

CANADA, AUSTRALIA, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

Canada Issue Paper # 01

PROVISION OF URINARY DIVERSION DEVICES FOR UNIFORMED WOMEN PERSONNEL

1. ISSUE PAPER THEME

Self-Sustainment

2. SUMMARY / BACKGROUND / PREVIOUS HISTORY

Member States have a valuable opportunity to ensure that the Contingent Owned Equipment (COE) Manual better reflects the needs of women personnel in peacekeeping units. Standard uniforms and the design of undergarments currently impede urination for women personnel due to the location of the front opening, or the lack thereof in case of undergarments. To urinate, women must therefore remove clothing and personal equipment including protective gear. As a result, women often limit their fluid intake during deployments. Limiting fluid to restrict the need to urinate has health consequences such as the risk of urinary tract infections, which is one of the most common health risks for deployed women, as well as dehydration, incontinence, vaginitis, and other infections of the urethra and possibly the kidneys¹.

Female urinary diversion devices (FUDDs) have been piloted by militaries around the world to protect women's health and allow for greater privacy during deployments or long patrols. Studies have shown that they contribute to a reduction of urological issues for women². Availability of FUDDs would create a more enabling environment within peacekeeping missions and contribute to personnel readiness and mission effectiveness, as well as ensure missions are responsive to the safety of women personnel. Studies note that improper use and cleaning can lead to health risk; therefore, it is recommended TCCs consider proper personnel sensitization and training.

3. DETAILED PROPOSAL

It is recommended that:

- FUDDs are included for women personnel in the equipment for the soldier's kit and individual kit for members of formed police units as outlined in Chapter 9.
- To reduce health risk posed by improper cleaning of FUDDs, we recommend clarifying to countries opting for disposable FUDDs to provide 10 FUDDs per 24 hr of patrol, and for countries opting for the reusable FUDDs to provide cleaning product (environmentally friendly/biodegradable when possible), based on 10 uses per 24 hr of patrol, and ensure full replacement every 2 yrs

¹ Elodi J. Dielubanza and Anthony J. Schaeffer, "Urinary Tract Infections in Women," *Medical Clinics of North America* 95, no. 1 (January 2011), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mcna.2010.08.023>; Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center (AFHSC), "Urinary Tract Infections during Deployment, Active Component, U.S. Armed Forces, 2008–2013," *Medical Surveillance Monthly Report* 21, no. 3 (March 2014); Carla Hawley-Bowland, "Lady J" and "Freshette Complete System": A Field Trial for the Active Duty Woman (El Paso, TX: William Beaumont Army Medical Center, 1995); and "Urinary Tract Diseases and Conditions Stress Urinary Incontinence: Study Findings from David L. Howard et al. Provide New Insights into Stress Urinary Incontinence (Complications of Sling Surgery for Stress Urinary Incontinence among Female Military Beneficiaries)," (Atlanta, 2018).

² Andrea Peters, "Female Urination in Austere Environments: A Mixed Methods Analysis" (PhD diss., University of Miami, 2020), 53–57 and 106.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

FUDDs are relatively cost effective with disposable FUDDs ranging from \$0.40 USD to \$1 USD per count, while reusable FUDDs³ range from \$6 to \$40 USD.

The total cost for reusable FUDDs is ~\$20 x 6,231 female peacekeepers (in Feb 2025) = ~ \$124,620 USD.

5. PROPOSED 2026 COE MANUAL TEXT

Amend appendix, Chapter 9, Memorandum of understanding for military contingents, Appendix (page 218) as follows:

Page	Chapter	Annex	Para	Current Text	New Text (Red)
218	9	Appendix	N/A	Soldier's kit: mission-specific recommended requirement Equipment items - Sleeping bag 1 - Travelling bag 1 - Toothbrush 1 - Dining knife 1 - Spoon 1 - Fork 1 - Mess tin 1 - Drinking mug 1 - Cleaning brush 1 - Water canteen 1 - Individual mosquito net 1 Flashlight 1 - Survival kit 1 - Compass 1	Soldier's kit: mission-specific recommended requirement Equipment items - Sleeping bag 1 - Travelling bag 1 - Toothbrush 1 - Dining knife 1 - Spoon 1 - Fork 1 - Mess tin 1 - Drinking mug 1 - Cleaning brush 1 Female Urinary Diversion Device - Water canteen 1 - Individual mosquito net 1 - Flashlight 1 - Survival kit 1 - Compass 1

* Disposable (10 per 24 hours of patrol) OR /Reusable (1 with cleaning product), as applicable.

* It is recommended that reusable FUDDs are provided with cleaning product to avoid health risk.

2. Amend appendix, Chapter 9, Memorandum of understanding for formed police units, Appendix (page 258) as follows:

Page	Chapter	Annex	Para	Current Text	New Text (Red)
218	9	Appendix	N/A	Individual kit for members of formed police units: mission-specific requirement Personal Equipment - Sleeping bag 1 - Individual mosquito net 1 - Travelling bag 1 - Backpack (80 litres) 1 - Toothbrush 1 - Dining knife 1 - Spoon 1 - Fork 1 - Mess tin 1 - Drinking mug 1 - Water canteen 1 - Cleaning brush 1 - Flashlight 1	Individual kit for members of formed police units: mission-specific requirement Personal Equipment - Sleeping bag 1 - Individual mosquito net 1 - Travelling bag 1 - Backpack (80 litres) 1 - Toothbrush 1 - Dining knife 1 - Spoon 1 - Fork 1 - Mess tin 1 - Drinking mug 1 - Water canteen 1 - Cleaning brush 1 Female Urinary Diversion

³ It is recommended that reusable FUDDs are provided with cleaning product to avoid health risk.

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				Compass 1 Hearing protection 1	Device Flashlight 1 Compass 1 Hearing protection 1
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