

Washington, DC
November 14, 2011

The ACS COT Structure and Function



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

Committee on Trauma

To Serve All With Skill and Fidelity



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*Committees on Trauma 2007 Blue Book
Guide to Organization Objectives and Activities*



Vision

The COT strives to be a resource for our profession and other entities, professional, public, and governmental, in topics concerning trauma prevention and care. The COT's major areas of activity should include education, standards of care, quality of patient care, and financial assessment of care. The scope of its activities will be national and international.



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*Committees on Trauma 2007 Blue Book
Guide to Organization Objectives and Activities*



Mission

The mission of the COT is to develop and implement meaningful programs for trauma care in local, regional, national, and international arenas. These meaningful programs must include education, professional development, standards of care, assessment of outcome, and financial accountability.



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*Committees on Trauma 2007 Blue Book
Guide to Organization, Objectives and Activities*

Objectives



- Leadership in Development of Standards for Trauma Care
- Trauma Education
- Develop Measurement Tools for Trauma Hospitals and Inter-hospital Comparison
- Development of Trauma Systems
- Foster and Develop Trauma Prevention
- Develop Trauma Group Relations



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Components

- **Leadership**
 - Medical Director
 - Chair
 - Vice Chair
 - Membership
- **Information**
 - NTDB
 - NTDS
 - TQIP
 - PIPS

Basic Infrastructure





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Strategic Restructuring

The Committee on Trauma re-crafts its current operating structure to carry out the mission as outlined in the Blue Book to focus in three discreet areas, all separate and distinct yet fully interrelated.

Three Critical Pillars for Success






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Education

- ATLS
- PHTLS
- RTTDC
- DMEP
- Surgical Skills
 - ASSET
 - ATOM
- SBI
- Optimal Center

- Congress Courses
- Scudder
- East/West/Mid



Advocacy

Quality

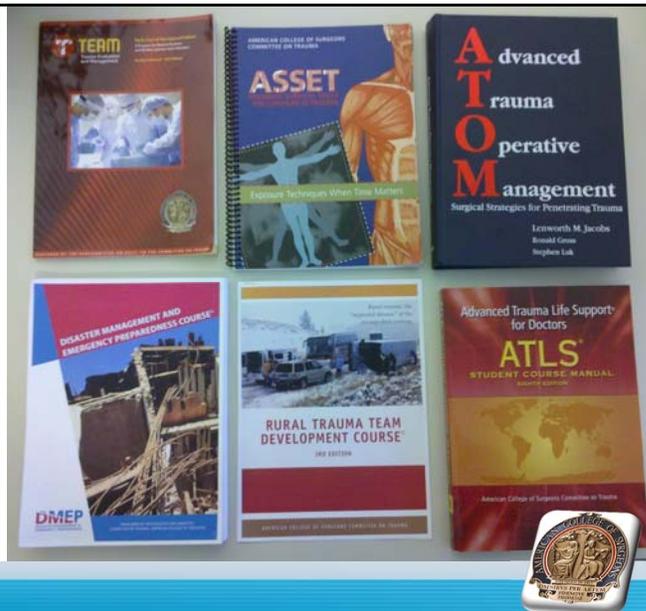
- Systems
- VRC
- EMS
- Rural
- Disaster
- Prevention



Tangible Work Product!

“Productivity is never an accident. It is always the result of a commitment to excellence, intelligent planning, and focused effort.”

Paul J. Meyer

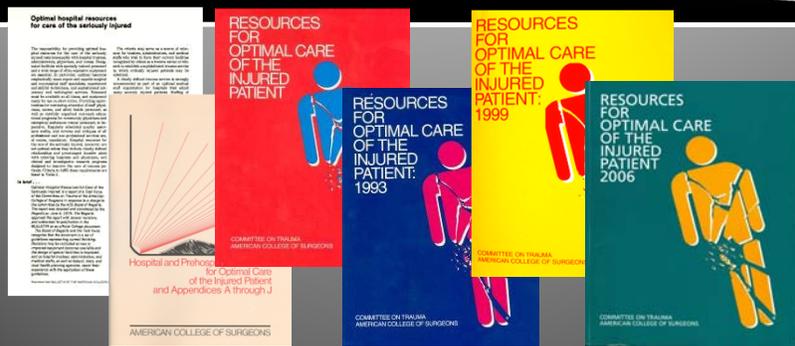


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Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient: 1976-2006



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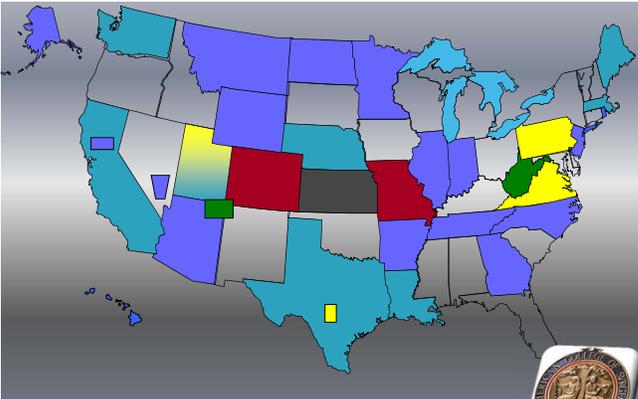
Tangible Work Product!

Trauma Systems Planning and Evaluation Consultations

REGIONAL TRAUMA SYSTEMS: OPTIMAL ELEMENTS, INTEGRATION, AND ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS CONSULTATION GUIDE



COMMITTEE ON TRAUMA
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS
TRAUMA SYSTEMS
EVALUATION AND PLANNING COMMITTEE






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2007 Systems Guide



- **Assessment:** regular and systematic collection and analysis of data to determine status and need for intervention
- **Policy Development:** establish comprehensive policies to improve health
- **Assurance:** goals to improve the public's health by providing regulated services



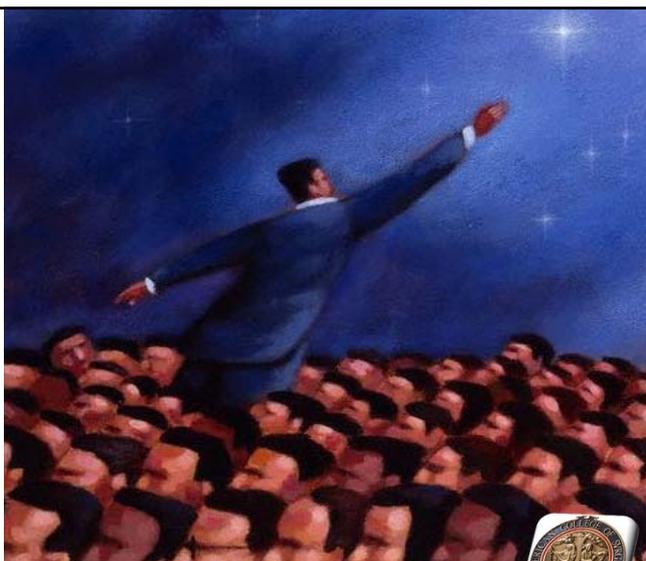
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Leadership

“The best executive is the one who has sense enough to pick good people to do what needs to be done, and self-restraint to keep from meddling with them while they do it.”

Theodore Roosevelt



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*The United States Military Joint Trauma System
Assessment: A Presentation to the Defense
Health Board*

Washington, DC
14 November 2011

Michael Rotondo, MD, FACS
*Chairman, American College of
Surgeons Committee on Trauma*



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**The United States Military Joint
Trauma System Assessment**



A Report Commissioned by the US Central
Command Surgeon

Sponsored by Air Force Central Command Surgeon



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Vision

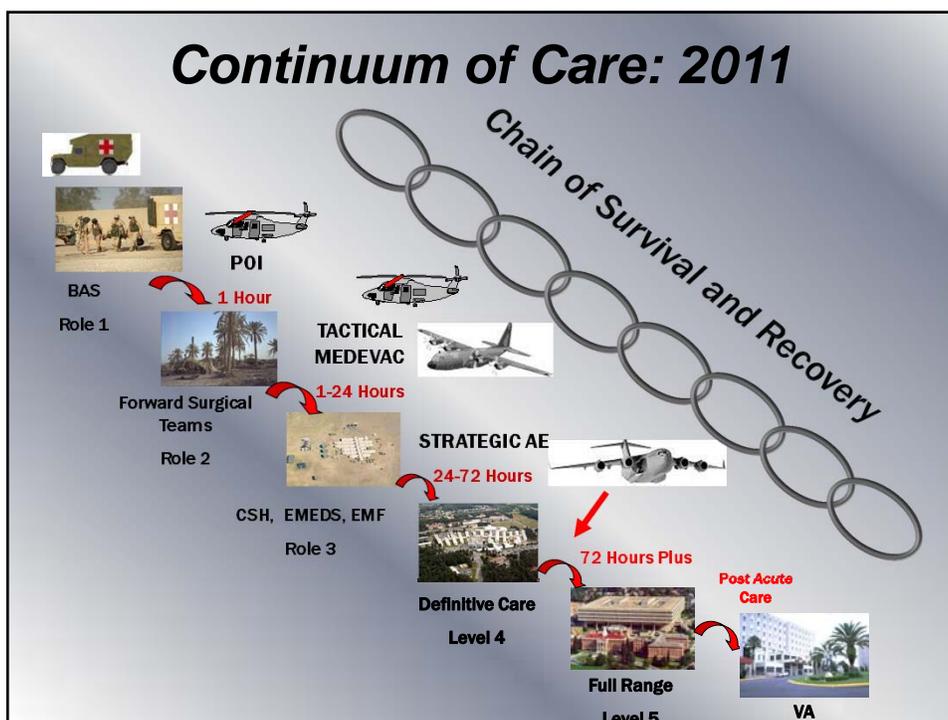
That every soldier, marine, sailor, or airman injured on ANY battlefield or in ANY theater of operations has the optimal chance for survival and maximal potential for functional recovery.





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Construct



- Team of trauma system experts visited theater to conduct trauma system review and participate in Theater Trauma Conference
- US CENTCOM SG invitation; US AFCENT SG, US TRANSCOM SG, USAISR JTS, JTTS, and TF MED Support
- Visit Role II/III MTFs and evacuation units 2 – 12 October 2011
- Provide report of findings and recommendations to US CENTCOM SG



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Military Trauma Systems

Review Team

- **Michael Rotondo, MD, FACS**, Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery, The Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University and Director, Center of Excellence for Trauma and Surgical Critical Care, Chairman, American College of Surgeons, Committee on Trauma
- **Thomas Scalea, MD, FACS**, Francis X. Kelley, Professor of Trauma, University of Maryland School of Medicine, and Physician and Chief, R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, Baltimore, MD.
- **Lt Col Anne Rizzo, MD, FACS**, USAFR, Associate Professor of Surgery, Virginia Commonwealth University, Vice Chair, Department of Surgery and Associate Surgical Residency Program Director; Associate Professor of Surgery, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.
- **Kathleen Martin, MSN, RN**, Trauma Nurse Director, Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany and is the Society of Trauma Nurses' Board of Directors' Chair of the Trauma Outcomes and Performance Improvement Committee.
- **Col Jeffrey Bailey, MD, FACS**, Director-Designate, Joint Trauma System, US Army Institute of Surgical Research (USAISR)

Military Trauma Systems Review Team



The Report to US CENTCOM SG



A strategic report to provide a platform for tactical development for the future direction of the Joint Trauma System (JTS), the US CENTCOM and future Joint Theater Trauma Systems (JTTS), including:

- Optimal elements
- Integration
- Sustainment



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Background



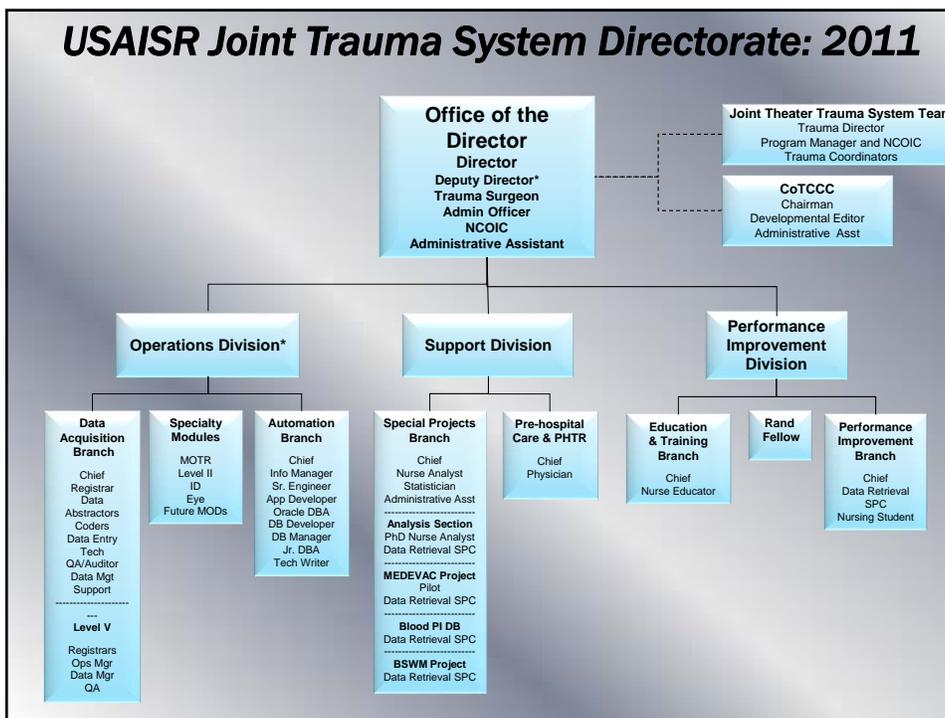
- US CENTCOM “JTTS” implemented to structure trauma care in theater
- Initial efforts focused on theater ops: expanded to include CONUS care
- Continuity and guidance for JTTS at USAISR
- USAISR organization designated “JTS” to distinguish its global mission

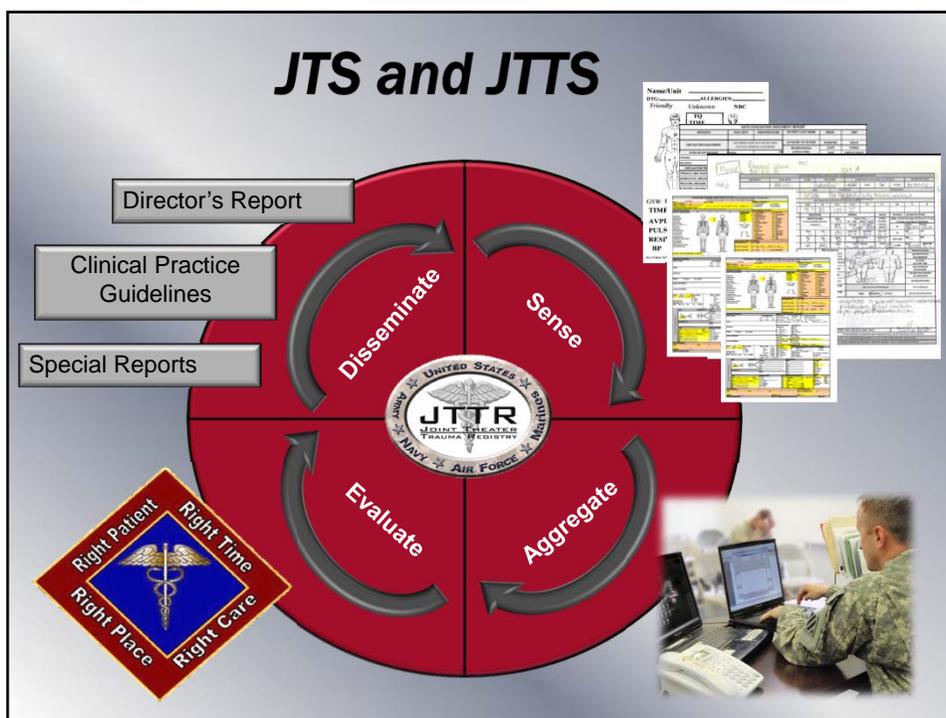


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USAISR Joint Trauma System Directorate: 2011





Overarching Principles: Systems Theory

- Elemental components as well as the interaction of those components as it relates to primary system function.
- Even if the elements function effectively, it does NOT necessarily mean that the system is functioning optimally.
- The system can only function optimally if individual elements are linked through infrastructure that demonstrates effective relational function among elements.



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**Overarching Principles:
Systems Theory**

Assessment – Policy Development – Assurance

MODEL TRAUMA SYSTEM
PLANNING AND EVALUATION

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JTS and JTTS and the Model Trauma System

Director's Report

Clinical Practice Guidelines

Special Reports

Itinerary

29 Sep LRMC

2 Oct Ramstein

3 Oct Bagram

5 Oct Bastion

7 Oct Tarin Kowt

7 Oct Kandahar

8 Oct Trauma Conf

9 Oct Trauma Conf

10 Oct Bagram

12 Oct Ramstein

14 Oct CONUS

Units Visited/Activities

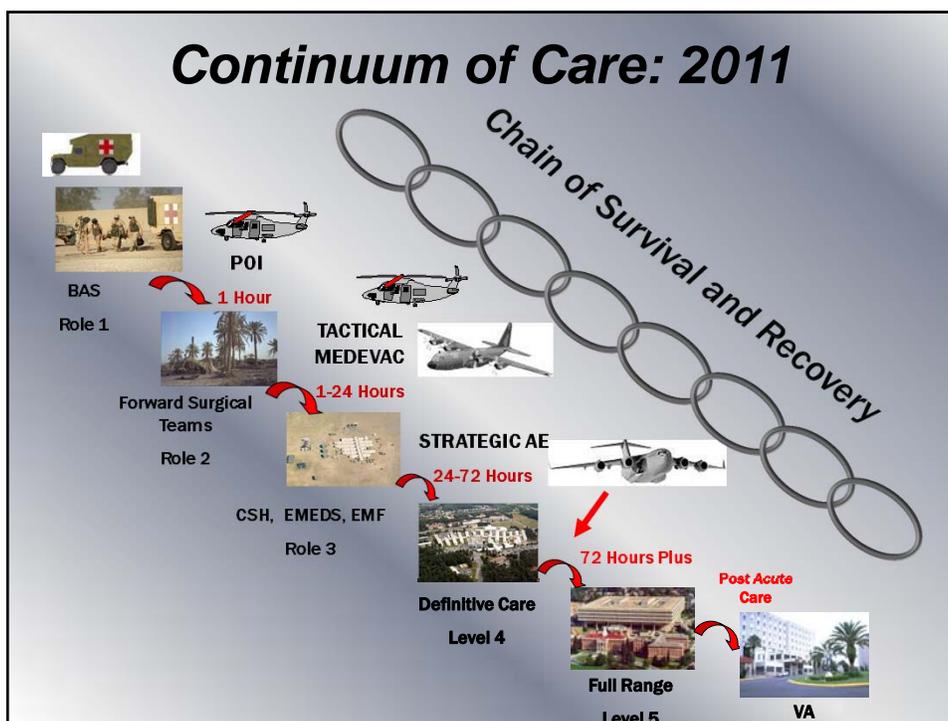
Bagram Air Field
 Craig JTH
 JTTS
 TF 44 MED A

Tarin Kowt
 Forward Surgical Element
 Role II

Camp Leatherneck
 RC SW Surgeon

Kandahar Air Field
 Role III
 Trauma Conference

Camp Bastion
 Role III
 CASF
 MERT
 Pedro
 C-130 Fever



Priority



The war fighters control the battle space and require ultimate flexibility to achieve their objectives.

Wounded warriors must receive the responsive, nimble state of the art care regardless of distance, geography, weather or tactical situation.

These are not mutually exclusive...both require resources.



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Critical Observations and Recommendations



- JTS Authority
- Communication and Cohesion
- Informatics
- Performance Improvement
- Clinical Investigation
- Training



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JTS Authority



Observations:

- JTS has no authority to develop or set policy or standards for trauma care
- No authority to implement a verification process for facilities or the system
- Does not function as DoD level asset



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JTS Authority



Recommendations:

- Establish JTS as the statutory lead agency and DOD authority to set policy and enforce standards of excellence in the care of the injured.
- DOD delegated authority to recommend external system review
- JTS should be elevated within the DOD in order to align its position with its joint and global responsibilities



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Communication and Cohesion



Observations:

- Clinical personnel spend large volumes of time performing clerical tasks reducing efficiency, delaying transfer and creating frustration
- Transmission of important clinical information like radiographs is difficult
- Clinicians encounter resistance when attempting to transfer patients



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Communication and Cohesion



Recommendations:

- Clinical information sharing between colleagues and the every other weekly trauma directors' conference should be consolidated/enhanced
- Trauma conferences such as those held recently at Kandahar is one such example that significantly enhanced system cohesion; should be replicated
- VTC should be focused on providing patient outcomes to all providers as a potent communication forum



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Informatics



Observations:

- There is no unified, contiguous electronic health record across the military continuum of care
- Limited capability for consistent collection of data on all injured war fighters across the continuum
- Capabilities for performance improvement across the system are primitive at best



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Informatics



Recommendations:

- Develop an expeditionary EMR that is facile, readily taught, increases productivity, and is secure, web based/instantly visible from all levels
- Resource to allow concurrent data collection across full continuum
- Enhance JTTR capability for real time PI



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Performance Improvement



Observations:

- The trauma performance improvement and patient safety process is fragmented
- Efforts to implement rudimentary trauma related PI were present at each military trauma facility
- Varied evidence of effective communication of PI events or trends across the system
- No clear metric to link performance for the optimal outcomes



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Performance Improvement



Recommendations:

- The JTS must develop an overarching PI and Patient Safety Plan
- System wide process for event identification, development of corrective action plans, methods of monitoring, reevaluation and bench-marking
- Enhance accountability for performance related to care of injured



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Clinical Investigation



Observations:

- The interface between PI and research is indistinct
- The protocol execution process is lengthy
- The investigation proposal process is poorly understood
- There are multiple DB, not all communicate
- The JTS does not have executive oversight of trauma related clinical investigation
- There is little or no relationship between the JTS, JTTS and the IRB process



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Clinical Investigation



Recommendations:

- The PI and research missions and proposal process must be reconciled to allow for unencumbered investigation
- The IRB process should be significantly streamlined
- All requests for clinically important data should be coordinated with JTS Director who should be charged with oversight of DoD trauma related clinical investigation



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Pre-Deployment Training



Observations:

- There is no consistent pre-deployment training for medical personnel
- Current training is largely focused on combat skills
- Tactical “matching” of clinical expertise with deployed assignment could be improved
- Trauma training that exists focuses on individual, as opposed to team training
- The JTS has no authority to specify pre-deployment trauma training requirements



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Pre-Deployment Training



Recommendations:

- Improve balance of combat skills and trauma training
- Align specialty and skill with deployed responsibility
- Establish consistent pre-deployment training to include leadership and clinical personnel
- Scale training to combat casualty care and system experience, knowledge, and skill
- Trauma directors at every Role 3 facility should have leadership and combat surgery experience
- The JTS should have oversight on standards of pre-deployment trauma training



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Team Transition Training



Observations:

- Each theater of operation has a unique role, terrain limitations and institution specific practices
- Effective team transition is not always possible due to logistics



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Team Transition Training



Recommendations:

- Units should consistently develop a manual or equivalent repository of updated institution specific information
- Hand off between providers should be assured with sufficient time for effective team transition



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Conclusions

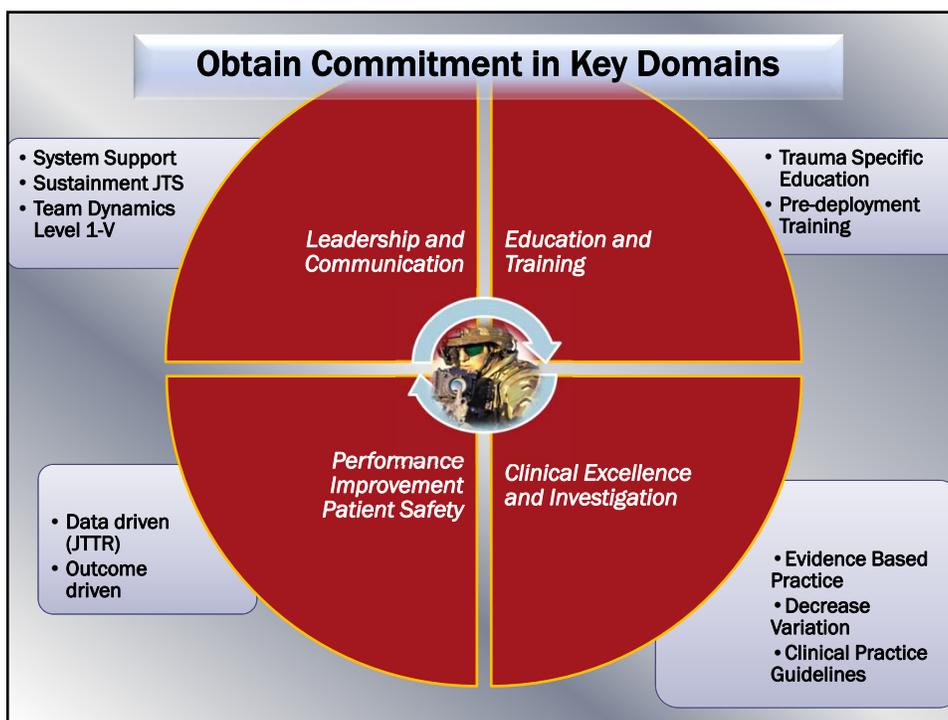


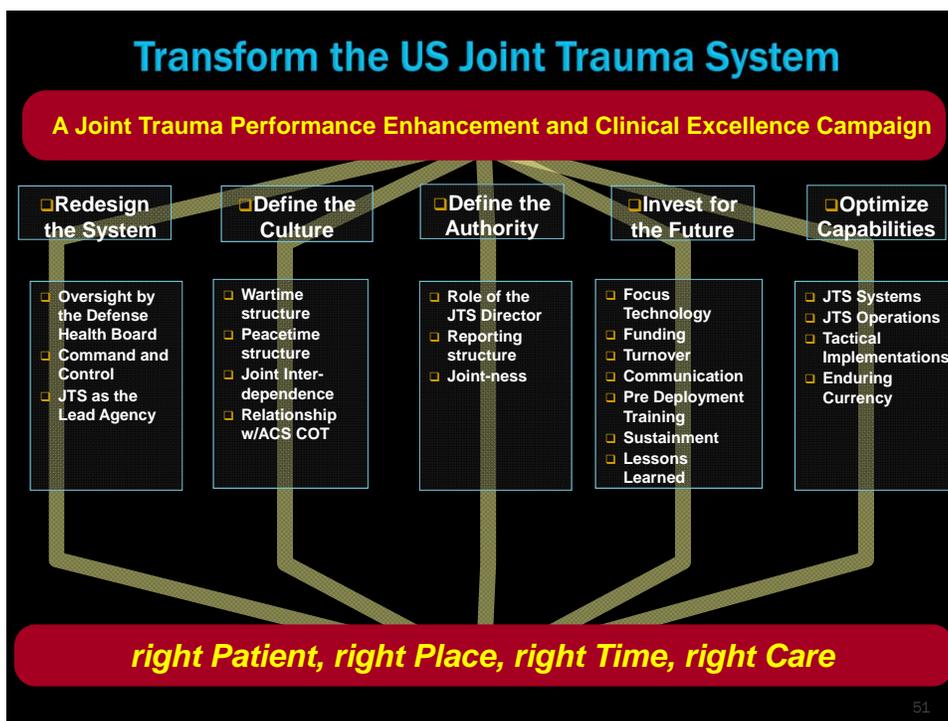
- Seek support of the leadership of the uniformed services, and civilian leadership in the DoD, for fundamental change in the command structure to enable the JTS as the lead agency for assessment – policy development – assurance
- The way ahead...
 - Obtain leadership **commitment**
 - **Transform** the Joint Trauma System
 - **Sustain** the JTS beyond transformation



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Why should the JTS Lead?



Military medical commanders at all levels, from Level II to Level V facilities are excellent leaders and have facilitated some of the JTTS work. Those commanders come from a great variety of backgrounds and are called upon to serve at these levels due to their leadership skills. While their focus is on achieving the mission to field the best possible health care center, their leadership training paradigm is appropriately focused on the essentials of personnel, logistics, execution, order and discipline. JTS excels at the current state of trauma affairs, has the corporate memory of all the health care teams that have deployed and re-deployed, the most current and the comparative historical data trends and all versions of the Clinical Practice Guidelines.

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The Next Steps



- Complete the document entitled: **“Joint Trauma System: Development, Conceptual Framework, and Optimal Elements”**; publish as ACS manual
- Create a **JTTS Operations “Field Manual”**: describe structure, function and tactical deployment of JTTS
- Create a **Tactical Implementation Plan** to achieve the strategic goals with milestones for the immediate (6 months), intermediate (18 months) and long term (36 months); *expectation that this plan will be completed by the end of three years*



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Recognition and Thanks



- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ US Central Command Surgeon ■ Air Force Central Command Surgeon ■ US Transportation Command Surgeon ■ Air Mobility Command Surgeon ■ Office of the USAF Surgeon General ■ Office of the Joint Surgeon ■ USAISR Joint Trauma System ■ US Central Command Joint Theater Trauma System ■ Command and Trauma Team Landstuhl Regional MC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Task Force 44 MED – A ■ US Army Institute of Surgical Research (USAISR) ■ Command and staff Craig Joint Theater Hospital ■ Bastion Role III and CASF ■ RC SW Command Surgeon ■ UK MERT ■ USAF Pararescue ■ “Fever” Ops ■ “Weasel” Ops ■ TF Thunder ■ Tarin Kowt FSE and Role II ■ Kandahar Role III |
|--|--|



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