



**3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command
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Public Affairs Office**

Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq
DSN (NIPR) 318-827-6101
DSN (SIPR) 302-243-5104
keith.anderson@iraq.centcom.mil

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Platoon sergeant keeps medics up to speed

By Capt. Renato Rossignoli
UPAR, 1st Battalion, 185th Armor

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq — Sgt. 1st Class Robert Tackett, medical platoon sergeant, 1st Battalion, 185th Armor, 16th Sustainment Brigade, trains his Soldiers weekly to ensure their skills meet military, civilian and real-world requirements.

“This training keeps the medical section up to speed on all new emergency medical information and validates the medic’s skills, to include skills such as initiating an intravenous infusion (IV); evaluating a casualty; recognizing and treating a casualty for shock; and packaging and transporting a casualty, just to name a few,” Tackett said.

“Medics must not only be experts in their lifesaving craft, but they must also be proficient enough to teach combat lifesavers. Soldiers must learn some of these same critical skills in order to assist the medics with real-world casualties.”

The “Scalpel” medical platoon knows that lives may be on the line at any given moment, said 1st Lt. Ty Roseberry, physician’s assistant. Roseberry and Tackett conduct the weekly refresher training in order to keep skills honed to a scalpel’s edge. These highly trained medics not only meet their individual Soldier skills and requirements, they also are required to keep their civilian emergency medical technician (EMT) licenses up to date. “Doc” Roseberry approves of the training and supervises to ensure the skills meet all military, civilian and real-world requirements.

Tackett is the primary instructor for all medical classes in the 1-185th Armor.

In order to professionally develop and enforce basic combat life saver skills, company medics teach the combat lifesaver re-certification class on a weekly basis under the guidance of the medical platoon sergeant.

“This training is vital for the peace of mind which comes without a shadow of a doubt that if you are seriously injured, your battle-buddy— trained by the medics — will be the first one to help you,” Tackett said. “The medic will immediately continue treatment with more advanced life-saving skills and equipment. We have had our medics tested with real-world injuries and illnesses, and our medics have proved their mettle.



First Lt. Ty Roseberry, physician's assistant, medical platoon, 1st Battalion, 185th Armor, and Sgt. 1st Class Robert Tackett, medical platoon sergeant, discuss new emergency medical information during weekly refresher training at Contingency Operating Base Speicher March 28. "This training keeps the medical section up to speed on all new emergency medical information and validates the medic's skills, to include skills such as initiating an intravenous infusion (IV); evaluating a casualty; recognizing and treating a casualty for shock; and packaging and transporting a casualty, just to name a few," Tackett said. "Medics must not only be experts in their lifesaving craft, but they must also be proficient enough to teach combat lifesavers. Soldiers must learn some of these same critical skills in order to assist the medics with real-world casualties." (Photo by Capt. Renato Rossignoli)