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Subject: COMBAT APPLICATION TOURNIQUET (C-A-T) AMPLIFYING INSTRUCTIONS //

Originator: COMMARCORSYSCOM QUANTICO VA CESS(UC)

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Cc: CBIRF(UC), CG I MEF G-3(UC), CG I MEF G-4(UC), CG II MEF G3(UC), CG II MEF G4(UC), CG III MEF G-3(UC), CG III MEF G-4(UC), CO BLOUNT ISLAND CMD(UC), COMMARCORSYSCOM QUANTICO VA CESS(UC), COMMARCORSYSCOM QUANTICO VA(UC), COMMARFORSOC G3(UC), COMMARFORSOC G4(UC)

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SUBJ/COMBAT APPLICATION TOURNIQUET (C-A-T) AMPLIFYING INSTRUCTIONS //

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GENTEXT/REMARKS/1. BACKGROUND. PROGRAM MANAGER COMBAT SUPPORT EQUIPMENT (PM CSE) HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS INQUIRIES CONCERNING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE COMBAT APPLICATION TOURNIQUET (C-A-T) AND REPORTED INSTANCES OF FAILURE IN THE FIELD. AFTER FURTHER INVESTIGATION, WE HAVE DETERMINED THAT THE PROBLEMS REPORTED ARE DUE TO IMPROPER USE AND STORAGE OF THE TOURNIQUET. THE C-A-T IS EFFECTIVE IF IT IS PROPERLY APPLIED AND STORED. THE INTENT OF THIS MSG IS TO PROVIDE AMPLIFYING INSTRUCTIONS ON THE TACTICAL COMBAT CASUALTY CARE (TCCC) GUIDELINES FOR THE APPLICATION AND THE PROPER USE, STORAGE, AND SHELF LIFE OF THE C-A-T (NSN 6515-01-521-7976).

2. THERE ARE CURRENTLY TWO (2) TOURNIQUETS FIELDIED IN THE MARINE CORPS - THE C-A-T AND THE TK-4 (NSN: 6515-01-542-7696). THE MARINE CORPS' INVENTORY OF C-A-T INCLUDES VARIOUS VERSIONS. THE MOST RECENT C-A-T IS EASILY IDENTIFIED BY THE RED TIP AT THE END OF THE TOURNIQUET AND A PRINTED MANUFACTURE DATE ON THE BAND. OTHER VERSIONS ARE STILL SUITABLE FOR USE AS LONG AS THE BELOW STORAGE GUIDELINES ARE ADHERED TO. THERE ARE

NO REPORTED ISSUES CONCERNING THE TK-4. IN ADDITION, THE SOF-T (NSN 6515-01-530-7015) IS ALSO AVAILABLE AS A SUITABLE SUBSTITUTE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE UNIT COMMANDER.

3. THE CURRENT COMMITTEE ON TACTICAL COMBAT CASUALTY CARE (COTCCC) GUIDELINES CONCERNING THE PROPER USE OF TOURNIQUETS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. USE A COTCCC RECOMMENDED TOURNIQUET.

B. USE FOR ALL TRAUMATIC AMPUTATIONS.

C. CHECK THE DISTAL PULSE IN TACTICAL FIELD CARE IF THE DISTAL EXTREMITY IS INTACT.

D. IF BLEEDING OR DISTAL PULSE IS PRESENT, APPLY A SECOND TOURNIQUET JUST PROXIMAL TO ELIMINATE DISTAL PULSE.

4. THE C-A-T SHOULD BE APPLIED FOLLOWING THE BELOW INSTRUCTIONS AS DESCRIBED BY THE MANUFACTURER.

A. INSERT THE WOUNDED LIMB THROUGH THE LOOP FORMED BY THE BAND OR ROUTE THE BAND AROUND THE LIMB AND PASS THE END (RED TIP) THROUGH THE INSIDE SLIT OF THE BUCKLE. PULL THE BAND TIGHT.

B. PASS THE END (RED TIP) THROUGH THE OUTSIDE SLIT OF THE BUCKLE. THE FRICTION BUCKLE WILL LOCK THE BAND IN PLACE.

C. PULL THE BAND VERY TIGHT AND SECURELY FASTEN THE BAND BACK ON ITSELF. WHEN THE BAND IS PULLED TIGHT, NO MORE THEN 3 FINGERS WILL FIT BETWEEN THE BAND AND THE LIMB.

D. TWIST THE ROD UNTIL TIGHT AND ABLE TO SECURE. DO NOT OVER TIGHTEN.

E. PLACE THE ROD INSIDE THE CLIP, LOCKING IT IN PLACE, AND SECURE THE ROD WITH STRAP.

F. CHECK FOR BLEEDING AND DISTAL PULSE. IF BLEEDING IS NOT CONTROLLED OR A DISTAL PULSE IS PRESENT, APPLY A SECOND TOURNIQUET PROXIMAL TO THE FIRST AND RE-EVALUATE.

G. PREPARE THE PATIENT FOR TRANSPORT AND REASSESS. RECORD THE TIME OF APPLICATION.

5. WHEN USING THE FRICTION BUCKLE TO LOCK THE BAND IN PLACE (FOR TWO-HANDED APPLICATION OR WHEN THE BAND BECOMES DIRTY), THE BELOW INSTRUCTIONS SHOULD BE FOLLOWED.

A. PASS THE END (RED TIP) THROUGH THE INSIDE SLIT OF THE BUCKLE. PULL THE BAND TIGHT.

B. PASS THE END (RED TIP) THROUGH THE OUTSIDE SLIT OF THE BUCKLE.

C. PULL THE BAND TIGHT AND SECURELY FASTEN THE BAND BACK ON ITSELF.

D. TWIST THE ROD UNTIL TIGHT AND ABLE TO SECURE. DO NOT OVER TIGHTEN.

- E. PLACE THE ROD INSIDE THE CLIP, LOCKING IT IN PLACE, AND SECURE THE ROD WITH STRAP.**
- F. CHECK FOR BLEEDING AND DISTAL PULSE. IF BLEEDING IS NOT CONTROLLED OR A DISTAL PULSE IS PRESENT, APPLY A SECOND TOURNIQUET PROXIMAL TO THE FIRST AND RE-EVALUATE.**
- G. PREPARE THE PATIENT FOR TRANSPORT AND REASSESS. RECORD THE TIME OF APPLICATION.**
- 6. STORING IN THE ONE-HANDED CONFIGURATION (AS SHIPPED).**
 - A. PASS THE END (RED TIP) THROUGH THE INSIDE SLIT IN THE BUCKLE. PULL 6" OF BAND THROUGH, FOLD IT BACK AND ADHERE THE BAND TO ITSELF.**
 - B. FLATTEN THE LOOP FORMED BY THE BAND. PLACE THE BUCKLE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FLATTENED BAND.**
 - C. FOLD THE C-A-T IN HALF PLACING THE BUCKLE AT ONE END. THE C-A-T IS NOW READY TO BE PLACED IN YOUR MEDICAL KIT.**
- 7. ALL TOURNIQUETS SHOULD BE STORED IN A DRY ENVIRONMENT AND MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE NOT TO EXCEED 180 DEGREES F.**
 - A. STORAGE OR PRE-STAGING THE C-A-T ON AN INDIVIDUAL'S BODY ARMOR, EXPOSED TO THE ELEMENTS, LIKELY DEGRADES THE MATERIAL AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE TOURNIQUET.**
 - B. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONNEL KEEP THE TOURNIQUET IN ITS ORIGINAL PROTECTIVE PACKAGING.**
- 8. IF THE TOURNIQUET HAS BEEN OPEN FOR AN UNDETERMINED AMOUNT OF TIME, IT IS RECOMMENDED TO HAVE THE TOURNIQUET REPLACED.**
- 9. ALL QUESTIONS RELATED TO THIS MSG CAN BE FORWARDED TO LCDR JENNIFER E. SMITH, FAMILY OF FIELD MEDICAL EQUIPMENT TEAM LEAD, PM CSE AT JENNIFER.E.SMITH@USMC.MIL.//**