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Tactical Combat Casualty Care Training: A Blended Approach for Lifelong Learning

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Abstract: The Fiscal Year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA 2017), requiring standardized combat casualty care instruction for all members of the Armed Forces, presented a unique opportunity to address foundational training technology challenges and revolutionize the delivery of medical training. These challenges include: delivering tiered training for distinct levels of expertise, ranging from novice to expert, within a standardized framework; developing a range of training technologies, including apps, manikins, and content authoring tools; integrating disparate training modalities into a common architecture that supports lifelong learning; and leveraging and expanding the science underlying education and training to ensure better learning outcomes. Specifically, this paper will summarize efforts to develop and deliver a joint Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TC3) Training capability, as mandated by NDAA 17 and DODI 1322.24. It will show how this capability, with initial delivery planned for Summer 2020, will transform trauma training from its current state into a lifelong learning health system that trains and prepares more than 1.5 million military and expeditionary civilian personnel to play a critical role in responding to trauma across the spectrum of military operations. In doing so, this paper will focus on key elements underlying development of this capability including: a longitudinal TCCC curriculum based on learner-centric design; a multi-modality approach to delivering training leveraging learning science including micro-learning and deliberate practice; an emphasis on educating and supporting instructors as well as students; data-driven analytics to demonstrate impact and effectiveness while driving a continual improvement process that is critical to lifelong learning; and a learning architecture supporting these elements that is sufficiently flexible to integrate future scientific and technical advances in education and training.

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