



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**U.S. ARMY INSTITUTE OF SURGICAL RESEARCH**  
**3698 CHAMBERS PASS**  
**JBSA FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 78234-6315**

11 September 2015

LTG Patricia Horoho, Surgeon General, United States Army  
VADM Matthew Nathan, Surgeon General, United States Navy  
Lt Gen Mark Ediger, Surgeon General, United States Air Force  
RDML David Lane, Medical Officer of the Marine Corps

SUBJ: Establishing a DoD Standard for TCCC Training

Surgeons General:

The implementation of the battlefield trauma care concepts embodied in Tactical Combat Casualty Care has been a major factor in the US Military achieving the highest casualty survival rate in its history during the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts.

All of the Services have directed that their members obtain training in TCCC. Further, TCCC training has been specifically recommended by the Defense Health Board and the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs.

Recent events have demonstrated that this training is not being satisfactorily accomplished. The two USCENTCOM/Joint Trauma System assessments of prehospital trauma care in Afghanistan documented inconsistent or absent TCCC training in combat forces deployed to CENTCOM. Secondly, the Joint Trauma System Performance Improvement process has noted adverse casualty care events associated with failure to perform standard TCCC measures. These events occurred even in units that that reportedly been trained in TCCC as a result of misinformation provided during that training. Finally, recent reports in the media have noted that US Service Members have been exposed to inappropriate and potentially dangerous training events during courses that were intended to provide battlefield trauma care training. One physician lost his medical license in Virginia as a result.

These occurrences document a clear opportunity for the DoD to improve in its methods of conducting TCCC training. The attached white paper offers the Joint Trauma System's proposed solution for this issue. I am available to brief you on this proposal to establish a standard for TCCC training. This white paper has been reviewed and endorsed by the Trauma Consultants for the Surgeons General of the Army (Kirby Gross COL) and Air Force (Jeff Bailey Col) and by the General Surgery Specialty Leader for the Navy Surgeon General (Craig Shepps CAPT).

Very Respectfully submitted,

**KIRBY GROSS**  
**COL MC USA**  
Director, Joint Trauma System