



THE SCOOP

*From the Military Training Network
Resuscitative and Trauma Medicine*

Volume 6, Issue 1, March 2004

RESUSCITATIVE AND TRAUMA MEDICINE TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

From our Senior Executive Director

At the closure of the FY '03 annual report submission period, I want to thank and congratulate the over 400 programs which submitted their reports to the MTN complete and on time. This truly is a reflection of your professionalism. An additional 80 programs still had partial submission requirements to complete their annual reports and have since completed re-affiliation. We understand the difficulties some programs are having due to OPTEMPO and deployments. If you are not able to complete your report on time, please inform us and we'll work with you to at least get some of the report completed.

Eighty-two programs though either failed to submit or submitted extremely late reports. Letters of abeyance were sent to their respective commanding officers informing them of this issue and halting their programs. Those programs should they desire to continue training must reaffiliate with the MTN.

*JANE E. MEAD, CAPT, NC, USN
Senior Executive Director*

New Materials

The American Heart Association (AHA) plans to publish its revised scientific guidelines for its Emergency Cardiovascular Care program in December 2005. They expect the new guidelines to impact a large number of their products. In other words, new teaching materials (textbooks, tool kits, etc.) will most likely be published for the Heartsaver CPR, BLS, ACLS, and PALS programs. The AHA plans to stagger the release of the updated products to ease the financial/logistical strain on training sites. Top priority products will be released first, perhaps as early as Jan - Mar 2006.

The MTN advised the AHA of the military's fiscal year budgeting process. We have requested 12 months advance notice for product releases, to include suggested retail pricing. The MTN recommends Training Sites (TS) inventory their current teaching materials, quantify needs, and begin the planning/budgeting process for replacement of teaching materials in FY06. Purchases of current materials should be minimized. We will provide you with detailed product/pricing information as it becomes available.

Computer Based Training (CBT) Learning Systems

The AHA, in partnership with Laerdal, released Heartcode™ “*ACLS Anywhere*” computer based learning software. This program allows users to complete the didactic portion of an Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) renewal course on the PC. At present the user must purchase an individual software license to unlock the CD and complete the training. The retail price of a single use license is \$99. The AHA plans to release similar products for Basic Life Support (BLS) and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) this year.

The MTN recommends Trainings Sites, units and Commands **do not** purchase individual software licenses at this time. The MTN is exploring a government pricing schedule and software version that will support multiple users over a LAN or web portal. The MTN is gathering input from each of the services in order to develop procurement, deployment and utilization guidelines.

Although the MTN recommends DoD agencies do not purchase *ACLS Anywhere*, we anticipate some individuals will elect to pay for the training out of pocket. Training Sites are authorized and should be prepared to complete the psychomotor skills check portion of training program. Follow the guidelines found in the MTN Administrative Handbook [Chapter 4](#). Please note the following:

1. *ACLS Anywhere* is approved by the MTN for ACLS renewal only
2. The MTN does not offer Continuing Medical Education credit for *ALCS Anywhere* participants.

Finally, Training Sites should be aware some websites are offering online BLS, PALS, and ACLS “refresher” training. At present, there are **no** online sources of BLS,

PALS, or ACLS training recognized by the MTN or American Heart Association (AHA). The online sources are not approved alternatives because they do not contain the psychomotor skills training and evaluation. Some of the websites issue certificates of training or wallet cards. MTN Training Sites are prohibited from accepting these documents as proof of course completion in order to issue a MTN/AHA wallet card.

Additional Card Requests

Since the new MTN Handbook, 2nd Edition was implemented in April of 2003, the Program Managers have seen an increase in additional card requests. The requirements for additional cards were changed, so the Program Director and Program Administrator has the authority to request and sign the memorandum, instead of needing the signature of an O-5 or above.

Requests for additional cards received within 30 days of a semi or annual report suspense will be held until the report is received.

2004 Emergency Cardiovascular Care Update

The AHA’s 2004 Emergency Cardiovascular Care Update, International Educational Conference and Exposition will be held September 30 – October 3, 2004 in New Orleans. Additional information is available at www.citizenCPR.org. The conference would most benefit Training Site affiliate faculty, program directors and administrators.

Training Site Reviews

In 2003, the MTN initiated our Training Site Review program. The program consists of three types of reviews: Self-Assessment, Administrative and Course Monitoring. Please see [Chapter 6](#) of the MTN AH for a detailed explanation of the program. Checklists for each type of review are found in [Appendix 3](#).

Training Site Self-Assessment Review (TSAR)

A recently MTN piloted program, the surveys were sent to the offices of selected Training Sites' Commanders/ Commanding Officers. They were instructed to select someone outside of the Resuscitative Medicine Program to complete the Review. The process uncovered favorable results that will enable the MTN to launch this new program beginning April 2004.

The goal of the program is to ensure 100% survey contact with the MTN Training Sites once every two years. The results are intended to:

1. ensure compliance with MTN/AHA guidelines.
2. strengthen and improve the standing resuscitative program.
3. ensure readiness for MTN selected staff assistance visits.

The MTN encourages each TS to use the MTN TSAR Checklist to review their programs annually. Additional information pertaining to this program can be found in the MTN AH on page 105.

FY03 Administrative and Course Monitoring Reviews

The MTN conducted staff assistance visits at 18 installations in FY03. The staff assistance teams completed Administrative Reviews of 31 programs. Overall, the

training programs averaged a commendable 92% compliance with MTN/AHA standards. A number of sites stood out with overall compliance rating of 1 (>95%) and earned "Best Practice" recognition for their total score. Here is the MTN's 2003 **Hall of Fame**:

BLS

Naval Hospital Corpus Christi
HM3 Robert Mauricio
(361) 961-2205 x 3
DSN 861-2205 x 3

95th Medical Group, Edwards AFB
Jennifer Vandraiss
(661) 277-1865
DSN 527-1865

Det 1, 343 TRS Camp Bullis
TSgt Juan A. Reyes
(210) 295-8337
DSN 471-8337

Naval Hospital Pensacola
HM3 Joseph Hunt
(850) 505-6228
DSN 534-6196

ACLS

20th Medical Group, Shaw AFB
Capt Robert A. Groves
(803) 895-6624
DSN 968-6624

PALS

Moncrief Army Community Hospital
Fort Jackson
MAJ Jean M. Barido
(803) 751-2214
DSN 734-2389

96th Medical Group
MSgt David T. Christman
(850) 883-8858
DSN 875-8858

Naval Hospital Pensacola
HM2 Hollie Bray
(850) 505-6228
DSN 534-6195

Performance well above standards on the Administrative Review was attributed to teamwork among the appointed staff and instructor cadre. The MTN commends the Program Administrators and Directors, Affiliate Faculty and Instructors at these sites for their commitment to excellence.

Our Administrative Reviews also revealed a number of discrepancies. Here is a list of the frequently missed or problematic areas:

Item: Section II 3.a and 4.c.

Typical Finding: Student completed course/instructor evaluations were not summarized and the summary was not maintained with the course records.

Recommendation: Use the BLS Course Evaluation Form (MTN AH page 147) or create a custom evaluation form using the template on page 179. The Course Director or lead instructor reviews all the student critiques for trends, opportunities to improve and positive feedback. These findings are condensed into a summary evaluation. File a copy of the summary with the post course report. Individual evaluations that identify potential issues/problems may also be maintained. Ultimately the findings/trends identified in the student evaluations must be shared with the teaching faculty and used to improve future offerings.

Item: Section II 7-2.d

Typical Finding: Post Course Report (PCR) did not include documentation of infection control guidelines being met.

Recommendation: Training sites must adhere to their facility's infection control guidelines/plan. In the absence of adequate facility guidelines, the site must develop written infection control guidelines. Use the MTN PCR form and have the Course

Director or lead instructor sign off to document that infection control guidelines were met.

Item: Section III 2.g

Typical Finding: Instructor files did not contain current Instructor Monitoring Form.

Recommendation: An Affiliate Faculty must complete an Instructor Monitoring Form (MTN Administrative Handbook, page 186) every 2 years for renewal instructors and within 90 days of Instructor course completion for new candidates. File the form in the Instructor's file; refer to MTN AH page 14.

Item: Section III 2.h

Typical Finding: Instructor file did not contain an Instructor Renewal Checklist.

Recommendation: Complete and add Instructor Renewal Checklists (MTN Administrative Handbook page 190) to your Instructor files.

Item: Section IV 2.a

Typical Finding: Site did not have records that training equipment was cleaned.

Recommendation: Create process to document training equipment was cleaned. One facility covered cleaned equipment (e.g. manikin heads) with plastic wrap and noted the date cleaned in marker on the wrap. Other facilities kept a cleaning log in their equipment storage area.

MTN Welcomes the following new Training Sites

BLS: 309th CSH, Auburn, ME
911th ASTS, Coraopolis, PA
CA Army NG, Sacramento, CA
HHC, ARECENT-KU-TMC, Kuwait
USA DENTAC, Wuerzburg,
Germany

ACLS: HHC 1/131 INF
HHC 7th ATC/CATC, GE
MCTS, Indiantown Gap

ADVANCED CARDIAC LIFE SUPPORT (ACLS)

Biphasic Defibrillators

Many different types of biphasic defibrillators are available. The training site needs to call the manufacturer to determine what the different settings for each of the possible arrhythmias. The AHA has not prescribed specific energy levels because of the variation between individual manufacture's equipment. It is advisable that the units provide updated training to personnel who have never used the biphasic defibrillators. Documentation of recommended energy settings, such as quick reference cards, may need to be kept with the defibrillators or crash cart. If your unit has problems, please contact your ACLS program manager.

ADVANCED TRAUMA LIFE SUPPORT (ATLS®)

ATLS® Overview of Changes for 7th Edition

The updating of ATLS® Directors, Instructors, Coordinators and Educators to the ATLS® Overview of Changes for 7th Edition, has been on going for over 12 months. To date, only 150 of the 900 ATLS® personnel across Department of Defense (DoD) have received the training. Once the American College of Surgeons (ACS) release the new course materials, which is expected to occur in late Spring of 2004, all ATLS® personnel will require the update prior to participating in an ATLS® course. Additionally, once the new course materials are available, Instructors will not be able to reverify until documentation is received by the Military Training Network that the Instructor has attended an ATLS® 7th Edition update. It is strongly recommended that ATLS® Training Sites hold the update course

prior to each of their ATLS® courses until all of their Instructors have received the training. Additional information can be found in Volume 5, Issue (1) of The Scoop, dated: May 2003.

ATLS® Course Request Authorization

The Course Request Authorization (CRA) is the official document originated at the ATLS® Training Site (TS) and approved by the Military's ATLS® State Chairman. This document notifies the ACS that the TS desires to hold an ACS ATLS® course. Once this document is signed by the State Chairman and approved by the ACS, no changes can be made to it without approval of both the State Chairman and the ACS. This means **no changes**, which include, but are not limited to:

- 1) The course dates;
- 2) Director;
- 3) Coordinator;
- 4) Number of students; or
- 5) Number of auditors.

Additionally, it is mandatory by the ACS for the TS to officially request cancellation of any scheduled ATLS® course that did not take place for whatever reason. The request to cancel a course must be sent to and approved by the State Chairman, then forwarded to the ACS. This official process must take place, or else the ACS will be waiting on the Post Course Report for a course that never took place. No additional courses will be approved until the ACS receives a Post Course Report or the approved cancellation notice from the State Chairman.

ATLS® Post Course Reports

It is mandated by the ACS that Post Course Reports (PCR) arrive in their office, reviewed and approved by the Military ATLS® State Chairman within 90 days of holding the course. This is why the Military Training Network (MTN) requires the TS to complete the PCR within 30 days of the course completion date. This allows ample

time to have the PCR reviewed and approved by the State Chairman and mailed to the ACS via the MTN. The consequences of a TS having a PCR more than 90 days outstanding, is that the ACS will not approve any future ATLS® courses or allow the command to buy the required course materials for their next course.

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (BLS)

Heartsaver AED and Healthcare Provider Course Changes

MTN will send you an updated BLS Program disk including both the new HCP and HS-AED examination materials following receipt/processing of your FY 2004 semi-annual report (due 30 Mar 2004).

At this moment, the AHA has not notified the MTN about changes to the HCP toolkit. We will circulate the new HCP guidance to the field if the AHA revises the curriculum.

New AHA HS-AED teaching materials (Instructor Toolkits and Student Textbooks) are now available for purchase from MTN/AHA approved vendors: Channing-Bete, Laerdal, and World Point. Training Sites may continue to use the current HS-AED materials/exams until 30 Apr 2004 or receipt of the new BLS program disk (whichever is later). If you are currently teaching HS-AED, please order the new HS-AED teaching materials immediately. The links below will take you to the each vendor's website:

<http://aha.channing-bete.com/>

<http://www.laerdal.com/>

<http://www.worldpoint-ecc.com/>

Because of the revisions to the HS-AED program, BLS and HS instructors are required to participate in an update (**[see AHA National Training Memo, 10 Dec 03](#)**). Note: Training Sites need to purchase the teaching materials for the instructors to review before they can complete the update.

The new HS-AED course is modular in format. Training Sites may choose to provide the modules that meet the needs of their employees/students. Options include:

- Adult CPR with AED
- Adult CPR with AED, Child CPR with AED
- Adult CPR with AED, Child CPR with AED, Infant CPR

Course completion cards: The MTN will update the HS-AED card to include the modules so the Training Site can simply mark out the modules that are not taught. However, current format cards will be issued until the existing stock is depleted. Type the following on the card front, above the student's name:

"Adult only" for courses limited to Adult CPR with AED

"With child CPR/AED" for courses that include Adult CPR with AED and Child CPR with AED modules

No change is required for course that include Adult CPR with AED, Child CPR with AED, and Infant CPR modules

The HS-AED examination is divided into three sections. All students must take the adult section. Students take the child and or infant sections corresponding to modules included in their course. A score calculation table is provided on the BLS program disk and is available at <http://www.usuhs.mil/mtn/pdf/HSAEDExaminationCalculation.pdf>.

Semi Annual Report

We highly encourage the training sites to submit the report earlier than the deadline and fax it to your Program Manager at DSN 295-1717 or Commercial 301-295-1717. Faxing the report to your Program Manager; reduces processing time and your cards will be returned faster. Also, please use the Semi Annual/Annual Report Form located on your BLS Program disk or on the BLS section of the MTN website. Reports

received on older/obsolete forms will not be accepted.

NOTE: In the card utilization section of the report, under column "Projected amount of students next 6 months", annotate the amount of **students** expected for each BLS Course, (i.e. BLS Instructor Trainer, BLS Instructor, etc). Do not simply list the number of projected classes.

PEDIATRIC ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT (PALS)

When nominating candidates to fill Affiliate Faculty/Program Director positions, TS should nominate candidates that meet the recommended criteria. The MTN AH details the respective appointment criteria. If nominees lack any one of the criteria, a waiver letter from the TS commander/commanding officer should be attached to the nomination request form. The waiver letter should highlight the nominee's current staff position, teaching history and a stated recommendation that the nominee is the best candidate for the position.

Department of Defense Education Authority (DoDEA) Update

The MTN continues an active partnership with the DoDEA. DODEA has experienced some developmental problems creating an electronic version of the Heartsaver "CPR in Schools" course. Because of the delay, MTN Training Sites have another school year to prepare for this emergent program. Once the problems have been resolved the MTN will notify the unit Commanders/Commanding Officers and training faculty. For more information on this subject please contact the MTN office at DSN 295-0964 or Comm: (301) 295-0964.

CONTACTING THE MILITARY TRAINING NETWORK

MAIL

Uniformed Service University of the Health Sciences
Military Training Network
4301 Jones Bridge Road
Bethesda, Maryland 20814-4799

Main Number: 301-295-0964 DSN 295-0964
Fax: Commercial 301-295-1717 DSN 295-1717

Website: <http://www.usuhs.mil/mtn>

BY PHONE

Director of Military Training Network	Comm 301-295-0964	DSN 295-0964
Deputy Director, Operations Management	Comm 301-295-0964	DSN 295-0964
Deputy Director, Resource Management	Comm 301-295-0964	DSN 295-0964
ACLS Program Manager	Comm 301-295-1476	DSN 295-1476
BLS Program Manager (Army/Air Force)	Comm 301-295-1492	DSN 295-1492
BLS Program Manager (Navy)	Comm 301-295-1479	DSN 295-1479
ATLS Program Manager	Comm 301-295-1478	DSN 295-1478
PALS Program Manager	Comm 301-295-1473	DSN 295-1473
Information Manager/Webmaster	Comm 301-295-1484	DSN 295-1484
Program Assistant	Comm 301-295-0964	DSN 295-0964

If you cannot reach your Program Manager, please call the main phone number.