

# International team instructs Soldiers in combat lifesaver training

by **KRISTIN BRADLEY**  
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Soldiers from the Joint Multinational Readiness Center Vipers Team and Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, United States Army Garrison Hohenfels attended an accelerated Combat Lifesaver Training course March 10-12 with instructors from the International Wing of the International Special Training Center.

The ISTC is operated and funded by nine member nations: Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Turkey, and the United States.

It is used as a centralized training installation mainly for special operations forces, long range recon patrol, or similar units.

The four ISTC instructors, soldiers from Italy, Norway, Germany, and the United States, most often conduct training at the site in Generaloberst-von-Fritsch-Kaserne in Pfullendorf, Germany, but made the four-hour drive to Hohenfels for the three-day CLS course.

Normally a four- to five-day class,

condensing it into three meant the students had to do some self-study ahead of time.

“It was very intense training and they all did very well. They were very interested,” said instructor Lt. Col. Enrico Messina, a soldier with the Italian Armed Forces.

Combat Lifesaver Training is designed to provide non-medical Soldiers with the skills needed to provide emergency care in emergency situations.

Within the last year, the Army has added combat lifesaver training for most Soldiers deploying, as well as made it a requirement for Soldiers to be CLS certified before graduating from Basic Combat Training.

“You guys are being taught very basic medicine,” said instructor U.S. Army Master Sgt. Randall Smith during training wrap up, “but it is the medicine that is keeping guys alive.”

Capt. Samuel Fishburne said during the class students had to practice procedures not on mannequins, but on each other.

He pulled up his sleeve and showed multiple bruises running up and down his arm, which he said most

of the students had as a result of administering IVs on one another.

They practiced a nasal pharyngeal, which involves inserting a tube through the nose into the throat.

They learned how to apply a tourniquet to stop a pulse, which Fishburne says was “pretty painful”.

They even learned how to re-inflate a collapsed lung by inserting a large needle into the chest cavity, though that task they did on dummies.

At the end of the course, Smith reminded the newly certified combat lifesavers that though they now had the tools to assist in an emergency, there are more things they can’t do than they can do.

Combat lifesavers are certified to do a few very specific, basic tasks; if they try any procedures they are not authorized to do, no matter how dire the situation, they could be brought up on charges.

Smith impressed upon the Soldiers that the minute they touch the wounded Soldier they become their patient and they are now responsible for what happens to them until advanced medical help can arrive and take over.



*Courtesy photo*

**Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Adams practices administering an IV on Capt. Samuel Fishburne. During the accelerated three-day course students also practiced on each other how to apply a tourniquet and insert a tube through the nose and into the throat.**