



THE SCOOP



From the Military Training Network

JULY-DECEMBER 1999



MTN Fourth Worldwide Conference

MTN 2000 RESUSCITATIVE AND TRAUMA MEDICINE FOR THE NEXT MILLENNIUM

The date for the next MTN conference is fast approaching. April 25-27, 2000 at four months away, is really just around the bend and we remain excited at the opportunity to meet our affiliates from all over the world. Have you made your hotel arrangements or registered yet? If not, let us remind you of the location once again.

The conference will be held at the:
Bethesda Marriott Hotel
5151 Pooks Hill Road
Bethesda Maryland 20814
1-800-228-9290.

The registration form lists very important cut off dates for room reservations and conference discount fees. By now you should have received a registration form. If not you may visit our web site or call the MTN. We will be happy to mail you more.

New this year will be a welcome reception on the evening of the 24th of April 2000 from 18-2000 hours in civilian casual attire. Bring a smile, a small appetite, and the desire to have fun. You will meet the MTN Staff, National Faculty and other conference attendees. Conference registration will take place beginning at noon on the 24th for those early arriving attendees. There is a pre-conference session for the MTN National Faculty Members on the 24th of April 2000 and is by invitation only.

CONFERENCE DESCRIPTION

The conference will provide you with updates on resuscitative, trauma and

administrative issues, as well as the goals and accomplishments of the MTN. American Heart Association representatives will brief you on the science and instructional changes anticipated in 2000-2001. It is anticipated that Dr. James A. Zimble, President of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and former Navy Surgeon General will present opening and closing remarks. Also, each Service's Surgeon General has been invited to attend.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND ?

The conference is open to all MTN affiliate Program Administrators, Program Directors and Affiliate Faculty for Basic Life Support, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support and Advanced Trauma Life Support. Program Directors, Administrators, and Affiliate Faculty members and all levels of program instructors. If you are an EMT or other Department of Defense (DoD) healthcare provider, active duty, reserve, or national guard member involved with resuscitative or trauma medicine, you will find something of interest at MTN 2000. If you are involved in the purchasing of AHA instructional material, you will be interested to know that all vendors supporting AHA programs have been invited to attend. Additionally, other health care related vendors have been invited to attend MTN 2000.

All program managers and several national faculty members are expected to attend and answer questions about your respective program issues. Several national faculty members will brief you on information shared at the February 2000 AHA National meeting in Dallas Texas. Watch our web site and future editions of "The Scoop" for continuing updates and news of MTN 2000, *Resuscitative and Trauma Medicine for the Next Millennium*.

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MORE REASONS TO ATTEND THE MTN 2000 CONFERENCE

The AHA has announced that there will be extensive science and instructional changes coming in 2000-2001. Under consideration, but not yet approved by the AHA committees are:

New ACLS and PALS exams
New BLS text that is more user friendly
Possible changes to BLS instructional procedures
Possible changes in types of provider courses
Distance learning initiatives in the AHA network.

These and other significant initiatives of the AHA will be discussed at MTN 2000. **Important note**, beginning January 1, 2001, all new texts will be available for purchase from the AHA vendors. These will be based on the new science and instructional delivery findings presented at MTN 2000 and published by the AHA throughout the year 2000. It is recommended that affiliates purchase only those texts absolutely necessary for the remainder of the calendar year 2000, as you will need to begin purchasing new instructor guides and other course supporting material in FY 2001, (available from AHA vendors in January 2001). **By July 2001 all courses taught by AHA (MTN) affiliates must be using all new course material.**

SCOOP NOW A TRI-ANNUAL PUBLICATION

Beginning with this issue, the first for Fiscal Year (FY) 00, the MTN will issue the Scoop newsletter on a tri-annual basis vice a quarterly basis as in FY 99. In our never ending quest to maximize information management, we have determined that an issue released in December, April, and July of each fiscal year will best serve the needs of our affiliates. Those are the time frames when either reports are coming due or have just been required. This will permit us to provide you with reminders and issue changes to AHA and MTN policy that will best assist you in managing your programs.

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT PROGRAM

Thank you to all the affiliates that have submitted their end of the year Annual Report. If you have not submitted your report, please do so as soon as possible. The abeyance reports will be distributed shortly to unit commanders. If you have submitted your annual report and still have not received your AHA/MTN cards, please call SFC Hyde at DSN 295-1492/0964 or commercial (301) 295-1492/0964.

Instructors will not issue themselves an AHA instructor card. The card must be obtained by meeting all the criteria set forth by the MTN and AHA. The AHA ECC National Training Bulletin #2-10/98 and the MTN Memo of April 23, 1999 provided the following direction

To successfully demonstrate instructor renewal requirements, the participant must:

1. Maintain Provider status:

Attending a provider course or a provider renewal course may do this.

Completing the evaluation stations and written exam when teaching the provider course.

Demonstrating the provider skills in an instructor renewal course, this includes the written exam.

2. Teach two (2) courses per year:

Teaching in two separate courses per year does this.

BLS-IT (add) must teach one (1) instructor course or renewal course per year.

3. Complete an update on new information regarding course content, which may include new science guidelines, additions to course curriculum, or change in course format/philosophy. The content of the new information may determine the method of update. If nothing specific is designated, the Affiliate Faculty may choose one of the following methods to update its instructors:

- Attending an update course.
- Watching a prepared video/satellite presentation regarding new material and completing a post written exam.
- Receiving an orientation from National, Affiliate Faculty, or BLS-ITs.
- Reading "Training Bulletins" originating at the National AHA and MTN office containing information regarding changes in course material and returning a written confirmation form indicating receipt of the bulletin.

4. Provide documentation that teaching ability was monitored.

The Instructor Card supersedes the provider card and can be issued to take the place of the MTN provider card; an instructor does not need to have both cards. Instructor Trainers are to be issued the instructor card with the initials IT after their names.

There has been a large increase in the number of instructor and instructor classes being taught. If your ratio of instructors to providers is too low, e.g., 20 providers and 15 instructors, the instructors will have limited opportunity to teach and consequently will have difficulty maintaining currency as instructors. We look very carefully at these ratios. Please ensure that you maintain only the number of instructors needed to meet your training needs.

While processing this fiscal year's annual reports, we have noticed that some affiliates are still not reporting all of the satellites which receive training support from their command. Again, a satellite is a unit that falls out of the purview of your organization or facility. If it can not exist as a stand-alone program because it is missing a key component, and does not report directly to the MTN but to your command, then it's a satellite. Satellite program information will be used to accurately reflect the total numbers of pro-

grams under MTN sponsorship. This data is reported to the American Heart Association, to each Surgeon General, the General Accounting Office and other higher commands authority.

Military Training Network affiliated programs must ensure there is a separation of duties between the Program Director and Program Administrator in all MTN resuscitative medicine training programs. There is an inherent potential for fraud when the same individual is allowed to request MTN/AHA cards, distribute the cards, and is solely responsible for accounting for all cards. Each case of alleged fraud reported to the MTN requires investigation by the unit Commander and legal review at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. Commanding Officers will continue to prosecute persons found guilty of misuse of the MTN/AHA cards. The integrity of the program is paramount; we will not allow even the appearance of impropriety. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

All programs must have a Program Director, Program Administrator and Affiliate Faculty. **No exception.** The Affiliate Faculty and Program Director must be Instructor Trainers (ITs), only the National Faculty can waive this requirement. So, please keep more than one individual trained as an IT.

Basic Life Support Program Semi-Annual and Annual Report must be received by the MTN before cards and re-affiliation letters will be provided. The BLS program no longer requires the Affiliation/Re-affiliation Report form. However, separate Affiliation/Re-affiliation form must be sent in for both the PALS and ACLS Programs.

BLS Semi-Annual Reports are due March 31, 2000.

BLS PROGRAM MANAGER CHANGE



Effective immediately, HM1 (FMF) Louis K. Avery will be joining SFC Hyde as a BLS Program Manager. He will be assuming all **Navy & Navy Reserve Programs**. He can be reached at:
(Comm) 301-295-1479/0964
(DSN) 295-1479/0964.
His e-mail address is: lavery@usuhs.mil

ARMY EMT PROGRAM

EMT PROGRAM MANAGER CHANGE

Effective immediately, HMCS Jorge Rios is assigned as the "NEW" Army EMT-Basic Program Manager and also the "NEW" ATLS Program Manager. He can be reached at:
(Comm) 301-295-1473/0964
(DSN) 295 1478/0964.
His e-mail address is: jrios@usuhs.mil

EMT INCREASE

The NREMT fees will increase starting January 1, 2002 as follows: Basic and First Responder \$5.00 increase, Intermediate \$10.00 increase and Paramedic \$15.00 increase.

EMT REPORT REMINDER

There has been a recent change from semi-annual to an annual report, many affiliates have sent a semi-annual report which is no longer required. The annual report is due by 1 October each year.

EMT PROGRAM CHANGES

If you have any changes whatsoever to your program, i.e. Medical Director, Course Coordinator, Primary Instructor, it is imperative that you contact the Army EMT Program Manager via memorandum, either mailed or faxed to make him aware of the changes. Our fax numbers are: (COMM) 301-295-1556/1717 or (DSN) 295-1556/1717. Once you have made the change at your site, we must contact the National Registry immediately to alleviate any delay with your test processing. Thank you for your cooperation.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT) EMT BASIC MANUAL

If any affiliate requests a DOT Basic EMT Manual, 1994 Edition, one can be obtained via e-mail by contacting the Army EMT-Basic Program Manager. Be advised, this is quite a large manual (2.96 MB) and will require some time to download. If for any reason you do not have e-mail capabilities, arrangements can be made to have a hard copy of the manual forwarded via commercial mail to your site.

ACLS/PALS PROGRAM

Reminder for Affiliates, if you did not submit your FY-2000 Affiliation/Re-Affiliation paper work, please send it to the program manager ASAP.

Also, a reminder that the American Medical Association Physician's Recognition Award program does not permit us to grant CME credit to physicians in residency or fellowship programs, or in education for advanced degrees. Please ensure you identify on your course completion rosters only those physicians who meet the eligibility for CME.

POST COURSE REPORTS

YOUR REPORTS MUST CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING:

Cover Sheet
List of Instructors
Course Agenda
Grade report
Summarized Course Critique

It saves a tremendous amount of time if the reports are complete. This assists us in returning your course attendance letters faster.



Statement on Bretylium American Heart Association October 12, 1999

In recent months manufacturers of bretylium tosylate have been unable to acquire the essential raw material necessary for production of this adrenergic blocker. As a result, increasing numbers of ACLS providers have been unable to replace expired and used vials and prefilled syringes of that drug and have asked if there is an alternative. It should be noted that bretylium is the drug of third choice for the treatment of VF or VT. In treating either arrhythmia, use of bretylium would be preceded at some point by the administration of a maximum dose of lidocaine. It is further noted that no difference in clinical outcome or survival is observed in studies comparing lidocaine and bretylium in patients with out-of-hospital VF. The ECC Committee and its ACLS Subcommittee do not at this time recommend an alternative to the use of bretylium but are conducting an evaluation of other possible treatments for refractory malignant ventricular arrhythmias. Until bretylium supplies are restored or alternatives are identified, ACLS providers should follow all other protocols described in the American Heart Association's 1992 ECC algorithms for treatment of VF and VT.

Jerry Potts, PH.D.
Director of Science
Emergency Cardiovascular Care Programs
American Heart Association, National Center

MTN POLICY AND PROCEDURES

As a reminder, for those of you new to program management with the MTN, information presented in the *Scoop* is just one of our methods to provide policy changes and updates to MTN affiliates. You may find additional policy changes on our web site at www.usuhs.mil/mtn/mtn.html, and by periodically contacting your respective program manager, who may inform you of new or pending policy changes.

We use many methods since we may need to distribute policy changes to affiliates prior to scheduled publication dates of the *Scoop*. In other words, just because you did not see it in the *Scoop*, does not mean the policy hasn't changed.

NUMBERS OF AFFILIATE FACULTY

In most cases there is little reason for more than 1 or 2 affiliate faculty at a command. However, recently a few affiliates have desired to increase their numbers of affiliate faculty members for a specific program. First, contact your program manager. They will assist your respective senior affiliate faculty in providing a memorandum to the Director of MTN requesting additional affiliate faculty for that program.

State the details of your necessity for additional affiliate faculty members. Be very specific as to how and why you will use them. List all your current affiliate faculty and appointment dates with the MTN and their responsibilities. The commander or their designated representative must sign the memorandum. We will review your training history for the present and previous fiscal year as well as other factors in determining our recommendation to the National Faculty.

Please be sure to provide the senior affiliate faculty e-mail and phone number to help expedite your request. All this information will be forwarded to the service specific national faculty member for their decision on your request. Their decision is final. This process could take up to 45 days for a return decision from MTN to your command. Typically the National Faculty will return requests in less than 30 days to the MTN. Please plan accordingly.

COAST GUARD

The Coast Guard has established a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Military Training Network. The following Coast Guard sites are approved MTN Training Affiliates for Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS): Coast Guard Training Center Petaluma, CA; Training Center May, NJ; Reserve Training Center Yorktown, VA; Coast Guard Air station, Clearwater, FL; Coast Guard ISC Boston, MA; and Coast Guard Academy New London CT. Coast Guard individuals may participate in BLS and ACLS training at sites outside those listed in the MOU at the discretion of the facility commander.

LATE ANNUAL REPORTS

The MTN Program Managers have finished scrubbing their records and have reported to the Director of MTN the affiliates who have failed to file accurate or timely annual reports. Presently those affiliate unit commanders will be receiving letters of abeyance for their respective programs with a courtesy copy to the program level personnel. What does this mean to you?

You will find out about program abeyance status via your chain of command. CME will not be granted for these courses even though previous approval may have been obtained. Your Program must be in good standing during course dates. Otherwise, your program will be on our list of programs in a non-compliance status that may, if necessary, be provided to the service specific Surgeon General's office. If you are responsible for filing the reports to MTN at your command, you will want to contact the MTN program manager to ensure you are in compliance.

Previously we have granted renewal for those programs having early October courses but had discrepancies when filing their annual reports. Next year no renewals under any circumstances will be granted until a proper and timely annual report is on file with the MTN. If your training plan calls for an October class, be sure you file Reports on time. Remember, Continuing Medical Education (CME) is not granted, under any circumstances, retroactively to a program before course approval by the MTN. No waivers are granted, so no request will be honored.

E-MAIL

We strongly encourage our Affiliates to communicate to their program managers via e-mail. A list of all MTN staff e-mail addresses can be found on the this page of this Scoop.

CHANGES IN THE MTN STAFF

We would like to welcome two new staff members to the MTN.

Lt Col Judy A. Young, USAF, NC
Deputy Director

MSgt TerryLynn Ross, USAF
PALS Program Manager

Their phone and e-mail addressees are listed in this issue and on our website.

Finally, have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season and we look forward to seeing you all in 2000.

MTN STAFF

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