United States Uniformed Services Oath of Office

I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign or domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.
Objectives

To honor those in uniform that tend the war-wounded

To name the uniform services:

USAF, USA, USCG, USMC, USN, USPHS and NOAA

To contrast civilian and military medical ethical premises
Military Medical Ethics
Short Course

Walter Reed Army Medical Center
27-30 October 2009

Elspeth Cameron Richie, M.D., Ph.D

Decision Making Capacity

Confidentiality, Privilege & Truth Telling

Battlefield and Detainee Ethics

Ethical Issues & Humanitarian Missions
Roger A Miller, D.Min, M.Div, MABMH

History of Bioethics

Principles of Bioethics

Ethical Guidelines for End-of-Life
Robert M. Veatch, M.A., M.S., Ph.D.

Medical Ethics Overview
Organ Transplants
Human Experimentation
Futile Care
Allocation of Scarce Resources
Virtue Ethics
Carlos Gomez, Ph.D., M.D.

Palliative Care and Advanced Dementia
Catherine With, J.D., L.L.M.

Legal Guidelines for End-of-Life

Advanced Medical Directives

Complimentary and Alternative Medicine
Peter Weina, Ph.D., M.D.

Physician Assisted Suicide
Kim S. Meyer, MSN, ACNP-BC, CNRN

Ethical Considerations in TBI
Ethical Concerns in Nursing
Medical Ethics

Beneficence

Nonmaleficence

Autonomy

Justice
Health Care Ethics

- Human Dignity
- Common Good
- Subsidiarity
- Solidarity
- Justice
Ethics Consultations

Four “D” Matrix

Data

Deliberation

Decision

Direction
Ethics Consultations

Clarify the consultation request
Assemble the relevant information
Synthesize the information
Explain the synthesis
Support the consultation process
Integrated Ethics

Identify an issue
Study the issue
Select a strategy
Undertake a plan
Evaluate and adjust
Sustain and spread
Battlefield and Detainee Ethics
Battlefield Triage Categories

**Minimal**

Commanders want the least injured returned to duty first
The “good” = return to duty with minimal care
Delayed treatment for more urgent categories

**Immediate**

Amputations, airway management, lacerations, shock
The “good” = stabilize to save
First priority for treatment
Battlefield Triage Categories

**Delayed**

Out of danger after immediate treatment
The “good” = priority lest they get worse
Second priority for treatment

**Expectant**

Complicated case, prolonged condition, little hope
The “good” = comfort only
Last priority for treatment
Should this category exist today
Law of War

Complex Subject
Proportionality
Rules of Engagement
Torture not allowed
Geneva Convention 1949

- Wounded persons
- Protected persons
- Return of medical and religious persons
- Identification of medical and religious personnel
- Treatment of Prisoners of War
More than the Geneva Convention
Now Needed

Haitian refugees
  Self mutilating behavior

Somali Patients in US hospitals
  Stealing from the staff

The Israeli experience
  Caring for suicide bombers (who failed)
  Pregnant women concealing bombs at checkpoints

Targeting of ambulances in Iraq

Ambulances as bombs
Euthanasia on the Battlefield

Active vs. passive

Tactical vs. medical

Reasons:
- keep from exposing positions
- avoid torture / painful death
- keep information from falling into enemy hands
- unit can save itself
- retain medical personnel
Ethics of Combat Psychiatry

“To retain the fighting strength”

Proximity, Immediacy, Expectancy, Simplicity (PIES)

Stated goal is return to duty (not to minimize the long term consequences)

Psychiatrist as “double agent”

Challenge of distinguishing harm and benefit
Other Battlefield Ethical Issues

Using “experimental drugs” in battlefield setting
  IND drugs, PB, anthrax

Medics in the field - does the Red Cross make them a target?

Research “go pills”
Detainees

Status: Not POWs

Medical Care

Interrogations

Feeding tubes

Release Home
Ethical Issues in Humanitarian Missions

Official reasons for the mission

Do we win the minds and hearts of the people?

Medical Rules of Engagement (MROE)

who and how to treat

may change with tactical situation
Ethical Issues in Humanitarian Missions

Public Health Issues
Parochial Capacity Building
Sustainability of protocols, relationships, technology support
Advance exploration of unintended consequences
Ethical Issues in Humanitarian Missions

Cascade of Care Recipients

- US Soldiers
- Allies
- Wounded enemy
- Civilians
  - Employed by US
  - Acute vs. chronic care
  - age
Ethical Issues in Humanitarian Missions

Geneva Convention
- Armed conflict between sovereignties
- Not applicable to ethnic conflicts
- Red Cross is targeted

Medical clinic target for theft
Ethical Issues in Humanitarian Missions

Winners know that preparation is the key.

- Vigilant Security/Egress Plan
- PTSD from Rwanda
- Preparation for atrocities
- Is PIES appropriate?
- Stress inoculation
- Provider resilience training
On behalf of the President of the United States, the Department of the Air Force, and a grateful nation, we offer this flag for the faithful and dedicated service of......

God bless you and this family, and God bless the United States of America.