

The seal of the Defense Health Board is a circular emblem. It features a central shield with a caduceus (a staff with two snakes entwined around it and wings at the top) superimposed over a map of the United States. The shield is set against a background of a globe. The words "DEFENSE" and "HEALTH BOARD" are written in a circular path around the top and bottom of the seal, respectively. Two five-pointed stars are positioned on the left and right sides of the seal.

# **Supraglottic Airways Update**

**Nancy W. Dickey, MD**  
**DHB President**

Defense Health Board Meeting  
22 August 2012



# Overview

---

- Initial Recommendation
- Current Draft Report
- Discussion



# Initial Recommendation

---

Replace specific reference to Laryngeal Mask Airway (LMA)/intubating LMA and Combitube with “supraglottic airway”:

## Tactical Evacuation Care

### **1b. Casualty with airway obstruction or impending airway obstruction:**

- Chin lift or jaw thrust maneuver
- Nasopharyngeal airway
- Allow casualty to assume any position that best protects the airway, to include sitting up.
- Place unconscious casualty in the recovery position.
- If above measures unsuccessful:
  - **Supraglottic airway** or
  - Endotracheal intubation or
  - Surgical cricothyroidotomy (with lidocaine if conscious).



# Current Draft Report

---

- **Findings:**
  - Patient safety and provider competency/training/experience
  - Logistical and practical considerations
- **Conclusion:** No strong evidence to support the use of one SGA device over another
- **Additional Recommendations:**
  - Remove specific device references
  - Specific SGA device recommendations should be evidence-driven and have demonstrated superiority
  - Services should ensure providers are trained and equipped to field them



# Current Draft Report (Continued)

---

- Absent this evidence, Services should select limited number of devices
- Ongoing evaluation of SGA devices
- Continued research and adequate prehospital data collection
- Equipment inventories, provider training and equipping should eventually be standardized
- Inventory practices should account for rapid, continuous evolution of medical best practices, where feasible



# Discussion

---

## DISCUSSION