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ABSTRACT

Introduction: A major challenge for forward operating bases (FOBs) is access to medical and dental care. Though members may be medically cleared before deployment, options to resolve health issues while stationed at an FOB may be extremely limited, or require lengthy travel times to a local base with medical capabilities. Innovative support systems may be developed to treat these needs with Low-footprint Agile Medical Packages (LAMPs). By aligning compact field equipment, pre-positioned supplies, and a rapid activation process, medical units can provide most routine dental, medical, mental health, and counseling services through aerial or ground transport methods to increase FOB readiness.

Situation and Mission: During 2021-2022, four LAMP missions traveled from an Air Force medical base in Turkey to an Army FOB via helicopter. Each LAMP mission lasted for several hours on the FOB, and returned to home base to resume standard services the following day. The goals of these LAMPs were fourfold: to provide medical, dental, and counseling services, to improve individual medical readiness rates, to promote total force integration, and to provide hands-on readiness training.

Results: The four LAMPs provided a total of 15 hours of care on-site at the FOB, with minimal mission impacts at the home base. These forward clinics generated approximately 43 patient encounters, for a value of \$2,140 in treatment and over \$86,000 in prevention of time lost to leave station for medical treatment. Training on six contingency skillsets was accomplished by this mission on essential field medical skills.

Discussion: Nearly every aspect of this venture developed the readiness skillset for the treatment team and the health of the patients. Medical, dental, dietary counseling, and mental health treatments were offered, and cross-service care provided an opportunity to increase interoperability between the Air Force and the Army. This collaborative relationship provides a durable and valuable partnership to benefit all members and forward mission capabilities.

Conclusions: The LAMP construct provides the ability for the military medical field to rapidly generate and deploy treatment teams, integrating readiness and medical preparedness to overcome the unique medical challenges of FOBs, and is a model program for a military medical service.