

BRIGADE AND DIVISION SURGEONS' HANDBOOK
TACTICS, TECHNIQUES, AND PROCEDURES

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PREFACE

This manual provides information pertaining to the command and staff responsibilities of the brigade and division surgeons assigned to armored, airborne, air assault, infantry, and light infantry divisions that are organized under the L-edition table(s) of organization and equipment (TOE). It provides guidance to the brigade and division surgeons on their duties and responsibilities pertaining to command, staff supervision, and technical control over division and brigade medical elements. It supports the Army Medical Department's (AMEDD) keystone manual, Field Manual (FM) 8-10, Health Service Support in a Theater of Operations, and is based on doctrine found in FMs 8-10-3, 8-10-8, 8-35, 8-55, 100-5, and 100-10.

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Unless this publication states otherwise, masculine nouns and pronouns do not refer exclusively to men.

CHAPTER 1

THE HEALTH SERVICE SUPPORT SYSTEM**1-1. Health Service Support**

The health service support (HSS) system represents a continuum of successive echelons (levels) of care beginning at the forward line of own troops (FLOT) and ending at the continental United States (CONUS) base. The effectiveness of the system is measured by its ability to return to duty (RTD) those soldiers who are wounded, sick, or injured. The system is functionally aligned to prevent/minimize noneffectiveness and to collect, assess, evacuate, and rehabilitate the sick and injured; it also provides for the general health maintenance of the soldier.

1-2. Basic Doctrine of Health Service Support

a. The objective of the HSS system is to—

- Reduce the incidence of disease and nonbattle injury (DNBI) and battle fatigue (BF) through sound preventive medicine and combat stress control (CSC) programs.
- Provide care and treatment of acute illness, injury, or wounds.
- Return to duty as many soldiers as possible at each echelon.

b. The major tenets of this doctrine are—

- Emphasis on prevention.
- Far forward medical treatment including advanced trauma management (ATM).
- Patient evacuation that is timely and efficient within the evacuation policy time frame.
- Selectivity of RTD and nonreturn to duty (NRTD) patients at lowest possible level.
- Standardized Echelons (Levels) I and II HSS units under the modular medical support system.

- Standardized air and ground evacuation units integrated under a single manager (the medical battalion [evacuation]).

- Flexible and responsive Echelons (Levels) III and IV systems provided by four modularly designed hospitals and patient holding units (see FM 8-10).

- Enhanced ancillary and functional support systems with advanced technologies.

- A medical system that provides continuous medical management throughout all echelons (levels) of care and evacuation.

1-3. Principles of Health Service Support Operations

a. *Conformity.* Conformity with the tactical plan is the most fundamental element for effectively providing HSS. Only by participating in the development of the commander's plan of operation can the medical planner ensure adequate HSS at the right time and place. Foremost in all planning is the forward orientation and full use of the HSS system. Additionally, a plan for the rapid reinforcement or replacement of the forward echelon (level) of the medical structure is essential. For additional information, refer to FM 8-55.

b. *Continuity.* The medical system is a continuum from the FLOT through the CONUS. It serves as a primary source of trained replacements during the early stages of a major conflict. The medical structure is organized into a modular system and procedures are standardized for increased flexibility, rapid reinforcement by like or identical modules, and simplification in tailoring a force for varying situations. The patient evacuation system (integrated ground/air) is an integral part of the HSS system and organized to optimize resource utilization. It is staffed to provide continued care and maintain the physiology of the patient while being transported between medical treatment facilities (MTFs).