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the SOF Medic*

A Peer-Reviewed Journal that Brings Together the Global Interests of Special Operations' First Responders

Public Access Hemorrhage Control and the Stop the Bleeding Coalition

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Introduction

The military and civilian tactical medical communities have long realized the potential of early life saving interventions. Pioneered by the Committee on Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC)¹ and adapted by the civilian Committee for Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (C-TECC),² the importance of early hemorrhage control and the ability to address immediately correctible causes of death have been proven to save lives. Considered standard for military and most civilian tactical medical units, these concepts have begun to be implemented into mainstream civilian law enforcement and prehospital emergency medical services (EMS).

In the wake of some of the United States' worst recent active shooter and intentional mass casualty attacks, national attention has been given toward strategies to improve survival and enhance response. The recent Hartford Consensus III³ recognizes uncontrolled bleeding as the most significant preventable cause of death in the prehospital environment and calls for all responders to have the education and necessary equipment for hemorrhage control.

A Critical Gap Exists

For every minute that goes by following a critical incident, the probability of survival decreases for severely injured patients. Improving survival from active shooter and intentional mass casualty events necessitates a change in how society views and responds to emergencies. Prior events have demonstrated that some individuals present during or immediately after will try to help those injured. Members of the community need to be empowered as "immediate responders" and provided with the knowledge of how to perform lifesaving interventions until emergency responders arrive. The ability for immediate responders to provide near-instantaneous hemorrhage control is a vital link in the Chain of Survival for victims.

Public Access Equipment

Survival from active shooter/intentional mass casualty events requires that immediate responders have rapid

access to lifesaving hemorrhage control kits that contain effective-commercially available tourniquets and hemostatic dressings, gloves, and other equipment. This equipment must be strategically predeployed in high-occupancy and/or access-delayed locations, including public and commercial buildings, airports, schools, courthouses, shopping malls, etc. This is a departure from the conventional stockpiling model often used in civilian disaster preparedness. The placement of hemorrhage control resources should be in a manner similar to that of automatic external defibrillators (AEDs).

A Need to Educate and Advocate

Lawmakers and public administrators must be provided with an awareness of the need to educate immediate responders on how to stop bleeding, as well as the importance of placement of public access hemorrhage control resources. Once empowered with an understanding of this information, public officials can craft policy to promote education campaigns and allocate funding to facilitate placement of hemorrhage control resources. Additionally, opportunities exist to incorporate public access hemorrhage control training into the workplace, community events, civic groups, and models similar to existing hands-only CPR training programs.

The Stop the Bleeding Coalition

The Stop the Bleeding Coalition (SBC) was formed in 2014 and is composed of medical professionals, law enforcement officers, former military personnel, tactical first responders, educators, nonprofit organizations, public officials, and concerned citizens. The SBC strives to educate and raise awareness about the importance of having prepositioned hemorrhage control resources on-site and readily available in case of a mass casualty incident, active shooter, or any trauma event.

SBC's *purpose* is to:

- Raise awareness of the importance of hemorrhage control among the general public as well as across all levels of government;



Join the Stop the Bleeding Coalition

Bringing effective military hemorrhage control tools to civilians



MISSION: Public access hemorrhage control will save lives! The Stop the Bleeding Coalition aims to:

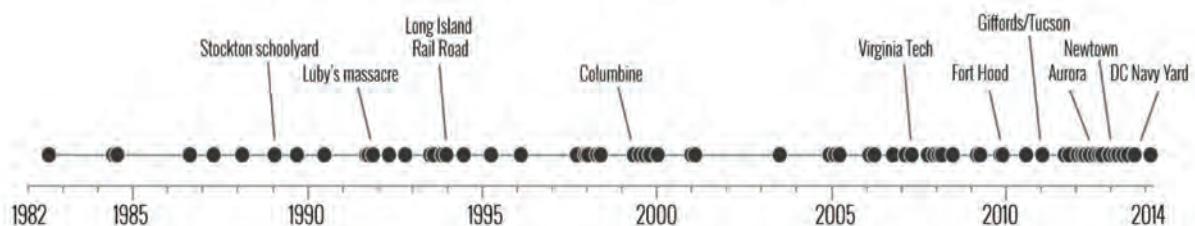
- Educate on how immediate hemorrhage control saves lives
- Raise awareness among government, law enforcement, educational facilities and public health sectors
- Promote legislation to help ensure law enforcement, schools, stadiums, malls and large-scale events have on-site Bleeding Control Kits and training to ensure the proper use of these tools in order to save lives

STATISTICS – THROUGHOUT THE USA:

- The number of mass casualties has tripled since 2008, according to the FBI.
- Some 35% of pre-hospital deaths and 40% of deaths in the first 24 hours after a traumatic event are due to hemorrhaging, according to the National Trauma Institute.
- These deaths can be prevented using hemorrhage control tools, which are easy to use and provide enhanced on-site first aid/first response to any situation involving excessive bleeding.
- All military service members sent onto the battlefield, all New York state law enforcement officers, all Supreme Court police, and numerous major metropolitan area EMS/law enforcement departments spanning from Los Angeles to Dallas to Boston are equipped with hemorrhage control tools.
- Since 2008, hemorrhage control kits for all service members have resulted in a 25% increased survivability rate for the military.

JOIN: Visit www.StoptheBleedingCoalition.org, follow us @STBCoalition, or direct questions to (202) 621-7077.

Time Between Mass Shootings, 1982-2014



Data analysis by Harvard School of Public Health

Mother Jones

MASS SHOOTINGS ON THE RISE: In the last two decades, the average number of days between mass shootings decreased by more than 50%. From 1995-2005 the average number of days between shootings was 220 and from 2006-2015 that number dropped to 99. With universal access to hemorrhage control tools in public venues, lives can be saved on-site while waiting for medics to arrive.

- Educate law enforcement, the public, and immediate responders on how hemorrhage control saves lives and improves outcomes; and
- Help ensure that hemorrhage control resources and related training are universally available to law enforcement, K-12 schools, higher education institutions, workplace settings, hospitals, malls, and other large venues.

SBC's *strategy* is to:

- Build a coalition of concerned citizens and experts in law enforcement, EMS, and public health;
- Offer regular forums for education, such as government briefings and public training;
- Promote legislation to help achieve universal training and accessibility to hemorrhage control resources across the country; and

- Engage SBC members to reach out to their elected officials to support such legislation and request this life-saving equipment be placed in our schools, hospitals, public buildings, and locations in which there are a large number of people in close proximity.

Conclusion

In the wake of any disaster, including active shooter and intentional mass casualty events, lifesaving equipment must be readily accessible for use by immediate responders. Through education and strategic placement of this equipment, public access hemorrhage control can and will save lives. The *Stop the Bleeding Coalition* exists to promote the education of hemorrhage control and to raise awareness about the importance of having hemorrhage control resources readily available and accessible.

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KEYWORDS: public access hemorrhage control; Stop the Bleeding Coalition

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