

FM 4-02.12

HEALTH SERVICE
SUPPORT IN
CORPS AND
ECHELONS ABOVE
CORPS

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

FEBRUARY 2004

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HEALTH SERVICE SUPPORT IN CORPS AND ECHELONS ABOVE CORPS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
PREFACE	vi
CHAPTER 1. THE HEALTH SERVICE SUPPORT SYSTEM IN THE CORPS AND ECHELONS ABOVE CORPS	1-1
Section I. Introduction to the Health Service Support System in Corps and Echelons Above Corps	1-1
1-1. Focus of Health Service Support	1-1
1-2. Principles of Health Service Support	1-2
1-3. Levels of Medical Care	1-3
1-4. Army Medical Department Battlefield Rules	1-4
1-5. The Medical Threat	1-5
1-6. Medical Intelligence	1-6
1-7. Command Surgeon	1-6
Section II. Health Service Support at Echelons Above Corps Level	1-11
1-8. Joint and Multinational Health Service Support	1-11
1-9. Army Service Component Command	1-14
1-10. The Army Service Component Command Surgeon/Deputy Chief of Staff, Medicine	1-14
1-11. Echelons Above Corps Medical Command	1-15
1-12. Echelons Above Corps Medical Brigade	1-15
Section III. Health Service Support in the Corps	1-15
1-13. The Corps	1-15
1-14. The Corps Surgeon Section	1-16
1-15. The Corps Medical Command	1-16
1-16. The Corps Medical Brigade	1-17
CHAPTER 2. HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, MEDICAL COMMAND (ECHELONS ABOVE CORPS)	2-1
Section I. Mission, Assignment, and Capabilities	2-1
2-1. Mission and Assignment	2-1
2-2. Capabilities and Limitations	2-1
2-3. Command Section	2-2

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		Page
	2-4.	Chief of Staff and Section 2-3
	2-5.	Staff Organization and Functions 2-3
	2-6.	Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel Section 2-5
	2-7.	Deputy Chief of Staff, Security/Plans/Operations Section 2-7
	2-8.	Deputy Chief of Staff, Logistics Section 2-9
	2-9.	Deputy Chief of Staff, Civil Affairs Section 2-10
	2-10.	Deputy Chief of Staff, Information Management Section 2-10
	2-11.	Deputy Chief of Staff, Comptroller Section 2-11
	2-12.	Clinical Services Section 2-12
	2-13.	Dental Services Section 2-13
	2-14.	Veterinary Services Section 2-14
	2-15.	Nutrition Care Services Section 2-14
	2-16.	Chief Nurse Section 2-15
	2-17.	Preventive Medicine Section 2-15
	2-18.	Inspector General Section 2-16
	2-19.	Public Affairs Section 2-16
	2-20.	Staff Judge Advocate Section 2-17
	2-21.	Company Headquarters 2-18
	2-22.	Ministry Team 2-18
Section	II.	Medical Command (Forward) 2-19
	2-23.	Introduction to the Medical Command (Forward) 2-19
	2-24.	Mission of the Medical Command (Forward) 2-20
	2-25.	Assignment 2-20
	2-26.	Capabilities 2-20
	2-27.	Limitations 2-21
	2-28.	Mobility 2-21
	2-29.	Medical Command (Forward) Organization 2-21
	2-30.	Command Element 2-21
	2-31.	Chief of Staff Element 2-22
	2-32.	Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel Element 2-22
	2-33.	Deputy Chief of Staff, Security/Plans/Operations Element 2-23
	2-34.	Deputy Chief of Staff, Logistics and Civil Affairs Elements 2-23
	2-35.	Deputy Chief of Staff, Information Management Element 2-24
	2-36.	Deputy Chief of Staff, Comptroller and Staff Judge Advocate Elements 2-24
	2-37.	Professional Services Elements 2-25
CHAPTER	3.	HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, MEDICAL COMMAND (CORPS) 3-1
Section	I.	Mission and Capabilities 3-1
	3-1.	Mission and Assignment 3-1
	3-2.	Capabilities 3-1
	3-3.	Limitations 3-2

		Page
Section	II. Employment and Functions	3-2
	3-4. General	3-2
	3-5. Command Section	3-2
	3-6. Chief of Staff Section	3-3
	3-7. The Internal Staff Operations	3-4
	3-8. G1 Section	3-6
	3-9. G2 Section	3-6
	3-10. G3 Section	3-7
	3-11. G4 Section	3-8
	3-12. Comptroller Section	3-10
	3-13. G5 Section	3-10
	3-14. G6 Section	3-11
	3-15. Clinical Services Section	3-11
	3-16. Dental Services Section	3-12
	3-17. Veterinary Services Section	3-12
	3-18. Chief Nurse Section	3-13
	3-19. Command Judge Advocate Section	3-13
	3-20. Public Affairs Section	3-14
	3-21. Headquarters and Headquarters Company	3-14
	3-22. Unit Ministry Team	3-15
CHAPTER	4. HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, MEDICAL BRIGADE (ECHELONS ABOVE CORPS) AND HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY MEDICAL BRIGADE (CORPS)	4-1
Section	I. Mission, Assignment, and Capabilities	4-1
	4-1. Mission, Assignment, and Basis of Allocation	4-1
	4-2. Capabilities	4-1
	4-3. Limitations	4-2
	4-4. Mobility	4-2
Section	II. Organization and Functions	4-3
	4-5. Medical Brigade Staff Organization	4-3
	4-6. Command Section	4-4
	4-7. The S1 Section	4-5
	4-8. The S2/S3 Section	4-6
	4-9. The S4 Section	4-7
	4-10. The Communications-Electronics Section	4-8
	4-11. Preventive Medicine Section	4-9
	4-12. Mental Health Section	4-9
	4-13. Company Headquarters	4-9
	4-14. Unit Ministry Team	4-10
	4-15. Command Judge Advocate Section	4-11
	4-16. Task Organization of Medical Brigade Staff Clinical Operations Section	4-11

		Page
CHAPTER	5.	ARMY MEDICAL LABORATORY 5-1
Section	I.	Mission and Capabilities 5-1
	5-1.	General 5-1
	5-2.	Mission and Capabilities 5-1
	5-3.	Limitations 5-2
	5-4.	Mobility and Deployability 5-2
	5-5.	Referral System 5-2
	5-6.	Epidemiological Assessment 5-3
	5-7.	Modular Design 5-3
Section	II.	Organization, Functions, and Employment 5-3
	5-8.	Organization and Functions 5-3
	5-9.	Employment 5-8
	5-10.	Support to Military Operations 5-9
	5-11.	Sample or Specimen Collection and Transport of Suspect Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Agents 5-10
APPENDIX	A.	ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION FOR MEDICAL/ DENTAL CARE A-1
	A-1.	Eligibility for Care in a United States Army Medical Treatment Facility A-1
	A-2.	Sample Support Matrix for Eligibility for Care in a United States Army Medical Treatment Facility A-2
APPENDIX	B.	MEDICAL MULTIFUNCTIONAL TASK FORCE B-1
	B-1.	Task Organization B-1
	B-2.	Force Structure of a Medical Multifunctional Task Force B-1
	B-3.	Equipment Requirements B-2
	B-4.	Personnel Requirements B-3
	B-5.	Battalion Staff Plugs B-3
	B-6.	Operational Requirements B-10
	B-7.	Professional Filler System Personnel B-10
APPENDIX	C.	MEDICAL UNITS WHICH MAY BE ASSIGNED OR ATTACHED TO A MEDICAL COMMAND OR MEDICAL BRIGADE C-1
	C-1.	General C-1
	C-2.	Medical Reengineering Initiative Units C-1
	C-3.	Medical Force 2000 Units C-3
	C-4.	Human Dimension Team C-7
APPENDIX	D.	COMMAND POST OPERATIONS AND JOINT MEDICAL OPERATIONS CENTER D-1
Section	I.	Command Post Operations D-1

	Page
D-1.	Command Post Elements D-1
D-2.	Main Command Post D-1
D-3.	Command Post Security D-1
D-4.	Reports D-1
D-5.	Planning Matrix and Information Displays D-9
D-6.	Synchronization Matrix D-11
Section II.	Joint Task Force Surgeon’s Office and Joint Medical Operations Center D-13
D-7.	Introduction D-13
D-8.	Organization and Functions of a Joint Task Force Surgeon’s Office and a Joint Medical Operations Center D-13
APPENDIX E.	MEDICAL FORCE 2000 COMMAND AND CONTROL UNITS E-1
E-1.	General E-1
E-2.	Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Medical Command, TOE 08611L000 E-1
E-3.	Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Medical Brigade (Corps, TOE 08422L100 or Communications Zone, TOE 08422L200) E-2
E-4.	Medical Group, TOE 08432L000 E-3
APPENDIX F.	DISEASE AND NONBATTLE INJURY REPORT F-1
F-1.	Disease and Nonbattle Injury Rates—The Vital Signs of the Unit F-1
F-2.	Disease and Nonbattle Injury Report Instructions F-2
F-3.	Case Definitions F-5
GLOSSARY Glossary-1
REFERENCES References-1
INDEX Index-1

PREFACE

This field manual (FM) establishes command, control, communications, computers, and intelligence (C4I) doctrine for the provision of health service support (HSS) in corps and echelons above corps (EAC). It discusses all levels of care within the theater. Force health protection in a global environment is the overarching concept of support for providing timely medical support to the tactical commander; it is executed by the HSS system. This manual is designed for use by HSS commanders and their staffs involved in the planning and execution of HSS operations in corps and EAC.

The Army Medical Department (AMEDD) is in a transitional phase with terminology. This manual uses the most current terminology, however, other FM 4-02-series and FM 8-series may use the older terminology. Changes in terminology are a result of adopting the terminology currently used in the joint, and/or North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and American, British, Canadian, and Australian (ABCA) Armies publication arenas. Therefore, the following terms are synonymous—

- *Health service support and combat health support (CHS).*
- *Medical logistics, health service logistics (HSL), and combat health logistics (CHL).*
- *Levels of care, echelons of care, and roles of care.*
- *Combat stress control (CSC), and combat operational stress control (COSC).*

This publication implements or is in consonance with the following NATO Standardization Agreements (STANAGs), ABCA Quadripartite Standardization Agreements (QSTAGs), and Quadripartite Advisory Publication (QAP) 82, ABCA Armies Medical Interoperability Handbook.

NATO STANAG	ABCA QSTAG	TITLE
2068		Emergency War Surgery
2131		Multilingual Phrase Book for Use by the NATO Medical Services (AMedP-5)(B)
2132	470	Documentation Relative to Medical Evacuation, Treatment and Cause of Death of Patients
2350		Morphia Dosage and Casualty Marking
	230	Morphia Dosage

The proponent of this publication is the United States (US) Army Medical Department Center and School (AMEDDC&S). Send comments and recommendations in a letter format directly to the Commander, AMEDDC&S, ATTN: MCCS-FCD-L, 1400 East Grayson Street, Fort Sam Houston, Texas 78234-5052.

Unless this publication states otherwise, masculine nouns and pronouns do not refer exclusively to men.

CHAPTER 1

THE HEALTH SERVICE SUPPORT SYSTEM IN THE CORPS AND
ECHELONS ABOVE CORPS**Section I. INTRODUCTION TO THE HEALTH SERVICE SUPPORT
SYSTEM IN CORPS AND ECHELONS ABOVE CORPS****1-1. Focus of Health Service Support**

a. As the battlefield becomes increasingly lethal, sustaining the health of the fighting forces becomes a critical factor in the success or failure of the mission. Comprehensive planning enhances the capability of medical units to provide effective HSS, and ultimately, increases the chances for survival of the wounded soldier. Forward support characterizes the role that HSS must assume. The thrust of HSS is to rapidly clear the battlefield of casualties, provide immediate medical care to maximize the return to duty (RTD) rate or to stabilize patients requiring further evacuation to a higher level of care.

b. The provision of timely and effective HSS is a team effort which integrates the clinical and operational aspects of the mission. Coordination and synchronization are key elements to ensure that a seamless system of health care delivery, that exists from the point of injury through successive levels of care to the continental United States (CONUS)-support base, is achieved. (Refer to FM 4-02 for additional information on the AMEDD team.)

c. Consistent with military operations, HSS also operates in a continuum across strategic, operational, and tactical levels. In addition to maintaining a healthy and fit deployable force, the effectiveness of the HSS system is focused and measured on its ability to—

- Provide prompt medical treatment consisting of those measures necessary to locate, recover, resuscitate, stabilize, and prepare patients for evacuation to the next level of care and/or RTD.
- Employ standardized air and ground medical evacuation units/resources. The use of air ambulance is the primary and preferred means of medical evacuation on the battlefield. Its use, however, is mission, enemy, terrain and weather, troops and support available, time available, civil considerations (METT-TC) driven and can be affected by weather, availability of resources, nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) conditions, and air superiority issues. Medical evacuation provided at Levels I and II is by Army air and ground medical evacuation platforms (vehicle or rotary-wing aircraft). Extended distances on future battlefields may require the use of United States Air Force (USAF) fixed-wing assets to effect evacuation from Level II to Level III.
- Field flexible, responsive, and deployable hospitals designed and structured to support a Force Projection Army and its varied missions. These hospitals provide essential care to all patients who are evacuated out of theater and definitive care to those soldiers capable of RTD within the theater evacuation policy.
- Provide a medical logistics system (to include blood management) that is anticipatory and tailored to continuously support missions throughout full spectrum operations. Refer to FM 4-02.1 and FM 8-10-9 for additional information.