



DEFENSE INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL OPERATIONS (DIMO)



Aerial Patient Movement in Humanitarian Assistance, Disaster Response and Military Operations Mobile Training Team (MTT) MASL D309046

Background: Experience and innovation in the evacuation of patients by helicopter and fixed wing aircraft have led to dramatically improved clinical outcomes in the last decade. Aerial movement of combat associated casualties has been associated with a marked reduction in death from wounds associated with war. Similarly, the ability to move injured and ill patients from areas suffering natural disasters (such as hurricanes, earthquakes and tsunamis) or acts of terrorism (bombings/shootings) can be a visible and important component of the national response framework. The ability to provide aerial movement of medical/surgical/pediatric/obstetric patients can provide as critical a contribution in humanitarian assistance and disaster response as it does in improving survivability for those with battlefield injuries.

Program Scope: This program uses a faculty cadre with extensive experience in performing military patient movement using a seamless combination of rotary and/or fixed wing aircraft. The program addresses core principles in the situational physiology of ill or injured patients in-flight. Particularly important are exercises where highly experienced trainers point out the “clinical pearls” that spell out specific critical and often unexpected issues pertaining to medical care at altitude. In particular, pitfalls associated with change in pressure and head/chest wounds, ventilation in-flight, unexpected consequences of altitude on pregnancy and the approach to multiple patients with a limited flight crew represent the best of lessons learned during real-world combat patient movement and humanitarian assistance missions. Specific applications include infection control, mission planning, aircraft loading, and emergency procedures. Surrounding the core of medical/surgical care issues in flight are specific lessons tailored toward the rotary/fixed wing platforms used by the sponsoring country. Going beyond the classroom, exercises are conducted with host nation flight platforms to ensure clinical/operational relevance and interoperability for future host nation/multinational missions.

Course objectives: This course is intended to develop situational knowledge and experience for the care and movement of patients in an aerial environment. Flight specific requirements for specialized care in the use of adaptation of medical equipment for a flight environment allow healthcare workers to practice their skills in the novel and challenging environment of flight.

Intended international audience: Physicians, nurses, medical technicians, respiratory therapists and flight crews working with patient movement.

Course Duration: 5 days; **Class Size:** 24 maximum; **How Offered:** Conducted in host country by an MET



Points of Contact: Respective Air Force Security Assistance Training (AFAST) Section Country Program Manager and Defense Institute for Medical Operations Program Manager,
Claudette Hudson at (210) 292-0955,
E-mail: alicia.hudson.1.ctr@us.af.mil.

