ONLY, simplified nuclear casualty and damage data and procedures for use in making an assessment of the probable results of an enemy nuclear attack on friendly targets.

1.2. Scope

1. Ten representative weapon yields and a wide range of targets have been included in this publication for use by personnel of land, air and naval forces in a wide variety of situations.
2. The data and procedures in this publication have been kept as simple as possible in order to facilitate field use. While in some respects, the data in this publication are similar in appearance to data used by target analysts concerned with offensive weapons employment, these data are not suitable for such use and must not be used for weapon employment purposes.

1.3. Assumption

It is assumed that users of this publication are familiar with the effects of nuclear weapons and the contents of the reference documents listed in the covering STANAG.

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CHAPTER 2 NUCLEAR WEAPONS

2.1. General

Employing nuclear weapons requires an understanding of their effects and target responses. Those effects of military interest that occur in the first minute are the initial effects. Those that occur after the first minute are residual effects. It may be hours or days before the consequences of some of these effects are known, and they may last for extended periods. AXP-06(D) provides summary descriptions of initial and residual effects from nuclear weapons and responses of personnel and equipment.

2.2. Nuclear Energy Partition

Nuclear explosions differ from conventional explosions in that both thermal and nuclear radiations are emitted as well as **blast. This energy, or yield, is measured in kilotons (KT), the energy released by 1,000 tons of TNT, or megatons (MT), the energy released by 1,000,000 tons of TNT.** Energy released by a nuclear weapon is typically in the form of X-rays, ultraviolet light, kinetic energy of debris, and nuclear radiation. At low altitudes, the X-rays and kinetic energy of the weapon debris heat the surrounding air to form a fireball and a shock wave. In the target area, most of the energy from a nuclear weapon detonation will appear as blast, thermal radiation and nuclear radiation.

2.3. Weapon Type

1. The partition of energy received by the target as blast, thermal radiation, and nuclear radiation depends primarily on whether the weapon uses fission or a combination of fission and fusion. Fission is the splitting of heavy atoms of uranium or plutonium. Fission produces neutrons, gamma rays, and radioactive fission products. Fusion is the combination of two light elements, typically hydrogen isotopes such as deuterium and tritium. Fusion produces neutrons as well as helium and hydrogen isotopes. Fusion is typically referred to as a thermonuclear process because it requires extremely high temperatures:

- a. Fission Weapons. Approximately 80 percent of the energy released is initially in the form of X-rays and ultraviolet light with the remainder being nuclear radiation and kinetic energy of debris. For bursts in the atmosphere, the X-rays and debris heat the surrounding air to form a fireball and shock wave. At the target, slightly more than 50 percent of the energy may appear as blast, about 35 percent as thermal radiation, and the remaining 15 percent as nuclear radiation (5 percent initial and

10 percent residual). Some fission weapons may be referred to as a boosted fission weapon. A boosted fission weapon contains a small amount of fusion in order to provide additional neutrons to improve the efficiency, thus yield, of the fission process; and

- b. Fission-Fusion Weapons. Fission-fusion weapons include thermonuclear and enhanced radiation (ER) weapons. The energy partition of a typical fission-fusion weapon is the same as for a fission weapon except there is less residual nuclear radiation per unit total yield. In an ER weapon, the neutrons produced by fusion are not intended to cause fission but rather to produce casualties or damage to a target. At the target, ER weapon energy typically divides into 30 percent blast, 20 percent thermal, and 50 percent nuclear radiation. Thus a 2 kiloton ER weapon will produce, approximately, the nuclear radiation of a 10 KT fission weapon and the blast and thermal radiation of a 1 KT fission device.

CHAPTER 3 EFFECTS

3.1. Blast

Air Blast. Peak overpressure and dynamic pressure (wind gust) from an airburst causes most of the materiel damage and a considerable fraction of the casualties. The magnitude of the air blast depends on the yield of the weapon, height of burst, and the distance from ground zero.

3.1.1. Pressures

Both overpressure and dynamic pressure vary with yield, with distance from the burst and with time at a fixed distance from the burst.

- a. Overpressure. Intensely hot gasses at extremely high pressures within the fireball expand to cause a blast wave in the air, moving outward at high velocities, and rising in pressure above ambient conditions (overpressure). The peak overpressure occurs at the leading edge, or shock front, of the blast wave. The peak overpressure steadily decreases with distance from the source. The pressure behind the shock front forms the negative phase of the blast wave, or under pressure. Initially, the velocity of the shock front is many times the speed of sound. However, as the front moves outward, it slows to the speed of sound and ultimately dissipates. The duration of a blast wave, the time that the blast wave takes to pass a fixed point, increases with distance.
- b. Dynamic Pressure. The force of the air accompanying the blast wave and the drag forces resulting from the associated winds are referred to as dynamic pressure. Dynamic pressure can cause damage by pushing or tumbling (translating) objects along the ground or by tearing targets apart.

3.1.2. Height of Burst (HOB) Influences

- a. Airburst (AB). The highest blast wave pressures are obtainable from lower altitude bursts; thus, low AB's may be employed against blast-resistant materiel targets. However, the blast wave from an AB is reflected by the earth's surface, which reinforces the incident (initial) blast wave. The magnitude of this reinforcement depends on the HOB. Thus, for large area targets not blast-resistant, a high AB will likely provide adequate area coverage.
- b. Surface Burst (SB). A SB produces less total air blast area coverage to most military targets than an AB because there is less reinforcement of the blast

wave, and because some of the weapon's energy is dissipated creating a crater and generating ground shock.

- c. Subsurface Burst (SSB). Except for very shallow SSB's, the air blast wave produced by buried bursts is weak compared to those from AB's and SB's. The amount of energy from SSB's going into air blast rather than crater formation and/or ground shock depends on the yield and depth of burst.

3.1.3. Modifying Influences

- a. Weather. Rain and fog may attenuate the blast wave in the low-overpressure region.
- b. Surface Conditions. Generally, smooth (ideal) surfaces such as thin layers of ice, snow, moist soil, and water do not modify the blast wave as a result of absorbed thermal energy. Overpressure is maximized for such surfaces. Conversely, non-ideal surfaces, thick, low, combustible vegetation, dry soils with sparse vegetation, and desert sand, absorb energy that creates a thermal layer. This layer corrupts the blast wave and results in greatly increased dynamic pressure or wind and less overpressure.
- c. Terrain. Compared to pressures at the same distance on flat terrain, pressures are greater on the forward slopes of steep hills and lower on reverse slopes. However, line-of-sight shielding is not dependable because blast waves bend or diffract around obstacles, such as small hills or folds in the ground. Hills may decrease dynamic pressure and offer some local protection from flying debris. Forests, in general, do not significantly affect overpressure but do lessen dynamic pressure.
- d. Urban Areas. Built-up areas are not expected to have a significant effect on the blast wave. Structures may provide some local shielding from flying debris. They can also increase pressures by channeling the blast wave.

3.1.4. Ground Shock and Cratering

When a nuclear weapon is detonated beneath, near, or on the surface, it forms a crater. This crater may be quite large depending on weapon yield, depth of burst, and soil characteristics. In rocky or cohesive soil, material thrown from the crater may range from a fraction of a pound to many tons. This ejected material poses a hazard to personnel, materiel, and structures. A portion of the burst energy is transmitted to the surrounding earth as a ground shock wave that travels radially outward through the earth. This ground shock wave attenuates much more rapidly than the air blast wave. Its actual attenuation depends heavily on the geology.

3.2. Thermal Radiation

Nuclear weapons detonated in the atmosphere emit thermal energy in two distinct pulses. The first pulse emits mostly x-ray and ultraviolet radiation and very little energy of the visible thermal type but heats the atmosphere to produce the second pulse. Approximately 20 percent of the total thermal energy is delivered by the time the second thermal pulse reaches its maximum intensity. The second pulse lasts nominally 10 times as long as it takes to reach its maximum intensity. It would be very difficult to take evasive action to prevent skin burns or flash blindness from bursts of less than a megaton in yield:

- a. Characteristics. Within the atmosphere thermal radiation travels at the speed of light, travels in straight lines, and can be scattered, reflected, and easily absorbed (attenuated);
- b. Modifying Influences:
 - (1) Weather. Any condition that significantly affects the visibility or the transparency of the air affects the transmission of thermal radiation, but clouds above the burst may reflect additional thermal radiation onto the target.
 - (2) Terrain. Large hills, trees, and any opaque object or material such as camouflage net or tent canvas may provide some line-of-sight protection to a target element. Trucks, buildings, or even another person may protect an individual from thermal radiation. Foxholes provide increased protection. However, reflections off buildings or other objects may still cause injuries. Highly reflecting surfaces may reflect heat onto the target, intensifying the thermal radiation effect. Even the backs and sides of open foxholes will reflect thermal energy.
 - (3) Height of Burst. The amount of thermal radiation that a surface target receives from a nuclear burst of a given yield varies with the HOB. The maximum thermal effect at the target will usually be produced by an AB. A SB produces about one-half the amount of the thermal radiation that an AB produces because of the interaction of the fireball with the surface. No significant thermal radiation is received from a subsurface burst where the fireball is not visible.

3.3. Nuclear Radiation

Nuclear radiation consists of neutrons, alpha and beta particles, and electromagnetic energy in the form of x-rays and gamma rays. The principal types are neutrons and gamma rays. As the neutrons travel through the air, they lose energy in collisions with air molecules, producing (secondary) gamma rays. Radioactive products of fission are also produced in a nuclear explosion. The radioactive decay of these fission products starts immediately

after the burst, producing alpha and beta particles, x-rays, and more gamma rays. Absorbed nuclear radiation is measured and expressed in the unit cGy (formerly the "RAD"). Dosimeters and other RADIAC meters may still be calibrated in RADs, but for practical military use they should be read directly in cGy. Nuclear radiation emitted in the first minute after the burst is initial radiation. The nuclear radiation emitted after the first minute is residual radiation:

- a. Initial Radiation. Neutrons and gamma rays have a long range in air and are highly penetrating. They are the main cause of casualties. X-ray effects do not dominate in the lower regions of the atmosphere:
 - (1) Characteristics. Initial nuclear radiation travels at or near the speed of light; a portion is absorbed and/or scattered by material through which it passes; the atmosphere scatters it enough so that, at ranges of normal interest, some initial nuclear radiation comes from all directions, and it can penetrate and cause damage to materiel and personnel. The initial gamma rays received at a target consist of the prompt gamma rays from fission, secondary gamma rays from collisions of neutrons with air molecules and delayed gamma rays from fission products. The prompt neutron and gamma radiation is received at the target essentially within a millisecond; the secondary gammas arrive at the target over times longer than a second. Delayed gammas arrive over tens of seconds.
 - (2) Modifying Influences. For a given HOB, the gamma ray and neutron radiation received by a target at a given range from Ground Zero (GZ)¹ depends directly on the yield. However, other factors affect these quantities:
 - (a) Air Density. As the HOB or the temperature of the air increases, the air density decreases, and initial nuclear radiation travels farther.
 - (b) Terrain. Major terrain features between personnel and the burst such as large hills and forests may provide significant protection, depending on the HOB and type of forest. Minor irregularities such as ditches, gullies, and small folds in the ground may offer a little protection.

¹ Ground Zero (GZ): the point on the earth's surface directly above or below a nuclear detonation.

- (c) Height of Burst. For surface and subsurface bursts, initial radiation is sharply attenuated by the surrounding ground.
- (d) Target Elevation. A target above the terrain receives more radiation than one on the surface at the same distance from the burst.
- (e) Shielding and Attenuation. People inside buildings, tanks, or foxholes will receive lower doses than they would in the open at the same distance from GZ. The ratio of the dose outside to the dose inside is called the protection factor. In actual operations, the protection factors for residual radiation should be determined from inside and outside dose rates measured in the field.

Protection Factor = Dose Outside/Dose Inside

- b. Residual Radiation. Radiological hazards on and near the ground are caused by neutron- induced radiation, fallout, rainout, and base surge. Alpha and beta particles must come in direct contact with the skin or be inhaled or ingested to be of significance:
 - (1) Neutron-Induced Radiation. Radioactive materials are produced by neutron capture within a relatively small circular pattern hundreds of meters in radius around GZ. The distance to which a dose rate of 2 cGy/hour extends 1 hour after the burst encloses the significant area. For yields of 1 megaton or less, the maximum horizontal radius of this dose rate contour is about 2,000 meters.
 - (2) Fallout. Fallout is usually found in a large, elongated pattern around and outward from GZ. Soil swept into the radioactive debris cloud from a near-surface, surface, or subsurface burst combines with the radioactive debris and creates a radioactive hazard when it falls to the ground. Fallout will occur whenever the nuclear fireball touches the ground. The heavier fallout particles start reaching the area around GZ shortly after a burst. The lighter particles reach the ground farther downwind at later times. The greatest fallout intensity is usually close to GZ. However, winds, precipitation, or unusual terrain features may create high-intensity hot spots and low-intensity areas. Changes in wind direction can subject some locations to long periods of fallout. Craters caused by surface and (shallow) subsurface bursts will be contaminated by neutron-induced radiation and residual radioactive fission products.

- (3) Fallout Safe Height of Burst (FSHOB). No military significant fallout will occur for a burst at or above the FSHOB. It is computed by one of the equations below in which W stands for safety² yield in kilotons.
 $W < 100 \text{ kT}$; $\text{FSHOB} = 30 (W^{1/3}) (\text{meters})$ or $W > 100 \text{ kT}$; $\text{FSHOB} = 55 (W^{1/3}) (\text{meters})$
- (4) Rainout. Rainout consists of radioactive debris in the atmosphere brought down by precipitation. Rainout may be more concentrated than fallout, and it may or may not cover GZ.
- (5) Base Surge. When a subsurface burst occurs, a dust and debris cloud called the base surge is formed at the surface of the earth around the debris stem. Radioactive dust and soil particles in the base surge cloud settle out and generally produce contamination in a circular pattern around GZ. The extent of contamination depends upon the depth of burst, soil type, and local wind conditions. Contamination from the base surge is not normally distinguished from main cloud fallout.
- (6) Common Characteristics. Neutron-induced radiation, fallout, base surge, and rainout persist for relatively long periods and decontamination is difficult and the extent of the affected area is difficult to predict. The size, shape, and location of fallout areas depend on wind patterns and speed. The size and intensity of the radiation areas caused by the neutron-induced radiation and base surge depend heavily on soil composition and depth of burst. The size of the rainout area and the intensity of the radiation depend on the relative locations of the precipitation centre and the debris cloud. They also depend on the time between the burst and the precipitation. The most significant residual radiation from these areas is gamma radiation.
- (7) HOB Influence. The extent of the hazards resulting from radioactivity on the ground depends primarily on the HOB. When a nuclear weapon is detonated at a height that precludes damage or casualties to ground targets neither induced radiation nor fallout of tactical significance occur. When a nuclear weapon produces damage or casualties on the ground, but the burst is above the minimum FSHOB, only neutron-induced radiation occurs. When a surface or near-surface burst is employed, neutron-induced radiation, base surge, and fallout result. The fallout pattern can be expected to overlap and overshadow the entire induced radiation and base surge patterns. Subsurface bursts produce induced radiation, base surge, and fallout in and around the

² Safety in this context is defined as the HOB aimed at precluding significant fallout. Safety yield can be assumed to be 10% greater than the nominal yield of the weapon.

crater. If the proper atmospheric conditions exist, rainout may occur for any HOB.

- c. Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP), System Generated EMP (SGEMP), Transient Radiation Effects on Electronics (TREE), Nuclear Blackout. EMP and Nuclear Blackout are produced when initial nuclear radiation interacts with the atmosphere; SGEMP and TREE result from interaction directly with a system. EMP, SGEMP and TREE can cause electronic failure or upset. Nuclear Blackout can interrupt Command, Control Communication, Computer, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) transmission and reception for many minutes:
- (1) Electromagnetic Pulse. When initial nuclear radiation (prompt neutrons and gamma rays) interacts with the atmosphere, large electromagnetic fields are created on or near the ground. Ground-based equipment is effected by an EMP (called High- altitude EMP (HEMP)) for a HOB greater than 45 km. HEMP can cover thousands of square kilometers on the ground. For HOBs below 25 to 45 km, EMP observed near or on the ground (called low-altitude EMP) increases as the HOB increases. This EMP (often called Source-region EMP (SREMP)) is very large (covering tens of square kilometers) and complicated within and near the fireball. SREMP intensity reduces rapidly at personnel safety distances from the fireball and mimics HEMP characteristics.
 - (2) System-Generated Electromagnetic Pulse. The gamma rays and, in some instances, X rays from a nuclear burst may interact with materials in systems and produce free electrons and electrical currents that generate an electromagnetic pulse in the system itself. For low-altitude bursts, SGEMP occurs in the source region at the same time as EMP. Intense electric fields may be generated when free electrons are emitted into system enclosures and cavities.
 - (3) Transient Radiation Effects on Electronics (TREE). At distances from a burst where personnel will survive initial radiation effects, neutron and gamma radiation can still damage materiel. The term "transient" indicates that the radiation is short lived. The effects on materiel, however, can be either temporary or permanent. Semiconductors and other electronic components are especially sensitive to TREE.
 - (4) Nuclear Blackout. Radiation from a nuclear burst will produce large disturbances and ionized dust clouds in the atmosphere. When the path of radio transmission is through these burst-affected regions, radio waves can be disrupted or totally blacked out. Blackout depends on the HOB, the yield, condition of the atmosphere, and the frequency of

the radio waves. Radio waves travelling through the nuclear fireball are refracted (bent), partially or totally absorbed, or scattered, thus reducing signal strength at the receiver. Under certain conditions, refraction can cause defocusing of a radio wave beam or even beam splitting.

3.4. Special Considerations

3.4.1. Extremely Cold Environments

Ice, snow, high winds, and low temperatures can alter nuclear weapon effects:

- a. Blast. At temperatures of about -45°C (-49°F), air blast damage radii for materiel targets such as tanks, artillery, and military vehicles can increase by as much as 20 percent. This increase may be partially offset by ideal reflecting surfaces such as the ice and snow, which reduce the dynamic pressures. Cratering in ice and frozen soil is similar to cratering in solid rock; however, the crater size would probably be larger than that in rock. Several feet of snow over the soil will reduce crater dimensions. Blast may interfere with movement over frozen waterways and, in the spring, cause a spring break-up. Blast may also cause avalanches in mountainous areas.
- b. Thermal Radiation. When surfaces are covered with snow and ice and atmospheric conditions are clear, the minimum safe distances for unwarned, exposed personnel must be increased by 30 percent. Additionally, unwarned personnel will suffer flash blindness, particularly at night. Conversely, heavy clothing in extremely cold environments may help protect personnel from thermal effects. In addition, the cold temperatures and surface frost reduce thermal effects to most materials.

3.4.2. Hot Environments

Weapons effects do not vary as much in hot and tropical environments as in extremely cold environments. However, wearing less clothing and have more skin exposed increases susceptibility to thermal burns.

CHAPTER 4 RESPONSES

4.1. Response to Blast

Air blast, cratering, ground shock, and indirect effects can damage materiel and injure personnel:

- a. Air Blast. A large part of the destruction caused by a nuclear explosion is due to blast effects. Objects within the path of the blast wave are subjected to severe, sharp increases in atmospheric pressure and to extraordinarily severe transient winds. Most buildings, with the exception of reinforced or blast-resistant structures, will suffer moderate to severe damage when subjected to overpressures of only 35.5 kilopascals (kPa) (0.35 Atmospheres of Pressure (Atm)). The velocity of the accompanying blast wind may exceed several hundred km/hr. Most materiel targets are drag- or wind-sensitive. The range for blast effects increases significantly with the explosive yield of the weapon. In a typical air burst, these values of overpressure and wind velocity noted above will prevail at a range of 0.7 km for 1 kiloton (Kt) yield; 3.2 km for 100Kt; and 15.0 km for 10 Mt:
 - (1) Materiel Damage. Air blast may damage equipment by diffraction loading and drag loading. Diffraction loading refers to overpressure that crushes or tears off components. Drag loading refers to dynamic pressure that overturns, tumbles, or translates the equipment. Induced shock caused by these phenomena may damage internal components such as radios mounted in combat vehicles. Most military equipment is drag-sensitive and, hence, damaged primarily by the dynamic pressures from the passing blast wave. Parked aircraft, structures, and forests are damaged by a combination of overpressures and dynamic pressures. Aircraft Plexiglas windows are particularly vulnerable to overpressure. Pressure sensitive mines may be detonated by overpressure. Tables 1 through 6 provide radii to moderate and severe blast damage for a variety of structures, transportation systems and military systems for notional weapon types.
 - (2) Personnel Injury. Very high overpressure is required to cause immediate deaths, provided no translational motion occurs. Lower overpressures may cause severe internal injuries, especially to lungs and abdominal organs. Eardrum rupture, which is painful but not

necessarily disabling, may result from still lower overpressures. Personnel in field fortifications such as shelters and foxholes can become casualties at lower incident overpressures than personnel in the open because the blast pressure can build up from multiple reflections inside such enclosures. Injuries from the above effects are called primary blast injuries. Tables 7 through 13 provide radii to effect for personnel in the open and in a variety of structure types. These radii reflect the combined effects of radiation, blast and thermal exposure, one of which will dominate casualty production, depending on the weapon yield. Radii to effect are given for a number of notional weapon types.

- (a) Personnel in the open can also be injured by being picked up and thrown by dynamic pressure (translation). Personnel translated by blast winds may be injured by tumbling or by impact with solid surfaces. Translational casualty criteria are evaluated on a mix of translational injuries consisting of 75 percent of injuries caused by decelerative tumbling and 25 percent of injuries caused by solid impact. The third source of blast injuries that are considered are missile injuries, that is, injuries caused by objects hitting personnel. Blast personnel safety criteria for exposed personnel are typically the maximum of the above three discussed blast casualty mechanisms. Blast casualty criteria for exposed personnel are the maxima of the first two mechanisms. Table 7 provides the range to effect in meters for exposed personnel.
- b. Cratering and Ground Shock. Depending on terrain, cratering may be the primary mechanism for producing obstacles to movement. It may also be used to damage structural targets. Crater debris fall to earth over a significant area, causing injuries and damaging equipment and structures. For long periods of time after the detonation, residual radiation in and around the crater may be a significant hazard to personnel attempting to breach the obstacle. Ground shock can damage structural targets, but it is a primary damage mechanism only for underground targets. Cratering and/or ground shock can destroy bridges and underground targets; and
- c. Indirect Effects. The blast wave can turn debris, stones, and sand into missiles, which may cause casualties. Sand and dust may limit visibility and movement in the target area for tens of minutes. They may also affect electromagnetic transmissions for a short time. Buildings and fortifications that collapse also damage materiel and injure personnel. These casualties can be estimated from the damage done to the structures. Rubble in built-up areas and trees blown down by air blast often extend far beyond the primary target area and may block avenues of approach or hinder the military mission. Cratering can

prevent or impede military movements.

4.2. Response to Thermal Radiation

Essentially all of the thermal radiation absorbed by a target element is immediately converted to heat. It may cause injury or damage, and it may ignite combustible materials. Since significant amounts of thermal energy may be reflected from a target, the amount absorbed may be only a small fraction of the incident thermal energy:

- a. Personnel. Personnel may be vulnerable to thermal radiation, which causes two general categories of injury: Burns and blindness:
 - (1) Burns. Thermal burns produced directly by absorbing the thermal energy are flash burns. Those produced indirectly by fires that the thermal energy ignited are flame burns. Personnel safety criteria developed for thermal radiation exposures are based upon thermal radiation being transmitted to bare skin or through battlefield uniforms in sufficient intensity to cause skin burns. Flame burns occur from burning clothes or other nearby materials. Table 14 provides radii at which second degree burns may be expected for personnel in the open, wearing battle dress uniform and battle dress over garment, for a number of notional weapon types.
 - (2) Blindness. The flash of light produced by a nuclear explosion may be many times brighter than the sun. The temporary loss of vision from this bright flash, called flash blindness, may occur even if the fireball is not in direct view. Retinal burns, which are permanent, may occur. Eye damage can be produced farther from the burst than skin burns can be. Sufficient thermal energy arrives so quickly that reflex actions to protect the eyes, such as blinking, give only limited protection, if any at all.
- b. Environment:
 - (1) Forest Fires. Thermal radiation may start forest fires depending on the mixture of dry and green fuels, tree canopy, seasonal and recent weather, wind, relative humidity, and topography. Thermal radiation normally does not ignite green fuels (living branches, green grass, and other living foliage). However, burning dry fuels (surface litter, fallen branches, dead leaves, and dry grass) can ignite the green fuels. The tree canopy may smoke and char but ordinarily will not sustain ignition. The tree canopy can protect the dry fuel on the surface.
 - (2) Urban Fires. In cities, direct thermal radiation can ignite flammable articles. In addition, the blast wave can start fires by upsetting stoves,

causing electrical short circuits, or breaking gas lines. Persons in burning buildings may become burn casualties. Shelter persons may die of asphyxiation after surviving the other effects.

4.3. Response to Nuclear Radiation

1. Commanders should appreciate the significance of human exposure to radiation and weigh it carefully against any immediate or short-range advantage that may be gained. Initial nuclear radiation can affect personnel protected from blast and thermal radiation. The effects from comparatively small doses of nuclear radiation may be delayed, permitting some personnel to remain effective long enough to complete specific tasks. However, the delayed effects may significantly reduce the unit's overall combat effectiveness for a long period of time. Units may have to reorganize or reconstitute to maintain combat effectiveness after nuclear attacks or radiation exposures. The amount and frequency of prior doses and the requirements of the tactical situation will determine the degree to which friendly personnel can be exposed during a nuclear attack and still remain operationally effective.
2. For the assessment of medical effects due to radiation, STANAG 2553 – N A T O Planning Guide for the Estimation of CBRN Casualties – AMedP-8(C) shall be used.

4.4. Additional Responses

1. **Area Target Damage.** Understanding weapons effects and target response is necessary in assessing the full impact on the target when a particular fractional coverage is used as the defeat criterion. The three basic weapons effects, nuclear radiation, blast and thermal radiation extend to varying distances for certain levels of personnel response. The relationship between distances to a specific level of response from one effect to another depends on yield, height of burst and weapon type.
2. **EMP, SGEMP, and TREE.** EMP, SGEMP and TREE may cause permanent damage or temporarily degrade electrical and electronic equipment by burning out or degrading components, introducing undesirable signals, or altering the state of circuits without damaging components. The levels of equipment damage depend on the type of equipment, its external circuitry, its components such as antennas and connecting cables, and the deliberate measures taken to make the equipment more survivable. Damage radii for specific equipment can be estimated on the basis of its sensitivity levels to electromagnetic fields. EMP, SGEMP, and TREE do not cause casualties directly. However, they can be significant for friendly unit vulnerability and damage preclusion considerations. Damage to command and control equipment may impair the effective military operations of survivors.
3. **Blackout of Communications.** Radio waves transmitted near or through a region of the atmosphere disturbed by a nuclear fireball may be disrupted or blacked out totally.

The actual blackout interference on the battlefield will depend on the number of nuclear detonations, the time period of the detonations, the bursts' altitudes, and the atmospheric and environmental conditions. Blackouts from low-altitude bursts will probably not be very significant. Serious blackout problems from high-altitude bursts can be expected for synchronous satellite relays and sky wave propagation. Blackout may be reduced by using:

- a. Fiber-optic cable.
- b. Alternate routing to bypass the blackout region.
- c. An assigned alternate frequency (ionized region suspected as cause: Try higher frequencies; dust suspected as cause: Try lower frequencies).

4. **Combined Nuclear and Chemical Exposure.** Chemical weapons may be employed simultaneously or sequentially with nuclear weapons to take advantage of whatever operational or physiological interaction might occur. Further, damage to either a chemical protective over-garment or to skin by nuclear weapons effects will provide entries for chemical warfare agents to get at sensitive tissues.

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CHAPTER 5 APPLICATION

5.1 Damage Assessment Tables

1. This document provides summary descriptions of initial and residual effects from nuclear weapons and responses of personnel and equipment. Unclassified values of range-to-effect for a variety of notional weapon types are included in this document. Those unclassified data are appropriate **ONLY** for use in the conduct and planning of exercises. **The data provided in the following tables is not appropriate for operational use.**

2. The term "Radius of Damage (RD)" has no meaning unless the target and degree of damage are specified:

- a. Each nuclear weapon burst will produce a great number of RDs. For example, a single surface burst of 100 KT may be considered to simultaneously produce the following RDs:
 - (1) 410 meters. Severe damage to supply depots.
 - (2) 1400 meters. Moderate damage to tanks.
 - (3) 2550 meters. Severe damage to wood buildings.
 - (4) 2800 meters. Moderate damage to exposed wheeled vehicles.
- b. When concerned with personnel casualties rather than material damage, the term RD will still be used. The RD is the distance from GZ where 50 percent of the personnel will experience a particular level of ineffectiveness (IPI, ITI, LI) as defined in Annex B.
- c. The tabular data in this Chapter, Tables 1 thru 14 are RDs for each of 10 yields considered. RDs are given for surface and optimum airburst HOB. The procedures used assume that enemy airburst weapons always burst at the optimum HOB for whatever target and degree of damage is under consideration. Such RDs may therefore be considered as "worst case" RDs or Max RD and the resulting estimates of damage (casualties) as worse case estimates.

TABLES

Table 1 - Moderate Damage to Materiel

System			Radius of damage (meters)							
Warhead	Yield Designator ³	Yield	Air burst				Surface burst			
			Wheeled Vehicles				Wheeled Vehicles			
			Exposed	Shielded	Tanks	Towed Artillery	Exposed	Shielded	Tanks	Towed Artillery
Little Bomb	Y1	0.1	600	500	200	300	500	400	100	200
	Y2	5	880	600	400	600	750	500	400	500
	Y3	50	1900	1730	1000	1000	1800	1600	1000	900
Big Bomb	Y1	1	600	500	200	200	700	600	200	100
	Y2	10	1020	870	550	550	900	800	550	400
	Y3	200	5000	3000	1800	1800	3800	2900	1800	1700
Cruise Missile	Y1	3	700	550	300	300	600	500	300	200
	Y2	100	4000	2500	1400	1400	2800	1900	1400	1100
ICBM	Y1	200	5000	3000	1800	1800	3800	2900	1800	1700
SLBM	Y1	150	4500	2700	1600	1600	3300	2400	1600	1500

Table 2 - Severe Damage to Materiel, Buildings

System			Radius of damage (meters)							
Warhead	Yield Designator	Yield	Air burst				Surface burst			
			Wood Frame Buildings	Multi Story Brick Apartments	Factories	Supply Depots	Wood Frame Buildings	Multi Story Brick Apartments	Factories	Supply Depots
Little Bomb	Y1	0.1	260	210	70	320	210	180	70	300
	Y2	5	1100	840	450	370	910	740	380	350
	Y3	50	2410	1840	1180	410	2020	1620	1010	390
Big Bomb	Y1	1	630	480	220	350	510	420	180	330
	Y2	10	1420	1080	600	400	1160	940	510	380
	Y3	200	3900	2940	2030	1220	3210	2580	1730	1200
Cruise Missile	Y1	3	920	700	360	360	760	620	300	340
	Y2	100	3070	2340	1550	430	2550	2050	1330	410
ICBM	Y1	200	3990	3040	2040	1220	3210	2580	1730	1200
SLBM	Y1	150	3280	2510	1570	1000	2550	2050	1330	980

³ Yield designator can be used for computer based designation

Table 3 - Severe Damage to Materiel, Transportation

System			Radius of damage (meters)							
Warhead	Yield Designator	Yield	Air burst				Surface burst			
			Bridges		Railroad		Bridges		Railroad	
			Fixed	Floating	Locomotive	Box & Flat Cars	Fixed	Floating	Locomotive	Box & Flat Cars
Little Bomb	Y1	0.1	100	340	420	420	60	270	400	400
	Y2	5	500	600	1140	1140	400	500	1000	1120
	Y3	50	730	850	2250	2250	770	870	2000	2200
Big Bomb	Y1	1	170	400	600	600	130	370	600	600
	Y2	10	930	1000	1430	1430	860	1000	1400	1400
	Y3	200	1690	2400	3500	3500	1800	2600	3400	3400
Cruise Missile	Y1	3	470	540	640	640	400	500	600	600
	Y2	100	1280	1900	2500	2500	1500	1400	2400	2400
ICBM	Y1	200	1680	2400	3500	3500	1800	2600	3400	3400
SLBM	Y1	150	1430	2100	3000	3000	1600	1800	2900	2900

Table 4 - Severe Damage to Materiel, Missile and Rocket Systems

System			Radius of damage (meters)							
Warhead	Yield Designator	Yield	Air burst				Surface burst			
			Surface to Air Missiles		Missiles & Rockets		Surface to Air Missiles		Missiles & Rockets	
			Exposed	Riveted	Travelling	Erected	Exposed	Riveted	Travelling	Erected
Little Bomb	Y1	0.1	100	50	480	200	100	50	370	170
	Y2	5	400	300	1200	950	400	300	1000	810
	Y3	50	950	600	2500	2360	900	600	2300	2040
Big Bomb	Y1	1	200	100	700	510	200	100	600	430
	Y2	10	600	500	1500	1260	600	500	1300	1070
	Y3	200	2200	2000	3450	3000	2200	2000	3500	3000
Cruise Missile	Y1	3	250	200	1000	770	250	200	800	660
	Y2	100	1600	1500	2500	2130	1600	1450	1800	1690
ICBM	Y1	200	2200	2000	3500	3000	2200	1750	3300	3000
SLBM	Y1	150	1800	1700	3000	2450	1800	1600	2500	2300

Table 5 - Severe Damage to Materiel, Helicopters and Tracked Vehicles

System			Radius of damage (meters)							
Warhead	Yield Designator	Yield	Air burst				Surface burst			
			Helicopters Randomly Parked		Tracked Vehicles (No Tanks)		Helicopters Randomly Parked		Tracked Vehicles (No Tanks)	
			Cargo Transport	Light Observation	Exposed	Shield	Cargo Transport	Light Observation	Exposed	Shield
Little Bomb	Y1	0.1	410	310	250	420	400	300	100	300
	Y2	5	1100	900	450	640	1000	800	400	600
	Y3	50	2350	2000	1130	1350	2000	1800	1100	1300
Big Bomb	Y1	1	600	440	380	440	500	400	200	400
	Y2	10	1430	1000	600	830	1150	950	600	800
	Y3	200	3500	3000	2130	2500	3000	2800	2100	2300
Cruise Missile	Y1	3	700	500	480	640	550	450	400	600
	Y2	100	2500	2000	1500	1700	2000	1800	1400	1600
ICBM	Y1	200	3500	3000	2130	2500	3000	2800	2100	2300
SLBM	Y1	150	3000	2500	1800	2000	2500	2300	1600	1800

Table 6 - Severe damage to materiel, Electronic Equipment

System			Radius of damage (meters)			
Warhead	Yield Designator	Yield	Air burst		Surface burst	
			Radios & Fire Control Equipment	Open Grid Radar Antenna	Radios & Fire Control Equipment	Open Grid Radar Antenna
Little Bomb	Y1	0.1	100	400	200	500
	Y2	5	500	1500	600	1000
	Y3	50	1400	3800	1500	3900
Big Bomb	Y1	1	300	800	400	900
	Y2	10	800	2000	900	2100
	Y3	200	2400	6600	2500	6700
Cruise Missile	Y1	3	400	1000	500	1100
	Y2	100	1800	5000	1900	5100
ICBM	Y1	200	2400	6600	2500	6700
SLBM	Y1	150	2100	5800	2200	5900

Table 7 - Casualties for Exposed Personnel

System			Radius of damage (meters)					
Warhead	Yield Designator	Yield	Air burst			Surface burst		
			Immediate Permanent	Immediate Transient	Latent Ineffective	Immediate Permanent	Immediate Transient	Latent Ineffective
Little Bomb	Y1	0.1	250	340	550	230	320	520
	Y2	5	710	850	1150	660	790	1070
	Y3	50	1130	1260	2380	1060	1190	1530
Big Bomb	Y1	1	490	620	880	460	570	820
	Y2	10	810	950	1350	750	890	1190
	Y3	200	1770	1810	4170	1710	1760	3290
Cruise Missile	Y1	3	640	770	1050	590	720	990
	Y2	100	1310	1430	3030	1280	1380	2820
ICBM	Y1	200	1630	1690	4180	1610	1660	3290
SLBM	Y1	150	1180	1330	3040	1080	1280	2820

Table 8 - Casualties for Personnel in Tanks and Armoured Ship Turrets

System			Radius of damage (meters)					
Warhead	Yield Designator	Yield	Air burst			Surface burst		
			Immediate Permanent	Immediate Transient	Latent Ineffective	Immediate Permanent	Immediate Transient	Latent Ineffective
Little Bomb	Y1	0.1	150	210	380	140	200	360
	Y2	5	650	820	1100	640	800	1080
	Y3	50	900	1090	1410	890	1070	1390
Big Bomb	Y1	1	370	480	660	360	460	610
	Y2	10	740	920	1220	720	900	1200
	Y3	200	1310	1310	1675	1300	1290	1650
Cruise Missile	Y1	3	550	650	890	540	630	870
	Y2	100	1010	1170	1550	1000	1150	1530
ICBM	Y1	200	1310	1310	1675	1300	1290	1650
SLBM	Y1	150	1150	1210	1600	1140	1190	1555

Table 9 - Casualties for Personnel in APC's and Equivalently Protected Ship Superstructures

System			Radius of damage (meters)					
Warhead	Yield Designator	Yield	Air burst			Surface burst		
			Immediate Permanent	Immediate Transient	Latent Ineffective	Immediate Permanent	Immediate Transient	Latent Ineffective
Little Bomb	Y1	0.1	420	430	510	400	410	480
	Y2	5	630	760	1030	580	700	960
	Y3	50	950	1100	1420	880	1020	1330
Big Bomb	Y1	1	480	560	790	440	510	730
	Y2	10	720	850	1140	670	790	1070
	Y3	200	1500	1650	1790	1400	1590	1630
Cruise Missile	Y1	3	570	690	950	530	640	890
	Y2	100	1040	1210	1550	1000	1150	1470
ICBM	Y1	200	1500	1650	1790	1400	1590	1630
SLBM	Y1	150	1300	1450	1600	1200	1450	1470

Table 10 - Casualties for Personnel in Open Foxholes

System			Radius of damage (meters)					
Warhead	Yield Designator	Yield	Air burst			Surface burst		
			Immediate Permanent	Immediate Transient	Latent Ineffective	Immediate Permanent	Immediate Transient	Latent Ineffective
Little Bomb	Y1	0.1	150	220	390	140	200	370
	Y2	5	520	640	900	480	590	840
	Y3	50	810	960	1390	760	900	1300
Big Bomb	Y1	1	340	440	670	310	410	620
	Y2	10	600	730	1010	560	680	940
	Y3	200	1550	1570	2030	1520	1540	1920
Cruise Missile	Y1	3	460	570	820	420	530	770
	Y2	100	940	1070	1650	960	1050	1560
ICBM	Y1	200	1350	1380	1960	1520	1540	1920
SLBM	Y1	150	1140	1270	1850	1200	1250	1760

Table 11 - Casualties for Personnel in Earth Shelters

System			Radius of damage (meters)					
Warhead	Yield Designator	Yield	Air burst			Surface burst		
			Immediate Permanent	Immediate Transient	Latent Ineffective	Immediate Permanent	Immediate Transient	Latent Ineffective
Little Bomb	Y1	0.1	420	420	420	400	400	400
	Y2	5	440	460	610	400	420	560
	Y3	50	500	630	910	490	600	840
Big Bomb	Y1	1	440	440	470	400	400	430
	Y2	10	440	480	690	410	450	640
	Y3	200	600	770	1090	660	790	1080
Cruise Missile	Y1	3	440	450	550	400	410	510
	Y2	100	540	550	900	570	690	950
ICBM	Y1	200	600	700	1050	660	790	1080
SLBM	Y1	150	560	600	1000	570	690	950

Table 12 - Casualties for Personnel in Multi-story Brick Apartments

System			Radius of damage (meters)					
Warhead	Yield Designator	Yield	Air burst			Surface burst		
			Immediate Permanent	Immediate Transient	Latent Ineffective	Immediate Permanent	Immediate Transient	Latent Ineffective
Little Bomb	Y1	0.1	230	290	480	210	270	450
	Y2	5	860	890	1080	760	800	1000
	Y3	50	1840	1850	1890	1620	1630	1700
Big Bomb	Y1	1	510	570	800	450	520	740
	Y2	10	1090	1110	1250	950	980	1150
	Y3	200	2940	2940	2950	2580	2590	2600
Cruise Missile	Y1	3	720	770	980	640	700	910
	Y2	100	2340	2340	2360	2050	2050	2090
ICBM	Y1	200	3040	3040	3050	2580	2590	2600
SLBM	Y1	150	2510	2510	2530	2050	2050	2090

Table 13 - Casualties for Personnel in Wood Frame Buildings

System			Radius of damage (meters)					
Warhead	Yield Designator	Yield	Air burst			Surface burst		
			Immediate Permanent	Immediate Transient	Latent Ineffective	Immediate Permanent	Immediate Transient	Latent Ineffective
Little Bomb	Y1	0.1	270	310	500	230	290	480
	Y2	5	1100	1110	1210	910	930	1080
	Y3	50	2410	2410	2420	2020	2030	2050
Big Bomb	Y1	1	640	670	840	520	570	780
	Y2	10	1420	1420	1480	1160	1170	1270
	Y3	200	3900	3900	3900	3210	3210	3220
Cruise Missile	Y1	3	920	940	1060	770	790	960
	Y2	100	3070	3070	3080	2550	2550	2560
ICBM	Y1	200	3990	3990	3990	3210	3210	3220
SLBM	Y1	150	3280	3280	3280	2750	2750	2760

Table 14 - 50 % Casualties for Personnel in the Open, Second Degree Burns

System			Radius of damage (meters)			
Warhead	Yield Designator	Yield	Air burst		Surface burst	
			Combat Uniforms	CBRN Overgarment Uniforms	Combat Uniforms	CBRN Overgarment Uniforms
Little Bomb	Y1	0.1	100	40	40	20
	Y2	5	750	400	280	160
	Y3	50	2360	1440	1120	590
Big Bomb	Y1	1	320	170	120	70
	Y2	10	1150	600	430	230
	Y3	200	4170	2470	2170	1300
Cruise Missile	Y1	3	570	300	210	120
	Y2	100	3030	1890	1600	880
ICBM	Y1	200	4180	2470	2170	1300
SLBM	Y1	150	3030	1870	1600	880

ANNEX A**NUCLEAR INCIDENT PLANNING EXERCISES****A.1. GENERAL**

This annex may be used by exercise planning staff in preparing CBRN exercise scenarios and nuclear incidents, and by players in reacting to nuclear exercise incidents.

A.2. PROCEDURES

1. The following steps provide guidance in planning a nuclear incident during an exercise.
 - a. Plan the yield and the location of GZ that will achieve the damage desired by the directing staff (DISTAFF). The planners must themselves use the data provided in this publication as a reference.
 - b. Prepare the appropriate CBRN-1 NUC or CBRN-2 NUC reports to inject the strike into the exercise play.
 - c. Prepare a message for later injection into the exercise play that will require the players to estimate damage using this publication as a reference. Afterwards, as the exercise is running, the DISTAFF will compare the players' estimate with the assessment planned in advance by the DISTAFF.

A.3. TARGETS

1. The damage estimation for a target consists of determining the target covered by the RD.
2. This method is basically a visual estimation since the target is not circular or a point target.

Steps. The following steps describe the procedures to follow for targets:

- a. Obtain the target information.
- b. Obtain the nuclear burst information.
- c. Obtain the RD from the appropriate tables.

- d. With the centre of GZ, draw a circle with a radius equal to the RD on the map and place centre of it over the actual GZ.

Example

- a. **Target.** Infantry unit in open foxholes;
- b. **Weapon Yield.** 100 KT airburst;
- c. **Location of GZ.** 1500 meters from the target centre;
- d. **Solution.** From Table 10, the RDs are:
 - (1) Immediate Permanent Ineffectiveness (IPI) = 940m.
 - (2) Immediate Transient Ineffectiveness (ITI) = 1070m.
 - (3) Latent Ineffectiveness (LI) = 1650m.

GLOSSARY

Note: Bracket indicates the short title of the source from which they are taken.

ground zero

The point on the earth's surface directly above or below a nuclear detonation.
(AAP-06)

immediate permanent ineffectiveness (IPI)

Physiological response to radiation whereby personnel become CI a few minutes after radiation exposure and never recover, usually dying in one day.

immediate transient ineffectiveness (ITI)

Physiological response to radiation whereby personnel become CI within a few minutes, but may partially recover shortly thereafter for several hours. They usually die within one week.

Although primarily defined as a radiation effect, ITI is also computed for injury from overpressure.

latent ineffectiveness (LI)

Physiological response whereby personnel become performance degraded within several hours, and then perform with reduced efficiency for several weeks until death or recovery. LI can be caused by radiation or blast and is the only casualty criterion also established for thermal radiation.

nuclear damage

- a. Light damage. Damage which does not prevent the immediate use of equipment or installations for which it was intended. Some repair by the user may be required to make full use of the equipment or installations.
- b. Moderate damage.
Damage which prevents the use of equipment or installations until extensive repairs are made.
- c. Severe damage.
Damage which prevents use of equipment or installations permanently.
(AAP-06)

nuclear airburst

The explosion of a nuclear weapon in the air, at a height greater than the maximum radius of the fireball. (AAP-06)

nuclear surface burst

An explosion of a nuclear weapon at the surface of land or water; or above the surface at a height less than the maximum radius of the fireball. (AAP-06)

radius of damage

The RD is the distance in meters from Ground Zero (GZ) of a nuclear weapon burst at which a specified target element has a 50 percent probability of receiving at least a specified degree of damage.

target

The object of a particular action, for example a geographic area, a complex, an installation, a force, equipment, an individual, a group or a system, planned for capture, exploitation, neutralization or destruction by military forces. (AAP-06)

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