



MEDLOG MONTHLY

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COMMAND
NEWS!

Army to host medical maintenance exercise, asks for Soldier input

FORT DETRICK, Md. – U.S. Army Medical Logistics Command (AMLC) will host a table top exercise in late February aimed at identifying gaps in medical maintenance processes and potential enterprise-wide solutions.

Up to 80 personnel from Army medical maintenance and related fields will take part in the four-day working meeting, set to kick off Feb. 24 at Fort Detrick.

Specific work groups will focus on challenges in product support analysis, medical maintenance functions and medical maintenance management.

“The intent is for everyone to get

M2PA. “We really want them to speak about the things they’ve experienced. We want examples.”

Examples of potential gaps could include outdated regulations, training and support plan hurdles, challenges to gathering sustainment requirements for medical devices or a lack of property book accountability, among others.

“They could be very simple, but it



Sgt. Kevin Taylor, a medical maintainer with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, works on an imaging device during medical maintenance training at the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency’s Medical Maintenance Operations Division - Tracy, Defense Distribution Depot in San Joaquin, Calif. (Army photo released)

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together to discuss enterprise-wide issues plaguing medical maintenance operations,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Joshua F. Barto, chief of publications for AMLC’s Medical Maintenance Policies and Analysis (M2PA) directorate.

While the event is invite-only, leaders are asking for unit Soldiers to contribute their thoughts, ideas, comments and concerns.

“We want 100 percent participation from everybody,” said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jesus C. Tulud, director of

could help us in the long run,” Tulud said.

AMLC, a major subordinate command under Army Materiel Command, was created through an Army restructuring last year.

As a new command, Tulud said the opportunity to host its first medical maintenance exercise at its headquarters marks a significant milestone for the organization and AMLC Commander Col. Michael B. Lalor.

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“Medical maintenance has always been known to take stuff on their own and fix it,” Tulud added. “We’ve never had enterprise-wide fixes and that’s what I love right now. Col. Lalor doesn’t want to do ‘Band-Aid’ fixes.”

The overarching goal of the exercise, according to AMLC officials, is to identify sustainable solutions to address operational gaps to improve overall readiness of medical devices across the force.

Barto said they also want to increase the Army’s ability to see “true readiness.”

The exercise will wrap up with a briefing by AMLC leadership to Gen. Gus Perna, commanding general of AMC.

“It is a very big milestone for the command, Col. Lalor, for all of us, but it’s also big for the medical maintenance community,” Barto said. “In my 20 years doing this, this is one of the first times we’ve ever had a venue

to a four-star (general).”

AMC hosted its first medical logistics table top exercise with AMLC in August 2019.

Perna, the Army’s senior logisticians, has shared a vision to ensure essential Class VIII medical supplies and equipment are always in “the right place at the right time” to support Army and Joint Forces operations. 

On-site assessment helps Army hone medical logistics training program

FORT DETRICK, Md. – A recent visit to Qatar is helping the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency’s Business Support Office hone its curriculum to improve training for Soldiers in the use of a vital medical logistics system.

In December, trainers from the BSO at Fort Detrick embarked on a two-week trip to Camp As Sayliyah, where they administered on-site training and received valuable student feedback on the Theater Enterprise Wide Logistics System (TEWLS) program.

Miami, had taken part in a two-week training stateside before deploying to Qatar in support of U.S. Central Command forces across the Middle East region.

While the initial training was helpful, being able to train in their new environment provided a much better learning experience.

“We worked alongside them the entire time we were there,” said Aleasa Price, a TEWLS trainer for USAMMA’s BSO. “As a team, this was our first trip to do this.”

The visit, which wrapped up Dec. 20, 2019, provided the team face-to-face time with their students to experience the day-to-day operation in the field and troubleshoot problems.

“After we do the initial training, it may be months before they have access to the system,” Price said, “so we wanted to make sure that the transition was smooth and, if there were any gaps in their knowledge, we could help close them.”

It also allowed for direct feedback that the team can use for a comprehensive assessment of the current TEWLS training curriculum, using direct observation, interviews and surveys from the Soldiers.

“We were able to see what we were teaching and how they were putting it in practice,” said Enoc Santos,



Aleasa Price, a TEWLS trainer for the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency’s Business Support Office, is pictured during a training visit to Camp As Sayliyah in Qatar in December 2019. (Photo courtesy Aleasa Price)

TEWLS training team leader for USAMMA’s BSO. “That was the best part, as well as working with the Soldiers. I love that, so that was great.”

Santos said the feedback from the unit will allow them to fine tune their processes and adjust their curriculum to better suit the needs of Soldiers in the

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*Aleasa Price, TEWLS Trainer
for USAMMA’s BSO*

While the BSO offers training, both online and didactic, as needed to different Army units, the visit marked the first time the BSO completed a “start to finish” training cycle with a single company.

The 387th Medical Logistics Company, an Army Reserve unit out of

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future. Some possible improvements include new hands-on videos or scenario-based training.

TEWLS, a joint military information system developed and sustained by the Defense Health Agency's Joint Medical Logistics Functional Development Center, is used by operational forces for medical supply chain and assemblage life cycle management processes in

support of the global joint mission.

The SAP software-based enterprise resource planning application integrates multiple business processes, including inventory, warehouse and financial management, and organizes it into a single real-time system for medical logistics.

In its role, the BSO provides functional expertise for the development and sustainment of the TEWLS

application, which supports USAMMA's mission of equipping and sustaining military operational forces.

The typical training cycle includes a one-week introductory course, followed by a two-week session closer to a unit's deployment date. Then, if needed, the team can arrange a third session on location with the Soldiers, like its visit to Qatar, to iron out any remaining challenges.

The system, by way of effective user training, ensures troops have medical supplies available and at the ready when and where they need them, Santos said.

"That's our goal," he said.

"When the warfighter needs it, they get it."



"That's our goal...when the warfighter needs it, they get it."

Enoc Santos, TEWLS training team leader for USAMMA's BSO



Soldiers from the 387th Medical Logistics Company, an Army Reserve unit out of Miami, participate in TEWLS training at Camp As Sayliyah in Qatar in December 2019. Pictured are Sgt. Opol Davis, Spc. Shane Hibdon, Sgt. Marvens Jean and Spc. Aloiz Linares. (Photo by Aleasa Price)



Spc. Aloiz Linares, a Soldier with the 387th Medical Logistics Company, an Army Reserve unit out of Miami, participates in TEWLS training at Camp As Sayliyah in Qatar in December 2019. (Photo by Aleasa Price)

USAMMC-K recognized for safety program

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea – Readiness and workplace safety go hand in hand at the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center-Korea, and that continued emphasis has not gone unnoticed.

USAMMC-K was one of three Eighth Army units that were recently awarded Fiscal Year 2019 Exceptional Organization Safety Awards. The center received the battalion-level award.

Maj. Gen. Patrick Donahoe, deputy commanding general for operations for the Eighth Army, presented the award on Jan. 8 to USAMMC-K Commander Lt. Col. Marc R. Welde, Sgt. Maj. Danyell E. Walters and the unit's Safety and Occupational Health Specialist Chaehun Choe.

"While I credit the entire command for their safety efforts in all they do, most credit for this award goes to Mr. Choe," Welde said. "His diligence and determination to ensure our teammates are afforded a workplace which is free of unnecessary risks is unparalleled."

Welde said Choe "isn't shy" about addressing safety program deficiencies, adding that he "leaves no stone unturned and never settles to ensure our teammates have the safest possible workplace."

"Our entire organization counts on him," Welde said.

Choe said USAMMC-K was the first U.S. Forces Korea organization to achieve "star status" under the Army Safety Health Management System. The center has maintained that status since 2007, in addition to earning certification through the Occupational Health and Safety Administration last year.

"I see safety as somewhat similar to the fire department and firefighters," Choe said. "We all work to eliminate our own job" by promoting safety and taking steps to avoid hazards before they become a problem.

Welde said the team at USAMMC-K counts on the safety program to accomplish their armistice mission, but



Chaehun Choe, safety and occupational health specialist at the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center-Korea, poses with the center's Fiscal Year 2019 Eighth Army Exceptional Operational Safety Award. The unit won the battalion-level honor. (Army photo released)



Maj. Gen. Patrick Donahoe, left, deputy commanding general for operations of the Eighth Army, presents the battalion-level Fiscal Year 2019 Eighth Army Exceptional Operational Safety Award to the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center-Korea. Accepting the award are, from left, Commander Lt. Col. Marc R. Welde, Safety and Occupational Health Specialist Chaehun Choe and Sgt. Maj. Danyell E. Walters. (Army photo released)

also to maintain readiness to "fight tonight" if called upon.

"Having a comprehensive program in place now ensures we will be able to accomplish the mission no matter what operating environment we are faced with," he said.

The Eighth Army's brigade-level award went to the 65th Medical Brigade, while the garrison-level honor went to the U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan-Casey.

According to the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center, winning units reinforce the importance of proactive risk management integrated throughout plans, operations and training with effective loss prevention being central to Army readiness.

To be considered for an award, the Army Safety Program

"Our entire organization counts on (Mr. Choe)."

Lt. Col. Marc R. Welde, USAMMC-K Commander

states that both individuals and organizations must have made significant improvements and contributions to accident prevention efforts, among other criteria, during the previous fiscal year.

Choe, who works as an "office of one" in executing USAMMC-K's safety program, said he may not have a full "safety team," but the center's leadership and building managers have taken their role in planning and preparations very seriously.

That teamwork has allowed USAMMC-K to maintain a safe working environment for Soldiers, civilians and contractors alike, he said.

"Participation is important," Choe said. "By preparing, we can prevent most hazards."



Soldier uses Army values to mentor young football players

FORT DETRICK, Md. – Football coach Gary Freeman Jr. was running late for practice one day and showed up wearing his Army uniform.

That’s when Freeman said it truly sank in for his players that he not only serves his community as a volunteer coach, but also his country as a Soldier.

“My players do have questions about the Army when they see me in uniform,” Freeman said, who is a major. “I believe I am able to put a positive light on how the Army can be a mechanism to both serve your country and support your family and their activities.”

Freeman, a Virginia native and former outside linebacker in his collegiate days at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Va., took on the “coach” title when he was stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C.

His sons – Jayden, 12, and Tysen, 8 – started out playing flag football, soccer and other sports through their local YMCA. That’s when the call went out for volunteer coaches.

Freeman answered that call and then kept with it when he reported to Fort Detrick, Md., where he serves as

“I believe I am able to put a positive light on how the Army can be a mechanism to both serve your country and support your family and their activities.”

Maj. Gary Freeman Jr.



Maj. Gary Freeman Jr., who volunteers in his community as a football coach for a local youth sports club, is pictured at Army Medical Logistics Command headquarters at Fort Detrick, Md., on Jan. 10, 2020. (Photo by Ellen Crown)

deputy chief of staff for Plans, Programming, Analysis and Evaluation at Army Medical Logistics Command.

Freeman volunteers with the Glade Valley Athletic Association in Walkersville, Md., which offers 11 organized sports for kids from kindergarten through eighth grade.

Freeman said he’s enjoyed getting to know the athletes and their families, while watching the youngsters grow and improve on the field. He said he has also used the opportunity to share his Army story.

Discipline, hard work and sacrifice have been central parts of Freeman’s message to his players.

As a Soldier, he lives by those values, including last year when he left for nine weeks in support of a military exercise. In his time away, Freeman missed his sons’ first few practices and a handful of games.

“Before I left, I explained to them the sacrifices I had to make by being in the military,” he said. “I think they understand that ... And I think that you can tell when you’re starting to wear on them positively and they understand and appreciate it.”

Ryon Mazzocco, head coach of his sons’ team and a family friend, said it was a “wow” moment for the kids when they began seeing him as more than just a football coach.

“A lot of the kids did know he was in the Army from his talks,” Mazzocco said, “but I don’t think they fully realized it until he was running late and had to show up in his uniform, which I thought was great.

“Many of them did thank him for his service, including us coaches.”



Army, FDA discuss 3D printing at workshop

FORT DETRICK, Md. – When a medical device breaks down on a U.S. Army unit deployed to a remote part of the world, the closest repair parts could be thousands of miles away.

Even when parts are readily available, the shipping process – sometimes into hostile environments – could take days or even weeks, if it's logistically feasible at all.

As the Army embraces advanced manufacturing in its modernization strategies, medical logisticians are looking to 3D printing as a potential solution to this challenge.

"The medical industry is one of the fastest innovators in the defense industrial base, so the AMLC is used to working with industrial partners constantly pushing the state of the art," said Jack Rosarius, director of Medical Maintenance Management Directorate within the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency, a direct reporting unit to Army Medical Logistics Command.

Specifically for medical devices, 3D printing technology – also known as additive manufacturing – may enable the Army to develop repair parts that extend the life cycle of equipment and ensure they are ready for use when and where Soldiers need them.

While the technology offers numerous new uses and potential advantages, it also poses regulatory challenges and warrants safety considerations still under review by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

On Dec. 9, 2019, AMLC hosted a military-specific workshop at Fort Detrick with FDA leaders on the topic to seek guidance on current policies, concept regulations and

potential stumbling blocks as it explores manufacturing its own repair parts and other 3D-printed items.

Representatives from Army Materiel Command, Air Force and Defense Health Agency also took part in the discussion.

'REALLY EXCITED'

USAMMA started piloting additive manufacturing in 2015 in partnership with its equipment program managers. Rosarius said a heightened top-down focus from Army senior leadership has only helped to push the 3D printing movement forward.

**"It's an exciting time
to be a part of
Army medicine."**

Col. Timothy D. Walsh, USAMMA Commander

"I'm really excited about the opportunities," said USAMMA Commander Col. Timothy D. Walsh, who also serves as deputy commander of AMLC. "It's an exciting time to be a part of Army medicine."

The 3D printing process involves building a three-dimensional object using a computer-aided design model by adding material layer by layer, which is why it's called additive manufacturing.

The process differs from conventional machining, casting or forging, in which material is removed from a stock item or poured into a mold and shaped to form a product.

Through 3D printing, medical devices can be produced using a range of media, including metals, plastics, hydrogels or even biological materials. Most printing systems do this by dividing or slicing a digital design file in two-dimensional layers, then building each layer on top of the previous layer.

According to the FDA, medical companies began embracing additive manufacturing to create devices that were previously impossible to make, personalized to the patient or both.

'GRAY AREAS'

While the technology has unlocked new production possibilities, it also has prompted the FDA to explore conceptual regulations to safeguard patients and institute performance requirements.

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Col. Timothy D. Walsh speaks during a workshop on additive manufacturing hosted by Army Medical Logistics Command at Fort Detrick, Md. The military-focused workshop on Dec. 9, 2019 was attended by U.S. Food and Drug Administration leaders and other federal agencies. Also pictured is Heather L. Agler, senior program manager for the FDA. (Photo by C.J. Lovelace)

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“The FDA is very focused on what the risk is and how to mitigate it” with 3D-printed medical products, said Matthew A. Di Prima, materials engineer for the agency.

Heather L. Agler, a senior program manager for the FDA, said the technology has created new “gray areas,” specifically when it comes to military production and uses.

Patient safety, however, remains the overarching issue under consideration by federal regulators.

ARMY’S COMMITMENT

During the workshop, AMLC officials gave an overview of the Army’s Advanced Manufacturing Directive and briefed the FDA on efforts to date.

USAMMA has made successful use of 3D printing to produce some obsolete repair parts already, like an impeller for a medical sink or a locking pin for a vaporizer used on an anesthesia machine.

Many more are in various stages of development or design.

“The Advanced Manufacturing Directive demonstrates the Army’s commitment to getting this right, so we’re posi-

tioned for multi-domain operations and large-scale combat operations,” Rosarius said. “The medical maintenance community is excited about expanding the ways we can support patient care downrange.”

Di Prima highlighted different additive manufacturing use-cases, in addition to current agency policy considerations for manufacturers.

The group also worked through different Army-specific scenarios to identify possible snags for ongoing or future efforts, as well as several action items for further discussion.

“We’re happy to participate,” Agler said. “The military is always thinking forward. It’s good to be able to learn... and very important that we continue to work together to make sure you have the right things available when they are needed.”



Exercise tests Army Medical Logistics ability to support wartime mission



NORTHEAST ASIA – Soldiers from the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency participated in the 403rd Army Field Support Brigade medical exercise organized by the Eighth Army, which was completed Nov. 23, 2019.

For USAMMA, the exercise enabled the Medical Logistics Support Team to test if deploying forces could quickly draw equipment from Army Prepositioned Stocks-4 and set up an early-entry hospital element to support combat operations.

The 801st Combat Support Hospital, an Army Reserve unit out of Illinois, successfully completed the draw process in about three hours, according to Capt. Melisa Natapraya, commander of USAMMA MLST-Korea.

“I think, for us, it was a very positive exercise in that we saw the capabilities of USAMMA, as well as the APS site manager and his team to push a deployment package out,” she said. “Had this been a real-world situation, I feel like they would have been able to move out in a sufficient amount of time to do their mission.”

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Capt. Melisa Natapraya, commander of the Medical Logistics Support Team-Korea with the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency, loads a container on Nov. 6, 2019 in preparation for a medical training exercise at the Army Prepositioned Stock-4 site in South Korea. (Courtesy Capt. Melisa Natapraya)

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USAMMA is a direct reporting unit under Army Medical Logistics Command, headquartered at Fort Detrick, Md. The agency oversees medical assets at five APS sites around the globe.

In total, close to 200 personnel took part in the exercise, including about 150 from the 801st, Natapraya said.

The medical logistics teams got to work a few days prior to the hospital unit's arrival, going over battle drills, pulling equipment the unit would need and ensuring everything was in functioning order.

"I think it confirms we have a great process in place," Natapraya said. "It validates that our process works and had it been a real-world situation, we would have been ready to go to war."

She credited Regional Manager Rufus Pruitt and the APS team in Korea, including Site Manager James Gerrard, for their hard work and attention to detail that ensured the hand-off process ran smoothly and efficiently.

Several Army medical leaders, including Brig. Gen. Tracy L. Smith, commander of the 18th Medical Command, and AMLC Commander Col. Michael B. Lalor, also were on hand to observe activities.

"It was a great exercise and learning experience for us to see the capabilities within this organization that support the warfighter," Natapraya said.



Staff Sgt. Brenda King-Vickers prepares equipment for processing on Nov. 5, 2019 in preparation for a medical training exercise at the Army Prepositioned Stock-4 site in South Korea. (Courtesy Capt. Melisa Natapraya)

"I think it confirms we have a great process in place."

*Capt. Melisa Natapraya, Commander of USAMMA
Medical Logistics Support Team-Korea*

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

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