



UNCLASSIFIED  
UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER  
7115 SOUTH BOUNDARY BOULEVARD  
MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA 33621-5101

6 November 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHIEF OF STAFF, U.S. ARMY  
CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
CHIEF OF STAFF, U.S. AIR FORCE  
COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

SUBJECT: Killed in Action (KIA) Reduction Initiative Update

1. I am writing you to provide an update on United States Central Command's (USCENTCOM) efforts to continually improve combat casualty survival rates and to thank you for your previous efforts in supporting these initiatives. Over the last sixteen years of conflict, the U.S. has achieved unprecedented survival rates, as high as 98%, for casualties that survive from the point of injury and arrive at a combat hospital. We can all be confident that wounded service members who reach a combat surgical facility will receive the best care in the world.
2. Casualty care does not begin in the hospital but at the point of injury. Studies performed by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES) and the Joint Trauma System (JTS) on casualties from Iraq and Afghanistan suggest that up to 25% of deaths on the battlefield are potentially preventable, with the majority of these deaths occurring in the pre-hospital setting.
3. In 2013, General Mattis solicited your support to implement Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) concepts to decrease combat mortality. Since publication of that memorandum, there continues to be variability in the implementation of TCCC across the services, and potentially preventable deaths are still being noted by the JTS and AFMES in ongoing reviews. The ability to affect the KIA rate has been demonstrated by the 75th Ranger Regiment after they instituted a command-directed two-tiered TCCC curriculum for all personnel, integrated TCCC into small unit tactics and battle drills, and initiated unit-based continuous performance improvement.
4. In a continued effort to save lives and decrease the KIA rate, I am instituting a theater TCCC training requirement, to be completed within 180 days of deployment. "TCCC for Medical Personnel," designed for physicians, physician assistants, nurses, medics, corpsmen, and PJs, is currently a requirement for all deploying USCENTCOM medical personnel. A new program, "TCCC for All Combatants," based upon the "Ranger First Responder" program, trains every non-medical member to save lives with tourniquets, hemostatic dressings, and basic airway maneuvers, and is a requirement for non-medical personnel deploying to the USCENTCOM AOR.
5. My point of contact is the Command Surgeon, CAPT Darin K. Via, who can be reached at (813) 529-0345 or by electronic mail at, [darin.k.via.mil@mail.mil](mailto:darin.k.via.mil@mail.mil).

*Thank you for your continued support!*

*Joseph L. Votel*  
JOSEPH L. VOTEL  
General, U.S. Army

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