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German–American Partnership Training Event

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Landstuhl, Germany -- Members of the German Regional Medical Command II had the opportunity to train with members of the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center staff during the German-American Partnership Training Event held Aug. 12 at LRMC.

"It is important that we keep a good, working relationship with our German counterparts," said U.S. Army Capt. Jalaluddin A. Malik, Europe Regional Medical Command Soldier Medic Program Manager for Europe. "This is only the beginning of a path leading to the close cooperation between the two nations."

The training was designed to show German military forces how medical procedures on the battlefield are accomplished by American medics, said Malik. Future training events held by the German military will show American forces how they handle battlefield casualties.

"The German-American Partnership Training Event was composed of three scenarios that involved controlling bleeding and shock, treating a gunshot wound to the chest with a leg fracture and perform CPR on a casualty who has inhaled a poisonous gas," said Malik. These three scenarios are the most probable battlefield casualties that either countries military would come across.

"This is the first time training like this has ever taken place here," said Malik. "It gives us an ability to give the Germans an introduction to the procedures we use and we get the opportunity to have an outside opinion on our training to help us fix anything that seems wrong."

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“We are very happy to be a part of this event,” said Timothy E. Koenig, coordinator for the Medical Simulation Center here. “This gives us the opportunity to demonstrate the different medical procedures that each country uses and helps develop a common understanding between soldiers on the battlefield.”

“Communication is essential on the battlefield,” said Staff Sgt. Keith A. Gwyn, instructor for the German-American Partnership Training Event. “It is better to learn how to communicate with our German counterparts here than to be on the battlefield and have no way to communicate with each other.”

“Medicine is a common language,” said Col. Carla Hawley-Bowland, commander of the Europe Regional Medical Command. “If we cannot speak to each other, we can still use sign language or even pictures to get the message across which is what this training is teaching us.”

“I am looking forward to learning from each other, growing closer to our German counterparts and becoming friends,” said Hawley-Bowland.

“This training was amazing,” said Brig. Gen. Volker Schwamborn, commander of the German Regional Medical II. “I have never seen training conducted in the outstanding way it was held here.”

“The training was set in a high-stress environment just like it would be on the battlefield by using real war sounds and low lighting,” said Schwamborn. “With this training between Germans and Americans, we can be confident that you can help us and we can help you.”