

US Department of Defense / Veterans Affairs Extremity Trauma and Amputation Center of Excellence Global Health Engagement Program

The Extremity Trauma and Amputation Center of Excellence (EACE) has a U.S. Congress directed mission to be a center of excellence for the mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of traumatic extremity injuries and amputations. The EACE's Global Health Engagement (GHE) mission is to augment and assist international military partnerships. There is a worldwide focus on treatment and rehabilitation of individuals that have sustained extremity trauma. Extremity trauma accounts for 51-65% of all combat wounded and greater than 50% of all individuals wounded in landmine incidents. The global cost of extremity trauma has been estimated at approximately \$500 billion USD, with a majority of this expense in low and middle income countries (LMIC). As improved emergency response systems are put in place in LMIC, there will be increased need for improved treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration for survivors of extremity trauma and amputations. The EACE coordinates resources that can impact this population by providing capability assessment, review of equipment/supply requests, Subject Matter Expert clinical coaching, and assistance with Secretary of Defense Designee issues. One example of EACE GHE efforts that is especially relevant is the formulation and support of the Building Amputee Capability-Georgia (BAC-G) program. There was an identified need for improved care for combat wounded with amputations in the Republic of Georgia (RoG). A team of clinical experts were sent into RoG to complete a capabilities assessment. From that assessment, a phased approach to assist Georgia in enhancing their in-country capabilities to treat extremity trauma and amputee patients was developed with specific goals and metrics. The U. S. DoD has developed extraordinary programs to treat, rehabilitate and reintegrate these patients. The EACE Global Health Engagement program is a resource for Unified Commanders to conduct low risk, high reward engagements within their areas of responsibility.