EQTOP

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY TEST OPERATIONS PROCEDURE

The U.S. Army Environmental Command (USAEC) assists Army installations, program executive offices (PEOs) and program managers (PMs) with identifying environmental quality issues associated with new materiel systems, to include environmental life-cycle costs. However, environmental effects associated with materiel systems are not always collected, reported, or compiled on a consistent basis. These effects are often experienced and sometimes measured during system testing, but the data are not normally recorded or reported unless they are part of a specific system performance requirement.

WHAT IS EQTOP?

The Environmental Quality Test Operations Procedure (EQTOP) is a set of methods for collecting environmental effects data during weapon system testing. EQTOP currently provides EQ testing recommendations for system commodities ranging from wheeled, tracked, and special purpose vehicles to missile and rocket systems. Data collection methods include but are not limited to soil compaction, aqueous media, ambient air monitoring, and noise emissions.

BENEFITS OF EQTOP

Data collected through EQTOP will assist installations in the preparation of accurate and defensible acquisition-related National Environmental Policy Act documents and analyses. It will also help PEO and PM materiel developers in managing and mitigating the EQ effects of their assigned weapon systems. Finally, it will ensure that the Army budget includes EQ sustainability considerations through accurate costing of the EQ component of weapon system Life Cycle Cost Estimates.

STATUS OF EQTOP

The observational components of the EQTOP data collection methodology were validated through a field test at the Tropics Region Test Center, Hawaii, in September 2007. A follow-on field validation is planned for 2008. The full text of the procedure is currently under peer review. EQTOP will be published for Army-wide adoption in September 2008.