

# Medical readiness training exercises provide a win-win situation

By Lorraine Murphy  
DHS Systems LLC

Humanitarian assistance exercises have long been a key component of the efforts of U.S. military forces stationed around the world – offering aid to impoverished areas and allowing troops to practice the execution of various types of operations.

One example of this can be seen in United States Southern Command's (SOUTHCOM) area of responsibility, where personnel have been conducting medical readiness training exercises, also known as MEDRETEs, for nearly 20 years.

Part of SOUTHCOM's efforts to promote security and stability across the Americas, MEDRETEs, which are regularly held across Central America and the Caribbean, have proven imperative to enhancing U.S. relations throughout the region while providing military medical personnel with the skills they'll need during a real-life mission.

## Preparation for a Real-World Situation

MEDRETEs are SOUTHCOM-sponsored exercises designed to

improve U.S. personnel's ability to treat patients in an austere en-

**Since the program's inception nearly 20 years ago, SOUTHCOM has conducted more than 225 MEDRETEs and treated more than 328,000 patients. Such numbers have helped the program meet its objective of aiding foreign nations while further training U.S. military officials.**

vironment while working with foreign military forces and agencies to provide free medical care to local civilians. First conducted by SOUTHCOM subordinate Joint Task Force-Bravo's Medical Element in Honduras in 1993, today's exercises include personnel stationed throughout the region, as well as participants, often from the National Guard and Reserve, from military installations across the United States. The program has also evolved to include exercises in Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Columbia, Costa Rica and Panama.

During MEDRETEs, military medical personnel are given the task of establishing a temporary clinic, complete with the equipment and supplies needed to treat patients. Once inside the clinic,

troops may be expected to perform a wide of range of treat-

ments, from general and preventive medicine to dental care to

optometry, alongside local officials. Surgical teams also participate in the exercises, assisting in such procedures as plastic surgery for cleft lip and palate and burns, hand reconstruction and orthopedic surgery.

## One Mission, Many Benefits

Since the program's inception nearly 20 years ago, SOUTHCOM has conducted more

(SEE LOOKING PAGE 52)

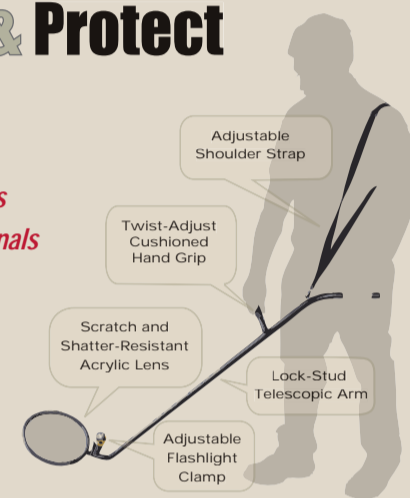
## Inspect, detect & Protect

- Mirrors for *Combat Vehicles*
- Mirrors for *Trucks and Buses*
- Mirrors for *Security & Inspections*
- Mirrors for *Warehouses and Arsenals*



email: [service@mirrorliteco.com](mailto:service@mirrorliteco.com)  
web site: [www.mirrorliteco.com](http://www.mirrorliteco.com)

800-843-4981



# DRASH

THE WARFIGHTER'S CHOICE

## THE U.S. ARMY'S STANDARD INTEGRATED COMMAND POST SYSTEM (SICPS)

### SICPS TMSS MEDIUM

More than 440 square feet of usable space  
Set up in minutes with minimal personnel  
Operational in extreme temperatures (-50°F to +131°F)  
HP2C/185 Trailer provides 18kW of power and mobility  
5 Ton Environmental Control Unit  
HMMWV-towable

### SICPS TMSS LARGE

More than 1,120 square feet of usable space  
Set up in minutes with minimal personnel  
Operational in extreme temperatures (-50°F to +131°F)  
HP-8 Trailer provides 33kW of power and mobility  
12 Ton Environmental Control Unit  
FMTV-towable


A DHS TECHNOLOGIES COMPANY

1-877-GO-DRASH    drash@drash.com    www.drash.com

LIN (Medium): P63462  
NSN (Medium Tan): 8340-01-533-5344  
NSN (Medium Green): 8340-01-533-5396

LIN (Large): P63394  
NSN (Large Tan): 8340-01-537-8710  
NSN (Large Green): 8340-01-537-8713

Noble Firearms Inc.



**Military Gun Supply**

2901 S Cravens  
Fort Worth, TX 76119  
817-457-6000

Recreations of WWII arms built in Semi-auto and fully transferable



All semi-autos are built using original parts modified to BATF specs. Ready to transfer to your dealer and take to the range.



Commercial pistols from Colt, Glock, Springfield just to name a few

AR's available from Colt, Bushmaster, Rock River, Olympic Arms and many more

**www.MilitaryGunSupply.com**

We are the leading Wholesaler and Retailer of military, Curio/Relic firearms and ammunition in North Texas. From the Old Guard to the Cold War. Firearms, Militaria and surplus. We also stock a wide range of modern arms and Tactical accessories. Special orders are our specialty. Local military visit our retail outlet for same as web pricing. Shop our wholesale website or call for any of your needs.

**www.MilitaryGunSupply.com**

**Looking to the future**

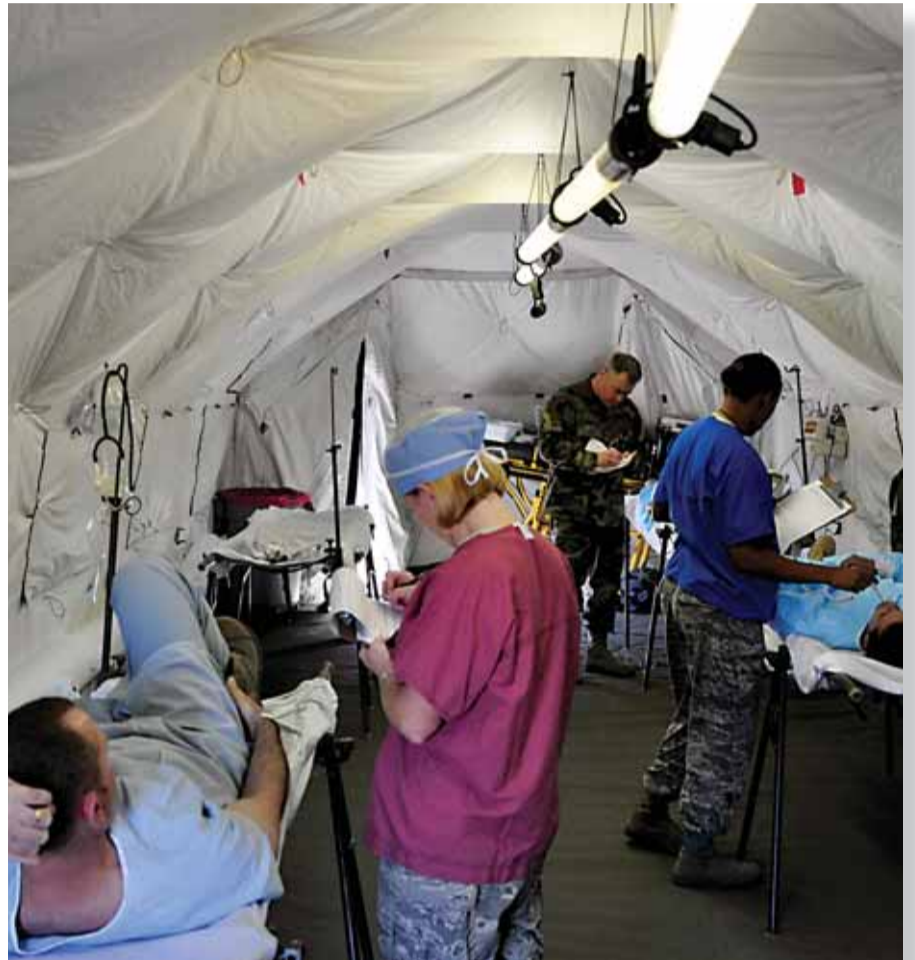
*(Continued from page 51)*

than 225 MEDRETEs and treated more than 328,000 patients. Such numbers have helped the program meet its objective of aiding foreign nations while further training U.S. military officials.

MEDRETEs bring highly-skilled doctors, dentists, nurses and other medical personnel to some of the most isolated areas of Central America and the Caribbean, providing care to thousands of people living in countries that at times lack the money to afford sufficient staff, equipment, medicine and supplies in their medical facilities.

U.S. personnel, in turn, are given the chance to work in conditions similar to those they would experience during a disaster relief mission, or while deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan.

By working alongside foreign officials, such as the Ministry of Health and other government and civilian agencies, U.S. military medi-




**DMS GEAR was founded to provide superior quality products and low prices to support our troops and true American heroes who maintain our rights to live in freedom.**

**We are focused on providing high-quality service and customer satisfaction - we will do everything we can to meet your expectations.**

**With a variety of offerings for the Military or anyone just seeking camouflage items. We are sure you'll be happy working with us.**

**We encourage you to visit other suppliers of the similar items that we offer and compare our prices to theirs; we are sure that you will find our products are superior quality and our prices to be the lowest around.**

DMS GEAR [www.dmsgear.com](http://www.dmsgear.com)

MILITARY, CAMOUFLAGE,  
LAW ENFORCEMENT &  
EMS CLOTHING & GEAR

David Story  
Phone: 770-722-7954  
Fax: 770-726-7182  
[david@dmsgear.com](mailto:david@dmsgear.com)

**RYNOSKIN® The Body Armor**



**Specifically designed to be worn underneath clothing. Scientifically Tested and Proven 100% Guaranteed:**

- Chemical Free
- Breathable
- Cool & Comfortable
- Extensively Field Tested



**Rynoskin Body Armor will protect the wearer from:**

- Sand Flies/Sand Fleas (Baghdad Boil-Sand Fever)
- Ticks (Protection from Lyme Disease)
- Fleas
- Ants & Gnats
- Chiggers
- Black Flies
- Other biting insects



**Field tested by:**

- Military Units
- Border Patrol
- National Park Services
- FBI/DEA Units
- Law Enforcement



HAR-SON, INC.  
866-934-7546 • 405-737-2494  
fax: 405-737-2478  
[www.rynoskin.com](http://www.rynoskin.com)  
[rynoskin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rynoskin@sbcglobal.net)

cal personnel learn to take part in joint operations regardless of any language barriers. Soldiers are often provided with less technically-advanced equipment from those used in the United States as well, forcing them to use techniques no longer commonly used to treat patients in the U.S.

### Forward-Deployed Facilities

While performing among such disparities in culture and technology provides personnel with significant lessons to bring to future missions, perhaps the greatest experience gained, however, comes from creating an aseptic environment in which they can treat patients regardless of the surrounding area. Though health officials often allow medical staff to use space in permanent, pre-existing facilities, such as local schools and hospitals, some exercises call for personnel to set up a mobile facility that could be transported to even the most remote areas of Central America and the Caribbean in the event of a disaster.

One mobile facility regularly deployed as part of MEDRETEs is the Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter, more commonly known as DRASH. The soft-walled shelter system, which is one of the standard systems in use by U.S. Military Aid Stations, FSTs and C-Meds around the world, can be set up by minimal personnel within minutes without

the need for any special tools, and be equipped with generators, environmental control units, lighting and other support equipment to create a fully operational medical facility.

Most recently, in December, JTF-Bravo's Mobile Surgical Team set up a DRASH medical facility to perform minor "surgeries" during a training exercise at Soto Cano Air Base. The shelters were outfitted

with all of the tools needed to treat patients, including medical equipment and cots, as well as a 40-kilo-watt generator.

### Looking to the Future

As the United States military continues its global presence, humanitarian assistance programs and exercises will continue to be crucial to enhancing U.S. relations around the world.

In Central America, SOUTHCOM has proven that real-life response and recovery missions, such as the current relief efforts taking place in Haiti following January's devastating earthquake in Port-au-Prince, as well as joint exercises like MEDRETEs, can aid impoverished parts of the world while also preparing personnel for future missions at home and on the battlefield.

## CATALOG #32

**The only source that you'll ever need for current, obsolete and military gun parts, gunsmith supplies, military surplus and shooting accessories.**

ITEM#TP-32  
**ONLY \$22.95!**  
(for the set)



Order @ [www.GunPartsCorp.com](http://www.GunPartsCorp.com) to receive a \$5.00 rebate on your 1st web order!

U.S. Orders: Shipped bulk mail. Shipping charges included. Foreign Orders: Shipped air mail (30 day delivery) or surface (90 day delivery). Shipping charges additional.

Our new, two-volume Catalog #32 features our 1,180 page Reference Guide and our 352 page Accessory Catalog.

**Order your catalog NOW!**

Our latest edition features more than 180,000 individual items, over 650 schematic drawings and parts lists, and a store brand name to original manufacturer cross-reference.

We carry products for hundreds of manufacturers including:

- Heckler & Koch • Colt • High Standard
- Ruger • Marlin • Mauser • Mossberg
- Remington • Savage • SigArms • Glock
- Uberti • AMT • Benelli



Mail: PO Box 299 West Hurley Ny 12491 — or — 226 Williams Lane, Kingston Ny 12401  
Order Toll-Free: 866-686-7424 • Toll-Free Fax: 877-GUNPART • Web: [GunPartsCorp.com](http://GunPartsCorp.com)

## The American Hero Flag Case™ A Hero and the American Flag Belong Together.

US Military/Police/Fire/Public Servant

### Preserves memories and history

- Your hero's **expertly restored portrait** is reproduced on the flag case in all the detail available
- Life dates/dates of service are laser engraved and metallic gold filled
- Preserves and presents a full view display of your memorial flag and visually links your hero and flag

### Unmatched craftsmanship and materials

- Handmade in USA from **water-clear acrylic** to museum quality standards
- New printing technology allows for the affordable personalization of the case. You also receive a **bonus** high quality, 5x7 digital print on archival paper of the restored portrait that is suitable for framing.

### Worry free ordering and a complete satisfaction guarantee

- Return within 30 days for full refund if not satisfied
- No charge to you until restored portrait and/or text proof is approved and case is shipped
- Safe and easy online ordering available
- Free, insured shipping
- Simple **photo submission instructions** provided

### Each Heirloom\* style case includes

- Restored portrait from your personal photograph
- Beautifully engraved and filled lettering
- Cleaning kit
- Directions for folding the American flag

\*Other styles available

The American Hero Flag Case makes a moving presentation of your loved one's memorial flag. Constructed of water-clear acrylic, this handcrafted, uniquely decorated, 100% American made flag case will become a treasured family heirloom.

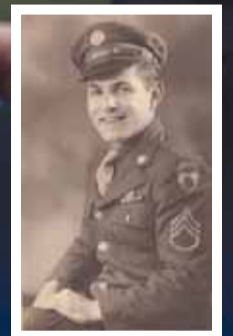
Send a copy-print or suitable scan of the portrait you wish to have added and we will expertly restore and reproduce it on the front of the case. Your hero's name and life or service dates will be elegantly laser engraved and metallic gold filled.

**\$299.00**

See Web site for other styles and prices

**Risk free evaluation for 30 days.**

**Return for full refund if not satisfied.**



Send a photograph of your hero and we'll make an Heirloom case for you.

Heirloom style case shown

9.5' x 5' US flag not included. Purchase a flag from us, if needed.

[www.AmericanHeroFlagCase.com](http://www.AmericanHeroFlagCase.com)

1.888-681.6149

Watch a moving instructional video of a flag folding ceremony *Honor and Respect: Fold the American Flag*

American Hero Flag Case  
c/o Kuebler and Company, LLC  
828 Warehouse Road Unit 12  
Toledo, Ohio 43615

Toll-free: 1.888-681.6149  
Fax: 419.382.8890  
Email: [sales@americanheroflagcase.com](mailto:sales@americanheroflagcase.com)

