

MEDICAL NEWS

Volume 27, Number 4

www.militarymedical.com

APRIL 2020

10th Mountain Division hosts nurse clinical training

By Spc. Charlotte Carulli
27th Public Affairs Detachment

10th Mountain Division (LI) medics participated in an in-depth nurse clinical training day at the Medical Simulation Training Center, Fort Drum, N.Y., on April 9th, 2020.

The training provided additional tools for medics to use in situations they may not be familiar with. The course also taught skills that are outside their scope of practice, but needed in emergency situations.

“Most of the medics are familiar with trauma-like settings where they come in, stabilize someone, and then evacuate them,” said Capt. Paul Yi, an instructor, and the 2nd Brigade Combat Team nurse. “What they learned today are all skills that medics can implement in their careers, even if they were forward deployed overseas.”

The eight-hour training included lessons on basic medication administration, the different oxygen augmentations and ventilators, body mechanics and moving patients, and how to use an electrocardiogram to find cardiac abnormalities.

Pvt. Maxwell Siner, a medic from C Company, 210th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, said he felt fortunate to be a part of the training event.

“I am happy to be a part of this course because, at advanced individual training, we didn’t learn how to move patients in a hospital setting,” said Siner. “Instead, we focused on a trauma setting. We didn’t learn how to take care of them in a more compassionate way and long term. We learned how to get the job done and how to do it efficiently.”

“I think the training has gone very well,” said Yi. “The Soldiers are taking the classes very seriously and are being very attentive. We are very glad to have them on board.”



(Photo By Spc. Charlotte Carulli)

Capt. Cornelia Willis, a nurse with C Company, 210th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (LI), and an instructor, explains how to use an electrocardiogram to find cardiac abnormalities.



(Photo By Marcy Sanchez)

U.S. Soldiers and Airmen from Landstuhl Regional Medical Center and 30th Medical Brigade, along with Soldiers from the Bundeswehr, the German Armed Forces, participate in Operation Courageous Defense, a collective training exercise designed to showcase integrated medical operations in the European theater, March 5.

Exercise highlights military medicine across Europe

By Marcy Sanchez
Landstuhl Regional Medical Center

LANDSTUHL, Germany – From a snake bite to engaging targets and responding to threats, nearly 400 medical personnel from Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, 30th Medical Brigade and the German Armed Forces (Bundeswehr) participated in Operation Courageous Defense, a combined training exercise designed to showcase integrated medical operations in the European theater, March 3-6.

The exercise aimed to train and certify personnel on essential qualifications, to include Army Warrior Tasks

and Individual Critical Tasks Lists which tests both Soldier skills and medical competencies.

“We are Soldiers first,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Forker, command sergeant major, Troop Command, LRMC. “We have to ensure a ready medical force and through this exercise we will achieve it.”

According to section 702 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, the drive for operational readiness and support of operational and war fighting missions take priority over the delivery of clinical/health care services and the execution of business

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(Photo by Ellen Crown, U.S. Army Medical Logistics Command)

Biomedical equipment specialist Willie Kendrick conducts depot-level maintenance at Tobyhanna Army Depot, Penn., on a ventilator as the Army supports COVID-19 response efforts worldwide. Kendrick is employed by the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency, part of the U.S. Army Medical Logistics Command.



(U.S. Army photo by Tom Fortner)

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Daniel Button is pictured handing off ventilators to the Georgia Air National Guard on April 3 following maintenance operations at Tobyhanna Army Depot.

Military Medical News

P.O. Box A3434
Chicago, IL 60690
Phone: 312-368-4884
Fax: 312-425-0203

To reach us:
advertising@militarymedical.com

Peter R. Bourjaily, Publisher

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Army medical maintenance technicians rush ventilators to COVID-19 fight

By C.J. Lovelace
U.S. Army Medical Logistics Command
TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT, Pa. — In the fight against COVID-19, every ventilator the U.S. Army can get working is another life potentially saved.

That's why Army biomedical equipment specialists around the globe are tirelessly turning their wrenches to repair and return ventilators to military hospitals and medical units, in support of the whole-of-government's COVID-19 response.

"We're taking the vents, calibrating them, putting in needed parts, doing a thorough inspection and sending them back out with all the accessories and consumables so they are ready for use right out of the box," said Tom Fortner, a technician assigned to the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency's medical maintenance division at Tobyhanna Army Depot.

USAMMA, a direct reporting unit of Army Medical Logistics Command, has three stateside depot-level maintenance facilities, each covering a geographi-

cal region. MMOD-Toby handles the East region, while MMOD-Hill, located at Hill Air Force Base in Utah, covers the Central region. MMOD-Tracy in California takes care of the West.

Army medical maintenance teams at each location are prioritizing not only the calibration and repair of ventilators, but also oxygen generators, suction apparatus and patient monitors to support COVID-19 response efforts.

Fortner said the teams have been turning these devices around in record time. He said some devices that only need minor fixes or checks are repaired and returned in just hours.

Once ready to ship, the delivery process can go just as quickly. For example, a recent shipment of ventilators back to the Georgia Air National Guard went out on a Friday evening and were in use in the hospital by Sunday morning.

The team has been handling the added workload with great efficiency, according to Fortner.

"We have a pretty good little system going," Fortner said. "It's definitely kudos to them."

"I'm proud to see the continued teamwork, sense of pride and urgency shown by our employees at the MMOD's during this response to COVID-19," said Jack Rosarius, director of USAMMA's Medical Maintenance Management Directorate. "Their work continues to be appreciated and essential in the Army's battle of this health crisis."



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• Exercise (Continued from front page)

operations in an MTF. Meaning, Soldiers, Airmen and Sailors must be capable of performing their duties both on and off the battlefield. This affords the Army, Air Force and Navy to train personnel not only on medical aptitude in a military treatment facility, but also their capability to provide patient care in war fighting and operational environments.

For over two years, LRMC implemented training to drill various roles of medical care in combat settings, from immediate lifesaving measures to evacuating patients to higher levels of care.

“OCD is an innovative, adaptive way of training our Soldiers within the MTF without disrupting patient care,” said Lt. Col. Christina Buchner, commander, Troop Command, LRMC. “It shows we can train as Soldiers and make sure we’re ready for any mission, whether that’s global or local.”

According to Buchner, the training also helps achieve the objective of synchronizing and providing support to combatant commanders and allies.

“(The exercise) ensures we are aligned with combatant commander objectives of providing medical capabilities to maximize their performance on the battlefield.”

For LRMC personnel, opportunities in a field environment provide needed experience for clinical providers.

“In a hospital we get really comfortable and familiar with our jobs, and some of our other skills we might have learned earlier in our careers could use more attention,” said 1st Lt. Addison Montiel, a nurse at LRMC’s Medical Surgical Ward. “Training like this allows us to keep those skills sharp for when the time comes for us to use them.”

Because some medical roles are interchangeable between different levels of care, the exercise also provided Soldiers insight into medical roles outside of MTF environments.

For Soldiers with the 30th Medical Brigade, Operation Courageous Defense afforded them the opportunity to ensure the unit is at its highest state of readiness in order to support DEFENDER-Europe 20, the largest deployment of U.S. Forces to Europe in 25 years. The large scale Army-led exercise aims to build military readiness and interoperability with allies and partners to enable the movement of a large force across the theater.

Aside from validating combat and medical skills, Operation Courageous Defense empowered unit-level leaders to develop and execute their roles as non-commissioned officers and company-grade officers.

“For most of these Soldiers this may be their first duty station, and it’s different if you’re in (combat arms units) than a MTF,” said Sgt. 1st Class April Luikart, noncommissioned officer in charge, Division of Medicine, LRMC. “So (Operation courageous Defense) is not only setting them up for success to go to their next duty station, but if they deploy or go to any type of different unit,



this is their foundation, this is what they need to know.”

LRMC’s exercise was one of the first of its kind for any Army military medical treatment facility.

“We are setting an adaptive model for all military treatment facilities to demonstrate they can implement this type of training at their facilities without disrupting patient care,” said Buchner. “By

doing so with other units, it’s making us a more joint force with operational partners within the medical field.”

As a Role 4 theater hospital, LRMC is responsible for the medical care of wounded, ill or injured warfighters evacuated from the U.S. European Command, U.S. Africa Command, and U.S. Central Command areas of operation.

(Photos By Marcy Sanchez)

(Above) U.S. Army Soldiers from Landstuhl Regional Medical Center and 30th Medical Brigade participate in Operation Courageous Defense, a collective training exercise designed to showcase integrated medical operations in the European theater, March 3. As part of their preparations for DEFENDER-Europe 20, a theater-wide exercise with the largest deployment of U.S.-based forces to Europe in more than 25 years, Army doctors, nurses and medics are testing their critical skills, medical readiness, and abilities to conduct expeditionary and support operations.

(Right) U.S. Army Spc. Christiellafaye Pagarigan, an occupational therapist technician at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, participates in Operation Courageous Defense.



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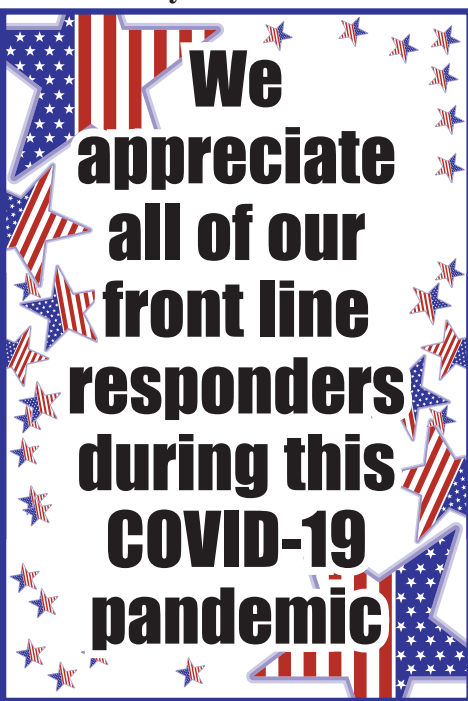
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Peterson medical group fights disguised threat – COVID-19

By Staff Sgt. Alexandra Longfellow
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. –With the recent pandemic of COVID-19, the Air Force isn't taking the safety of others lightly. The 21st Medical Group at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, has been working diligently to stop the spread of the virus to the base population and its families.

The 21st MDG stood up the COVID-19 Point of Testing on Peterson AFB on 20 March 2020. The Point of Testing site is available to all 21st MDG enrollees of the 21st Space Wing, 50th SW and tenant units located on both installations.

Testing is conducted at the Peterson car wash. Medical staff tests patients while they remain in their vehicles to limit exposure. The medical group advises not to go to the test site without an appointment.

In order to provide up to date information to our population, the medical group is in constant communication with the El Paso County Public Health Department.

"We also have our Crisis Action Team stood up within our readiness section which serves as a tracking and information hub," said Maj. William Timberlake, 21st MDG public health emergency officer. "This also allows us to have access to reach out to community partners."

Timberlake said the biggest challenge during this pandemic, is ensuring access to care in an environment that provides safety for our patients and staff, while also being sensitive to and supporting our mission partners' requirements.

"We are finding innovative ways to accommodate our patients' healthcare, such as increasing the number of virtual and telephone appointments, reducing traffic flow in and out of the clinic," Timberlake said.

"The Point of Testing site also helps in this aspect by having a dedicated location for those members suspected of COVID-19 based on the screening criteria. Drive-through sampling sites are a critical part of the nation-leading program to test for COVID-19.

We are continuously reassessing for ways to streamline virtual and in-person care across all functions of the medical group."

Timberlake and his team ask for patience during this time as the situation is constantly evolving and the medical group is continuously monitoring for guidance changes.

"We are available and willing to answer your questions, but given the volume, it may take us some time to reply," Timberlake said. "In the meantime, please educate yourselves on the Centers of Disease Control and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment websites as these resources are a great place to start if you have questions."

The Public Health Emergency Officers at Fort Carson, United States Air Force Academy, Buckley, Peterson and Schriever AFB are in daily communications regarding COVID-19 activity and countermeasures. Additionally, the Colorado Health Market System has daily teleconferences to keep medical professionals in sync across the Front Range.

The 21st MDG is in frequent contact with base leadership to provide expert advice with regards to

protective measures and safeguards for our military, civilian and families to minimize exposure and the impact of COVID-19.

"Our public health section has performed site visits to evaluate processes and procedures for various units to include the child development center and the commissary," Timberlake said. "Our bioenvironmental team is performing healthcare worker monitoring to help ensure the safety and well-being of our frontline medical staff. We are staying actively engaged against this invisible threat."

"The 21st MDG medics are an integral part of the Colorado Springs community's response to the COVID-19 pandemic," said Col Christopher Vaughn. "We are developing new ways to provide care to meet our population's needs, prevent spread of the virus in our clinical areas, and reduce emergency room utilization by our patients. We are hopeful that these measures will flatten the curve significantly, allowing our local hospitals to provide life-saving care to the sickest patients."

If you are concerned that you or someone in your family has been exposed to COVID-19 and are symptomatic (cough, shortness of breath and/or fever), please call (719) 524-2273 for an appointment.

For the latest information on COVID-19, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Department of Defense Coronavirus websites at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus and www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus.

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