



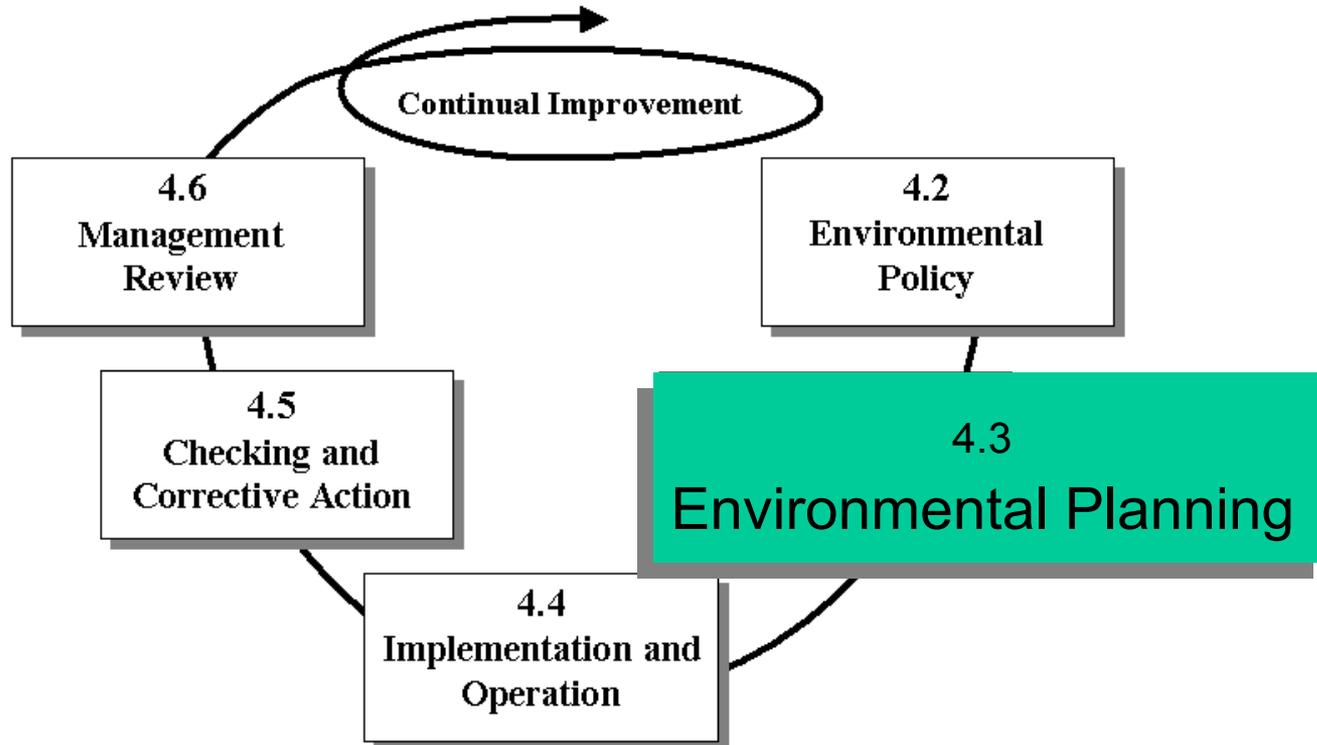
## Module 4: Environmental Aspects

- What is required by ISO 14001?
- Why is it important?
- What are key issues for Army?



# Environmental Aspects

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# Definitions

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## Environmental Aspect:

- “element of an organization’s activities, products, or services that can affect the environment.”
- “Note: A significant aspect is an environmental aspect that has or can have a significant environmental impact.” (ISO14001Sec. 3.3)

## Environmental Impact:

- “any change to the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from an organization’s activities, products, or services.” (ISO14001Sec. 3.4)



# Requirements

## Environmental Aspects:

- “The organization shall establish & maintain (a) **procedure(s)** to identify the environmental aspects of its activities, products, or services that it can **control** and over which it can be **expected to have an influence**, in order to determine those which have or can have **significant impacts** on the environment. The organization shall ensure that the aspects related to these significant impacts are **considered** in setting its environmental objectives.”

“The organization shall keep this information up-to-date.”

(ISO14001Sec. 4.3.1)





# Key Concepts

## ■ Look for interactions with environment

- Consider as an inventory or “footprint” of activities
- Aspects reflect activities or causes; impacts reflect results or effects
- Includes but not limited to compliance (eg, water & energy management, fuel load, dust, noise, diseases & weeds)
- Aspects can be positive (eg, erosion control, habitat, fire)

## ■ Focus is on procedures

- Need a systematic approach to identifying aspects
- Leverage any recent NEPA documents
- Conditions can change – how recent are data?
- List of aspects can get very long
- Build procedures that avoid getting bogged down



# Key Concepts

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## ■ Limit to things under control & influence

- Very few organizations know all their aspects
- Look for cause and effect – changes in the environment due to an activity
- Procedures need to help stay focused

## ■ “Significant” is not the same as in NEPA

- Significance under NEPA has legal definition
- Significance with ISO 14001 is closer to “priority”
- Procedures need to avoid confusion of the terms



# Army Focus

## ■ Significance is defined by the organization

- Traditional EMS defines significance as scale, severity, probability, and duration of impact
- Army extends definition to include consideration of environmental issues central to mission

## ■ Consider 3 ways to frame significance

- Look in: What could stop our being able to do our mission? What would advance it? What are leadership priorities?
- Look out: What damages or helps host communities? What most helps or hurts how they see us?
- Look forward: What changes are expected -- new missions, equipment, basing, etc? How can we pre-position to expedite those changes or reduce costs and impacts?



# Army Focus

## ■ Engaging communities outside the fence

- Understand what is important to host communities, states, tribes, & the nation (eg, water mang't in arid west, energy in California, urban air sheds)
- Consider as basis for forming alliances & joint-win outcomes
- Make sure everyone's expectations are well grounded
- Procedures should emphasize respectful consideration, win-wins, & understandable process (i.e., process satisfaction)

## ■ Consider related initiatives

- Leverage & amplify related efforts (eg, sustainability, quality, etc) that highlight mission advancing criteria for significance
- Draft procedures balancing breadth of consideration with clear mission focus



# Summary

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- **Aspects define an installation's footprint**
- **Procedures identifying aspects need to reach wide but stay focused**
- **Significance is different than for NEPA**
- **What is defined as significant drives the EMS**
- **A mission-focused definition of significance frames a mission-advancing EMS**
- **Look in, look out, look forward**



Excellent  
You have completed Module 4

