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Prescription for Readiness: Unleashing the Power of Joint Field Training for Air Force Pharmacy

METC Pharmacy Technician Training Program

MSgt Lacey Harris





Financial Disclosure

“MSgt Harris declares that she has no conflicts of interest, real or apparent, and no financial interests in any company, product, or service mentioned in this program, including grants, employment, gifts, stock holdings, and honoraria.”





Overview

- **Examination of the Joint-Service Field Training Exercise**
- **Practical Application of the Joint-Service Field Training Exercise**
- **Connecting the Joint-Service Field Training Exercise to conflict preparedness**





Learning Objectives

- 1. Assess the role of joint-service collaboration in optimizing pharmacy readiness within the Air Force healthcare system.**
- 2. Evaluate the practical application of joint training exercises in enhancing pharmacy operational preparedness and response capabilities.**
- 3. Analyze the potential impact of simulated scenarios on fostering adaptability and resilience among pharmacy technicians and pharmacists in high-stakes environments.**
- 4. Demonstrate proficiency in integrating lessons learned from the Joint Pharmacy Technician Training exercise to enhance individual and collective pharmacy readiness strategies.**



Field Training Exercise At a Glance

- **Army and Air Force pharmacy students participate in a 92-hour continuous ops exercise**
- **Training takes place at JBSA-Camp Bullis**
- **Army, Air Force, and Navy instructors collaborate to provide both Pharmacy Operations training, TCCC concepts, and BLS practice (on mannequins)**
- **The FTX is the only pharmacy-specific field training within DHA**



68Q/4P Field Training Exercise

Mission: The 68Q/4P Course conducts a 96-hour Field Training Exercise (FTX) for 29 Soldiers and 15 Airmen on 27 Feb – 01 Mar 2024 at Camp Bullis IOT train, evaluate, and validate the Pharmacy Specialist/Technicians on Warrior Task and Battle Drills (WTBD) and Military Occupational Specialist (MOS)/Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) specific tasks.

- **CDR's Intent:** Establish a realistic and rigorous tactical field environment and safely achieve 100% first-time go in certifying the Soldiers and Airmen in their WTBD and MOS/AFSC specific tasks.
- **End State:** Soldiers and Airmen are trained and assessed on both WTBD and Medical MOS/AFSC specific tasks IOT sustain proficiency and readiness.

SCHEME OF MANEUVER

- **Phase I:** This phase begins with the cadre receiving a non-tactical vehicle (NTV) and conducts pre-combat checks (PCC) and pre-combat inspections (PCI). This phase ends with the completion of the loading of equipment and supplies prior to movement to Camp Bullis.
- **Phase II:** This phase will begin with PCC/PCI. Personnel will depart JBSA-FSH to Camp Bullis. Students will draw M4s. IMT operations (Battle Drills 01-05) and a Combat Support Hospital (CSH) orientation will be conducted at TS-17. Care under fire, 9-line, map reading, and radio etiquette refresher will be conducted. Students will complete set up of the TCCC, Inpatient, Outpatient, Supply and Trauma Pharmacy. Students will complete a 4-mile WTBD Patrol re-Supply Mission. This phase will end with the completion of the Trauma Scenario exercises incorporating MOS/AFSC specific tasks at TS-17.
- **Phase III:** This phase begins with the accountability of all equipment identified for turn-in. Cadre will conduct an After Actions Review (AAR) with the Soldiers and Airmen. Cadre will turn-in equipment. This phase will end with the completion of an AAR with the Command Team and Cadre.

COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS

- **Uniform:** ACU; ACH; LBV; Eyepro; Earpro; Mask; Gloves; Assault Pack; Water Source
- **Key Personnel:** NCOIC – TSgt Villegas; SSG Foster; Support Staff – 4x Cadre
- **Key Tasks:** PCC/PCI; WTBD; ISO, Equipment Recovery; Tactical Movement; Accountability
- **Resources:** (See Appendix N: Key Resource)

SERVICE SUPPORT

- **Supply:** (See Appendix N: Key Resources)
- **Transportation:** 50 PAX Bus; Cargo Van
- **Medical Evacuation:** (See Appendix Q: Safety)

COMMAND AND SIGNAL

- **Signal:** Primary Cell Phone/TSgt Villegas 619-254-3902/ SSG Foster 910-548-0960
- **Succession of Command:** Company/Squadron; NCOIC / Primary Instructor / Support Staff



4 Day Weather Forecast
Average Temp 62° | Record High 64° | Record Low 40°

TIMELINE OVERVIEW

DTG	EVENT	LOCATION
270515SFEB24	Accountability Formation / Breakfast / Army Gear Issue/ Joint Movement to JBSA-Camp Bullis	MIF 2
270800SFEB24	Occupy Area / AF Gear Issue / Weapons Brief / Safety Brief	TS 15 / TS 17
270830SFEB24	Patrol/IMT/Care Under Fire/9-Line/Map Training	TS 17
271430SFEB24	Pharmacy Set Up	TS 17
280700SFEB24	Joint WTBD Patrol Re-Supply Mission	TS 17
281430SFEB24	Pharmacy Operations	TS 17
290700SFEB24	Soft MASCAL	TS 17
291300SFEB24	MASCAL	TS 17
010300SMAR24	Night MASCAL	TS 17
010700SMAR24	Pharmacy Tear Down/Clean Up	TS 17
010900SMAR24	Movement to JBSA-Fort Sam Houston	MIF 2



Field Training Exercise

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Intent: Establish a realistic and rigorous tactical field environment and safely achieve 100% first-time go in certifying the Soldiers and Airmen in their WTBD and MOS/AFSC specific tasks.

End State: Soldiers and Airmen are trained and assessed on both WTBD and Medical MOS/AFSC specific tasks IOT sustain proficiency and readiness.





Field Training Exercise

SCHEME OF MANEUVER

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- **Phase II:** This phase will begin with PCC/PCI. Personnel will depart JBSA-FSH to Camp Bullis. IMT operations (Battle Drills 01-05) and a Combat Support Hospital (CSH) orientation will be conducted at TS-17. Care under fire, 9-line, map reading, and radio etiquette refresher will be conducted. Students will complete set up of the TCCC, Inpatient, Outpatient, Supply and Trauma Pharmacy. Students will complete a 4-mile WTBD Patrol re-Supply Mission. This phase will end with the completion of the Trauma Scenario exercises incorporating MOS/AFSC specific tasks at TS-17.
- **Phase III:** This phase begins with the accountability of all equipment identified for turn-in. Cadre will conduct an After Actions Review (AAR) with the Soldiers and Airmen. Cadre will turn-in equipment. This phase will end with the completion of an AAR with the Command Team and Cadre.

Day 1		Day 2		Day 3		Day 4	
0515-0720	Accountability, Load Equipment, Breakfast, Army Weapons Issue	0500-0520	Wake-Up and Accountability Formation/Movement to Breakfast	0500-0520	Wake-Up and Accountability Formation/Movement to Breakfast	0400-0515	Night MASCAL
0720-0800	Movement to Camp Bullis and Occupy (TS-17)	0520-0600	Breakfast	0520-0600	Breakfast	0515-0520	Accountability Formation/Movement to Breakfast
0800-0830	TS-17 Orientation, AF Gear/Weapons Issue, Weapons/Safety Brief	0600-0700	Personal Hygiene	0600-0700	Personal Hygiene	0520-0600	Breakfast
0830-1330	Patrol, IMT, Care Under Fire, 9 Line and Map Reading, Convoy Ops	0700-1300	WTBD Patrol Re-Supply Mission	0700-1200	Soft MASCAL	0600-0700	Personal Hygiene
1330-1430	MRE Lunch	1300-1430	MRE Lunch/Recovery	1200-1300	MRE Lunch	0700-0900	Pharmacy Tear Down and Clean Up
1430-1700	Pharmacy Set Up	1430-1700	Pharmacy Operations	1300-1700	MASCAL	0900-0945	Movement to JBSA -Fort Sam Houston
1700-1800	Dinner	1700-1800	Dinner	1700-1800	Dinner	0945-1100	Accountability, Unload Equipment
1800-2000	Pharmacy Set Up	1800-2000	Pharmacy Operations	1800-2000	MASCAL/AAR	1100-1300	Bus/Equipment Turn-In
2000-2100	Downtime and Personal Hygiene	2000-2100	Downtime and Personal Hygiene	2000-2100	Downtime and Personal Hygiene		
Key Highlight/s: Patrol, IMT, Care Under Fire, 9 Line, Map Reading Pharmacy Set Up Temperature: Average: 60° High: 60° Low: 40° Safety: Highest Risk: Heat/Hypothermia casualties Mitigation Strategy: water stations at every training site; cadres perform water checks every hour; instruct in shade when available; proper cold weather gear		Key Highlight/s: WTBD Patrol Re-Supply Mission Pharmacy Operations Temperature: Average: 62° High: 62° Low: 43° Safety: Highest Risk: Heat/Hypothermia casualties Mitigation Strategy: water stations at every training site; cadres perform water checks every hour; instruct in shade when available; proper cold weather gear		Key Highlight/s: Soft MASCAL MASCAL Temperature: Average: 64° High: 64° Low: 42° Safety: Highest Risk: Heat/Hypothermia casualties Mitigation Strategy: water stations at every training site; cadres perform water checks every hour; instruct in shade when available; proper cold weather gear		Key Highlight/s: Night MASCAL Pharmacy Tear Down Temperature: Average: 61° High: 61° Low: 41° Safety: Highest Risk: Heat/Hypothermia casualties Mitigation Strategy: water stations at every training site; cadres perform water checks every hour; instruct in shade when available; proper cold weather gear	



Field Training Exercise

WTBD Patrol Re-Supply Mission (4 mi.)

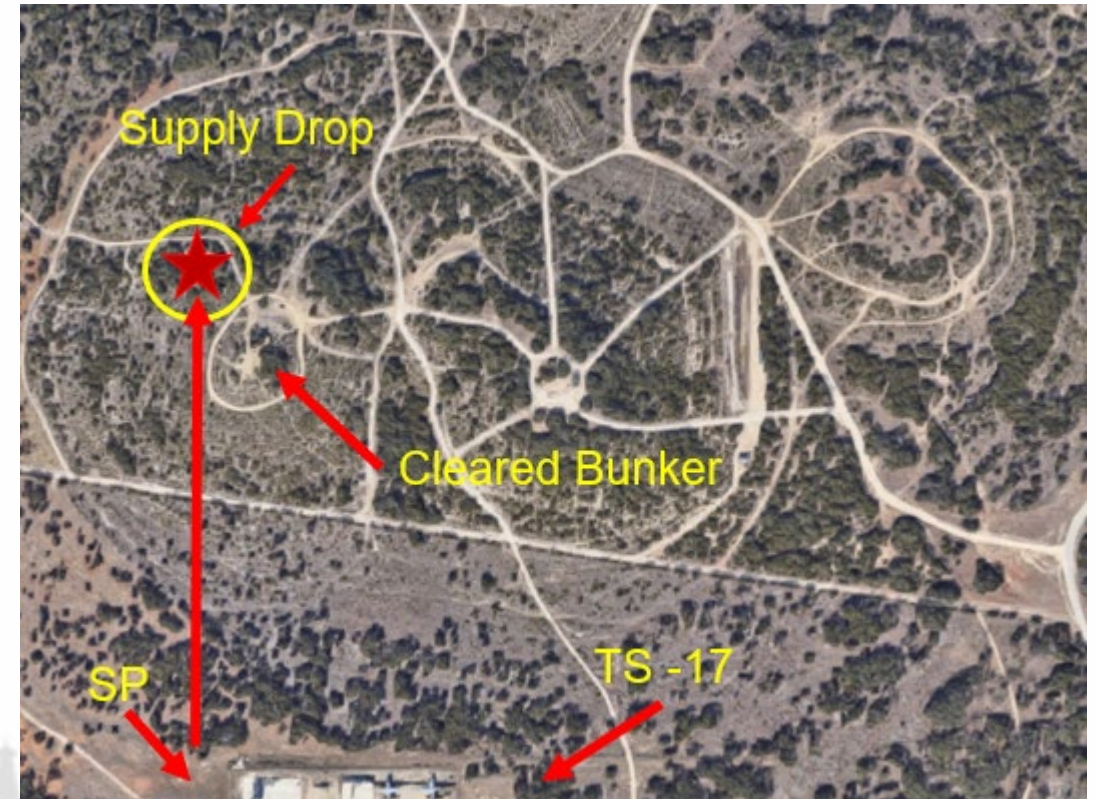
Task: WTBD Patrol Re-Supply Mission (071-COM-0501)

Condition: Given assigned weapon, packing list, a warning order, and an overlay of your route execute a WTBD Patrol Re-Supply Mission.

Standards: Complete a WTBD Patrol Re-Supply Mission from the start point to the end point with all assigned equipment.

Safety Considerations:

- Trail Vehicle
- Short/Long Halts
- Water available
- Max Cadre presence





Field Training Exercise

Trauma Scenarios and MASCAL

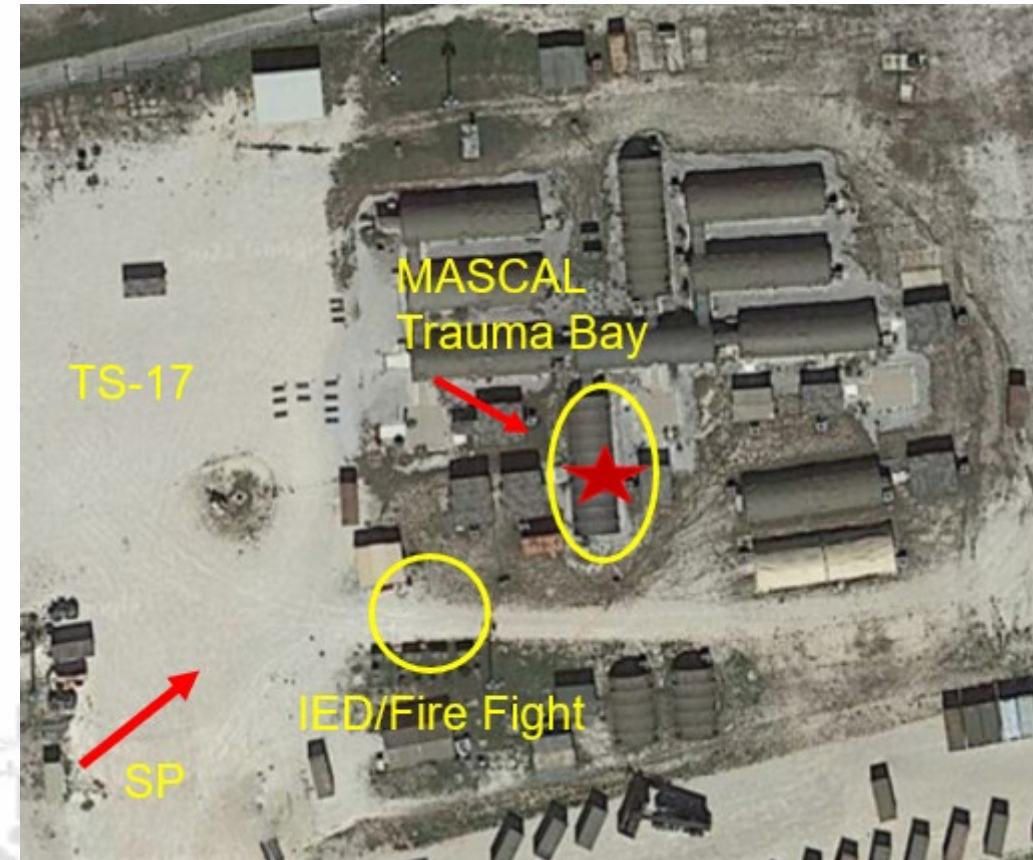
Task: Trauma Scenarios and Mass Casualty (MASCAL) Pharmacy Response (Unit 3 FTX Lesson Plan)

Condition: After an IED and fire fight with the Taliban, demonstrate life saving care for combat casualties during a MASCAL.

Standards: Using the wedge formation tactical approach, with assigned weapon and gear, assess and occupy TS-17 in order to complete trauma scenarios and treat MASCAL combat casualties, while sustaining pharmacy operations from the starting point to the end of the exercise with 0 casualty loss of life.

Safety Considerations:

- IV/Needle handling
- Terrain consideration
- Water available
- Max Cadre presence





Field Training Exercise

TCCC/Medic X Tasks

****Note: Students do NOT get TCCC/Medic X credit for these tasks**

Task	Condition	Standard	Site Name/ FTX Day	WTBD	DTMS TASK	Scenario
Establish an Area of Operations	Given and area of operations, map, and mission brief establish a field optical fabrication lab	Without receiving casualties, establish security and clear all structures of threats. Execute operations without collateral civilian or structural damage.	TS-17/Day 3	MOVE AS MEMBER OF A FIRE TEAM	071-COM-0501	After receiving the mission brief, Students use the Troop Leading Procedures to plan their movement. Upon arrival to site, student Leadership directs the establishment of a perimeter, clearing of key structures, and submission of SITREP to higher headquarters
			TS-17/Day 3	USE VISUAL SIGNALING TECHNIQUE	071-COM-0608	
			TS-17/Day 3	SEND A SITUATION REPORT	071-COM-4079	
			TS-17/Day 3	SEND A SPOT REPORT	071-COM-0480	
			TS-17/Day 3	PRACTICE NOISE AND LIGHT DISCIPLINE	071-COM-0608	
			TS-17/Day 3	PERFORM VOICE COMMUNICATIONS	113-COM-1022	
Defend area of operations from an enemy breach attempt	Given simulated combat casualties, CLS supplies, and communication equipment, properly triage, treat, and evacuate casualties sustained during operations	Destroy, capture or repel enemy forces attempting to breach the perimeter of the Optical Fabrication Lab area of operations	TS-17/Day 3	SEND SALUTE REPORT	071-COM-4080	During "Stand To" enemy forces attempt to breach the newly formed area of operations IOT disrupt American force's humanitarian assistance operations. This inject exercises the Soldier's guard, communication and tactical warrior tasks
			TS-17/Day 3	SEND A SITUATION REPORT	171-COM-4079	
			TS-17/Day 3	PERFORM VOICE COMMUNICATIONS	113-COM-1022	
Properly triage, treat, and evacuate casualties encountered during combat operations	Given simulated combat casualties, CLS supplies, and communication equipment, properly triage, treat, and evacuate casualties sustained during operations	Appropriately triage and treat injuries from most to least life threatening and request a medical evacuation IAW TCCC principles and Warrior Tasks	TS-17/Day 3	REACT TO INDIRECT FIRE WHILE DISMOUNTED	071-COM-0510	During normal operations, the AO receives indirect fire and sustains casualties. Soldiers must correctly triage and treat four casualties in a timely manner. Soldiers then request a Medical Evacuation via SINGCARS using the standard 9 Line request format.
			TS-17/Day 3	EVALUATE A CASUALTY	081-COM-1001	
			TS-17/Day 3	APPLY A CAT	081-COM-0048	
			TS-17/Day 3	EVALUATE A CASUALTY (TCCC)	081-COM-1001	
			TS-17/Day 3	FIRST AID TO PREVENT/CONTROL SHOCK	081-COM-1005	
			TS-17/Day 3	TRANSPORT A CASUALTY	081-COM-1046	
			TS-17/Day 3	REQUEST A MEDEVAC	081-COM-0101	

DON'T GAMBLE WITH YOUR READINESS



Field Training Exercise

4P Pharmacy Tasks

Task	Condition	Standard	Site Name/ FTX Day	TRAUMA SCENARIO AND MASCAL	FTX TASK	Scenario
Properly triage, treat, and evacuate casualties encountered during combat operations	Given simulated combat casualties, CLS trauma cart supplies, and pharmacy operations properly triage, treat, and evacuate casualties sustained during operations	Appropriately triage and treat injuries from most to least life threatening, while maintaining pharmacy operations	TS-17/Day 3	MAINTAIN TRAUMA CART INVENTORY AND ACCOUNTABILITY	3.1.1	During normal operations, the AO receives indirect fire and sustains casualties. Soldiers, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen must correctly triage and treat casualties in a timely manner.
			TS-17/Day 3	DEMONSTRATE FILLING TRAUMA MEDICATIONS DURING MASCAL EVENT	3.1.2	
			TS-17/Day 3	MAINTAIN CONTROLLED MEDICATION STOCK AND FORMS	3.1.3	
			TS-17/Day 3	APPLY INTERPERSONAL SKILLS, INCLUDING NEGOTIATION SKILLS, CONFLICT RESOLUTION, CUSTOMER SERVICE, AND TEAMWORK	3.1.4	
			TS-17/Day 3	DEMONSTRATE THE ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY AND PROFESSIONALLY COMMUNICATE WITH OTHER HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS	3.1.5	
			TS-17/Day 3	MAINTAIN WEAPONS AND GROUND SAFETY DURING SIMULATED STRESS ACTIVITY	3.3.1	



Scenarios

You are on break after a 12 mile ruck. You and your team sit down to eat your MREs, while eating your Battle stands up and appears to be in distress. SM as hands at their throat giving the universal choking sign. You position yourself behind the choking victim.

- position yourself behind the victim and wrap your arms around the victim's WAIST.
- place the thumb side of your fist against the victim's abdomen, in the midline, slightly above the navel and well below the breastbone. grasp your fist with your other hand and press your fist into the victim's abdomen with a quick, forceful upward thrust. Repeat abdominal thrusts until the object is expelled from the airway.

SM becomes unresponsive object still in:

- You tell nearby SM to activate the emergency response system (out in field yell for medic or send 9-line).
- If the victim becomes unresponsive gently lower them to the ground.
- After you have lowered the victim to the ground, begin CPR, starting with chest compressions.
- When you finish 30 compressions and open the airway to give rescue breaths, you should open the victim's mouth wide to see if you can visualize the object causing the obstruction and remove it if possible. (*Prior to providing two rescue breaths, an attempt should be made to visualize and remove any obstructing object. This should be performed before giving rescue breaths. You cannot see any obstructing object in the victim's mouth, and you provide 2 rescue breaths. begin chest compressions after giving 2 rescue breaths*)

METC Training Pharmacy
Refill Number: 210-555-5555

Patient Name: _____

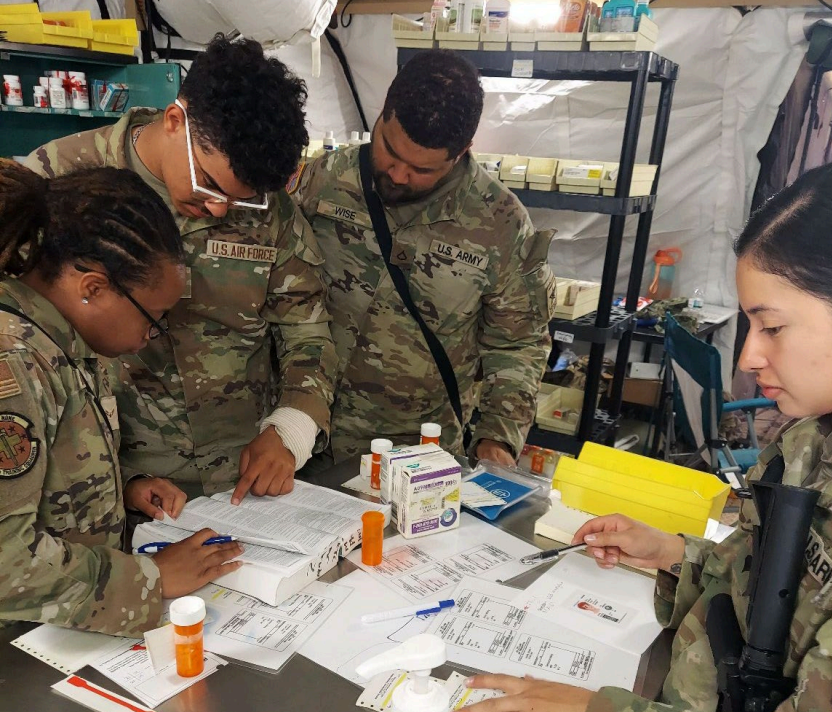
Medication: _____ Quantity# _____

Directions: _____

Ref: _____ Dr: _____ Exp Date: _____ DS: _____

DD FORM 1289 1 NOV 71 DOD PRESCRIPTION	
FOR (Full name, address & phone number.) (If under 18 years, give age.)	
AGUIAR, GEORGE P 19 JAN 1966	
MEDICAL FACILITY FTX	DATE Today's Date
Rx Gm. or ml	
Temazepam 15mg #5 1 po at bedtime NR	
MFGR:	EXP DATE:
LOT NO:	FILED BY:
Gilbert Alvarez	
Rx number	Alvarez, Gilbert MD SIGNATURE, RANK AND DECREE
For Instructional Use Only	







Practical Application

Joint training exercises play a crucial role in enhancing pharmacy operational preparedness and response capabilities such as:

- **Collaboration and Coordination**
- **Scenario-Based Training**
- **Testing Emergency Plans and Procedures**
- **Building Relationships and Networks**





Practical Application

The DHA encompasses various joint-service medical treatment facilities, including hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies, that provide healthcare services to military personnel and their families. Joint collaboration includes many of the following:

- Resource Sharing**
- Standardization of Procedures**
- Training and Education**
- Interoperability and Contingency Planning**





Practical Application

Scenarios provide a controlled and realistic environment for healthcare professionals to practice their skills, make critical decisions, and develop the ability to adapt to challenging situations.

- **Realistic Training Environment**
- **Decision-Making Skills**
- **Teamwork and Communication**
- **Problem Solving and Critical Thinking**
- **Emotional Resilience**





Practical Application

The FTX ensures that the insights gained from the exercises are effectively translated into actionable improvements that contribute to a more prepared and resilient pharmacy team.

- **Conduct a Post-Exercise Evaluation**
- **Identify and Analyze Lessons Learned**
- **Develop Action Plans**
- **Communicate and Train**
- **Implement Changes**
- **Monitor and Evaluate**





Practical Application

The practical application of the Pharmacy Technician Training Program's Field Training Exercise (FTX) in relation to the United States' near-peer conflict with China and other potential adversaries lies in preparing pharmacy technicians to support military operations in high-stakes environments. The following are examples of how the FTX can contribute to readiness in the face of such conflicts:

- Realistic Training Environment**
- Emergency Response and Triage**
- Medication Management in Resource-Limited Environments**
- Adherence to Security and Compliance Protocols**



Conclusion

Joint-service collaboration plays a crucial role in optimizing pharmacy readiness within the Military Healthcare System.

By sharing resources, standardizing procedures, promoting training and education, and ensuring interoperability, collaboration among different military branches enhances the capabilities and effectiveness of the Air Force pharmacy system.

Simulated scenarios have the potential to significantly impact the adaptability and resilience of pharmacy technicians and provide a realistic training environment, challenge decision-making skills, promote teamwork and communication, encourage problem-solving and critical thinking, and develop emotional resilience.

The practical application of the Field Training Exercise prepares pharmacy technicians To support military operations in high-stakes environments including near-peer conflicts by providing realistic training focusing on emergency response and triage & medication management in resource-limited environments.



Shout Outs

TSgt Robert Thomas

- Originator of Pharmacy FTX

(M)Sgt Carmina Villegas

- Current FTX Manager, facilitated transition between AF to Joint FTX

Lt Col Julie Meek

- Champion

Pharmacy Program Instructors

- Support



Summary

- **Examination of the Joint-Service Field Training Exercise**
- **Practical Application of the Joint-Service Field Training Exercise**
- **Connecting the Joint-Service Field Training Exercise to conflict preparedness**





Check on Learning

1. What is the AF/Joint Service Field Training Exercise?

- A. A 2-day training exercise focused on cybersecurity awareness for Air Force personnel.**
- B. A 92-hour continuous ops exercise that takes place at JBSA-Camp Bullis in which Army, Air Force, and Navy instructors collaborate to provide both Pharmacy Operations training, TCCC concepts, and BLS practice to AF and Army students.**
- C. A 3-day workshop on leadership skills for Air Force and Joint Service officers.**
- D. A 24-hour training event that focuses on physical fitness and endurance for Joint Service members.**





Check on Learning

2. What is the intent of the 68Q/4P Course during the Field Training Exercise?

- A. To provide entertainment through various team-building games and challenges.**
- B. To provide recreational activities for Soldiers and Airmen during their downtime.**
- C. To teach Soldiers and Airmen how to cook gourmet meals in a field environment.**
- D. To establish a realistic and rigorous tactical field environment and safely achieve 100% first-time go in certifying the Soldiers and Airmen on MOS/AFSC specific tasks.**





Check on Learning

3. What are the key highlights of the Field Training Exercise?

- A. Patrol**
- B. Care Under Fire**
- C. 9 Line and Map Reading**
- D. MASCAL**
- E. All of the Above**





Check on Learning

4. What does the Field Training Exercise prepare pharmacy technicians for?

B. To manage and coordinate medical supplies and equipment during large-scale music festivals and outdoor events.

A. To support military operations in high-stakes environments including near-peer conflicts by providing realistic training focusing on emergency response and triage & medication management in resource-limited environments.

C. To provide pharmaceutical support in extreme and remote environments, such as Arctic research stations and deep-sea exploration vessels.

D. To work in high-security and compliance-sensitive environments, such as government research facilities and nuclear power plants.





Questions

