



Spc. Guillermo Diaz shows Spc. Joseph Peters the best places on his arm to place the catheter.

Pfc. Raul Vera takes combat lifesaver course students through the necessary steps to administer an IV bag to a casualty.

PHOTOS BY SPC. MARK MIRANDA

1-44 ADA conducts combat lifesaver training

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11th ADA Bde. Public Affairs

Soldiers from the 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade gathered at Finney Softball Field Feb. 3 to run through tasks that would certify them as Combat Lifesavers.

Lanes set up by 1st Battalion, 44th ADA's medics were designed to test Soldiers' training over the previous week of classroom and hands-on instruction.

"The course goes over things such as taking preventive measures against disease and environmental conditions. We go over evaluating a casualty, and then giving first aid. Among the things we demonstrate are how to dress a wound, apply a tourniquet or splint and how we treat burns," said Sgt. Elvis Llanes, a 1-44 ADA medic.

Soldiers were tested on course subjects through written examinations, but concepts such as transporting casualties and applying field dressings had to be physically rehearsed.

One of the biggest obstacles Soldiers going through the course for the first time must overcome is the apprehension associated with needles and blood. Needles are used with catheters

to administer intravenous bags to Soldiers who have suffered a loss of vital fluids.

"I told my partner he'd better remember to apply pressure above the needle once it was stuck in my arm. I didn't want my blood all over the place," said Sgt. Phylisha L. Edouard.

Several of Edouard's classmates had similar reservations – whether it was sticking someone with the needle or being on the receiving end – but gained confidence after a few practices.

"It's no big deal ... after you've been stuck in the arm so many times," said Pvt. Anthony Weisenberger, a 1-44 ADA medic and CLS assistant instructor. "We [medics] did this a lot in our AIT. We'd get to the point where I remember just going through the motions while the drill instructors were yelling at us, kicking up dust and just trying to unnerve us in general."

Soldiers designated as Combat Lifesavers must first score a minimum of 70 percent on the written examination and a "Go" on each performance evaluation. The course is worth points toward promotion, and students who go through an extensive and complete Combat Lifesaver Course can receive 40 credit hours from the Army Institute For Professional Development.



Pfc. Bradley Sparks prepares a clamp and tubing that will connect the catheter to an IV bag.



Staff Sgt. Francis R. Sgrignuoli tightens a band around Spc. Craig Westbrook's arm in preparation for an IV bag.



Pfc. John C. Peterson carefully sticks a needle and catheter into the arm of his partner.