



**Defense Health Agency, J-7, Continuing Education Program Office
Clinical Communities Speaker Series**

**Operational Medicine: Preparing the Force for Mission Readiness
19 February 2026
0745 – 1545 (ET)**

Purpose

The Defense Health Agency (DHA), J-7, Continuing Education Program Office (CEPO) Clinical Communities Speaker Series (CCSS) events are designed to address the professional practice gaps of our learners to improve the care that our health care professionals deliver. This continuing education (CE)/continuing medical education (CME) event is conducted to achieve results that reflect a change in skills, competence, and performance of the health care team, and patient outcomes. Collaboration occurs with the Department of Defense, several government agencies, and other civilian experts for recruitment of academic subject matter experts (SMEs), clinicians, and researchers to present on current promising, evidence-based research and best practices, thus enhancing the overall educational experience. Participants are expected to apply what they learned in providing patient care individually and collaboratively as a team towards improved patient outcomes.

Target Audience

This activity is designed to meet the educational needs of Physicians, Nurses, Pharmacists, Pharmacy Technicians, Physician Associates/Physician Assistants, Optometrists, Social Workers, Psychologists, Dentists, Dental Hygienists, Dental Technicians, Registered Dietitians, Dietetic Technicians, Athletic Trainers, Case Managers, Certified Counselors, Occupational Therapists, Occupational Therapist Assistants, Physical Therapists, Physical Therapy Assistants, Kinesiotherapists, Healthcare Executives, and other health care professionals who support/care for U.S. active-duty service members, reservists, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, National Guardsmen, military veterans, and their families.

Program Overview

This event will explore the evidence-based practices in operational medicine through educational content created by military and civilian Subject Matter Experts specializing in bioethics, research, health care, and academia. Each session is designed to refine the quality of care, achieve the best outcomes, and improve population health. The primary focus of this event aims to enhance the quality of patient outcomes and population health by providing advanced continuing education opportunities to improve the practice, skills, and knowledge of health care providers across the Military Health System.

Program Agenda

Time (ET)	Titles/Speakers	Learning Objectives
0745 – 0750	<p><i>Welcome Remarks</i> Army Maj. Christine Kasprisin, DSc, DPT, PT Associate Program Director, Army-Baylor University Doctoral Fellowship in Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy (OMPT) San Antonio Military Health System Brooke Army Medical Center San Antonio, Texas</p>	-

Time (ET)	Titles/Speakers	Learning Objectives
0750 – 0800	<p>Moderator Edward Chin, MD, MPH Acting Branch Chief, Occupational Medicine Branch Defense Centers for Public Health Chair, Military Specific Clinical Care Community Falls Church, Va.</p>	-
0800 – 0900	<p>S01: Large Scale Combat Operations, Public Health, Musculoskeletal Injuries and YOU, the Clinician</p> <p>Army Lt. Col. Shay Lopez, DPT, OCS Chief, Injury Mitigation/Prevention Branch Defense Centers for Public Health Abderdeen, Md.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Differentiate between operational medicine and military medicine. 2. Explain public health and the role of public health within injury prevention and/or mitigation in the U.S. military. 3. Define LSCO (Large Scale Combat Operations), BI (Battle Injury), and DNBI (Disease Non-battle Injury). 4. Describe Musculoskeletal Injury (MSKI) in the U.S. military. 5. Analyze the provider’s clinical context and the context of military patients in relation to military operational medicine. 6. Develop injury prevention and mitigation strategies for common military-related health issues.
0900 – 0910	Break	
0910 – 1010	<p>S02: Medical Response to Radiation: Navigating Emergencies, Enhancing Survival</p> <p>Air Force Lt. Col. Justin G. Peacock, MD, Ph.D. Associate Dean for Research School of Medicine Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Bethesda, Md.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the key signs and symptoms of acute radiation syndrome aiding in prompt patient triage and initial management. 2. Describe the protocols for medical response to radiation exposure, including immediate and supportive care measures. 3. Evaluate the effectiveness of current radiation prophylaxis and post-exposure treatments in mitigating the health impacts of radiation.
1010 – 1020	Break	
1020 – 1120	<p>S03: Increasing the Reach and Accessibility of Suicide Prevention Treatment</p> <p>Justin C. Baker, Ph.D., ABPP Director, Suicide and Trauma Reduction Initiative (STRIVE) Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Health The Ohio State University Columbus, Ohio</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe evidence-based psychotherapies that effectively reduce suicidal thoughts and behaviors, with particular emphasis on suicide-focused cognitive behavioral approaches. 2. Evaluate innovative delivery models (e.g., telehealth, group-based treatment) designed to increase the reach and accessibility of suicide prevention interventions while maintaining clinical effectiveness. 3. Apply scalable training and implementation strategies, including web-based clinician training frameworks, to support dissemination and fidelity of suicide prevention treatments across diverse practice settings.
1120 – 1130	Break	

1130 – 1230	<p><i>S04: A Mission-Ready Force: The Strategic Imperative of Measuring Readiness in the Military Health System</i></p> <p>Air Force Col. Justin Fox, MD, MHS, FACS, CPE Chief Medical Officer, Joint Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (JKSA) Program Management Office Defense Health Agency Falls Church, Va.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain the “peacetime effect” and describe how it compromises medical readiness. 2. Describe the Joint Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (JKSA) Clinical Readiness Program framework and summarize the purpose of each line of effort (knowledge, skills, clinical activity). 3. Identify current measures of clinical readiness within the Military Health System (MHS) (including JKSA measures). 4. Describe the key elements of a military-civilian partnership quality improvement program. 5. Compare and contrast data capture options across key care settings and structured self-report, including tradeoffs in completeness, burden, and credibility.
1230 – 1330	Break	
1330 – 1430	<p><i>S05: Beyond the Battlefield: Ethical Frontiers in Operational Medicine</i></p> <p>Army Maj. Hunter Jackson Smith, MD, MPH, MBE, FACPM Focus Area Lead, Antimicrobial Resistant Infections Global Emerging Infections Surveillance Branch Armed Forces Health Surveillance Division Silver Spring, Md.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify core ethical tensions unique to operational military medicine. 2. Analyze the ethical responsibilities of clinicians in operational clinical scenarios and distinguish medical judgements from command decisions. 3. Apply ethical frameworks to real-world operational dilemmas such as triage and force health protection measures. 4. Evaluate ethically complex operational decisions for their potential downstream effects on patient trust, force readiness, professional integrity, and moral injury among medical personnel. 5. Formulate ethically defensible courses of action and communication strategies that preserve medical professionalism while operating effectively within the military command structure.
1430 – 1440	Break	
1440 - 1445	<p><i>Administrative Remarks</i></p> <p>Alna Gopez, MSN, BSN, RNC-OB Training Specialist J-7 Education and Training Defense Health Agency Falls Church, Va.</p>	
1445 – 1545	<p><i>S06: Soft Tissue Hip Injuries: Methods of Repair and Recovery</i></p> <p>Kyle Kunze, MD Orthopedic Surgeon Midwest Orthopedics at Rush University Medical Center Chicago, Ill.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the common clinical presentations and risk factors for four common soft tissue hip injuries. 2. Describe the current evidence-based diagnostic approaches for evaluating soft tissue hip injuries. 3. Explain the pathophysiology of femoroacetabular impingement (FAI) and

	<p>Sloane Lipkin, BA Research Assistant Rush University Medical Center Chicago, Ill.</p>	<p>labral tears and how these contribute to hip pain and dysfunction.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Discuss non-surgical and surgical management strategies for gluteal tears, labral tears, FAI, and hamstring injuries, including expected outcomes, and rehabilitation considerations. 5. Apply key clinical decision-making principles to develop initial management plans for patients presenting with soft tissue hip injuries.
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This agenda is subject to change.

Continuing Education

This CE/CME activity is provided through the DHA J-7 CEPO and is approved for a total of 6.0 CE/CMEs.

Commercial Support:

No commercial support was provided for this activity.

Participation Costs:

There is no cost to participate in this activity.

CE/CME Inquiries:

For all CE/CME related inquiries, please contact us at: dha.ncr.j7.mbx.cepo-cms-support@health.mil