

TacMed UPDATES

Proceedings From the 2016 Mid-Year Meeting of the Committee for Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (C-TECC) and Committee Updates

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Founded in 2011, the Committee for Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (C-TECC) is a standing, independent, nonprofit organization composed of operational and academic medical leaders with a unified mission to develop and maintain best practice guidelines for the provision of high-threat medicine. Translating key lessons learned from its military counterpart, the TECC guidelines promote evidence-based management of casualties during tactical and rescue operations accounting for differences in civilian environments, resource allocations, patient populations, and responder scopes of practice. The full C-TECC convenes formally twice annually to present scientific advances, emerging technology, and update TECC guidelines to further enhance the lifesaving mission.

The 2016 Mid-Year C-TECC Full Committee Meeting was held on 13–14 December 2016 in conjunction with the Symposium on 21st Century Threats and Integrated Operations on the George Mason University campus in Arlington, Virginia. The meeting was robustly attended and included participation by leaders, subject matter experts, presenters, and stakeholders from domestic and international law enforcement, EMS, fire/rescue, military, industry, and other interested parties.

General Proceedings

The meeting was called to order by Drs Reed Smith and Nelson Tang, C-TECC Co-Chairs. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and general introductions, a keynote address was provided by Deputy Chief John Snider, Arlington County Fire Department. Meeting schedule and general rules of order were reviewed.

C-TECC Updates

C-TECC welcomed several new members to the Board of Directors and Guidelines Committees. Dr Eric Vu (Vancouver, BC, Canada), Mr Christopher Baldini (Philadelphia Fire Department, PA), Dr Matthew Sholl

(State EMS Medical Director, Maine), and Dr Peter Taillic (State EMS Medical Director, Utah) were announced by the Board of Directors as new voting members of the Guidelines Committee. Dr Carol Cunningham (Ohio State EMS Medical Director) and Dr Richard Kamin (Connecticut State EMS Medical Director) were announced as the new members of the Board of Directors. Also joining C-TECC is Mr Randy Stair (U.S. Secret Service, Emergency Services Section) to serve the Board of Directors in an advisory capacity.

Multiple C-TECC administrative updates for 2016 were discussed:

- Moving forward, the nomenclature for the semiannual Full Committee Meetings will be renamed as the Mid-Year (previously Fall/Winter) and Annual (previously Spring/Summer) Meetings.
- The co-chairs announced the intention to develop and fill a position of executive director for C-TECC. Among the key executive director functions will be the management of core administrative responsibilities related to the day-to-day operations of C-TECC, oversight of strategic outreach and fiscal development initiatives, and coordination of logistical and communications functions related to the semiannual Full Committee Meetings. The formal position responsibilities are being codified and C-TECC anticipates filling this position by the 2017 Annual Meeting.
- Recent select C-TECC website updates have been performed by Dr Ameen Jamali, senior Tactical Medicine Fellow at Johns Hopkins University, with multiple subsequent tiered website revisions identified as an essential priority for the Committee.
- Since the inception of C-TECC, multiple serial amendments to its bylaws have been enacted. Work is under way to reconcile these revisions into one active document that will be available from the C-TECC website.
- C-TECC now fully owns its trademark, and the ramifications for inappropriate use of nomenclature content were discussed.

- The process for application and subsequent use of the term “C-TECC recognized educational content,” and the corresponding red Committee logo, were reviewed and will remain, open to all, as the official procedure to obtain recognition by the Committee for the TECC content that is being taught by community, public safety, and education entities and private organizations. The “Recognized Educational Content” logo can be displayed by any entity that agrees to follow the Committee Principles of Guidelines Education document and is a marker that the TECC content is true to the mission and intent as created by the Committee.
- C-TECC announced the creation of, and selection criteria for, a Board of Emeritus Advisors. The Board of Directors will announce the members of this prestigious board in Spring 2017.
- The Committee will be establishing two new positions of past chairman within the executive committee, as the Board of Directors develops a succession process for the Board and the Executive Committee
- A recommitment process for current Board of Directors, Guidelines Committee, and Board of Advisors members is forthcoming. As such, a continuing relationship disclosure requirement and conflict resolution policy are being developed for all official voting members involved in the Committee.
- A financial update was provided by C-TECC Treasurer Geoff Shapiro. A “Friends of C-TECC” proposal was discussed with potential implementation by the Annual Meeting. Dates for the 2017 and the 2018 Special Operations Medical Association Scientific Assembly (SOMSA) were reviewed. It is the intention of C-TECC to continue to hold its Annual Meetings in conjunction with SOMSA.

TECC Guidelines

The Committee voted and approved the K-9 TECC Guidelines developed by the K-9 Working Group under the leadership of Dr Lee Palmer. These guidelines will be available on the C-TECC website in the near future. Other working groups presented their continued efforts to include guidance on mitigating psychological issues surrounding high-impact responses, CBRNE responses, and pediatric guidelines and addressing the need to update medical instruction protocols used by dispatchers/call takers to include TECC interventions.

In response to end-user feedback, C-TECC has developed abridged guideline documents for each specific scope of provider of the chain of survival. These abridged guidelines attempt to take into account the specific scope of practice, nomenclature, standard of care, equipment availability, training, and other issues for each of the provider levels. These scope-specific guidelines do not

differ from the existing set of full TECC guidelines; instead, each set of provider guidelines focuses the TECC guidance to the appropriate skill level and scope of the specific end user. Currently, the scope-specific guidelines for first care providers are available on the C-TECC website. During the 2 days of the 2016 Mid-Year meeting, the present quorum developed and approved scope-specific TECC guidelines for non-EMS first responders (specifically law enforcement) and EMS medical first responders. These guidelines should be finalized and published on the C-TECC website in the next few weeks.

The specific guidelines for medical first receivers will be discussed at the 2017 Annual Meeting.

Program Updates

Dr Sandy Bogucki provided a briefing on the ongoing efforts of the Interagency Board (IAB) and their work on various high-threat initiatives relating to active violence and other hostile incidents. Dr Gina Piazza provided a progress report on the efforts of the American College of Emergency Physicians, High Threat Emergency Casualty Care Task Force, which held its inaugural meeting in Las Vegas in October 2016. Captain Ryan McGovern of the Boston Fire Department (BFD) delivered a presentation describing integration and TECC efforts among BFD, Boston EMS, and Boston Police. C-TECC Guidelines Committee member Dr Joshua Bobko provided an update regarding First Care Provider (FCP), and Mr Ryan Forsemian (Chino, CA) presented information on the successful implementation of an FCP Program in his area.

Case Study

Chief Graham Ellis of the London Fire Brigade presented a critical incident response case study surrounding the Vauxhall helicopter crash that occurred on January 16, 2013. Various issues surrounding the needed for strategic and tactical integrated efforts between disciplines and specific issues and risks encountered in the unique environment were discussed in great detail. This incident provided a platform to dissect and improve various interdiscipline efforts that were either under way or being developed in London at the time of the crash. Representatives from New Scotland Yard and the London Fire Brigade were candid in their conversation regarding these efforts and the progress that has been made and implemented in the following years.

National Activities

Members of C-TECC continue to serve as Interagency Planning Group and Faculty members for the Joint Counter Terrorism Awareness Workshop Series (JCTAWS)

sponsored by the US Department of Homeland Security–Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS/FEMA), National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and for the Integrated Emergency Management Course-Complex Coordinated Attack provided by FEMA. Since the last meeting, deliveries of JCTAWS and IEMC-CCA were completed for San Francisco, CA, Ada County, ID, Phoenix, AZ, Salt Lake City, UT, McAllen, TX, New Orleans, LA, Boston, MA, and Greenville, SC. Upcoming deliveries are scheduled for Austin, TX, and Jacksonville, FL. TECC and “all hazards” response and integration are prominently featured throughout the workshops and courses.

Acknowledgments

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