



SAPA JOURNAL



The Society of Army Physician Assistants

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Battlefield Documentation

By Donald L. Parsons PA-C

Prehospital care on the battlefield is the most important aspect of care in the continuum of care in combat. The lifesaving interventions performed by the first responders and combatants have lowered the "Killed in Action" rate to its lowest in the history of modern warfare. However, the documentation of this care is sorely lacking. To this point, with over 30,000 WIA, less than 10% of records have any pre-hospital documentation; in only 1% of cases is the information available sufficient. 'Home-grown' formats were used in almost all cases of successful documentation.

The current method for documenting care on the battlefield is the decades old Field Medical Care (DD 1380). The fact that this form translates each section into French should tell us that it is dated and that we need to move in a new direction. This form, while providing a format for recording medical information, is cumbersome and time consuming to fill out. There are numerous boxes just for administrative information. When time is at a premium this information may not be pertinent to the casualty. When combat medics are questioned about why these cards are not filled out they are almost unanimous in stating "there isn't enough time to do so". Consequently, the time has come for a new approach.

There are many who would advocate for an electronic version to record information. However, many who have gone to an electronic instrument (Palm Pilot) have gone back to the old tried and true form of paper and pencil. The current technology, Battlefield Medical Information System Tactical-Joint (BMIST-J), has not been well received by the force. It provides an electronic version of the FMC, which still has multiple administrative boxes for unnecessary information. In addition, if used it does not have the ability to transmit the information along with the casualty to the next level of care.

The document utilized to acquire information from the point of wounding must possess the following characteristics:

1. It works (evidenced based)
2. Easy to apply/use
3. Easy to train
4. Rapid action (fast)
5. Minimal complications (drugs interaction/dose)
6. Small packaging
7. Long shelf life
8. Environmental application (hot/cold/wet/dry/dark/light)
9. Common accessories (battery, plug, etc)
10. Low cost

I am not sure the perfect solution exists for these characteristics in an electronic format, but there may be a better card available that possesses many of these principles. The standard of care for battlefield medicine is based on the principles of Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TC3). If we are to institute a new form for recording care provided on the battlefield the form should be based on these care guidelines.

In fact, a form very similar to this product has been in use quite successfully by the Special Operations community for several years. It has proven easier to use and provides all the information needed at the receiving care facility.

This new form provides the basic guidelines for the initial care provided before evacuation of the casualty. In addition, it provides a wealth of additional information that will follow the injured combatant for his life.

Features of this new form are as follows:

1. MINIMUM-ESSENTIAL medical information gets recorded by first-responders,
2. Is attached to and/or travels with the patient,
3. Is visible and accessible to the flight/ambulance medic for his/her en-route care notes (run-sheet),

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The SAPA Journal staff and SAPA Board of Directors encourages membership participation in this publication. Feel free to use this forum to present your views on any topic you desire. The publication of clinical articles on any subject is also solicited, however, to reduce our workload, we do request articles be presented typed, double-spaced format, and on CD, Microsoft Word format. The editor reserves the right of final acceptance of articles as well as the right to serialize articles which are too lengthy to be included in a single issue.

The SAPA Journal is the official publication of the Society of Army Physician Assistants. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the editors, SAPA, the SAPA Board of Directors or the Department of the Army unless explicitly expressed as such

This is not an official Army Publication.

4. Will reliably be with patient when they arrive at the CSH or FST and received/transmitted (read) and understood. Where the successive provider can glean those elements necessary to assume responsibility for the patient.
5. The paper form having served its sole purpose of promulgating care and referral (communicates successive care and progress up to the next attending physician), can now become the foundation of and inclusion to the patient's comprehensive record (electronic and paper). Theater Combat Support Hospital's start a paper medical chart/record on every patient admitted to the facility and that new form can be included in it. The form can be scanned and added to AHLTA-T EMT encounter.
6. The new form can also be harvested by trauma teams for relevant data elements to that effort.
7. Acute Phase: Casualty treatment documentation
 - Acute and blunt information that needs to be conveyed during handover to the next provider
 - Acute and detailed information that needs to be archived as an AAR
8. Casualty tracking:
 - From POI to home station

8. Casualty tracking:
 - From POI to home station
9. Chronic Phase: long term follow up care and documentation
 - Rehab care
 - Convalescent care
 - Benefits and disability
 - Award

This new form does not meet our age old obligations to our NATO allies, but we do not find many of them engaged in our current conflicts. This form can be one strictly for use by American Forces and an interim fix for the current situation. We cannot afford to wait for the diplomatic process to get agreement from all the participants on this document.

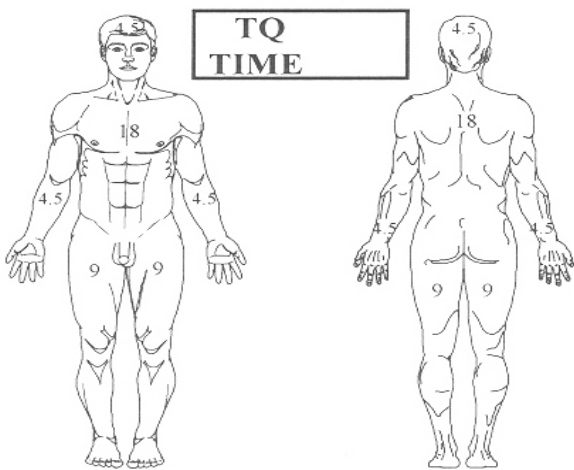
The card would possess the following characteristics:

1. Two-sided form made of rigid, waterproof, tear-proof paper
2. Pre-attached cord or wire running through a grommet to insure it can be attached to the patient and won't come off
3. Paper-stock should be rigid and durable such that vitals and en route care and meds can be scribed using the patient's body to support handwriting.
4. One side should be first responder and the back should be a run sheet for evac crews.

Example of New Form:

Name/ID: _____
 DTG: _____ ALLERGIES: _____

Friendly Unknown NBC



A: Intact Adjunct Cric Intubated

B: Chest Seal Needled ChestTube

**C: TQ Hemostatic Packed PressureDx
 IV IO**

**FLUIDS: NS / LR 500 1000 1500
 Hextend 500 1000**

Other:

DRUGS (Type / Dose / Route):

PAIN

ABX

OTHER

Medic's Name _____

GSW BLAST MVA Other _____

TIME				
AVPU				
PULSE				
RESP				
BP				

5. Card could be carried in a particular pocket or IFAK of all soldiers, pre-filled out with demographics
 6. Medics and evac crews can carry blanks.
 7. Indelible ink markers would be used to record information.
- Finally this form cannot succeed without training and enforcement from the unit medical officers in the field. First responders cannot afford to allow a casualty to leave their location without documentation on the initial lifesaving care provided. To maximize the continuity of care we must be able to establish when the tourniquet was applied, when the needle decompression was performed, when and how much morphine was given to the patient. This form is a step in the right direction in being able to account for care provided at the point of injury. It will help to ensure that the life saving care rendered at the point of injury is documented improving the outcome for our wounded warriors.

LOST MEMBERS

Every year we elect individuals to attend the House of Delegates Session at the annual AAPA conference. These delegates represent the views and concerns of the SAPA constituency. The number of delegates authorized is determined by the number of Fellow members in the chapter. If you know of prior members who have let their membership lapse, encourage them to renew their SAPA and AAPA membership and declare SAPA as their constituent chapter!

Scholarship for Army Veterans, Retirees, National Guard, Reserves and Active Duty

Received by Donald A. Black, PA-C

As most of you know, the PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT family lost their first PA EVER to be killed in combat. Captain Sean P. Grimes, PA-C lost his life while serving in Iraq on 4 March 2005. Since that day SAPA with the generosity of the Grimes family has established the CAPTAIN SEAN P. GRIMES EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD. If you need, or someone you know needs educational financial assistance please visit the SAPA website for details. (www.sapa.org)

If you have additional questions please contact:

Donald A. Black, PA-C, MPAS,

Ret LTC, SP

email: donald.black@se.amedd.army.mil

Ph: 931-338-1828

SAPA PRESIDENT PRESENTS CHECK TO WINNER OF NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

Received from Paul Lowe, PA-C



L-R Paul Lowe, SAPA President, Thomas Hume, PA-C

The Society of Army Physician Assistants publishes a newsletter every two months. This contains recent news of the Society, articles sent in by members, letters to the editor and other information. SAPA has a contest each year for the top three articles in both Clinical and Human Interest categories.

A committee is selected by the SAPA Board of Directors to select the winners each year. This year, I'm proud to present the First place award to Thomas H. Hume for his article on "Medical Evaluation of Rhabdomyolysis/Myositis in Fort Leonard Wood Best Sapper Competition" which was published in the Jul/Aug 2007 SAPA Journal. Mr Hume was awarded a check for \$500.00 for his first place selection. The picture is taken at the Fort Leonard Wood Consolidated Troop Medical Clinic where Thomas Hume (PA Class #2) works as a PA performing health care for soldiers assigned to Fort Leonard Wood in training status.

Editor's Note: Additional awards were authorized but not awarded this year due to limited article submission. I encourage everyone to consider submitting articles to John Wootton, the new editor: rbyranch@hughes.net **cb**



L-R Frank Piper- Immediate Past President, Casey Bond-Newsletter Editor, Karen McMillan-Secretary, Paul Lowe-President, Pat Malone -President Elect, Steve Ward-Sales Booth Sorry Jim Miller is missing from picture but ever present at meeting

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, 22 April 2008

Meeting was called to order at 11:17 a.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

President: Paul Lowe
President Elect: Pat Malone
Immediate Past President: Frank Piper
Secretary: Karen McMillan
Treasurer: Jim Miller
Director of Membership: Casey Bond
Director of Reserves: Frank Piper
Conference Coordinator: Bob Potter

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Executive Director: Hal Slusher (Excused)
Director of Active Duty: Pauline Gross (Deployed)
Director of National Guard: Michael La Belle (Excused)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Conference Registrar: Bob Potter
Conference Committee: Bob Potter
Sean Grimes Scholarship Committee: Donald Black

VISITOR:

John Wootton
Stan Shank

REPORTS:

1. **Past President:** Frank Piper reported the AAPA dining out was successful last year in Philadelphia. He reported that the status of the Combined Service Conference had no official information or invitation at this time. Paul made a motion that we

set aside \$1000 as seed money for the Federal Services dining out this year. However Bob was against giving seed money due to little benefit to SAPA and lack of accountability of use of money. Jim made motion to table the \$1000 until question can be answered on where the money will be used and until a point-of-contact person could be identified. Casey seconded the motion and the motion carried. Logistics Health is one of SAPA's sponsors ran by Jerry Fushianes who has agreed to sponsor the SAPA's reception at the AAPA conference in May. BOD approved the funds subject to reimbursement not to exceed \$6,600 which includes a 10% overage for the SAPA's reception. Paul made a motion that the BOD accepts the gift from Jerry Fushianes and that Steve would send a letter to the company verifying their verbal commitment to sponsor the reception. BOD thanked Frank for a job well done as President, Paul made a motion recommending that Frank be given lifetime SAPA membership. Casey seconded the motion and the motion carried.

2. **President:** Paul Lowe thanked the BOD for the updates to the Policy and Procedures and instructs the secretary to ensure all future BOD has digital and hard copies. BOD agreed that each SAPA Director for Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve should each submit one name for the Federal Services Paragon Award yearly.. Paul stated that each Director should be the ones to submit the paperwork since they would have the historical knowledge and access to any pertinent material. Each applicant must meet the criteria of being a member in good standings of AAPA for the past 3 years and of SAPA. Paul recommends this requirement be added to the Policy and Procedure Manual for each director to write and submit paperwork which would be an annual commitment. Pat Malone seconded the motion and the motion carried. The BOD recognized Casey for a job well done as Membership Director and Editor of the Newsletter, and thanks him for his dedication to SAPA. Paul reports Hal's health is slowly improving and the BOD should think about appointing a member in the event that Hal can no longer perform his duties. Bob made a motion that Pat Malone be endorsed as Deputy Assistant to Executive Director which will allow Pat to make decisions in case Hal's is unable to do so. Frank Piper seconded the motion and the motion carried. Paul has the three names SAPA will provide \$1,000.00 scholarships this year. The fund currently has \$6000. Jim recommended this year that the \$3000 scholarship money be paid out of the general fund to keep the \$6000 in the scholarship fund as a minimal and allow it to grow. Casey made a motion that next year not to exceed \$3000 will be paid from the scholarship fund. Jim seconded the motion and the motion carried. Paul made the motion that \$1000 be donated to the Veteran's caucus for a scholarship award in the name of SAPA to be paid from the

general funds. Pat Malone seconded the motion and the motion carried. Casey made the motion that in the future any approve funds for the Veterans Caucus scholarships are paid out of the general funds. Jim seconded the motion and the of SAPA to host the AAPA President Reception on 24 May 2007 in San Antonio from 6pm to 8 pm. Lastly, Paul informed the BOD that he completed paperwork to re-charter SAPA through AAPA which keeps us current until 2013.

3. **President-Elect:** Pat Malone thanks everyone for their support over the years and challenge each person to contact at least five classmates through letters emails and phone calls to help increase membership. He also commended Casey for doing a good job as the membership director. Casey reported that 57 members had renewed their membership while at conference and expects more before the conference is over. Pat's second challenge was for health care providers to seek and make health care a priority in our own life.

4. **Secretary:** Karen McMillan requested that the BOD review the minutes of 23 April 2007 BOD meeting. Karen moved that the minutes be accepted as written. Casey seconded the motion and the motion carried. Karen reviewed all electronic SAPA business that was conducted over the course of the last year and stated that all highlights of those emails would be attached to last year's BOD minutes. Paul commented that Karen had performed a wonderful job as secretary despite her own health issues over the past year.

5. **Treasurer:** Jim provided a copy of the current financial status report of SAPA. Karen McMillan requested electronic versions of the reports be forwarded to her for inclusion in the minutes as enclosures. Jim stated that an audit was scheduled consisting of three members for 23 April 2008. Jim urged everyone to decide on funds for the upcoming year so rates can be adjusted. Bob stated this was a good idea because if copies needed to be made it could be done while we have the printer available in advance. Bob stated that if we knew the cost we will charge the exhibitors and the charge for the attendees for next year, we could save money and time by making the copies with the printer that is paid from this year's budget. Bob stated that he was looking to keep the exhibitors cost the same and wanted to increase the patron to \$1000 if they could afford it. Casey recommends that we wait until the close-out bill on Friday before making any changes in cost for next year. See Treasurer's Report at (Enclosure 1). Pat made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Bob seconded the motion and the motion carried.

6. **Executive Director:** Hal was absent. On his behalf, Paul had no updates. Discussion about Pat Malone being appointed as Deputy Assistant to Executive Director as stated above. Hal will remain in this position as his expertise and ability to advise has not been affected.

7. **Conference Committee:** Bob Potter thanked the BOD for their hard work over the past year in preparation for the conference. Bob stated that 497 registered for this year's conference; last year was 526. He felt by the end of the week it would be over 500. A total of 235 meals counted for the banquet 30 less than last year. Registration was down this year due to deployment, fuel cost and Nationals being held in San Antonio. Again Bob stated that he wanted to increase the cost of the patron to \$1000 for next year and the exhibitors remain the same. However he does not want to lose anyone's support so will see how much each is willing to afford. Bob stated that you get more grant money if the schedule is fill-in advance. His goal is to have 90% fill-in by the end of this conference and Pat will have the remaining fill-in my mid July. Speaker will be announced later but the classes' topics will be known. Registrations forms and fees will remain the same for next year. It was recommended to keep the cost of dues and registration the same. Bob will complete the forms for next year while the printer is available.

8. **Director of Active Duty:** Pauline Gross was absent. Paul had no updates to report. Pauline communicated that she would like the nomination for the position next year. Bob stressed the need for the Active Duty Director to get more involved to promote the conference in the active duty population. It was mentioned that an interim person be appointed if and when the Director is deployed (which is the responsibility of the president).

9. **Director of Reserves:** Frank Piper reported the Reserves are filled over 50% of deployed positions.

10. **Director of National Guard:** Michael LaBelle was absent. It was communicated via E-mail that Lt Nolan would run for this office next year as Mike would not seek re-election.

11. **Membership Director:** Casey Bond stated he did three contacts for the year with good response. One was through mailing, second via E-mail and third through the Newsletter. Reports from the Director of Membership see (Enclosure 2). Karen requested electronic versions of the reports be forwarded to her for inclusion in the minutes as enclosures. Paul recommended that Casey continue as the Director of Membership Casey accepts. Pat seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

12. **Sales Booth Committee:** Steve reported that purchases to restock the sales booth this year were \$4,200 and on day one the sales booth made \$1200, Steve hopes to recoup the \$4200 by the end of the conference. Next year will be the 30th anniversary and Steve reminded the BOD that during the 25th anniversary T-shirts were purchased and it took 3 years to sell them so did not want to purchase for next year. For next year the possibility of a screen print for kids stuff with a logo of "My

grandma or My Grandpa is a PA” A new item added to the inventory this year is a hooded, zippered sweatshirt which was a good selling item. Steve states the biggest complaints from customers are sizes and colors. Steve goal is to get the inventory to reorder to zero balance to prevent to have to store items. Steve said we have 201 SAPA coins available and that Bob Egbert would get in contact with recruiters about a Tri-Service colorized coin for PA’s.

13. **Technology:** Steve reported that he wanted to develop hand receipts for all equipment for better accountability. Also wants permission from the BOD to give old equipment to a non profit organization and leave the decision up to the Technology committee and give updates to the BOD. Casey seconded the motion and the motion carried. Steve purchased the old secretary computer for \$1.00 to use it for the sales booth. The membership computer will be donated to a church of the Technology Committee’s choice. Steve needs all model numbers, serial numbers on all computers by the end of conference to up date the SAPA hand receipt. He recommends that replacement equipment is needed and will need to purchase:

1. Digital Voice recorder
2. Two 80g thumb drives
3. Newsletter computer
4. Secretary computer
5. Membership computer.
6. Utility program- to fix problems
7. Upgrade to premium package VISTA

Pat made a motion recommending Steve to purchase above equipment not to exceed \$6000. Jim seconded the motion and it was carried. Steve reported that a hand-held wireless and lapel microphone was purchased and will be used during the conferences. The cost was \$574.29 and this equipment will be kept with Steve until conference time. Adobe and Norton’s antivirus are also available for a 2yr subscription at a cost of \$279 x 2= \$480 will provide licenses for 20 computers. Bob suggested that we go with AVG which is free for antivirus you just go to the website www.avg.com and download to computer. Jim made a motion that the President purchase a fax/scanner/printer machine to allow him to be more efficient in his job. Steve seconded the motion and it was carried.

14. **Conference Registration Coordinator:** Bob stated the conference dates next year would be 20-24 April, 2009. Conference Registration staff salaries were tabled until the Friday BOD meeting. After considerable discussion about conference registration rates, Paul made a motion that the rate for the registrations will remained the same. Pat seconded the motion and it was carried.

15. **Sean Grimes Scholarship Committee:** The chairman

of the Sean Grimes Scholarship Committee, Don Black informed the BOD that he and committee members Frank Piper and Paul Lowe had received four applications for this year’s scholarship. He stated that the winner was Rebecca J. Fraley who was formerly on active duty and now serving in the National Guard and will be currently attending a PA program in Nashville Tennessee. BOD agreed to increase the scholarship fund to \$6,000 based on the Grimes family requests. This money has come from donations from the Grimes family and friends and not part of SAPA organization monies. Don Black notified the AAPA and the Grimes family and will present the award at the reception. Pat made a motion to keep the same committee members and Paul seconded the motion and the motion carried. Paul made a motion that SAPA present Rebecca Fraley a one year honorary membership and be presented at the SAPA banquet. Casey seconded the motion. Don raised the question of how long the applications should be kept; Paul suggests keeping them for a minimal of 2 years in case the applicants wanted to re-apply.

16. **Newsletter Editor:** John Wootton accepted the responsibility of being the newsletter editor effective April 2008. He met all the BOD whom supported this decision.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Discussed funding an IPAP student to attend the student challenge bowl at the AAPA conference. It was felt funding of a student will not be an issue this year since the AAPA conference will be in San Antonio.

2. The BOD was made aware of the establishment of a separate “SAPA Scholarship Award” as voted upon at the last membership meeting. A total of \$6,000.00 is now in that account.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Presentation was given by Wade Fowler from YTB Travel Agent on ideas to raise money for SAPA by using a program which combined travel and internet given. The program is an interactive fund raiser by redirecting money from travel to our organization. The start up cost to SAPA would be \$500. Paul asks for recommendation from the BOD and it was suggested that before taking this to the general membership that we ask Wade Fowler to return in a year after we had more time to gather more data on the program.

2. Submit travel receipts to Jim early so he can get the checks. Paul recommends we adjust the mileage rates to .51 cents per mile due to rising fuel cost. This amount is in keeping with the military reimbursement rate as stated in the Policy and Procedure Manual. Casey seconded the motion and it was carried.

3. Jim wanted to know if the two names on the bank accounts will remain the same. Right now it’s Jim and Hal and

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First Class

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wanted to give Pat Malone authority if Hal not available to conduct financial business. After discussion, the BOD decided to keep the account manager's as they are. Jim stated that we would continue with the same CPA accounting firm. Pat Malone seconded the motion and it carried.

4. Karen McMillan asked about changing the Membership meeting to Wednesday instead of Thursday to allow time to get ballots and renewal letters mailed. Bob stated that a change would cause a conflict with scheduling. The Membership meeting will remain on the same day. Karen also made suggestion for the 30th Anniversary by having a contest of how many classmate of a PA class would be present at the conference. The class that had the most participants would be awarded a prize. This would encourage an increase in participation and possible increase in membership. Casey and Bob stated that it would be difficult to verify which class each member had attended and would not generate an increase in membership. Bob stated that half of the attendee to the conference has no affiliation with army PA classes and it would not be enough people to entertain that idea.

5. Bob asked about advertising in the newsletter mostly for job offers for a fee. BOD suggests no advertising

6. Steve recommends that BOD approve Jim and Bob to get debit card to ease purchasing for high dollar items. Jim stated debit cards were not needed but that maybe a

credit card in the future. BOD will table this item for future discussion. Steve self declared for the office of President

7. Bob request to be the chief alternate to attend the AAPA. He is requesting he get funding for \$750.00. Pat Malone and Paul Lowe will be fully funded to attend the conference in May as delegates. Paul made the motion for Bob to be the chief alternate and SAPA will pay no more than \$1000. Casey seconded the motion and it was carried.

8. Poster entrants will be judge on Thursday, April 24th from 1300- 1600. Awards are:

1st place - \$500.00

2nd place- \$300.00

3rd place- \$100.00

It was recommended that the amounts be lower for next year to \$300.00, \$200.00 and \$100.00.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business, Paul entertained a motion to recess the meeting until 0800 Friday morning, 25 April, 2008 when we will reconvene in the hotel restaurant. Steve so moved, Casey seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Karen McMillan , SAPA Secretary

Approved by:

Paul W. Lowe, SAPA President

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