TACTICAL EVACUATION CARE

SLIDE	INSTRUCTIONAL POINTS	INSTRUCTOR NOTES
1 Tactical Combat Casualty Care February 2009 Tactical Evacuation Care	Tactical Evacuation Care	The Tactical Evacuation phase of care is that phase in which casualties are moved from the hostile and austere tactical environment in which they were injured to a more secure location capable of providing advanced medical care. The term "Tactical Evacuation" includes both CASEVAC and MEDEVAC as discussed below. This phase may represent the first opportunity to receive additional medical personnel and equipment.
2 OBJECTIVES • DESCRIBE the differences between MEDEVAC and CASEVAC • DESCRIBE the four evacuation categories • DESCRIBE the differences between Tactical Field Care and Tactical Evacuation Care • LIST the nine items in a MEDEVAC request	 Objectives Describe the differences between MEDEVAC and CASEVAC Describe the four evacuation categories Describe the differences between Tactical Field Care and Tactical Evacuation Care List the nine items in a MEDEVAC request 	
 3 DBJECTIVES DESCRIBE the additional assets that may be available for airway management, electronic monitoring, and fluid resuscitation LIST the indications and administrative controls applicable to giving Packed Red Blood Cells (PRBCs) in the field 	 Objectives Describe the additional assets that may be available for airway management, electronic monitoring, and fluid resuscitation List the indications and administrative controls applicable to giving packed red blood cells (prbcs) in the field Know the rules of thumb for calling for tactical evacuation and the importance of careful calculation of the risk/benefit ratio prior to initiating the call 	

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4 OBJECTIVES • STATE the rules of thumb for calling for Tactical Evacuation and the importance of careful calculation of the risk/benefit ratio prior to initiating the call	 Objectives State the rules of thumb for calling for Tactical Evacuation and the importance of careful calculation of the risk/benefit ratio prior to initiating the call 	
 5 • Casualties will need to be evacuated as soon as feasible after significant injuries. • Evacuation asset may be a ground vehicle, aircraft, or aster and the significant injuries. • Evacuation time is highly variable - evacuations in fara. • Tactical situation and hostile threat to evacuation for assualty scenario to casualty scenario. • Tactical aster and pase allows for additional medical personnel and equipment to be used. 	 Tactical Evacuation Casualties will need to be evacuated as soon as feasible after significant injuries. Evacuation asset may be a ground vehicle, aircraft, or boat. Evacuation time is highly variable – evacuations in Afghanistan typically take much longer than those in Iraq. Tactical situation and hostile threat to evacuation platforms may differ markedly from casualty scenario to casualty scenario. The Tactical Evacuation phase allows for additional medical personnel and equipment to be used. 	Casualty movement/evacuation may occur as a separate moving portion of the operation while the main assault force continues tactical operations or the casualties may be evacuated along with the main assault force as it exfiltrates from the main objective. Pre-mission planning should identify medical facilities and capabilities within the area of operations. Transport times to these facilities by various types of vehicles should also be identified. Planning for loading casualties onto mission vehicle assets is important. A single litter patient may occupy space within a tactical vehicle normally occupied by 4 uninjured combatants. Take this into account during planning.

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 6 Evacuation Terminology MEDEVAC: dedicated special medical evacuation assets marked with a Red Cross - MEDEVAC platforms are non-combatant assets CASEVAC: non-medical casualty evacuation force and provide fire support as well Tactical Evacuation (TACEVAC) – this term encompasses both of the above types of evacuation 	 Evacuation Terminology MEDEVAC: dedicated special medical evacuation assets marked with a Red Cross – MEDEVAC platforms are non-combatant assets CASEVAC: non-medical casualty evacuation platforms – may carry a Quick-Reaction force and provide fire support as well Tactical Evacuation (TACEVAC) – this term encompasses both of the above types of evacuation 	Any platform can be used to evacuate casualties. You must understand the capabilities and limitations of any vehicle you opt to utilize. MEDEVAC vehicles and aircraft are specifically configured for casualty care and designated with a Red Cross. These assets generally minimally armed. They will often NOT evacuate casualties where there is a high threat of hostile fire. CASEVAC assets are combatant platforms – good firepower, good armor, no Red Cross, designed to go into the fight. You will need CASEVAC assets if you have to evacuate casualties from a tactical situation where the threat level is high.
7 Aircraft Evacuation Planning • Flying rules are very different for different aircraft and units • Distances and altitudes involved • Distances and altitudes involved • Day versus night • Passenger capacity • Hostile threat • Medical personnel • Icing conditions	 Aircraft Evacuation Planning Flying rules are very different for different aircraft and units Consider: Distances and altitudes involved Day versus night Passenger capacity Hostile threat Medical equipment Medical personnel Icing conditions 	In tactical situations where the threat of hostile fire is high, plan to use a CASEVAC asset. However, in general, if the tactical situation will allow for a MEDEVAC asset to be used, it's best to use that asset and save the CASEVAC assets for other contingencies that may arise later. If you use a tactical CASEVAC asset, you may have to make plans to augment the medical capabilities of the asset. Plan to have extra medical personnel and equipment on the CASEVAC asset.
 8 Aircraft Evacuation Planning Ensure that your evacuation plan includes aircraft capable to fly the missions you need Primary, secondary, tertiary options 	 Aircraft Evacuation Planning Ensure that your evacuation plan includes aircraft capable to fly the missions you need Primary, secondary, tertiary options 	Always have a backup plan. Or two. KNOW the flying rules for all of your potential evacuation aircraft.

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9 CASEVAC vs MEDEVAC: The Battle of the la Drang Valley 1 st Bn, 7th Cavalry in Vietnam 3 surrounded by 2000 NVA - heavy casualties Called for MEDEVAC Called for MEDEVAC Called for MEDEVAC Construction of the structure	 CASEVAC vs MEDEVAC: The Battle of the Ia Drang Valley 1st Bn, 7th Cavalry in Vietnam Surrounded by 2000 NVA - heavy casualties Called for MEDEVAC Request refused because LZ was not secure – unit actually needed <u>CASEVAC</u> Eventual pickup by 229th Assault Helo Squadron after long delay Must get this terminology right 	Here's an example of how preventable deaths can occur from evacuation delays if you don't understand the difference between a CASEVAC and a MEDEVAC. Soldiers died because of this planning error.
 10 Ground Vehicle Evacuation More prevalent in urban-centric operations in Iraq than austere environment ops in Afghanistan May also be organic to unit or designated MEDEVAC assets 	 Ground Vehicle Evacuation More prevalent in urban-centric operations in Iraq than austere environment ops in Afghanistan May also be organic to unit or designated MEDEVAC assets 	Ground evac typically takes too long in Afghanistan. Also, military vehicles are not designed for comfort. There is usually significant noise and vibration in cargo areas, and overland movement is generally extremely bumpy, which may be hard on the casualty.

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<text></text>	 INSTRUCTIONAL POINTS Tactical Evacuation Care TCCC guidelines for care are largely the same in TACEVAC as for Tactical Field Care. There are some changes that reflect the additional medical equipment and personnel that may be present in the TEC setting. This section will focus on those differences. 	The Tactical Evacuation phase of care may represent the first opportunity within the tactical operation to bring additional medical equipment and personnel to bear. Equipment and/or personnel that were planned and pre-positioned on board the evacuation vehicles may now be available. Additional medical personnel should arrive with the evacuation asset. This is important because: The unit's medic/corpsman may be among its casualties The unit's medic/corpsman may be dehydrated, hypothermic, or otherwise debilitated The unit's medic/corpsman may need to continue on the unit's mission and not get on the evacuation platform There may not have been a medic/corpsman at the casualty scene
12 Airway in TACEVAC • Additional Options for Airway Management - Laryngeal Mask Airway - Combi Tube • Confirm ETT placement with CO2 monitoring • These airways are advanced skills not taught in TCCC	 Airway in TACEVAC Additional Options for Airway Management Laryngeal Mask Airway CombiTube Endotracheal Intubation (ETT) Confirm ETT placement with CO2 monitoring These airways are advanced skills not taught in TCCC 	The Nasopharyngeal Airway adjunct was described in the Tactical Field Care section. Once a casualty has been secured aboard an evacuation platform, a wider variety of more definitive airway adjuncts and personnel trained to use them may be available, although the NPA should suffice for most patients. Endotracheal intubation may offer a better airway option for selected patients in the Tactical Evacuation setting. Don't attempt advanced airways unless you have been trained on them and are proficient in their use.

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 Breathing in TACEVAC Watch for tension pneumothorax as casualties with a chest wound ascend to the lower pressure at altitude. Pulse ox readings will become lower as casualty ascends unless supplemental oxygen is added. Chest ube placement may be considered if a casualty with suspected tension pneumo fails to respond to needle decompression 	 Breathing in TACEVAC Watch for tension pneumothorax as casualties with a chest wound ascend to the lower pressure at altitude. Pulse ox readings will become lower as casualty ascends unless supplemental oxygen is added. Chest tube placement may be considered if a casualty with suspected tension pneumo fails to respond to needle decompression 	Consider tension pneumothorax in casualties with penetrating chest injuries and progressive respiratory distress. Decompress with a needle thoracostomy. Although chest tubes may be considered by trained personnel in long or delayed evacuations, they are considerably more difficult and invasive procedures, and there is no evidence that they are more effective than needle decompressions for relieving tension pneumothorax.
14 → Supplemental Oxygen in Tactical Evacuation Care Most casualties do not need supplemental oxygen, but have oxygen available and use for: - Casualties in shock - Casualties with TB1 (maintain oxygen saturation > 90%) - Low oxygen sat on pulse ox - Unconscious casualties - Chest wound casualties	Supplemental Oxygen in Tactical Evacuation Care Most casualties do not need supplemental oxygen, but have oxygen available and use for: • Casualties in shock • Casualties with TBI (maintain oxygen saturation > 90%) • Low oxygen sat on pulse ox • Unconscious casualties • Chest wound casualties	Oxygen should be pre-positioned on evacuation assets. Oxygen generators/concentrators are preferred over compressed gas cylinders because of the reduced explosive hazard.
 15 Fluid Resuscitation in TACEVAC Hextend resuscitation algorithm as before Further resuscitation with packed red blood cells (PRBCs), Hextend, or Lactated Ringer's solution (LR) as indicated. If a casualty with TBI is unconscious and has a weak or absent peripheral pulse, resuscitate as necessary to main. a systolic blood pressure of 90 mmHg or above. 	 Fluid Resuscitation in TACEVAC Hextend resuscitation algorithm as before Further resuscitation with packed red blood cells (PRBCs), Hextend, or Lactated Ringer's solution (LR) as indicated. If a casualty with TBI is unconscious and has a weak or absent peripheral pulse, resuscitate as necessary to maintain a systolic blood pressure of 90 mmHg or above. 	Possible to have additional fluids available on evacuation platforms. Concerns about "popping the clot" and diluting blood clotting factors remain as factors when resuscitating casualties with uncontrolled (torso) hemorrhage. In TBI casualties, the need to maintain adequate perfusion to the brain takes precedence over concerns about "popping the clot."

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16 Packed Red Blood Cells in TACEVAC May be useful on prolonged evacuations when logistically feasible • Coordination with blood bank is key • Keep refirgerated until used	 Packed Red Blood Cells in TACEVAC May be useful on prolonged evacuations when logistically feasible 	PRBC's: Concentrated Red Blood Cells with most of the serum removed. No clotting proteins and very little antibody present.
Specific transfusion guidelines in PHTLS Manual Requires special training to do Consider 1:1 PRBC/plasma infusion ratio if used	 Coordination with blood bank is key Keep refrigerated until used Specific transfusion guidelines in PHTLS Manual 	Blood type compatibility is considered in transfusing PRBCs. PRBCs must be infused with NORMAL SALINE ONLY (No LR or Hextend).
	 Requires special training to do Consider 1:1 PRBC/plasma infusion ratio if used 	Indications and techniques for PRBCs are covered in PHTLS Manual. Special unit training and approval is required to use!
17 Remember Prevention of Hypothermia in Helicopters!	Remember Prevention of Hypothermia in Helicopters!	Imagine how cold these casualties are. It is <u>always</u> cold at altitude in helos, but much worse in winters.
Cabin wind + altitude = severe cold stress ₁₈	Cabin wind + altitude = severe cold stress	Medics and corpsmen in helicopters in winter – bring chemical hand warmers to maintain manual dexterity!
18 TACEVAC CARE - Hoisting	TACEVAC CARE – Hoisting	Stokes or basket-type litters should be used for hoisting casualties into helos.
Rigid Litters Only When Hoisting!	Rigid Litters Only When Hoisting!	Secure the casualty – check and double- check rigging.
19 Questions?	Questions?	

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 20 Standard Evacuation Categories <u>Irrent/Irrent Surgical</u>: 2 hour window to save life, limb, or eyesight <u>Priority</u>: Can be safely managed for 4 hours <u>Routine:</u> Can be safely managed for 24 hours <u>Convenience:</u> Can be safely managed at location and do not hinder ongoing tactical mission 	 Standard Evacuation Categories Urgent/Urgent Surgical: 2 hour window to save life, limb, or eyesight Priority: Can be safely managed for 4 hours Routine: Can be safely managed for 24 hours Convenience: Can be safely managed at location and do not hinder ongoing tactical mission 	These are evacuation categories established by joint military operations pubs – not TCCC. Must know them when calling on the radio for MEDEVAC/CASEVAC.
21 Tactical Evacuation: Eight Rules of Thumb	Tactical Evacuation: Eight Rules of Thumb	Here's something that is particular to TCCC. If you have a casualty – HOW DO YOU KNOW how delays to evac will impact on your casualty? These slides will help in that respect. Not taught anywhere else.
 Decision is being made 15-30 minutes after wounding. Care is being rendered per the TCCC guidelines Takeston interference High risk for TACEVAC platform 	 TACEVAC 8 Rules of Thumb: Assumptions Decision is being made 15-30 minutes after wounding Care is being rendered per the TCCC guidelines There are tactical constraints on evacuation Mission interference High risk for team High risk for TACEVAC platform 	Why not just evac all casualties immediately? May be OK for some situations, but others scenarios may have tactical constraints that must be factored in. Here is where you would want to use the Rules of Thumb to help you.
23 TACEVAC Rule of Thumb #1 Soft tissue injuries are common and may look bad, but usually don't kill unless associated with shock.	TACEVAC Rule of Thumb #1 Soft tissue injuries are common and may look bad, but usually don't kill unless associated with shock.	Casualties do not die acutely from soft tissue wounds alone unless associated with severe bleeding or airway problems.

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24 W TACEVAC Rule of Thumb #2 Bleeding from most extremity wounds should be controllable with a tourniquet or hemostatic dressing. CASEVAC delays should not increase mortality if bleeding is fully controlled. W	TACEVAC Rule of Thumb #2 Bleeding from most extremity wounds should be controllable with a tourniquet or hemostatic dressing. Evacuation delays should not increase mortality if bleeding is fully controlled.	BUT – long delays to evacuation may cause a limb to be lost if a tourniquet is in place. Two hours does not seem to be a problem for limbs with tourniquets. As you move past four to six hours, the risk to limb survival increases.
25 TACEVAC Rule of Thumb #3 Casualties who are in shock should be evacuated as soon as possible. 14	TACEVAC Rule of Thumb #3 Casualties who are in shock should be evacuated as soon as possible.	This GSW to the torso is an example of a wound that causes internal, non- compressible bleeding. There is nothing that the combat medic/corpsman/PJ can do to stop internal bleeding.
26 TACEVAC Rule of Thumb #4 Casualties with penetrating wounds of the chest who have respiratory distress unrelieved by needle decompression of the chest should be evacuated as soon as possible.	TACEVAC Rule of Thumb #4 Casualties with penetrating wounds of the chest who have respiratory distress unrelieved by needle decompression of the chest should be evacuated as soon as possible.	Usually when you do a needle decompression, casualties with a tension pneumo WILL get better. If they don't, their main problem may be a large HEMOthorax (blood in the chest). Needle decompression will not help that. Chest tubes may not, either.
27 TACEVAC Rule of Thumb #5 Casualties with blunt or penetrating trauma of the face associated with airway difficulty should have an immediate airway established and be evacuated as soon as possible. REMEMBER to let the casualty sit up and lean forward if that helps him or her to breathe better!	TACEVAC Rule of Thumb #5 Casualties with blunt or penetrating trauma of the face associated with airway difficulty should have an immediate airway established and be evacuated as soon as possible. REMEMBER to let the casualty sit up and lean forward if that helps him or her to breathe better!	You can make these casualties much worse if you force them to lie on their backs!

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28 Casualties with blunt or penetrating wounds of the head where there is obvious massive brain damage and unconsciousness are unlikely to survive with or without emergent evacuation.	TACEVAC Rule of Thumb #6 Casualties with blunt or penetrating wounds of the head where there is obvious massive brain damage and unconsciousness are unlikely to survive with or without emergent evacuation.	There are some casualties you can't help.
29 TACEVAC Rule of Thumb #7 Casualties with blunt or penetrating wounds to the head - where the skull has been penetrated but the casualty is conscious - should be evacuated emergently. Image: State	TACEVAC Rule of Thumb #7 Casualties with blunt or penetrating wounds to the head - where the skull has been penetrated but the casualty is conscious - should be evacuated emergently.	Some penetrating trauma to the head IS survivable, especially shrapnel injuries
30 TACEVAC Rule of Thumb #8 Casualties with penetrating wounds of the chest or abdomen who are not in shock at their 15-minute evaluation have a moderate risk of developing late shock from slowly bleeding internal injuries. They should be carefully monitored and evacuated as soon as feasible.	TACEVAC Rule of Thumb #8 Casualties with penetrating wounds of the chest or abdomen who are not in shock at their 15-minute evaluation have a moderate risk of developing late shock from slowly bleeding internal injuries. They should be carefully monitored and evacuated as soon as feasible.	This is a single GSW to the torso that proved fatal. The casualties who will die from internal bleeding do not always do that in the first 15-30 minutes.
31 Questions?	Questions?	
32 9-Line Evacuation Request Image: state s	9-Line Evacuation Request Required if you want an evacuation from another unit	The requirements for these may not seem to be optimally designed. Get over it – this is the format that you have to use.

SLIDE	INSTRUCTIONAL POINTS	INSTRUCTOR NOTES
 9-Line Evacuation Request Request for resources through tactical aircraft channels. NOT a direct medical communication with medical providers Significance Determines tactical resource allocation DOES NOT convey much useful medical information 	 9-Line Evacuation Request Request for resources through tactical aircraft channels. NOT a direct medical communication with medical providers Significance Determines tactical resource allocation DOES NOT convey much useful medical information 	This will help to explain why you are sending what you send on the 9-line.
34 Image: State of the system of the	 9-Line Evacuation Request Line 1: Pickup location Line 2: Radio frequency, call sign and suffix Line 3: Number of casualties by precedence (evacuation category) Line 4: Special equipment required 9-Line Evacuation Request Line 5: Number of casualties by type (litter, ambulatory) 	
Line 6: Security at pickup site Line 7: Method of marking pickup site * 36 9-line Evacuation Request Line 8: Casualty's nationality and status Line 9: Terrain description at landing site; NBC contamination status if applicable	Line 6: Security at pickup site Line 7: Method of marking pickup site 9-Line Evacuation Request Line 8: Casualty's nationality and status Line 9: Terrain description at landing site; NBC contamination status if applicable	

SLIDE	INSTRUCTIONAL POINTS	INSTRUCTOR NOTES
 37 TACEVAC Care for Wounded Hostile Combatants Principles of care are the same for all wounded combatants after measures described in TFC. Related Terrestrike and provide security. Remember that each hostile casualty represents a potential threat to both the provider and the unit and take appropriate measures. They still want to kill you. 	 TACEVAC Care for Wounded Hostile Combatants Principles of care are the same for all wounded combatants after measures described in TFC. Rules of Engagement may dictate evacuation process. Restrain and provide security. Remember that each hostile casualty represents a potential threat to both the provider and the unit and take appropriate measures. They still want to kill you. 	Talked about this in TFC. Maintain proper prisoner handling procedures.
 Tactical Evacuation Care: Summary of Key Points Evacuation time is highly variable Thorough planning is key Similar to Tactical Field Care guidelines but some modifications 	 Summary of Key Points Evacuation time is highly variable Thorough planning is key Similar to Tactical Field Care guidelines but some modifications 	
 39 Tactical Evacuation Care Summary of Key Points Tactical Evacuation Rules of Thumb Evacuation Categories 9-Line Evacuation Request 	 Summary of Key Points Tactical Evacuation Rules of Thumb Evacuation Categories 9-Line Evacuation Request 	

SLIDE	INSTRUCTIONAL POINTS	INSTRUCTOR NOTES
40 Convoy IED Scenario Exact from TEC Your last medical decisions during TFC enroute to HLZ: - Placed tourniguet on the second bleeding stump - Disarmed - Placed NPA - Established IV - Administered 500 ml Hextend - Your convey has now arrived at the HLZ	Convoy IED Scenario Recap from TFC Your last medical decisions during TFC enroute to HLZ: • Placed tourniquet on the second bleeding stump • Disarmed • Placed NPA • Established IV • Administered 500 ml Hextend® • IV antibiotics • Provided hypothermia prevention • Your convoy has now arrived at the HLZ	
41 Convoy IED Scenario Natis vour 9-line? Line 1: Gid NS 1234978 Line 3: 100 (Source 1) Line 3: 100 (Source 1) Line 4: PRBC, oxygen, advanced airway Line 5: Source Line 5: Source Line 5: Source Line 5: U.S. Military Line 9: Flat field 1	Convoy IED Scenario What is your 9-line? Line 1: Grid NS 12345678 Line 2: 38.90, Convoy 6 Line 3: 1 Urgent Line 4: PRBCs, oxygen, advanced airway Line 5: 1 litter Line 6: Secure Line 7: VS-17 (Orange Panel) Line 8: U.S. Military Line 9: Flat field	 Line 1: Pickup location Line 2: Radio frequency, call sign and suffix Line 3: Number of casualties by precedence (evacuation) category Line 4: Special equipment required Line 5: Number of casualties by type (ambulatory vs. litter) Line 6: Security of pickup site (wartime) or number/type Line 7: Method of marking pickup site Line 8: Casualty's nationality and status Line 9: Terrain description at Landing Site; NBC contamination if applicable

SLIDE	INSTRUCTIONAL POINTS	INSTRUCTOR NOTES
 42 Convoy IED Scenario Net step? Continue to reassess casualty and prep for helo transfer Scure casualty for any remaining weapons before boarding helo Scure casualty status and treatment Hocument casualty status and treatment Tegains consciousness Corpsman stays with convoy 	 Convoy IED Scenario Next steps? Continue to reassess casualty and prep for helo transfer Search casualty for any remaining weapons before boarding helo Secure casualty's personal effects Document casualty status and treatment Helicopter arrives. Casualty is transferred to helo and regains consciousness Corpsman stays with convoy 	
 43 ★ Convoy IED Scenario ★ Varian Standard State S	 Convoy IED Scenario What's Next? Casualty is now conscious but confused Reassess casualty for ABCs NPA still in place First Hextend bolus completed 30 minutes ago Tourniquets in place, no significant bleeding Attach electronic monitoring to casualty Heart rate 140; systolic BP 70 O2 sat = 90% 	
44 ★ Convoy IED Scenario What's next? • Supplemental Oxygen - Why? • Casualty is in shock What's next? • 2 nd bolus? • Why? • Casualty is still unconscious from shock	 Convoy IED Scenario What's next? Supplemental Oxygen Why? Casualty is in shock What's next? 2nd bolus of Hextend® 500ml Why? Casualty is still in shock 	

SLIDE	INSTRUCTIONAL POINTS	INSTRUCTOR NOTES
45 What's next? Inspect and dress known wounds and search for additional wounds What's next? Try to remove tourniquets and use hemostatic agents? No Why not? THREE reasons: Short transport time - less than 2 hours from application of tourniquets No distal extremities to lose Casualty is in shock	 Convoy IED Scenario What's next? Inspect and dress known wounds and search for additional wounds What's next? Try to remove tourniquets and use hemostatic agents? No Why not? THREE reasons: Short transport time - less than 2 hours from application of tourniquets No distal extremities to lose Casualty is in shock 	
46 Questions/Comments?	Questions?	