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## V CORPS SUPPORT COMPANY PASSES ON SUCCESSFUL COMBAT LIFESAVER TRAINING PROGRAM

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**LOGISTIC SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, BALAD, Iraq** — The evacuation platoon of Charlie Company, 299th Forward Support Battalion will be ending its Combat Lifesaver Course next month.



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Soldiers taking part in Combat Lifesaver training conducted by Charlie Company of V Corps' 299th Forward Support Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, work on troops role-playing as victims with multiple wounds during training at Logistic Support Area Anaconda in Balad, Iraq.

After six months training Soldiers here in critical medical skills, the platoon, part of V Corps' 1st Infantry Division, will pass the torch to a combined effort of medical units here.

The Army designed the CLS program to provide one person in every squad with a greater level of medical expertise and equipment. Soldiers who graduate from the course are often the primary responders to medical emergencies in the absence of school-trained combat medics.

While doing the primary jobs they were trained for, Combat Lifesavers have additional training designed to help them to keep a casualty alive until a higher level of care can be obtained.

The course reiterates first aid tasks Soldiers learn in basic training and adds advanced medical techniques such as inserting an oropharyngeal airway and administering intravenous care. It also addresses preventative medicine issues that help Soldiers to properly care for themselves in various harsh environments.

Soldier medics ranking from private to specialist teach the bulk of the course to serve as subject-matter experts that can provide knowledgeable yet informal instruction to students.

The platoon's Soldiers even found ways to expand and improve the training.

Each course the platoon taught began with a "Heartsaver" cardio-pulmonary resuscitation class, teaching Soldiers how to maintain a victim's breathing and heartbeat in extreme circumstances.

On the final day of the course students face a realistic training "lane" they must successfully complete to graduate. Each student must evaluate and triage two casualties with multiple wounds. After treating both patients, they treat for shock by administering an IV to one of the patients.

Treating two seriously wounded patients, in temperatures of up to 120 degrees, wearing 30 pounds of body armor gives the new Combat Lifesavers a glimpse of what they may be called on to do on the roads of Iraq.

As the only unit here offering the course, the evacuation platoon trained and tested 13 classes since April, with an average of 16-18 students in each class. In addition

to Soldiers here, the classes have included Navy Seabees, Marines, and U.S. civilian contract employees.

The platoon has also recertified more than 80 existing Combat Lifesavers.

