

THE SCOOP

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From the Military Training Network

SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 1998



Fourth Annual Worldwide Conference

MTN 2000

Here it is folks; the date for the next MTN conference for affiliates is April 25-27, 2000. Please mark your calendars for the largest and most comprehensive MTN conference to date. Please note that there will not be a conference held in 1999. "MTN 2000" will have more breakout sessions, updates of certification opportunities, and continuing education opportunities than ever before. The Governing Body session will be on the 24th of April 2000. Both will be held at the USU. It is anticipated that Dr. Zimble will open and close the conference.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Quality military training will always ensure the very best in military readiness. I have challenged the MTN staff and I challenge each one of you to continue reaching and sustaining the band of excellence. The scoop will continue as a method of keeping our affiliates abreast of the diversity of activities supported by MTN. Let's go into 1999 with a bang. Remain fired up and highly motivated.

Happy Holidays to All!



Check out our updated website at:
WWW.USUHS.MIL/MTN/MTN.HTML

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT

We no longer send any MTN nominations, AHA cards, or MTN information to an affiliate's home address. There is inherent potential for fraud when the material is sent from the MTN to a non DoD address. Investigations are ongoing concerning misuse of MTN AHA cards! DO NOT deviate from the MTN Guidebooks; Your career and reputation is not worth it!

As of October 1, 1998 most forms and information can be obtained from our website. You will need Acrobat Reader Software to download the material. The reader can be downloaded free from {www.adobe.com}. If you are a National Guard or Reserve Unit wishing to affiliate with the MTN, be sure to read the endorsement policy under the National Guard and Reserve news column in this newsletter.

Thank you to all the affiliates that have submitted their end of year Annual Report and Fiscal Year 1998 Fourth Quarter reports on time. However, there are several commands whose programs will be held in abeyance as their reports are late. If you have not submitted your report, please do so as soon as possible. If you have submitted all your reports and still have not received any AHA /MTN cards, please call SFC Hyde at (301) 295-2282.

HEARTSAVER AED TRAINING

The Heartsaver Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) course is a new Resuscitative Medicine Program that has been developed by the America Heart Association. The Military Training Network was invited to attend one of these courses in August 98. Two of our managers attended, and have evaluated the course content, and methodology. At this time one Instructor's package has been sent to each Basic Life Support National Faculty Member. We requested their evaluation and recommendation; these will then be forwarded to the Surgeon's Generals for possible implementation within DoD. MTN does not have approval authority

Inside this issue:

BLS, ACLS, PALS

ARMY EMT

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HEARTSAVER AED TRAINING

ARMY EMT BASIC PROGRAM NEWS

If you are doing EMT refresher training, you must follow the Department of Transportation (DOT) Basic Refresher Curriculum. If you do not have the Curriculum, you can get it off the Department of Transportation WEB Page or we can get it to you via e-mail. Also look for the connection on the MTN WEB Page coming soon to a PC near you. You can also find the EMT Basic Curriculum on the WEB Page or I will send it to you e-mail. DoT Web Site is: www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/ems/.

In a letter from the MTN dated 16 March 1998, all Army EMT Program coordinators/Medical Directors were advised to ensure program reports are submitted to the MTN by 31 March and 30 September of each year. These update requirements are in place to ensure the quality of the programs administered under the auspices of the MTN and will further ensure the integrity of the EMT Program for our U.S. Army colleagues. The letter further advised that failure to meet requirements by 30 April 1998 would result in site code suspension.

An extensive review has been completed of the MTN databases and the programs in violation of this directive have been identified and will be receiving site code suspension letters from the MTN. Copies are being forwarded to NREMT, which will prevent the respective site from requesting exams until reinstated by the MTN. If you have not complied with this directive, you may expect to be receiving your notice of such action in the near future. If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact the Army EMT Program Coordinator at MTN, MSgt Thomas Ritchie, USAF at (301) 295-2282 or DSN 295-2282.

MTN AT AMSUS

The MTN staff has just returned from the annual Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS) conference. We met with several of our affiliates and found many other potential affiliates. To our surprise, there are a lot of personnel who are going to their state affiliate for Resuscitative Medicine programs and paying out of their pocket. Some did not know about our worldwide reciprocity through the American Heart Association. If you encounter any such problems please give us a call, we will be very glad to assist you in solving problems.

MTN NATIONAL FACULTY MEETING

The Director MTN, LTC Harris has scheduled a National Faculty meeting for April 12, 1999 from 1130 - 1530 (EST) at various Video Teleconferencing (VTC) sites nationwide. Sites were selected according to the availability and location nearest each member's command. Funding for this TDY will be provided from the MTN for National Faculty members to attend. If you are a MTN/AHA National Faculty Member, you will be receiving additional information via mail to include the agenda, location, and time of the MTN VTC. Also, please note that there will be a National Faculty

meeting on the 24th of April, 2000 prior to the 25-27 April, 2000 MTN Worldwide Conference. If you have any further questions, you may contact LT John Nagan, MSC, USN at the MTN (301) 295-2282 or DSN 295-2282.

ACLS CHAPTER 10

There are six new test questions for ACLS covering Acute Coronary Syndrome and Acute Stroke. We have forwarded these questions to all our affiliates along with a conversion table for the now 56 question test.

CME'S

We will grant Continuing Medical Education only to Medical Corps who are not still undergoing residency. The hours are pre-approved, when you submit your course agenda, at the beginning of the fiscal year by the Office of Continuing Education for Health Professionals. CME's WILL NOT BE GRANTED AFTER THE FACT. When submitting your course reports, you must indicate by an asterisk who is eligible to obtain CME's along with MC corps designation. Furthermore, since we are a Tri-Service organization, please ensure you put what branch of service the designee is assigned to.

MTN PROCESSING POLICY

The MTN has established its policy for New Program affiliations to be 6-8 weeks. The program packages are reviewed extensively for completeness according to AHA and MTN guidelines. Additionally, some program requests must be forwarded to the National Faculty members for review/approval then returned to the MTN. Please allow the MTN at least 8 weeks time to return your package. Please be sure you review the 1998, *MTN Handbook for Resuscitative Medicine* for reporting deadlines and required submissions.

NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE NEWS

LTC Harris has recently authorized/established the endorsement policy for Reserve and National Guard units who wish to affiliate with the MTN for their resuscitative medicine programs. The following requirement should assist you in your submission of your affiliation packets to the MTN. Once your program has reached the MTN from your headquarters element as defined below, you may deal directly with the MTN program managers. Additional reporting requirements are outlined in the administrative handbook.



Each reserve/guard unit must route their MTN affiliation request to their first O-6 level signature position within their respective chain of command. This does not mean that an O-6 must endorse the request. It means that the person signing the endorsement MUST BE in an O-6 billet (position) within the services' respective command structure. An example would be that a LCDR Navy (O-4) assigned to an O-6 billet CAN endorse and forward the request to the MTN. A LCDR in an O-5 or O-4 billet CAN NOT endorse the request for the requesting unit.

It is important to remember that the sponsoring unit commander (at an O-6-billet level) is responsible for ensuring that attendees in MTN affiliate classes are in an active training status. Also, the unit commander (as defined above) must determine that the attendee has a guard/reserve unit-training requirement for the resuscitative medicine class that they are attending. Personnel not on an active status with the reserve or guard unit, civilian personnel, and non-DoD personnel may audit a course, but MAY NOT receive an AHA/MTN completion card. Persons found to be in violation of this policy may be prosecuted under the relevant articles of the UCMJ. See the MTN Administrative Handbook and website for additional guidance on this subject.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The staff at the MTN welcomes and appreciates calls from the field. If you have a particular question/concern regarding your program or how it is conducted, please consult your administrative handbook. If you cannot find the answer to your question there, please consult your Program Director or Affiliate Faculty. If you have a particular concern/question that cannot be answered at the Affiliate Faculty level, please do not hesitate to give us a call.

WEB SITE

We regret that some of our Web Site pages are still under construction. The reason is that we had a change in the publishing software, which in turn sent us back to the drawing board to accommodate the new format. In addition, the end of the fiscal year is our busiest time of the year. We will be updating our web site monthly. Web site is: www.usuhs.mil/mtn/mtn.html.

MANUAL INFO

The new administrative manual for resuscitative medicine training programs was published and distributed in September 1998. This new manual combines the BLS, ACLS, and PALS program administrative handbooks into one clear concise product that provides updates on current program management. This is the manual that should be used by MTN affiliates for the management of all resuscitative medicine programs (BLS, ACLS, and PALS). All previous editions are obsolete. Please take the time to go through the manual to note any changes.

If you have any questions, please consult with your program Affiliate Faculty prior to calling the MTN.

The administrative manual and all forms will be available via CDROM/3.5 diskette between January and March 1999. Please consult our Web Site in the future for availability. If you have not received your copy of the current handbook or need additional copies, please call the MTN.

SATELLITES

There seems to be some confusion as to the definition of a satellite program. A program is considered a satellite if it falls out of the purview of your organization/facility. If it cannot exist as a stand-alone program because it is missing a key component, i.e., Affiliate Faculty, it is considered a satellite. For example: if you are a bona fide MTN program, an organization/command/facility other than yours has a requirement for a particular program i.e. BLS, this organization meets all of the requirements for affiliation however, they are missing the Affiliate Faculty/Program Director, they are a satellite. They may conduct courses under the supervision of your Affiliate Faculty/Program Director as a satellite of your program. On the other hand, if you use your equipment/instructors/Affiliate Faculty to conduct training for individuals at a site other than your own, it is not considered a satellite program. You essentially took your program on the road. This scenario is no different than individuals from outside your organization attending your program. In either scenario, it is the responsibility of the sponsoring program (program affiliate) to maintain the training records/documentation for satellite program courses and courses held outside your facility/organization under the umbrella of your affiliate. The MTN maintains a database of all satellite programs and requires that you document them on your quarterly reports. If you need further information/clarification on satellites please call Marc A. Breslauer, Maj, USAF, NC at 301-295-2282 or email at mbreslauer@usuhs.mil.

WE'RE MOVING!

That's right, the MTN is moving to a new location in Silver Spring Maryland. The new location is located approximately four miles east of the Uniformed Services University on the ninth floor of the Silver Spring Metro Center on East West Highway. This is a new building with expanded space to accommodate new staff members. The projected move date is February 28, 1999 (subject to change due to construction delays). Our mailing address will not change. Please continue to address all of your correspondence to the MTN at 4301 Jones Bridge Road, Bethesda, MD 20874. We do not anticipate a change in phone numbers, however, if this should occur we will notify you well in advance. We will curtail business 48 hours before and after the move.

for all MTN staff members to unpack and get situated. If you have an urgent matter that needs attention during this time, please do not hesitate to call. Please be patient as we grow to serve you better. If you have any questions/concerns regarding our move, please contact the MTN at (301) 295-2282.

MTN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

As of this writing, the MTN has not received annual reports from 59 Affiliates for FY 98. There is no reason in today's electronic age that any unit can not provide a timely report to the MTN. Those 59 organizations are presently being placed on an abeyance status and will be reported to the Office of the Surgeon's Generals as required. The MTN must and will report the Resuscitative and Trauma medicine training it oversees to the three Surgeon's Generals annually. The Director of the MTN has the authority of each Surgeon's General to establish reporting deadlines for MTN sponsored programs. By affiliating with the MTN, the unit Commander agrees to the reporting requirements. If those requirements are not met, it is the unit commander that is reported as being delinquent in filing reports. Filing a proper and timely report is not an option and remains the responsibility of the units' Commander. The unit's Commander, not the Program Director will receive the abeyance report. Know your reporting requirements and establish a local calendar for submitting reports. The MTN manual and home page list reporting requirements for all programs. Consult them regularly to avoid any career stifling speeches that you might receive.

FAXING OF REPORTS TO MTN

The end of the fiscal year seems to bring about the annual faxing Olympics from affiliates to the MTN for their TIMELY submission of their annual reports. Something to keep in mind if your plan is to submit your annual report (or any fax for that matter) to the MTN. There are over 1000 programs within the MTN network. If only 20% were to wait until the last day to file their report by fax (which seems to happen), that would mean 200 programs faxing within a 24-hour period to the MTN fax machine. There remains then a slim guarantee that your 15 page report could be received, printed or stored by our most modern fax machine. We therefore suggest that you call or e-mail the MTN program manager after you fax your report.



Timely receipt of your report is critical to the publication of the MTN Annual Report. Affiliates will annotate on their FAX cover sheet to call upon receipt of the FAX. If we never received your fax, how would we know to call you? We can not possibly know which faxes were not received by our machine unless you follow up within 24 hours on any fax submission to the MTN. PLEASE follow up with a courtesy call to ensure your FAX arrived and it was legible. Thanks from the MTN staff!



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In the Next Issue

The MTN will be changing its course completion card policy in the very near future due to administrative changes within the American Heart Association. This change will effect cards at the provider level only.