



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE
NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
111 SOUTH GEORGE MASON DRIVE
ARLINGTON, VA 22204-1382

NGB-ARP-H

5 February 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: (All States Log Number p97-002) Combat Lifesaver Program

1. Future battle will be characterized by a widely dispersed, rapidly moving battlefield. These factors and the reality of constrained resources will limit the number of trained medical personnel available to provide immediate, far forward care. The Combat Lifesaver Program was developed to address this shortfall. Since its inception, the Combat Lifesaver Program has proven its value at the National Training Center, Joint Readiness Training Center and during Operation Desert Storm. The goal is for each squad, section and/or crew to have at least one trained Combat Lifesaver.

2. The Combat Lifesaver Course (CLC) is taught at unit level using the "B" edition of the Curriculum. The CLC is taught in the group study method utilizing exportable materials provided by the Army Institute for Professional Development. Instructors will be 91B, 91C, 18D, PA, AN or MC. Intravenous infusion (IV) instruction will be taught by an AN, PA 91B30, 91K30 or other medical person experienced in initiating Ivs and who can handle an emergency should one occur.

3. Combat Lifesavers have the potential to markedly reduce mortality on the battlefield. This potential is mirrored at the Combat Training Centers. For example, Litter Priority patients at JRTC must receive appropriate Advanced Trauma Life Support within four hours. If however, the patient is properly treated by a certified Combat Lifesaver, this time is increased to 8 hours. Thus, the Combat Lifesaver can be valuable force multiplier in both training and combat.

4. Combat Lifesaver must be recertified every 12 months. Recertification is a unit function and normally takes one day. The following tasks are those which require recertification:

- a. Clear an object from the airway of an unconscious casualty.
- b. Perform mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.
- c. Apply a field dressing.
- d. Apply a tourniquets.
- e. Initiate an intravenous infusion (IV).
- f. Measure and monitor a casualty's pulse.

5. Successful completion of the Combat Lifesaver Course and annual recertification will be annotated on DA Form 2-1, item 17 and 19, respectively.

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6. Combat Lifesavers are not intended to be substituted for 91B, 91C or 18D personnel. The Combat Lifesaver is a non-medical soldier trained to provide lifesaving measures beyond the level of self-aid or buddy-aid as a secondary mission undertaken only when permitted by the tactical situation.

7. The Combat Lifesaver Bag (NSN 6545-01-254-9551).

a. Centrally funded Combat Lifesaver bags can be ordered from the 980th Medical Logistics Battalion (Forward), Sacramento, California using DA Form 2765-1 or DD Form 1348-6 with letter of transmittal signed by the unit commander. The transmittal letter will include the following: names of all soldiers who have successfully completed the Combat Lifesaver Course (one per squad, section or team), and a point of contact and telephone number. The commander's signature will validate training.

b. The transmittal letter will be routed as follows:

THRU: USP&FO of the requesting state

THRU: Chief, National Guard Bureau
ATTN: NGB-ARP-H (MAJ Phillips)
111 South George Mason Drive
Arlington, VA 22204-1382

TO: USP&FO for California
ATTN: Hollaye Vankeith
P.O. Box 8104
Camp San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

c. Due to limited number of centrally funded combat lifesaver bags, they will be issued only to soldiers who have successfully completed the training. Bags to accommodate future requirements may be ordered through MILSTRIP. Bags ordered in this way are not centrally funded.

9. References:

- a. AR 350-4 Training in Units, Chapter, Combat Lifesaver
- b. TRADOC Pamphlet 525-50, Health Service Support to Air-Land Battle
- c. Combat Lifesaver Course Information Packet, (September 1995)

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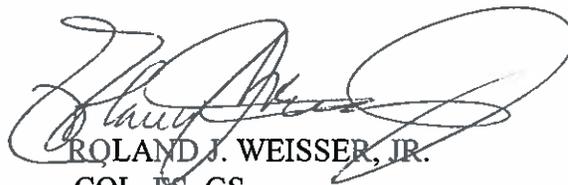
d. SB 8-75-S-10

10. This policy expires one year from the above date.

11. The POC is MSG Lansing at DSN: 327-7145 or commercial 703-607-7145.

FOR THE CHIEF, NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU:

Encl
Course Syllabus



ROLAND J. WEISSER, JR.

COL, FS, GS

Chief Surgeon, Army National Guard

DISTRIBUTION:

TAG (1)

State Surgeon (1)

Chief Nurse (1)

CF:

NGB-IG

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State IG

CONTENTS OF THE COMBAT LIFESAVER COURSE

The GLC consists of two student subcourse texts (Interschool Subcourses 0824 and 0825), a soldier examination booklet, and an instructor's manual (Interschool Subcourse 0826).

Interschool Subcourse 0824, Buddy-Aid Tasks, covers the following tasks:

- Clear an object from the throat of a conscious casualty
- Perform mouth-to-mouth resuscitation
- Put on a field or pressure dressing
- Put on a tourniquet
- Apply a dressing to an open chest wound
- Apply a dressing to an open abdominal wound
- Apply a dressing to an open head wound
- Prevent shock
- Splint a suspected fracture
- Recognize and give first aid for heat injuries
- Give first aid for burns
- Administer first aid to a nerve agent casualty
- Transport a casualty using a one-man carry
- Transport a casualty using a two-man carry or an improvised litter
- Protect yourself against heat
- Protect yourself against cold
- Protect yourself against biting insects
- Protect yourself against diarrhea and dysentery
- Practice personal hygiene to maintain fitness

Interschool subcourse 0825, Medical Tasks, covers the following tasks:

- Evaluate a casualty (this is an expanded version of the SABA task)
- Initiate an intravenous infusion for hypovolemic shock
- Measure and monitor a casualty's pulse
- Measure and monitor a casualty's respiration
- Apply a SAM splint to a fractured limb
- Insert an oropharyngeal airway to an unconscious casualty
- Administer first aid to chemical agent casualties
- Identify and treat cold injuries
- Manage battle fatigue
- Administer aspirin and antihistamine tablets
- Transport a casualty using a military vehicle

Interschool subcourse 0826, Instructor's Manual, contains lesson plans for all of the tasks, a copy of each performance checklist, and solution sheets to the written examinations.