



# TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

## >>>> NEWS RELEASE <<<<

*For Immediate Release*

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## **Moulage training provides realism, support for all island hospitals**

***Moulage** (french: casting/moulding) is the art of creating and applying mock injuries for the purpose of training Emergency Response Teams and other medical and military personnel. Moulage may be as simple as applying pre-made rubber or latex "wounds" to a healthy "patient's" limbs, chest, head, etc., or as complex as using complicated makeup and theatre techniques to provide elements of realism (such as blood, vomitus, open fractures, etc.) to the training simulation. The practice dates to at least the Renaissance, when wax figures were utilized for this purpose.*

Open to all medical facilities in the state of Hawaii, Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) hosted a Moulage - The Art of Injury Simulation training course Jan. 8–11 in the TAMC Department of Health Education Training Conference Room.

Members attended from as far away as the Big Island.

“This class will be very useful to me in my work with Hawaii DMAT [Disaster Management Assistance Team], said Jennifer Rabalais, registered nurse, North Hawaii Community Hospital, Big Island. “The ability to realistically simulate injury will enhance our exercises.”

The four-day course focused on teaching students techniques to develop all types of injuries-from realistic-looking blisters to open wounds with protruding bone fractures.

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## **2-2-2 MOULAGE**

“The realism of the injuries that are created using Image Perspectives’ methods is invaluable in prompting realistic reactions for first responder training,” said Laura Haven, moulage instructor, Image Perspectives. “Many years of participation in Emergency Medical Service (EMS) and Disaster Response Training have shown us, unequivocally, that people learn and test better when realistic injury simulation is used—what is realistically experienced is better learned and retained,” Haven said.

“Excellent program,” said Registered Nurse Raylene Nolan, manager, Emergency Department Straub Clinic and Hospital. “It taught me to perfect my moulage techniques which will help in training my staff since we are a burn center. Also as an instructor for the Trauma Nursing Core Course good moulage is needed,”

Master Sgt. Chris Vance, senior clinic non-commissioned officer, Tripler Critical Care Services said the training is invaluable to add realism to training scenarios, and anytime you can enhance a training environment for the Soldiers who are deploying there is value added.

“It’s high time that we provide that type of realism for our medics,” Vance said. “They need to see realistic wounds in a simulated battle environment to hone their skills, and as leaders, we need to be able to evaluate our subordinates ability to identify and treat wounds caused by a myriad of items,” he emphasized.

This type of training gives Soldiers a chance to correct their mistakes and show them different ways to treat the wound.

“If the best that you can do is provide a strap on plastic wound that looks like it was taken off of an oversized doll, what kind of training effect do we expect to gain,” Vance queried. “Our medics are better than that -- they need and deserve to be challenged.

Realistic wounds equal realistic responses, said the Senior Clinic NCO.

“The wounds that we’ve learned to create look real, act real, and added into any role playing will give our medics the edge they need to be successful in theater,” Vance said.

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### **3-3-3 MOULAGE**

In addition to preparing Soldiers for real-world scenarios, the training provided an invaluable service to the community.

“This training is important for all the healthcare facilities for several reasons,” said Elliott Ross, coordinator, Homeland Security, Pacific Regional Medical Command. “First, it provides in-house personnel capable of preparing simulated casualties for internal exercises. Secondly, it provides the State of Hawaii with a pool of trained and experienced moulage specialist to use for local and state exercises involving patient play,” he added.

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