



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**30TH MEDICAL BRIGADE**  
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## **557<sup>th</sup> Soldiers perform combat medic training**

Story and photo by Sgt. David Chapman

30<sup>th</sup> Medical Brigade Public Affairs

Confusion and noise covers the battlefield as the lone medic tries desperately to save a member of his platoon. Bullets snap past him, explosions are rattling the buildings and the cries for help continue to rise from the smoke. But this medic is a trained professional with the skill and knowledge to save every man he can.

For the medics of the 557<sup>th</sup> Medical Company (Ground Ambulance), this training and knowledge comes with the hard work and training obtained at the Grafenwohr Training Area.

Over two days, 44 members of the medical company participated in Combat Medical Skills Training. During the training, the medics were subjected to prerecorded sounds of combat and smoke in a small room where the only light was a flashing strobe. The Soldiers were then tasked to triage and treat the “wounded” mannequins laid out in the rooms; being certain to apply their skills and knowledge. Each technologically advanced mannequin is programmed to breath, bleed and blink further providing a more realistic patient.

“Basically, we are here to train our medics and to prepare them for our war time -

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mission,” said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Gary McCloud, 557<sup>th</sup> Med. Co. platoon sergeant.

The training simulator and trainers received high marks from the Soldiers who worked through the different training scenarios.

“We have all the supplies we need here and it is great to be able to put your hands on a mannequin and feel the heart beat and watch the chest rise and fall,” said Sgt. Anthony Ward, 557<sup>th</sup> medic. “It’s just like working on a real patient.”

Stress and distractions are a vital part of the training while the scenarios are playing out. The sounds of helicopters, gunshots, explosions and yells for help are played at high volume to emulate the sounds surrounding a battlefield.

“Chaos is what you want when you are training. When you get downrange that’s pretty close to what it’s like,” said Ward. “You have to remember that no matter the situation you always have to stay calm, so you can keep your head on what the next step is, if your not thinking you may miss that one treatment that could save someone’s life.”

At the end of the training the Soldiers were able to leave with a little more confidence in their skills and composure when the time comes to save a life in combat.

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Photo: 080722-A-1938c-001

Credit: Sgt. David Chapman 30<sup>th</sup> Med Bde Public Affairs Office

Cutline: Sgt. Johnathon Karcher, 557th Medical Company (ground ambulance) medic, inserts an I.V. in his “patient” during the Combat Medical Skills Training, at Grafenwohr Training Area, July 22.

Photo: 557th\_large.jpg

Credit: Sgt. David Chapman 30<sup>th</sup> Med. Bde. Public Affairs Office

Cutline: Through the haze of smoke and noise of battle, Sgt. Anthony Ward, 557th Medical Company (Ground Ambulance) medic, applies a tourniquet to his “patients” severed leg during Combat Medical Skills Training, at Grafenwohr Training Area, July 22.