



U.S. Military Medical Jobs and Skills Handbook

Student Academy of AAPA

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Purpose

To enhance the ability of former military medics to gain entrance to PA programs across the country.

Rationale

The military is in the midst of a massive reduction of its forces as large scale operations in the Middle East are ending and severe budget cuts take place. Now is the time to try and swell the ranks of the PA profession with some of the most highly-skilled and selfless individuals this country can offer.

The PA profession was founded on the skillset and mentality that military medics gained during their service to this country. Military medics receive some of the highest quality training that our country can offer. They are trained to operate in austere environments under stressful circumstances, sometimes with no direct medical oversight. Unfortunately, the training these brave men and women receive is often lost in translation as they transition into civilian life.

Of the current 225 accredited PA programs, only 21 have veteran-specific entrance pathways. However, these pathways are ambiguous and, to a large degree, not well known. Developing a standard guide, similar to a legend on a map, which translates military skills and experiences into civilian terms, will give PA programs a tool to better assess veteran applicants. This will in turn hopefully motivate more PA programs to list themselves as having veterans-specific entrance pathways.

Note

This is not an all-encompassing list of military medical job identifiers, skills, or training; rather, it is meant to give the user a better idea of the various aspects of military medicine. This is also meant to be a living document that can be modified and amended when needed. Suggestions and feedback are welcome.

Special thanks

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U.S. Army

Branch Overview

The U.S. Army utilizes medics as its primary enlisted medical personnel. There are also Special Forces Medics who are highly trained medical experts. Additionally, there are various jobs and specific skills these personnel learn while in the Army.

Jobs and Skills

Special Forces Medical Sergeant

SFMSs are highly-trained special operations medics who often work in austere environments far from established healthcare. These individuals go through one full year of intensely focused medical training and upon graduation are awarded the title Advanced Tactical Practitioner (ATP). ATPs work under the license of their unit surgeon. Individuals with this certification are granted authority to perform battlefield casualty care and emergency surgical procedures including cricothyroidotomy and tubal thoracostomy. They are trained in clinical medicine with an emphasis on infectious disease and authorized to prescribe schedule II medications. They are also trained in basic nursing procedures including IV and IO administration, NG tubes, drug dosing calculation, foley catheter insertion, EKG placement, suturing and wound care. All ATPs are required to do a 1-month trauma rotation and a 1-month clinical medicine rotation as part of the initial training. The trauma rotation is conducted at a level 1 trauma center. Individual experience varies but most students will work trauma codes, intubate, and scrub in to assist with surgery. On clinical rotation, students work in either a military or rural hospital and see patients under the supervision of the attending physician.

Upon graduation all ATPs will have and maintain civilian medical credentials including Basic Life Support (BLS), Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), Pediatric Education for Prehospital Providers (PEPP) and EMT-B/P (can depend on year the individual attended the program if they received Basic or Paramedic EMT). All ATPs must complete mandatory refresher training to remain certified as a medic to include refresher courses on trauma and clinical medicine and emergency department experience.

Duties for an ATP assigned to an Operational Detachment Alpha (ODA/A) Team include the following:

- Maintaining and ordering medical supplies and medications for the ODA.
- Providing routine and preventative healthcare for all team members.
- Conducting medical screening on all partner force personnel (ie. Afghan and Iraqi army members).
- Establishing and maintaining a field hospital while deployed.
- Implementing preventative medicine procedures at all field camps.
- Acting as the first line of care for all ill/injured ODA and partner force personnel.
- Establishing and implementing evacuation protocols for critically ill/injured personnel to higher levels of care.
- Planning and conducting training in basic trauma management for all members of the ODA and partner force.

68W Combat Medic Specialist

Sixteen-week course that provides training on emergency medical treatment, limited primary care and force health protection. This course focuses on the treatment of patients in a variety of operational and clinical settings from point of injury or illness through the continuum of military healthcare and as a field combat medic.

Job Titles and Skills for 68W

Flight Medic

Five-week course that teaches critical care management of a patient in a medical evacuation aircraft platform. All medical skill competencies are at the Critical Care Paramedic level. This course also includes knowledge and skills in the areas of pharmacology, drug dosage calculations, drug-assisted intubation, limitations of inflight patient care, point of injury and mass casualty operations. Additionally, knowledge and experience is gained regarding aviation rescue equipment and hoist operations. There is a capstone situational training exercise during the last week of the course when the student will apply all the knowledge and skills taught over the preceding four weeks.

Dive Medical Technician (DMT)

DMT school is a one-month specialized medical training program in Dive Medicine with an emphasis on barotrauma and dive-related environmental emergencies. The crux of the program is proficiency in the 5-minute rapid neurological exam used to assess for Decompression Sickness (DCS). Students are also trained in hyperbaric chamber recompression. In order to maintain proficiency, a 3-day refresher course in Dive Medicine must be completed every two years. Graduates are authorized to act as primary providers on military dive operations and serve as the provider during recompression in the hyperbaric chamber.

Platoon Medic

Responsible for a 20-32 unit. These responsibilities include the healthcare (acute and emergent) of the platoon and basic casualty care training. Also responsible for implementing and enforcing proper field sanitation protocol, implementing casualty evacuation plans, and maintaining medical equipment and supplies.

Company/Troop/Battery Senior Medic

Responsible for 120-250 people including 5-6 subordinate medics and the healthcare (acute and emergent) of the unit. Responsibilities also include training, mentoring, and evaluating subordinate medics as well as implementing and enforcing proper field sanitation protocols for the unit. Procures and maintains the medical equipment and supply of subordinate medics and unit.

Certificates of Training and Special Badges

Combat Medic Badge

Awarded to medical personnel assigned or attached to, or under operational control of, any combat arms or combat aviation unit of brigade or smaller size, who has satisfactorily performed medical duties while the unit is engaged in active ground combat, provided they are personally present and under fire.

Expert Field Medical Badge

One of the highest non-combat related special skills badges in the Army possessed by roughly only 10% of all regular Army medics. Must complete a Comprehensive Written Test with a 75% or better. Exam covers Tactical Combat Casualty Care, Field Sanitation, Evacuation of casualties, Mass casualty protocols, Chemical, biological, nuclear, and radiological wartime situations. Additionally, participants must complete practical skills testing encompassing the aforementioned subject areas. To earn this badge participants must also complete an Army Physical Fitness Test, M16 or M4 Weapons Qualification, Land Navigation (day and night course), and road march (12-miles with a 45-pound fighting load to be completed in under three hours).

Brigade Combat Team Trauma Training (BCT3)

Forty-hour course that teaches advanced trauma skills training including the use of hemostatic agents, hemorrhage control, performing surgical cricothyrotomy, tube thoracotomy, venous cutdown, emergency needle decompression. This block of instruction concludes with live tissue hands on application of advanced trauma skills and tactical combat casualty care exercises. These exercises consist of treating various simulated battlefield trauma patients.

Field Sanitation

Forty-hour course that teaches preventative medicine protocols for short and extended operations encountered in peacetime as well as wartime. Consists of training in proper disposal of human waste, proper food handling technique, water purification and storage. Additional training given regarding assessment, treatment, and prevention of hot and cold weather injuries as well as identification of and procedures for disposal of toxic waste.



U.S. Navy

Branch Overview

Utilizes hospital corpsmen as its primary enlisted medical personnel. There are also independent duty corpsmen who function without the oversight of a medical provider. Additionally, there are various jobs and specific skills these personnel learn while in the Navy.

Jobs and Skills

Independent Duty Corpsmen

Independent duty corpsmen serve the senior medical person aboard ships, submarines, assigned to Marine Corps units, and isolated duty stations functioning independently of a medical provider. These personnel are able to perform diagnostic procedures, advanced first aid, basic life support, nursing procedures, minor surgery, basic clinical laboratory procedures, and other routine health care. They manage preventive medicine and industrial health surveillance programs along with associated administrative and logistical duties. They provide health education to junior medical and all nonmedical personnel.

Hospital Corpsman Basic School

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to perform as an entry-level provider of basic and emergency patient care.

Field Medical Training Battalion (previously Field Medical Service School):

Program that enables corpsmen to be able to identify medical conditions resulting from combat wounds or injuries, provide treatment for specific medical conditions, triage casualties for treatment or evacuation. Additional training is geared towards field sanitation, preventive medicine, the echelons of evacuation of casualties, decontamination of hazardous materials, treating specified dental emergencies and responding to specific psychological problems.

Duties based on rank (*outlines specifics of items with OJT training*):

Hospital Corpsman (Grades E1-E3)

Under direction of a medical provider, performs basic nursing care, basic emergency procedures, takes and records vital signs, collects specimens, performs phlebotomy, and administers medication. Performs routine clerical duties of the ward by inputting and maintaining computerized medical records. Promotes patient wellness and education.

Hospital Corpsman (Grades E4-E5):

In addition to the knowledge base and skills of Grades E1-E3, assists medical providers in the treatment of patients and performs managerial, clinical, and administrative duties. Specific tasks include creating medical or dental records; monitoring patient vital signs, inventorying and organizing medical department equipment and supplies, assessing medical conditions, diseases, and injuries, and counseling patients regarding treatment plans. Additionally, these Grades assist in the medical readiness, health and safety inspection, relationship building, and staff management. Specific tasks related to these responsibilities include screening medical records and data for overseas and sea duty assignment suitability, updating medical and dental readiness reports, ordering medical supplies and equipment. Lastly these Grades coordinate training for medical personnel and first responder crew, conduct trauma training to match field or fleet requirements, and operate shipboard and field clinics.

Field Medical Service Technician (NEC 8404)

Provides medical services for personnel in field units. Provides technical and administrative assistance to support the mission and functions of Navy and Marine Corps field units. Assists in the procurement and distribution of supplies and equipment for field use and combat areas. Maintains field treatment facilities. Renders emergency medical treatment to coalition and host nation personnel. Coordinates and performs medical evacuation procedures. Ensures observance of field sanitary measures and preventive measures in specialized warfare. Conducts first aid and health education training programs.



U.S. Air Force

Branch Overview

Utilizes aerospace medical services as its primary enlisted medical personnel. There are a number of additional skills and responsibilities these personnel learn while in the Air Force.

Jobs and Skills

Aerospace Medical Service (4N0X1)

Plans, provides, and evaluates routine patient care and treatment of beneficiaries to include flying and special operational duty personnel. Organizes the medical environment, performs and directs support activities in patient care situations, including contingency operations and disasters. Performs duties including but not limited to the following:

Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)

Utilizes the nursing process for patients by promoting and maintaining health, preventing disease and disability, caring for and rehabilitating individuals who are experiencing an altered health state, while contributing to the ultimate quality of life until death. Actively participates in and leads the planning, implementation, and evaluation of nursing care in all settings, where patient care takes place, with the responsibility of carrying out assignments to completion. Performs assessment and analysis of patient health status, identifies health goals, recognizes subtle changes in conditions, interprets these changes, and immediately determines the appropriate course of action.

Independent duty medical technician (IDMT)

Performs duty as an IDMT at deployed operating locations and at fixed sites. Deploys as Squadron Medical Element (SME) member with operational squadrons. Provides forward area medical care in an austere or bare-base environment. Renders medical and dental treatment and emergency care; recommends and coordinates evacuation to a location where definitive medical treatment facilities are available. Performs pharmacy, laboratory, bioenvironmental, public health, medical logistics, and medical administration duties.

Aeromedical evacuation technician (AET)

Prepares patients and equipment for flight. Prepares aircraft for patient enplaning. Enplanes and deplanes ambulatory and patients on litters. Inventories loads and unloads baggage. Functions as an aeromedical evacuation crewmember. Assists flight nurse with in-flight

patient care and documentation. Monitors safety and security of patients, crew and the aircraft during in-flight or ground operations. Operates specialized aircraft life support equipment, medical devices and aircraft systems related to patient care. Provides emergency care for patients in the event of medical or aircraft emergency. Performs when tasked as a member of a mobile aeromedical staging facility (MASF) during field training and deployment for contingency operations.

Hyperbaric medical technician (HBMT)

Assists physicians and nurses in the evaluation and provision of care to patients referred for hyperbaric treatment and cardiac and diabetic monitoring, and IV management in the hyperbaric environment. Prepares patients for examination, treatment and diagnostic testing, and conducts transcutaneous oxygen assessments of treatment limbs in ambient and hyperbaric conditions. Provides wound care and debridement for patients with chronic non-healing wounds. Performs primary duties as inside observer during patient treatments or research exposures, and secondary duties as chamber operator. Maintains digital image repositories. Conducts testing and evaluation studies of medical equipment for use in the hyperbaric environment.

Allergy and immunization technician (AIT)

Manages immunotherapy care and performs diagnostic tests ordered by physicians. Utilizes computer-based patient information. Prepares and administers allergenic extracts and specific allergy treatment extracts. Performs testing for tuberculosis and respiratory fungal infections. Administers vaccines according to current guidelines and documents in patient records. Performs emergency care for treatment of anaphylaxis. Provides post-immunization instructions in regard to expected reactions and in the proper care of vaccinations. Provides oversight and quality assurance for the immunization processes. Arranges, schedules, and supervises mass immunizations.

Neurology technician (NT)

Prepares patients for examination, treatment, and diagnostic procedures. Assists physician with diagnostic procedures and treatments. Assembles, operates, maintains and performs routine user maintenance of electroencephalographic and electromyographic equipment. Assists in performing special electroencephalographic and electromyographic procedures. Ensures appropriate care and storage of tracings and reports.

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