



# DoD Insect Repellent System

FACT SHEET 18-009-0317

## Just the Facts...

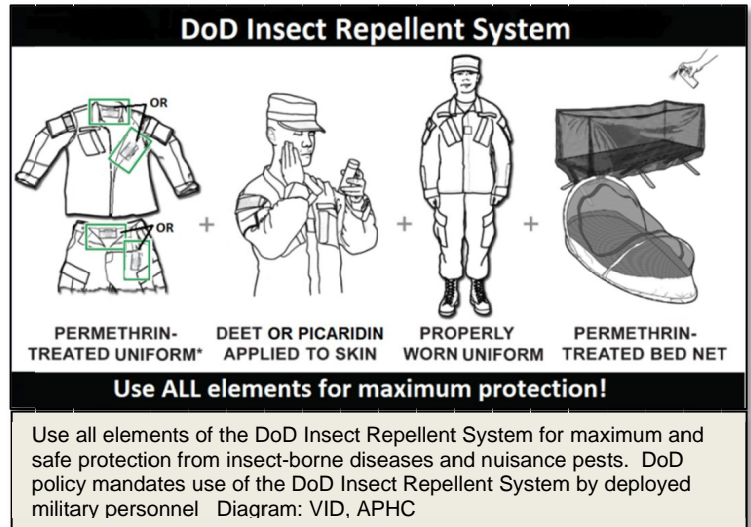
Whether deployed in combat operations, engaged in humanitarian relief, or conducting training at home base, military personnel are subject to tick and insect-borne diseases and nuisance pest threats that can adversely affect their health and compromise the mission. Malaria, dengue, West Nile fever, sandfly fever, plague, scrub typhus, Lyme disease and a number of other tick and insect-borne diseases continue to pose a significant health threat to our forces world-wide. Using the Department of Defense (DoD) Insect Repellent System is an effective way to protect military personnel from insect-borne diseases and nuisance pests.

### What is the DoD Insect Repellent System?

The DoD Insect Repellent System is a safe and proven method to reduce disease and annoyance associated with insects. Using all elements of this system will provide maximum protection and is the safest way to prevent attack from disease-carrying insects and pests.

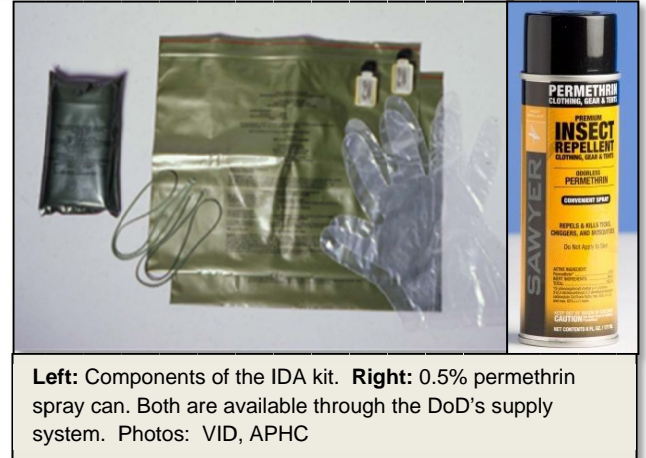
#### The system incorporates:

- Permethrin insect repellent on the uniform (factory or field-treatment methods)
- DEET or picaridin insect repellent on exposed skin
- A properly-worn uniform
- Sleeping in a permethrin-treated bed net



### How do I know if my uniform is treated with permethrin repellent?

Uniforms factory-treated with permethrin are available to Soldiers and Marines, to include the Army's new Operational Camouflage Pattern (OCP) uniform. The trouser and coat will have a sewn-in label indicating the uniform is factory-treated with permethrin. If the uniform is not factory-treated, military personnel can field-treat their uniform using either the IDA Kit (NSN 6840-01-345-0237), which can last up to 50 washings, or the 0.5% aerosol spray can (NSN 6840-01-278-1336), which should be reapplied after six weeks and the sixth washing. When applying permethrin, always read and follow the label directions. Permanently mark the uniform label with the permethrin treatment date.



Aerosol products containing 0.5% permethrin and clothing factory-treated with permethrin are also commercially available for civilian use.

**Never apply permethrin to the skin and DO NOT apply permethrin to a uniform while wearing it.**

Dry cleaning a permethrin-treated uniform will remove the permethrin from the fabric, and the uniform will no longer repel insects. Dry cleaning permethrin-treated uniforms is not recommended.

### What is considered a "properly worn uniform"?

Worn properly, military combat uniforms act as a physical barrier against insects, ticks and other biting and nuisance pests. Wear uniforms with the sleeves rolled down; tuck pants into boots and undershirt into pants. Wear uniform loosely since mosquitoes can

