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The role of Occupational Therapy Within Military Settings

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Disclaimer

Information and opinions expressed in this presentations are not intended/should not be taken as representing the policies and views of the Department of Defense, its component services, or the US Government.
Learner Outcomes

- Identify the history of occupational therapy in military settings
- Describe occupational therapy practice settings across the spectrum of care
- Utilize identified treatment interventions relevant to the current generation of warfighter

“Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle.”
— Steve Jobs
Army OT Focus Areas

- Behavioral Health
- Neuromusculoskeletal Evaluation and Treatment
- Physical Disabilities
  - Inpatient/Outpatient
- Work and Community Reintegration
- Ergonomics
- Burn Rehabilitation
- Amputee Rehabilitation

Mental Health & Combat Operational Stress Control
The role of the occupational therapist (OT) in Combat and Operational Stress Control (COSC) is to evaluate the occupational performance of Soldiers adversely affected by combat stress reactions and to implement interventions to enhance performance.
To enhance adaptive stress reactions
To prevent maladaptive stress reactions
To control stress reactions
Identify and manage behavioral disorders

Buy In
Selling the product of independence
Buy In

Selling the product of independence

Upper Extremity Ortho
Outpatient Rehab
Getting Creative

Humerus fx with radial nerve palsy
Upper Extremity Ortho Polytrauma

The Little Things: Total Dependence
Driving

Improvised Splinting
Improvised Splinting
Improvised Splinting

Amputee Care
Pre-prosthetic Training
Prosthetic Training

Prosthetic Training
Prosthetic Training

Starting an IV
Functional Tasks
State of The Art Prosthetics

Complications
Burn Rehab

Purpose of Burn Rehab

The prevention and treatment of burn scar contracture deformity and hypertrophic scarring

- Maximize function
- Improve appearance
- Re-integration
Interventions

- Positioning
- Splinting
- Range of Motion
- Compression/scar control
- Function and Gait
- ADLs and adaptation

The Challenges

- Burn Trauma is probably the most devastating injury one can sustain
- Accompanying pain can be prolonged, intense and draining both physically and psychologically
- Rehabilitation compounds pain with episodes of increased intensity during treatments
Animal Assisted Therapy
Service Dogs

Hippotherapy
Everything Else

Driving
Firearms Training Simulator (FATS)

Community Reintegration and ADLs
Leisure Exploration
Leisure Exploration

Leisure Exploration
Deployment

Mild Traumatic Brain Injury
Learner Outcomes

- Identify the history of occupational therapy in military settings
- Describe occupational therapy practice settings across the spectrum of care
- Utilize identified treatment interventions relevant to the current generation of warfighter

The Creed of the Disabled Soldier

Once more to be useful—to see pity in the eyes of my friends replaced with commendation—to work, produce, provide, and to feel that I have a place in the world—seeking no favors and given none—a MAN among MEN in spite of this physical handicap.

From 1907 “Carry On” magazine, still true today
Questions?

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Complex Comorbidities And The Wounded Warrior

Mon 11/6 The Role of Occupational Therapy Within Military Settings
Erik Johnson, OTR/L

Tues 11/7 Amputation Rehabilitation: The Military Experience
Annemarie Orr, OTD, OTR/L

Wed 11/8 Therapy Management of Burn Injuries
Alicia Jordan, PT, DPT

Fri 11/10 The Unseen Injuries: Mental Health and Cognition Implications for Service Members During and After Their Time in Service
Erik Johnson, OTR/L