Bioenvironmental Engineering Site Assessment I
Unit 1: Course Introduction

Unit Description: This unit provides instructions for successfully completing the course. As you proceed through the BESA I training, you may notice some distinct differences between its design and most distance learning courses you have encountered in the past. The course introduction provides necessary information about the course goals, structure, and theme, as well as how to navigate the course effectively.

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Lesson 1: Course Introduction

Welcome Message

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Lesson Overview (Page 1 of 8)

Welcome to the distance learning (DL) portion of the Bioenvironmental Engineering Site Assessment (BESA) course. This course provides critical site assessment training, applying the Occupational and Environmental Health Site Assessment (OEHSA) concept to both garrison and deployed operations and particularly focusing on Health Risk Assessment (HRA) skill sets.

This course uses a blend of traditional content-focused screens and scenario-based instruction to apply the concepts you are learning to actual situations. Completing the DL course in its entirety will take approximately 17 hours; however, the training is divided into 16 units (including this one) which may be completed during one session or separately.

It is important for you to be aware that this training is the first portion of a larger course. You will apply the concepts you learn in the DL course during the In-Residence BESA II course.

In this introductory lesson, you will learn about the intended audience for this course and the features that have been built into the training.

Course Purpose and Features (Page 2 of 8)

This course is primarily designed for BE enlisted personnel who have attained the 5-skill level. If that description applies to you, this course will help fulfill your 7-level upgrade training requirement. Successful completion of this course will be required before you can take the Final Exam. You must pass the Final Exam prior to enrolling in BESA II, the In-Residence portion of this course.

BESA I can also be used as refresher training for your Readiness Skills Verification (RSV) process or for other ancillary training purposes. If you're using the course as ancillary training, you will be able to access any unit as needed and are not required to complete the entire course or the Final Exam.

As you complete this training, you will be working through scenarios that are set in several different locations all over the world. You may notice that the base names don't correspond with actual bases. These names have been invented for the purpose of this course.

You will be able to read an overview of what to expect and what you will learn at the beginning of each lesson. You'll also notice that at the end of each lesson the text provides a summary of what you learned in the lesson

Included at the end of the printed version of each unit (except this one) are some tools that will help you get the most out of the course. The Resources page is a list of reference materials related to the unit you are studying. An answer key is provided so you can check your responses to the questions you'll see throughout each unit. You'll learn more about these questions later in this introductory lesson. Also included at the back of each unit is a copy of the Glossary, which is a helpful reference tool that provides the definitions for many terms and acronyms used in the course. Finally, if there are any questions in the unit that

ask you to look up information in a document, that document (or the relevant portion of it) is included as an appendix.

Selectable Elements (Page 3 of 8)

Selectable elements have been included in the web-based course to provide additional content and an increased level of interactivity, and the information included in these selectable elements is also included in this print version of the course. For example, bold text indicates an item that, when selected in the web-based course, launches a popup box with information about the topic. In this print version, the popup text will be included as a subparagraph under the main text for the screen. Audio scripts are also provided in this print version for pages of the web-based course that include audio elements.

Some pages contain a great deal of information organized by tabs. This interaction is similar to thumbing through a file folder. The information on these tabbed pages is included in the print version as subparagraphs. There will usually be popup text included as a subparagraph under the information from the tabbed pages. The next page is an example of a tabbed interaction.

Checking Your Understanding (Page 4 of 8)

During the course, you will be given continual practice with specific feedback, through the use of two different types of questions that appear throughout the lessons. These questions provide you with a way to monitor your progress.

Tab: Appraisals

Appraisals are like mini-quizzes. They are presented after the associated content and are designed to test your understanding and retention of what you've learned. You should try your best because they are similar to the questions you'll see on the Final Exam for the course. An answer key is provided at the end of the print version of each unit so you can check your responses and read feedback that will help you understand why particular choices are correct or incorrect.

Tab: Scenario Challenge Points

Scenario Challenge Point questions are usually presented *before* the associated content and allow you to challenge yourself to figure out the answers based on your prior knowledge and experience. You will be able to read content associated with the question, which will be presented directly after the question.

Sometimes you will be asked questions about unfamiliar topics, and the feeling may be uncomfortable. Unlike most questions you've probably encountered in other courses you've taken, these questions are *not* designed to test what you've been taught. Instead, they are designed to start you thinking about the content, and they should help you focus on the information that is ahead.

Like Appraisals, Scenario Challenge Point questions provide valuable practice and specific feedback, which appears in the answer key at the end of the print version of the unit.

More About Scenario Challenge Points (Page 5 of 8)

To remind you that a content page is connected to a scenario question, the page number will have a letter after it. For example, if the Scenario Challenge Point was on page 6, the content associated with that question may be numbered 6a. After you read the content

associated with a Scenario Challenge Point question, it's a good idea to return to that question to check your answer, which is similar to the way the web-based course works.

There are a few occasions where **scenario-related questions** are asked but there is no additional content to provide after the question. In those rare instances, the question page will still be labeled as a Scenario Challenge Point, and you may want to review the scenario information to answer the question.

Scenario-related Questions

Sometimes, the answer to a question will depend on aspects of the scenario. While you will generally be provided some reminder information when you are asked this type of question, it may be helpful for you to take notes of important details as you are presented with a scenario.

Question Styles (Page 6 of 8)

This course uses several different styles of Appraisals and Scenario Challenge Point questions. Answering all the questions in each lesson will help to ensure that you are learning and retaining the material, which will prepare you for your BESA I Final Exam and for participation in BESA II.

This course uses the following types of questions:

- **Multiple Choice**
- **Matching**
- **Build a List**
- **Elimination Challenge**
- **Data Entry**

Multiple Choice

Be sure to read the instructions for each question carefully. For example, a multiple choice question may have only one correct answer, or there may be two or more correct answers. The number of correct items you should select will be specified in the question.

Matching

Matching questions may be in the form of a list or a table. For a list, you should write the correct answers on the blanks provided. For a table, you should mark the appropriate blocks in the table to match each item to its description.

Build a List

Sometimes you will be asked to create a list from a bank of choices. For this type of question, not all of the choices will be selected. The order of the list usually does not matter. An exception would be a question which asks you to list procedural steps in the correct order. In that case, the blanks will be numbered.

Elimination Challenge

For an elimination challenge, you will identify the item that does not belong and write it on the blank provided.

Data Entry

Another type of question in this course requires you to enter numerical data. The placeholders in each block tell you how many digits to enter. You can enter whole numbers with or without the decimal point. For these questions, you will usually need to have a calculator with you, and some questions require a scientific calculator.

Completing the Course (Page 7 of 8)

For purposes of upgrade training, successful completion of the course is recorded when every unit of the web-based course has been completed. For a unit to be marked as completed, you must pass a Progress Check for the unit with a score of at least 70%. The Progress Check is another method for checking your understanding, presented as a series of questions in a game-style format. The Progress Check, available only in the web-based course, will become accessible from the Lesson Menu after you have completed each lesson in the unit, and it will remain accessible once unlocked. You can use the Progress Checks as an opportunity to review the material presented throughout the unit and as preparation for the Final Exam.

Once all units are completed successfully, you will receive a Certificate of Completion for the course, and you may then register to take the proctored Final Exam to receive full credit for upgrade training purposes and attendance at BESA II. Check with your supervisor to find out how to register for the Final Exam.

Preparing for Success (Page 8 of 8)

As you've seen, this course provides you with many opportunities to practice the concepts you will be learning and to prepare you for success with the Final Exam and the In-Residence portion of BESA. In addition to the practice you will get through completing Appraisals, Scenario Challenge Point questions, and Progress Checks, you will also be able to use the printed version of the course as a study tool. Taking your own notes as you work through the lessons is also a helpful practice for retaining the information provided.

You have completed the introductory lesson and are now prepared to begin your training. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments related to BESA as you are working through the course, send an email to: USAFSAM.BECOURSES@brooks.af.mil.