



ANA soldiers train in medical evacuation, combat lifesaving

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KABUL, Afghanistan – Members of the Afghan National Army medical corps recently received hands-on training, learning to load combat casualties onto a medical evacuation helicopter for transport to a hospital.

Coalition forces provided practical training by having combat lifesavers and a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter available, making this training evolution as close to real life as possible.

Sergeant Abdul Jamil, a medical Non Commissioned Officer, participated in the training and thought it was very valuable.

“The medical evacuation exercise was great,” said Jamil. “This type of training is very important to us. As medics on the front lines, we will be dealing with casualties and knowing what to do will help save lives.”

Sergeant Abdulmaged Abdulrahim, another medical NCO, agreed the training was great due to the realism, but also because of the cooperation between forces.

“The training with International Security Assistance Force was invaluable. It allowed ANA medics the chance to work with our allies,” said Abdulrahim. Letting the ANA practice the way they fight will make the medics better prepared to react to battlefield conditions, and save lives, he added.

One of the training’s key points



Courtesy photos

Afghan National Army medical soldiers practice loading a patient on a Blackhawk helicopter during casualty evacuation training.

was problem solving.

Abdulrahim said, “The thing emphasized throughout the exercise was how to solve the problems posed. Not everything is textbook, sometimes we have to improvise and adapt, and the instructors made us react to changing scenarios.”

Other skills taught were basic aid skills, such as carrying a

stretcher, how to approach a helicopter and how to place the litter into the helicopter.

Jamil looks forward to the next time he is able to practice with other coalition forces and thinks this training should be the standard.

“I hope every ANA combat medic graduating school will have the opportunity to get this type of training. It

will make them better prepared to face the challenges of the job,” Jamil said.



A group of ANA medics practice loading and carrying an injured soldier during training.



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