

The Nrdc-Ita Personnel IMT for first aid on the Battlefield

A training model to modify the attitude and increase the skills of a multinational military community (lay first aiders) in initial management of the incident scene, before the arrival of professionals.

by LTC ITA A Francesco GAETA

A new training model for the NRDC-ITA Headquarter multinational staff was developed during the NRDC-ITA annual Individual Military Training (IMT)2008 - Medical Part in order to increase the attitude and skills of the multinational military staff in managing the incident at the scene before the arrival of professional first aiders.

The experiences and lessons learned after six years of these activities have shown that

the international staff, not belonging to a medical service (generic army staff = lay first aider), have a double approach to the first aid (self aid / buddy aid). On one side we have people that are reluctant to approach the casualty (“how I can help him ... without touching him?”) and, on the other side we have people, that we can define as “the heroes”, that want to do something in any case, but without ratio and often putting themselves and the casualty in further danger.

Course design

Pre course refresher (slides/written material)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Self Aid/Buddy Aid principles Wounds and bleedings treatment Transport of patients methods Etc. 																																																																																																					
Initial summative / formative assessment (questionnaire)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of basic knowledge Attitude towards first aid/buddy aid Time that they believe must be dedicated to this training (theory % / practice %) What they believe is important to know /what they are interested in First aid experience (courses/ military live experiences/ civilian live experiences) 																																																																																																					
Training (theoretical part)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Command and control on the incident scene Safety Scene assessment Communication Triage Initial basic treatment Handover to professional first aiders 	<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td>32</td></tr> <tr><td>33</td><td>34</td><td>35</td><td>36</td></tr> <tr><td>37</td><td>38</td><td>39</td><td>40</td></tr> <tr><td>41</td><td>42</td><td>43</td><td>44</td></tr> <tr><td>45</td><td>46</td><td>47</td><td>48</td></tr> <tr><td>49</td><td>50</td><td>51</td><td>52</td></tr> <tr><td>53</td><td>54</td><td>55</td><td>56</td></tr> <tr><td>57</td><td>58</td><td>59</td><td>60</td></tr> <tr><td>61</td><td>62</td><td>63</td><td>64</td></tr> <tr><td>65</td><td>66</td><td>67</td><td>68</td></tr> <tr><td>69</td><td>70</td><td>71</td><td>72</td></tr> <tr><td>73</td><td>74</td><td>75</td><td>76</td></tr> <tr><td>77</td><td>78</td><td>79</td><td>80</td></tr> <tr><td>81</td><td>82</td><td>83</td><td>84</td></tr> <tr><td>85</td><td>86</td><td>87</td><td>88</td></tr> <tr><td>89</td><td>90</td><td>91</td><td>92</td></tr> <tr><td>93</td><td>94</td><td>95</td><td>96</td></tr> <tr><td>97</td><td>98</td><td>99</td><td>100</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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Training (practical part)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simulated scenario Misusage Basic BLS manoeuvres (with resuscitation mannequin) 	<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td>32</td></tr> <tr><td>33</td><td>34</td><td>35</td><td>36</td></tr> <tr><td>37</td><td>38</td><td>39</td><td>40</td></tr> <tr><td>41</td><td>42</td><td>43</td><td>44</td></tr> <tr><td>45</td><td>46</td><td>47</td><td>48</td></tr> <tr><td>49</td><td>50</td><td>51</td><td>52</td></tr> <tr><td>53</td><td>54</td><td>55</td><td>56</td></tr> <tr><td>57</td><td>58</td><td>59</td><td>60</td></tr> <tr><td>61</td><td>62</td><td>63</td><td>64</td></tr> <tr><td>65</td><td>66</td><td>67</td><td>68</td></tr> <tr><td>69</td><td>70</td><td>71</td><td>72</td></tr> <tr><td>73</td><td>74</td><td>75</td><td>76</td></tr> <tr><td>77</td><td>78</td><td>79</td><td>80</td></tr> <tr><td>81</td><td>82</td><td>83</td><td>84</td></tr> <tr><td>85</td><td>86</td><td>87</td><td>88</td></tr> <tr><td>89</td><td>90</td><td>91</td><td>92</td></tr> <tr><td>93</td><td>94</td><td>95</td><td>96</td></tr> <tr><td>97</td><td>98</td><td>99</td><td>100</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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Final formative assessment (questionnaire)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final attitude towards first aid/buddy aid Time that now they believe must be dedicated to this kind of training Language preferences Aim and target understood Opinion on a facilitator tool (battlefield handbook) Comments/suggestion 																																																																																																					



For this reason after a comparison with other similar Headquarters, a research on what is present in literature on first aid/buddy aid (especially in Major Incident/Mass Casualty situation) a new model of training was developed based on a full spectrum approach on what a military lay first aider

should know to better manage a incident scene, with the individual first aid kit available, in the timeframe before the arrival of professional first aiders, starting from the scene assessment and safety to the communication and first aid provision, up to the handover to the professionals.

A schedule (hazard/risk/vulnerability analysis) was adapted from one of the existing systems in disaster medicine literature, to be more close to possible operational scenario and also to determine the threat assessment for this scenario.

EVENTS LIST	Events: realization of a hazard Hazard: anything that may pose a danger			
	E.g. I.E.D.	E.g. Car Incident	E.g. Direct fire	E.g. CBRN
PROBABILITY	Score 1-10			
VULNERABILITY	Score 1-10			
% OF AREA OF OPERATION AFFECTED	Score 1-10			
MANAGEABILITY	Score 1-10			
SERIOUSNESS	Score 1-10			
TOTAL SCORE	Threat assessment (number from 5 to 50)			

This project, the thesis topic from Lt. Dr. Francesco Gaeta for the European Master in Disaster Medicine (EMDM), hosted by University of Eastern Piedmont "A. Avogadro" in cooperation with prestigious Universities as Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Université de Genève, University of California and Centre for Teaching & Research in Disaster Medicine (KMC) Linköping- Sweden, received also the tutoring of international experts.

The method was tested in 2008 during the NRDC-ITA Individual Military Training (Medical Part) that took place in Candelo Masazza Army training area.

The course was based on a theoretical and a practical part that simulated an operational scenario and the participants, in small groups of 3-4, were requested to assess the event and react adequately.

Before and after the training a questionnaire (formative/summative assessment) was submitted to each participant. During the practical part an evaluation sheet was filled in by each instructor.

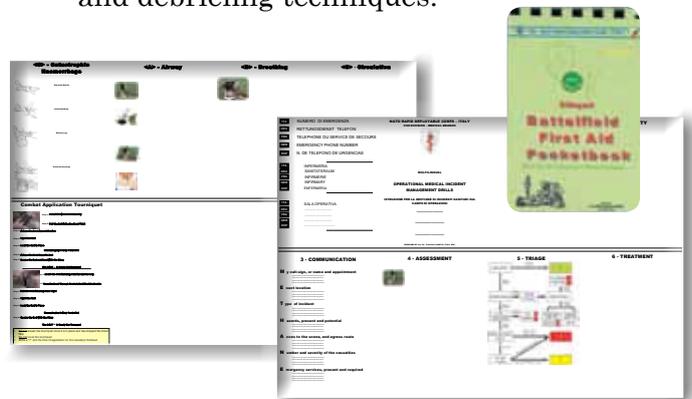
The analysis of the results shows that this new method of training, full spectrum training, including not only medical topics but all the necessary information useful to manage the scene of the incident before the arrival of medical professional, utilizing the hazard/risk and vulnerability analysis to define the specific threats and adopting the "learning by doing, by thinking and by lov-

ing" methodology was increasing the attitude and the skills of the selected multinational military community.

This kind of training represents a modular way to build up a training adherent to possible scenarios and/or operative needs necessary to give the audience the capability to manage incidents, and by this provide added value to each staff members in providing first aid and save the life of their comrades.

Potential areas for further study on this training model are:

- Possible application in a civilian community: of this methodology of training, looking specially at the low cost and the short time necessary to set up and to provide to the training audience can find field for application for the local communities during PSOs (Peace Support Operations) or CROs (Crisis Response Operations) because with the appropriate training and skill retention, lay member of the public can potentially contribute to a post disaster/post conflict or post crisis medical response.
- Plan to improve this training with the help of military Psychologist, adding a part dedicated to the management of the stress in operation and, in a particular way, the stress after an incident/accident. Training for the Team leader with support on how manage the team, briefing and debriefing techniques.



Battlefield handbook : Although this was not a specific target of this project, particular attention was given to this final product or, in a special way, on how set up an useful battlefield handbook, meaning a tool that should have some specific characteristics: easily readable, in multiple languages, with explanatory figures/pictures, easily portable, protected against field environment (water, dust, etc.)

During 2008 some initial drafts of this handbook were made, but the final product requires more time and more studies.