

TCCC UPDATES

Tactical Combat Casualty Care Curriculum Annual Update 2014

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The Committee on Tactical Combat Casualty Care (CoTCCC) has drafted and broadcast updates to the Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) guidelines since 2001. It also drafts and disseminates updates to an accompanying curriculum used by US military, law enforcement, civilian, and allied foreign military medical training organizations to teach TCCC courses. The military edition of the *Prehospital Trauma Life Support* manual is the textbook for these classes. It contains 13 chapters pertaining to battlefield prehospital care endorsed by the CoTCCC.

The Update Process

In the past, any guideline change made by the CoTCCC precipitated a curriculum revision. The change was shown in the guidelines document as bold red text. Changes made since the last edition of the manual were listed in a separate document in the file set and appeared in the guidelines as bold black text. In that way, students and teachers of TCCC could identify changes in the guidelines that were made since the release of the textbook and were, therefore, not discussed.

Over the past decade, each time the CoTCCC changed the guidelines, the CoTCCC administrative staff updated the entire curriculum file set. This practice proved untenable due to the size of the file set—over 100 files totaling more than 1 gigabyte. The frequency of the revisions (as many as six in 12 months) also made this practice burdensome for both the administrative staff and the end users. In order to reduce this workload and streamline the curriculum update process, the curriculum file set will be updated once each year from this point forward. The first of these annual updates is about to be released. It includes all changes to the guidelines through change 14-1 pertaining to fluid resuscitation, released on 2 June 2014, hence version 140602. Each change, once approved by the director of the Joint Trauma System, will be announced by the release of a **change package** containing three files: (1) the updated guidelines, (2) a slide presentation of the change that can be spliced into the pertinent curriculum presentation, and (3) a paper explaining why the change was made that will be submitted for publication in this journal. The slide presentations in the change packages

will be used to update the curriculum annually, and the papers will be used to update the manual in sync with its publication cycle.

What's New

The biggest physical change to the TCCC curriculum is in the arrangement of the file set (Figure 1). A new folder has been added that contains change packages. In this update, this folder will contain changes 13-5 (pertaining to hemostatic dressings) and 14-1.

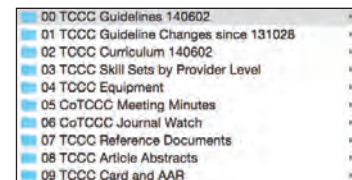


Figure 1 TCCC curriculum file set.

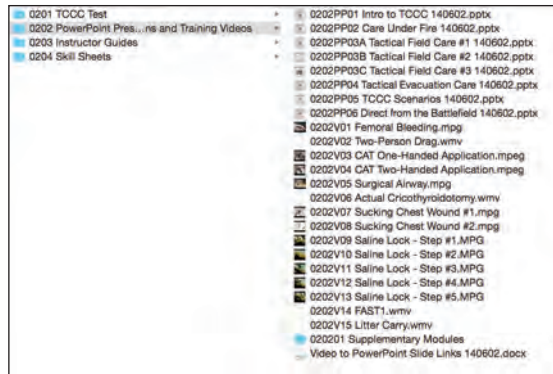
These two guideline changes were made too recently to be included in the 8th military edition of the PHTLS manual due for release in November 2014. Between the manual and the change packages added to the curriculum file set as they are released, TCCC courses can now cover all changes that have been released as of the date of the course.

Three folders have been added to provide easy access to background documents that have previously been disseminated by internal distribution—the CoTCCC Journal Watch, TCCC article abstracts, and the TCCC Card and AAR.

There are also significant changes within the curriculum subfolder (Figure 2). The Pre-test and Post-test folders have been replaced by a TCCC Test folder. Inside this folder is an Access database that contains queries and report functions that will generate a 25-question test with items randomly selected from a test question table. Instructions for generating and printing a test and answer key are provided in a separate document.

Due to their great size, the Tactical Field Care presentation and its instructor guide have been partitioned into three sections. These files will be easier to transmit and this arrangement should provide natural breaks in the course of instruction.

Figure 2 TCCC curriculum.



The CoTCCC currently recommends one alternative to the Combat Application Tourniquet® (the SOF Tactical Tourniquet), two alternatives to CombatGauze™ (Celox™ Gauze and ChitoGauze®), and two alternatives to the Combat Ready Clamp™ (the Junctional Emergency Treatment Tool™ and the SAM® Junctional Tourniquet). Some organizations elect to train and equip their personnel with these alternatives. In the past, the TCCC Curriculum included no training materials supporting them. Now, no matter which alternative a unit selects, it has a training module specific to its chosen device or dressing. These modules are presented within a subfolder inside the

curriculum subfolder. Each contains a slide presentation, a training video, and a skill sheet with which to assess student performance.

Where to Find TCCC Training Materials

On its release, TCCC Curriculum 140602 will be posted on these websites:

Journal of Special Operations Medicine:

<https://www.JSOMonline.org/TCCC.html>.

Military Health System: https://mhs.health.mil/entry.cshtml?returnUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fmhs.health.mil%2FReferences%2FREF_TCCC.cshtml.

(Government issued Common Access Card required.)

National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians: http://www.naemt.org/education/TCCC/guidelines_curriculum.aspx.

Special Operations Medical Association: <http://www.specialoperationsmedicine.org/Pages/resourcelibrary.aspx>.

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