

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES COMMAND
1777 HARDEE AVENUE SW
FORT MCPHERSON GEORGIA 30330-1062

22 October 1998

AFLG-LSM
MEMORANDUM FOR

Commanders, FORSCOM Installations
Commanders, FORSCOM Units on TRADOC Installations
Commander, United States Army Reserve Command, 1401 Deshler Street, SW., Fort McPherson, GA 30330-2000
Commanders, U.S. Army Signal Command, Greely Hall, Fort Huachuca, AZ 85613-5000
Commanders, Third U.S. Army, 1881 Hardee Avenue, SW., Fort McPherson, GA 30330-1064

SUBJECT : Reduce Battery Consumption

1. Using primary (nonrechargeable) batteries for training and garrison duties simply costs too much. Additionally, funding for nonrechargeable batteries has been reduced significantly in the Program Objective Memorandum for FY 98-FY 02. Therefore, faced with various budgetary challenges as we enter the new fiscal year, FORSCOM must take advantage of proven programs to save money. One such program is the Army's Rechargeable Battery Policy.
2. Effective immediately, all units (except units that use less than 12 batteries per year) are directed to establish a rechargeable communications-electronics battery program and an overall Battery Management Plan.
3. Fort Bragg units have experienced much success in using rechargeable batteries. During a recent battalion field training exercise, the entire battalion task force operated on rechargeable batteries, with savings estimated to be in excess of \$28K. As a direct result of using rechargeable batteries, this same battalion's annual battery budget is projected to drop from \$180K to \$37K, a 79 percent reduction in battery costs. Likewise, Fort Hood has done an excellent job implementing their III Corps Battery Management Plan and incorporated wide use of solargizers on lead acid batteries.
4. Communications-Electronics Command is working diligently to assist units in making the transition from using primary to rechargeable batteries. They have already made numerous on-site visits and have offered classroom training and hands-on familiarization of the new improved rechargeable batteries and chargers. You can expect additional lessons learned and good news stories in the near future via FORSCOM DCSLOG video teleconferences (VTC).
5. I encourage all commanders to maximize use of this new technology. Where it makes good business sense, use solargizers, state-of-the-art battery shop equipment, and rechargeable batteries. I am also interested in your results on the implementation of this program and request you provide comments during our scheduled DCSLOG VTCs.
6. FORSCOM DCSLOG will provide additional guidance to assist commands in making the transition and ensuring compliance with applicable policies. Let's get the most out of every dollar we spend!

THOMAS A. /SCHWARTZ
General, USA
Commanding