



Position Statement Paramedic Transition Training Programs for Military Medical Personnel

Statement:

The National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) and the Special Operations Medical Association (SOMA) support the development and funding of military medic to civilian paramedic transition programs that will allow active duty and veteran military medics to incorporate their military medical training as a significant portion of their civilian paramedic training. These transition programs provide returning veterans with good paying jobs, meet the significant demands of both military and civilian environments, and result in hundreds of experienced paramedics each year in a much shorter timeframe than traditional paramedic education programs.

Background:

Our nation's military medics are trained to standards not currently recognized by the certification levels listed in the National EMS Scope of Practice. In most cases, military medics are trained to the level of emergency medical technician (EMT) with additional, task specific advanced medical skills. Unfortunately, military medics do not receive enough specific advanced medical education and training to be directly certified as a Nationally Registered or state licensed paramedic.¹

There is a significant shortage of civilian paramedics in the United States with the need expected to only increase in the future. It is believed that there will be 12,000 new civilian EMT and paramedic jobs created each year in addition to current needs.²

In 2012, 10,000 military medics left the military and re-entered the civilian job market.³ Military medics, either active duty or veteran, who seek certification as a civilian paramedic must start their paramedic training from the beginning with no recognition or credit applied for the significant medical training and skills which they acquired during their military service. The current civilian paramedic course requirements force military medics to repeat hundreds of hours of training at their own expense if they want to become certified as a paramedic. This is an obstacle that the vast majority of military medics cannot overcome, resulting in a loss of thousands of experienced military medics each year that could otherwise be utilized to meet the significant shortage of civil paramedics.

The military has also identified the need for paramedics within its ranks, for example the Air Force Pararescueman and the recent upgrade of the Army Flight Medic. The development of transition programs will also enhance Department of Defense requirements saving man-hours and training costs annually.

The development of military medic to civilian paramedic transition programs takes the experienced military medic and allows them to meet the current and projected paramedic shortages in the United States. The result is a well-trained paramedic entering the workforce in a shorter time and having a vast background of knowledge from their military experience.

References:

¹ 18th Annual NAEMSE Educator Symposium & Trade Show. Breakout 4A: Development of a Military Medic to Paramedic Program: Two Perspectives”. Presented by Darrell DeMartino and Nicholas Miller, 2013, p 5.

² Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2012-13 Edition, EMTs and Paramedics, on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/emts-and-paramedics.htm> (accessed 12/06/2013). State long term projections for EMTs and Paramedics are developed in the labor market information sections of each State Employment Security Agency, on the Internet at <http://www.projectionscentral.com/Projections/LongTerm> (accessed on 1/08/2014).

³“Pilot Program: Civilian Credentialing for Military Occupational Specialties, Volume 2- Technical Appendices.” September 27, 2013, pp22-23.

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