



## TACTICAL COMBAT CASUALTY CARE COURSE MODULE 24: PREPARE FOR EVACUATION



Committee on Tactical Combat Casualty Care (CoTCCC)

**TCCC** TIER 1 All Service Members

**TCCC** TIER 2 Combat Lifesaver TCCC TIER 3 Combat Medic/Corpsman **TCCC** TIER 4 Combat Paramedic/Provider





#### TACTICAL COMBAT CASUALTY CARE (TCCC) ROLE-BASED TRAINING SPECTRUM **ROLE 1 CARE MEDICAL** NONMEDICAL PERSONNEL PERSONNEL PARAMEDIC ALL SERVICE COMBAT PROVIDER MEMBERS LIFESAVER COMBAT MEDIC/ CORPSMAN **YOU ARE HERE**

#### STANDARDIZED JOINT CURRICULUM





#### **1 x TERMINAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- Given a combat or noncombat scenario, prepare casualties for evacuation 27 during Tactical Field Care in accordance with CoTCCC Guidelines.
  - **27.1** Identify considerations and fundamental procedures for staging casualties for evacuation.
  - **27.2** Identify the importance of pre-mission evacuation equipment preparation and rehearsals.
  - **27.3** Identify considerations and precautions required for evacuating casualties with suspected spinal injuries.
  - **27.4** Identify critical actions and checks to prepare casualties for evacuation.
  - **27.5** Identify methods of litter selection and evacuation equipment in Tactical Field Care.
  - **27.6** Identify considerations for evacuating ambulatory/walking wounded casualties in Tactical Field Care.
  - Demonstrate the preparation of a casualty for evacuating in Tactical Field Care. 27.7
  - **27.8** Identify considerations in the transition of care during Tactical Evacuation Care.
  - **27.9** Identify the responsibilities of tactical force personnel in Tactical Evacuation Care

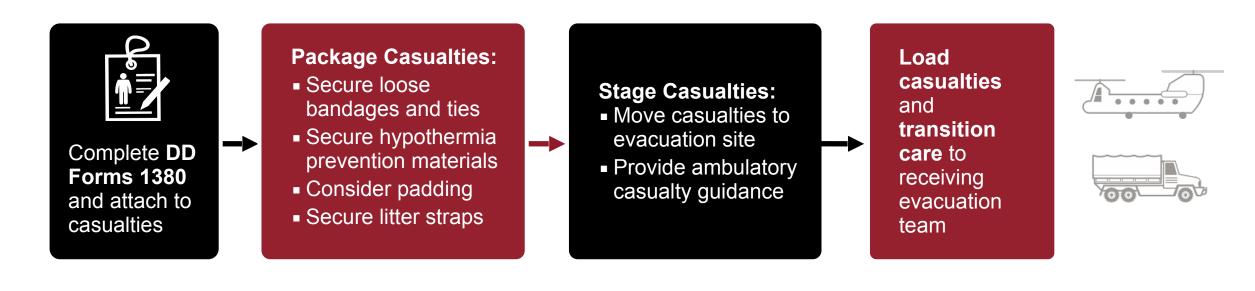
#### **09 x ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

= **Terminal Learning Objectives** = Cognitive ELOs = Performance ELOs



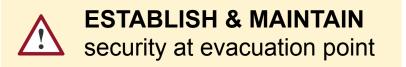
#### Defense Health Agency JOINT TRAUMA SYSTEM

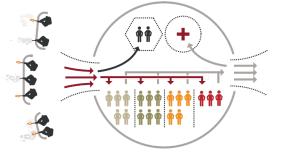
#### PREPARE FOR EVACUATION OVERVIEW



#### **CHALLENGES TO EVACUATIONS**

- Unsecure tactical environment
- Loud noise conditions
- Physically difficult casualty transfers









## **CASUALTY EVACUATION STAGING**

**STAGE** in close proximity to the evacuation site

If not at treatment site, **MOVE TO STAGING AREA** when evac assets are in route

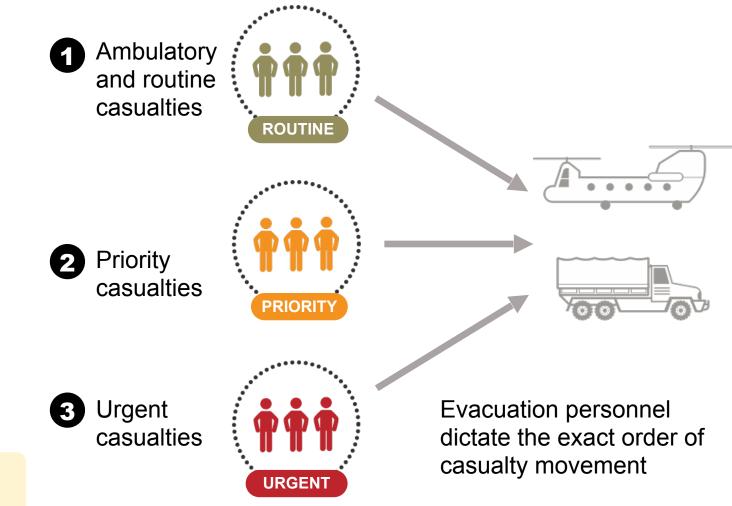
**PROTECT CASUALTIES** from environmental elements

**MONITOR** for hypothermia and dehydration

ARRANGE CASUALTIES IN ORDER of loading precedence (usually routine first and urgent last)



Periodically reassess MARCH-PAWS interventions







## **PRE-MISSION EQUIPMENT PREP AND REHEARSALS**



#### PRE-MISSION REHEARSALS

- Primary roles for each member
- Cross-training in other roles

Comprehensive dress rehearsals with simulated field conditions Establish leadership / Uncover weaknesses / Build confidence

PREPARE EVACUATION EQUIPMENT



Unit members should all know:

- How to use evac equipment (set-up and actual use)
- Where to find equipment during a mission (storage location)



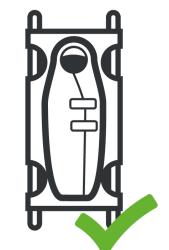
**CMC** must inspect & inventory evacuation equipment prior to deployment and every mission

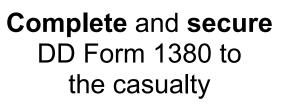


## CRITICAL ACTIONS TO PREPARE CASUALTIES









Secure all loose ends of bandages and wraps, and equipment Secure hypothermia prevention wraps & blankets



Secure litter straps, consider additional padding

Attach DD Form 1380 to the casualty in a prominent location (**wrist**, **belt loop** of pants, etc.)



Ensure casualty's weapons and equipment have been secured, as appropriate





## SUSPECTED SPINAL INJURY CONSIDERATIONS

C-spine stabilization is not necessary for casualties who have sustained only penetrating trauma

Spinal immobilization is not a primary objective of Care Under Fire or Tactical Field Care

If the tactical situation allows, consider addressing in preparation for Tactical Evacuation Care



Long spine boards and immobilization materials usually not available – consider requesting special equipment from MEDEVAC **CONSIDER SPINAL INJURY** in casualty with:

Blunt trauma with spinal pain

Visible hematoma/swelling along spine

Radiating pain, unexplained sensory loss

**USE RIGID LITTER** with adequate support to protect the spinal cord from sustaining secondary injury

#### CONSIDER USING MALLEABLE SPLINT

to form C-collar if cervical injury is suspected





#### LITTER SELECTION AND EVACUATION EQUIPMENT

Evacuation equipment considerations:

Unit standard operating procedures

Deployed mission environment (tactical situation, terrain, weather, and evacuation assets)

**DO NOT DELAY** getting casualties onto litters

Hypothermia is easier to prevent off the ground

Easier to move casualty on litter



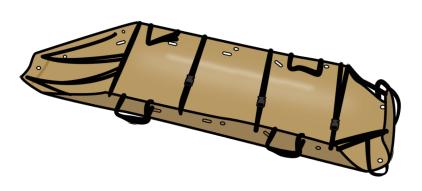
Train on unit equipment, but familiarize yourself with as many different types as feasible



## Collapsible litter pros/ cons:

Most common litters

- Rigid poles/grips aid in transport/rough terrain
- Integrated litter straps
- Collapsible handles support H-60 MEDEVACs



JOINT TRAUMA SYS

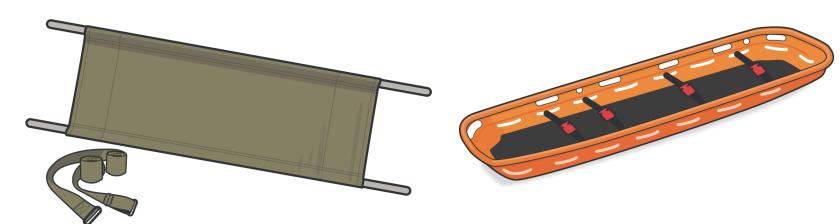
#### Sled type litters pros/cons:

- No rigid poles difficult grip over long distances
- Integrated straps
- Some hoist-certified
- Plastic supports sliding on smooth surfaces
- Needs good padding



#### LITTER SELECTION AND EVACUATION EQUIPMENT (cont.)





#### "Army standard litter" pros/cons:

- Poles don't collapse
- Requires external litter straps
- Commonly seen in multinational operations



Significant variation exists within NATO litter standards

#### Basket type litter pros/cons:

- Usually found in rescue units
- Some (not all) litters fit inside basket
- Can be dragged

Generally, preferred litter for hoisting





#### Improvised litter pros/cons:

- Rigid pole materials often difficult to locate
- Can be made with rope, blankets or jackets

If not properly constructed, potential for harm to casualty





#### AMBULATORY CASUALTY CONSIDERATIONS

Can the ambulatory casualty help?

Are they capable of providing security?

Could they help lift a litter patient?

Can they help other ambulatory casualties?

#### Assign uninjured unit member as POC

Answer questions for ambulatory casualtiesPeriodically reassess ambulatory casualties



Instruct casualties to repeatedly check their wounds and dressings & ensure that bleeding remains controlled Disoriented or visually impaired casualties **require supervision** to be evacuated

When moving, line up casualties and have each place their hand on the shoulder of the casualty in front of them







## TACTICAL FORCE PERSONNEL RESPONSIBILITIES

**Tactical force** personnel are responsible for:

- Identifying an evacuation site
- Marking and preparing the evacuation site
- Securing the evacuation site

Leadership is tasked with

Ensuring the safety of casualties Ensuring the safety of tactical personnel Maintaining awareness of potential hostile threats that could impact the success of the evacuation



**The entire unit**, including medical personnel, should be prepared to support security requirements



#### TRANSITIONING CARE TO EVACUATION PERSONNEL



<u>GOOD</u> casualty care management transfers improve outcomes Have accurate, completed DD Forms 1380 Have MIST report prepared for each casualty

- Identify the receiving care provider
- Make direct contact (visual, verbal, etc.)
- Establish method of communication (radio, verbal, written)
- Relay MIST report(s)
- Answer any questions

#### **NEGATIVE IMPACTS on transition** of care:

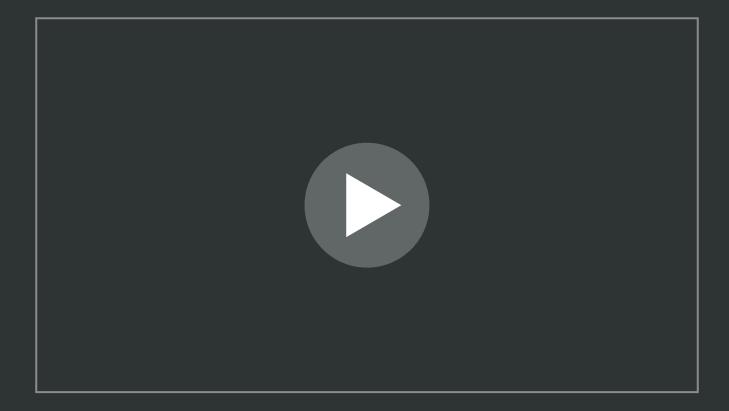
- Hostility threats in exposed environments Reduced ground time (fuel limits, etc.)
- Engine noise and rotor wash







## **PREPARE FOR EVACUATION VIDEO**



Video can be found on deployedmedicine.com





#### PREPARE FOR EVACUATION SKILL STATION



Litter Selection

Casualty Preparation



Casualty Staging



Transition of Care





## SUMMARY

- Overview of the process of preparing and staging casualties for evacuation
- The importance of pre-mission training and evacuation equipment preparation
- Litter and evacuation equipment selection
- Critical actions in preparing casualties
- Considerations for evacuation of a casualty with a suspected spinal injury
- Considerations for evacuation of ambulatory casualties
- The process of staging casualties
- Responsibilities of tactical force personnel
- Effective transition of care to evacuation personnel





## **CHECK ON LEARNING**

Why is it important to perform pre-mission rehearsals of preparation for evacuation?

What goes into selecting a litter?



Name three critical actions in preparing a casualty for evacuation.



How should you arrange casualties when staging them at the evacuation site?



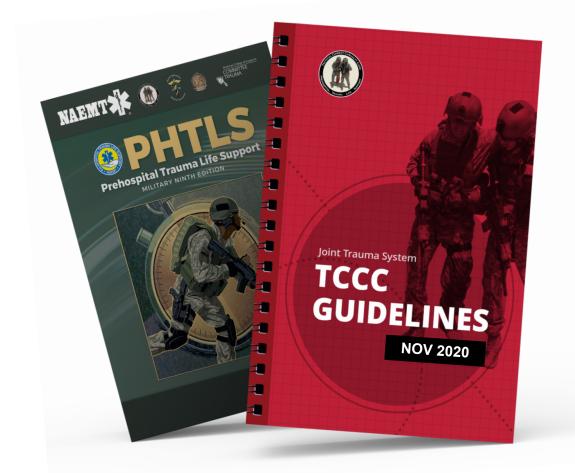


# ANY QUESTIONS?





## REFERENCES



#### Defense Health Agency JOINT TRAUMA SYSTEM

#### TCCC: Guidelines by JTS/CoTCCC

### Updated regularly – latest edition dated 5 November 2020

These guidelines are the result of decisions made by the Committee on Tactical Combat Casualty Care as they explore evidence-based research regarding best practices

#### **PHTLS: Military Edition, Chapter 25**

by NAEMT **Prehospital Trauma Life Support**, **Military Ninth Edition**