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## V CORPS' 18TH ENGINEER BRIGADE TRAINING TO HAVE EVERY SOLDIER CERTIFIED AS A COMBAT LIFESAVER

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**HEIDELBERG, Germany** -- The leadership of V Corps' 18th Engineer Brigade has a vision: To get every Soldier in the brigade certified as an Army Combat Lifesaver.

The Army's ideal setup is to have one or two CLS-qualified Soldiers in each squad, but the 18th has loftier goals.

"Each crew is supposed to have one, maybe two, people that are CLS certified," said Maj. John A. Knight, the 18th's executive officer. "But Headquarters Company is supposed to reach 100 percent CLS qualification."

It is the brigade commander's vision to eventually have every Soldier in the brigade CLS trained and certified, Knight added.

That process began with CLS training for the brigade units that are preparing to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom -- the HHC and the 535th Engineer Support Company.

"It will be a lot harder to get (the 535th) 100 percent complete CLS training, since they will be deploying a lot sooner than the HHC," said Knight.

To complete the brigade's training may prove to be quite difficult anyway. As a



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Staff Sgt. Dawn E. Camp, medical treatment team NCO-in-charge for V Corps' 18th Engineer Brigade, shows Combat Lifesaver students from the brigade's Headquarters and Headquarters Company how to insert an intravenous needle during CLS training in Heidelberg, Germany July 25.

result of U.S. Army Europe transformation, the 18th has changed considerably, as other engineer units, or parts of inactivated units across Germany, have been moved under the brigade's command, said Staff Sgt. Dawn E. Camp, the medical treatment team NCO-in-charge. The entire brigade has roughly 1,500 Soldiers now, all of whom they are looking to train in a complex 40-hour course. That's 60,000 training hours to CLS certify every Soldier in the brigade.

Camp's part of the mission, to train the HHC's Soldiers, is about 80 percent complete, she said.

Camp did a great job with the classes, said Knight, who recently completed the training.

"We have a 100 percent 'first-time go' rate," Camp said, meaning that every Soldier passed every task on his first attempt.

"The people have just been fabulous," Camp said.

But not everything goes fabulously, she added. There is actually something of a language barrier to the training.

"The medical language is the hardest part of the training. Latin medical terms are difficult to explain in everyday English, but we work through it," she said.



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Maj. John A. Knight, executive officer for V Corps' 18<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade, removes an intravenous needle from Capt. Kristen N. Dahle, commander of the brigade's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, during CLS training in Heidelberg, Germany Aug 1.

fractures; stabilizing a casualty with a head or spinal injury, and even correcting a

In addition, there is one fear students have of CLS training that makes it a little more difficult. Many Soldiers don't particularly enjoy getting stuck with needles, said Camp, but it is a necessary part of the training, to teach students how to insert an intravenous needle.

"A lot of Soldiers think that a CLS class means that they are guinea pigs to try out the needles," Camp said. "That is a part of the class, but it's to reinforce what they learned. CLS is about being able to save lives."

How does CLS prepare Soldiers to save lives? By expanding on the basics of first aid, said Camp. Some of the key points of CLS training include medical evacuation procedures; inserting IVs; applying field dressings; splinting

collapsed lung.

The engineers have also completed Medical Communications for Combat Care training, a program that allows every Soldier's medical status to be easily obtained and transmitted to medical units and facilities, said Camp.

But the brigade is not stopping with medical training as it prepares to head "downrange."

"We will be training the Soldiers on more individual tasks like warrior-leader skills," said Capt. Kristen N. Dahle, the HHC commander.

For example, the company's next training objective is to conduct Nuclear, Biological and Chemical readiness drills. "Range Week" is also coming up, a time when the Soldiers ensure that they are up to date on their skills with individual and crew-served weapons, said Dahle.

"We are still busy with preparations, but I think we will be ready when the time comes," said Camp.



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