



## The Committee for Tactical Emergency Casualty Care

*C-TECC*

### TECC OVERVIEW

- **What is Tactical Emergency Casualty Care?**

Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) is a set of best practice treatment guidelines for trauma care in the high-threat prehospital environment. These guidelines are built upon critical medical lessons learned by US and allied military forces over the past 15 years of conflict. They are appropriately modified to address the specific needs of civilian populations and civilian EMS practice. The guidelines are freely available to all interested stakeholders.

- **How did TECC come to be mentioned in the HSGP National Priorities, and how is it related to MCI preparedness?**

Recent events such as the mass shootings in Aurora (CO), Newtown (CT) and the bombing at the Boston Marathon have solidified the recognition that a national capability gap exists in terms of prehospital trauma care. The life safety of our citizens is recognized as government's highest duty, and FEMA has named MCI preparedness as a national priority in order to address this gap. Improved prehospital trauma care is integral to the successful management of mass casualty events.

- **How did the TECC guidelines come about?**

The Committee for Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (C-TECC) was formed in 2010 to formally translate military trauma lessons learned into the civilian high-threat prehospital community. The C-TECC is modeled after the highly successful Committee on Tactical Combat Casualty Care (CoTCCC) - frequently credited as one of the major initiatives that has resulted in the lowest combat mortality rates in recorded history.

C-TECC brings together SME's from EMS, fire, law enforcement and DHS/FEMA, as well as physicians from emergency departments, trauma centers and the military to develop evidence-based principles of high-threat prehospital medicine.

- **What does TECC address that other guidelines do not?**

The TECC guidelines take into account the requirements of a civilian population. This includes pediatric, geriatric, and special needs patients, as well as considerations for underlying medical conditions common in a civilian population, the characteristics and limitations of civilian EMS, and the varied types of threats that responders face.

Military treatment guidelines were developed for a very specific purpose and population - fit and healthy 18-40 year olds in a combat environment. They have been extremely successful, but these guidelines cannot be directly carried over into the civilian population without taking these differences into account.

- **Is this a training curriculum or an equipment product line that is being marketed?**

No – the TECC initiative was undertaken in order to advance the practice of trauma care in the prehospital civilian environment. To accomplish this, the guidelines are freely available to all. Training and equipment vendors are encouraged to incorporate the principles of TECC into their curricula and products.

C-TECC is a not-for-profit (*501c3 pending*) organization composed of subject matter experts who volunteer their time in order to benefit the public. C-TECC doesn't offer training courses or product lines, nor does it endorse specific vendors or products.

- **Does FEMA or any other federal agencies support or endorse TECC?**

Several federal agencies (including FEMA, DHS–Office of Health Affairs and multiple federal law enforcement agencies) have a role in the work of C-TECC, and representation on the Committee. TECC is prominently featured in the Joint Counter Terrorism Workshop Series (JCTAWS) initiative, which helps prepare urban areas for major mass casualty events.

- **What agencies or organizations are supporting the TECC initiative or employing TECC guidelines?**

Response agencies currently incorporating TECC range from fire, EMS and police departments in Arlington County (VA), Charlotte-Mecklenburg (NC) and Los Angeles (CA), to various federal law enforcement agencies.

The TECC initiative is working to develop partnerships or engagement with a number of professional organizations, including the American College of Emergency Physicians – Tactical Medicine Section, the Special Operations Medical Association, the National TEMS Initiative and Council, the InterAgency Board, and the National Tactical Officers Association.

Training organizations that have incorporated TECC principles include the National Center for Security and Preparedness (NY), and the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERT) Center (TX).

- **How can my jurisdiction or agency get more information or an orientation to the TECC initiative?**

Further information is available at our website: [www.c-tecc.org](http://www.c-tecc.org)

The Committee is working on development of an orientation program that explains the foundations of the TECC principles, describes the medical evidence behind the guidelines and offers tips for implementation and training. Contact us for more information.

---

**The Committee for Tactical Emergency Casualty Care**

19309 Winmeade Drive, Suite 420  
Leesburg, VA 20176  
[www.c-tecc.org](http://www.c-tecc.org)

**Co – Chairs**

**E. Reed Smith, MD, FACEP**  
[rsmith@arlingtonva.us](mailto:rsmith@arlingtonva.us)

**David W. Callaway, MD, MPA, FAAEM**  
[dcallawa@gmail.com](mailto:dcallawa@gmail.com)

*A not-for-profit organization (501c3) dedicated to improving prehospital trauma care in high risk environments*