

AIR FORCE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

Air Commandos – Quiet Professionals

Operational Integration of a US Air Force Special Operations Forces Medical Team and Critical Care Air Transport Team in Afghanistan



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Overview

- CASEVAC Case Discussion
 - SOFME Mission and Capabilities
 - CCATT Mission
 - Integration
 - Future Directions
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Case: 15 July 2018



- “2 Wounded Eagles”
 - Patient 1: s/p GSW to the chest, critical condition, en route to Role 2 OR
 - Patient 2: s/p GSW to right thigh, bleeding controlled with pressure dressing, stable
- SOFME and CCATT teams were tasked to treat and transport patients from a small forward operating base to Craig Joint Theater Hospital.





Patient 1



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- 25 y/o M US Special Operator
 - POI: Needle Decompression x2 (right), chest seal x2 (right), finger thoracostomy, LMA, 1 gram TXA
 - Transported to R2 via DUSTOFF
 - In OR: LMA converted to ETT, Thoracotomy performed, anterior bullet entry and posterior exit wound noted, without mediastinal injury. Bleeding was controlled and 2 chest tubes placed on right side with immediate return of 2,000 cc of serosanguinous fluid
 - Blood products: 5 U PRBCs, 5 U FFP, 4 U cryo, 3 U WB
 - Sedation and pain control: Propofol and Fentanyl IV infusions
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Patient 1 (cont.)



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- Vitals: BP 120/61, HR 97, Temp 37.9 C, RR 15, SpO2 100% with FiO2 50%
 - PE: GCS 3T, Ioban drape over thoracotomy incision, 2 chest tubes in place in right thorax, abdomen non distended, distal pulses intact
 - CXR: Normal left lung field, 2 chest tubes with appropriate placement with scant residual hemothorax on right
 - Negative FAST
 - ABG: normal pH and electrolytes
 - Patient transferred to CCATT and SOFME equipment, pt moved to litter on rickshaw
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Transload



- During transfer to MC-130J on airfield, FOB C-RAM fired
- Patient successfully transferred and floor-loaded fore and center headfirst onto aircraft





En-Route Care

- Pain and sedation management, optimized ventilator settings, monitored output of chest tubes (water seal), managed physiological changes associated with stressors of flight
- Arrival to CJTH 20 min later without incident
- Vitals: Stable in flight, BP 90-120/50-70, HR 97-100, SpO2 95-100%
- Hand off to CJTH trauma team

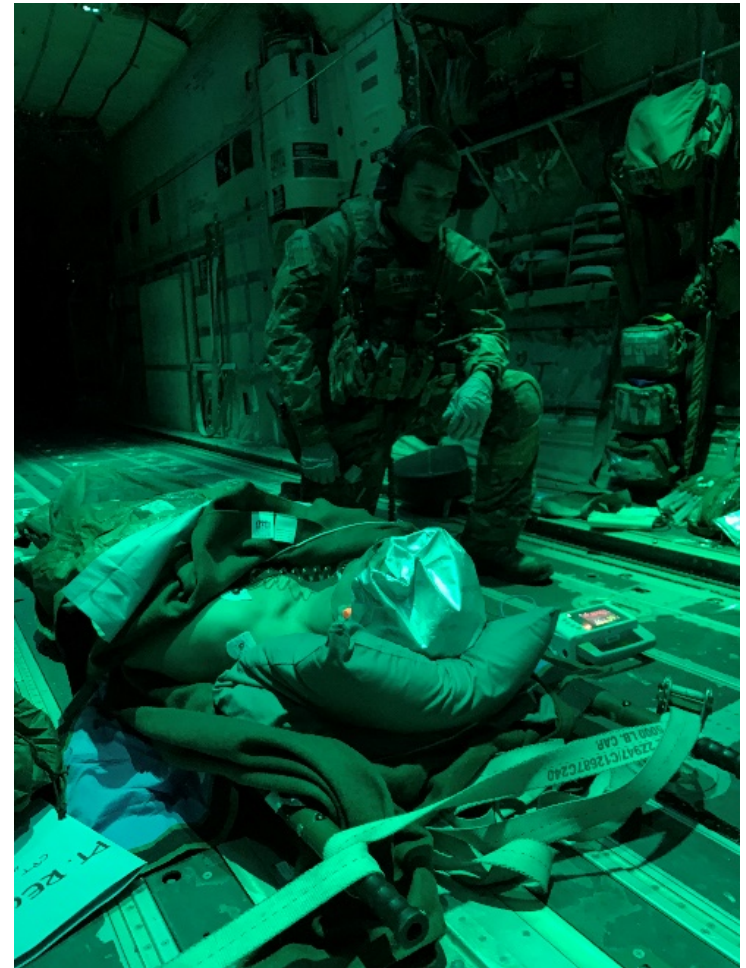




SOFME



- Special Operations Forces Medical Element
- Deployed Mission: Provide forward casualty evacuation (CASEVAC) for SOF units aboard aircraft of opportunity (rotary-wing / fixed-wing / tilt-rotor / ground)



TSgt Waldrip (IDMT) performs a CASEVAC on an MC-130 in Afghanistan in 2018



SOFME Training



- Medical
 - AMP
 - TCCC
 - CASEVAC
 - CSTARS
- Operational
 - ACC/T1G
 - SERE
 - Water survival
 - Dunker





SOFME Training



- Bi-weekly point of injury, CASEVAC, and prolonged field care training



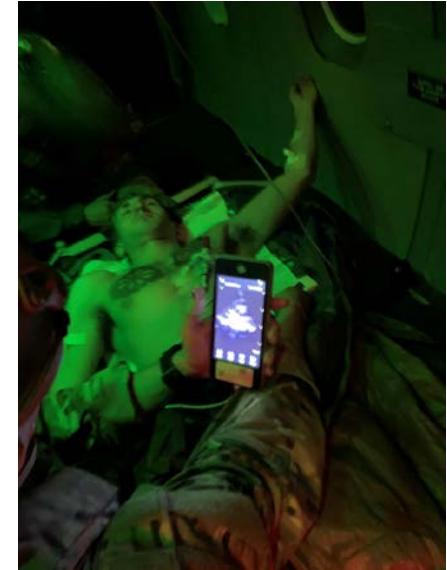


SOFME Capabilities



Pre-hospital/Casualty Evacuation Care

- Treatments include but not limited to: advanced airway placement, sedation management, chest tube placement, administration of blood products, elevated intracranial pressure/TBI protocols, burn patient management
- Equipment for critical care
 - SAVe 2/IMPACT 731 Ventilators and Oxygen
 - Laerdal Suction unit
 - Philips MP2 Monitor (ECG, NBP, SpO2, Invasive Temp, CO2 measurements)
 - EMMA Capnograph
 - V Scan Ultrasound for eFAST exams
 - iSTAT





Total Equipment weight: 200 lbs





CCATT



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- Critical Care Air Transport Team can create and operate a portable intensive care unit (ICU) on board available transport aircraft (C-130, KC-135, C-17, C-21 & Commercial)
 - Operate across the spectrum of potential scenarios from humanitarian and relief operations through small-scale contingencies to major theater war.
 - Three-person team, consisting of a physician, critical care nurse, and respiratory technician
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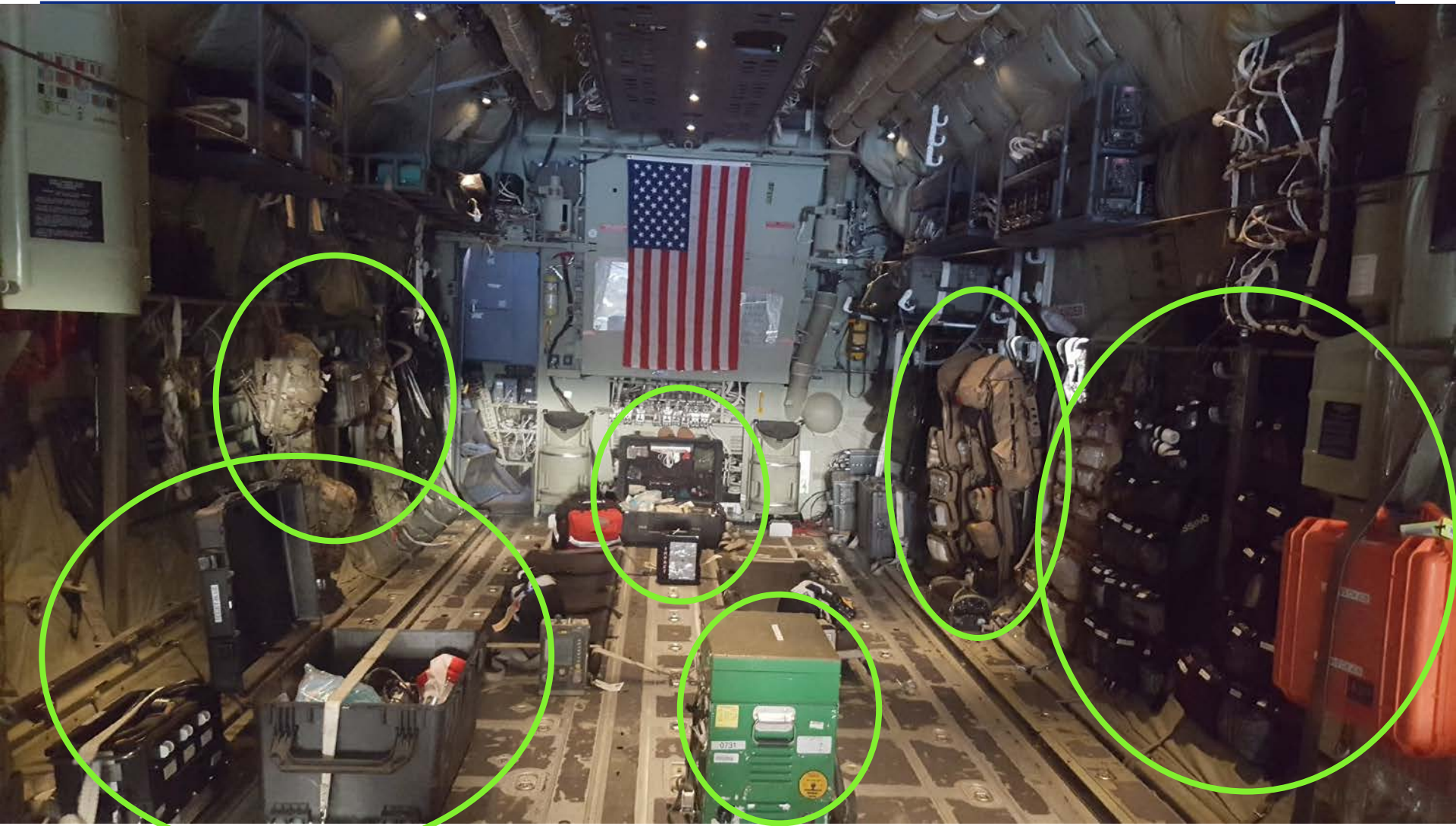
Integration



- Patient Transport:
 - Equipment interchangeable
 - Oxygen (D cylinder vs PT LOX)
 - Team leads: CCATT physician and SOFME physician
 - SOFME PA
 - CCATT Nurse
 - CCATT Respiratory Tech
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Flight Equipment





Future Directions



- SOFME to attend CCATT Course at Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio
 - CCATT to attend CASEVAC and/or TCCC at Hurlburt Field, FL, SERE training, field training
 - Future Joint Exercises, Intra-service training
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Questions?

