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The role of Occupational Therapy Within Military Settings

Erik S. Johnson, OTR/L



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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



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Combat and Operational Stress Control



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Combat and 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.

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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



continued



Buy In

Selling the product of
independence



continued

Upper Extremity Ortho Outpatient Rehab

continued

continued

Getting Creative



continued



Humerus fx with radial nerve palsy



continued

continued

Upper Extremity Ortho Polytrauma

continued

The Little Things: Total Dependence



continued

continued

Driving



continued

Improvised Splinting



continued

continued

Improvised Splinting



continued

Improvised Splinting



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Improvised Splinting



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Amputee Care



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Pre-prosthetic Training



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Pre-prosthetic Training

THE DINO

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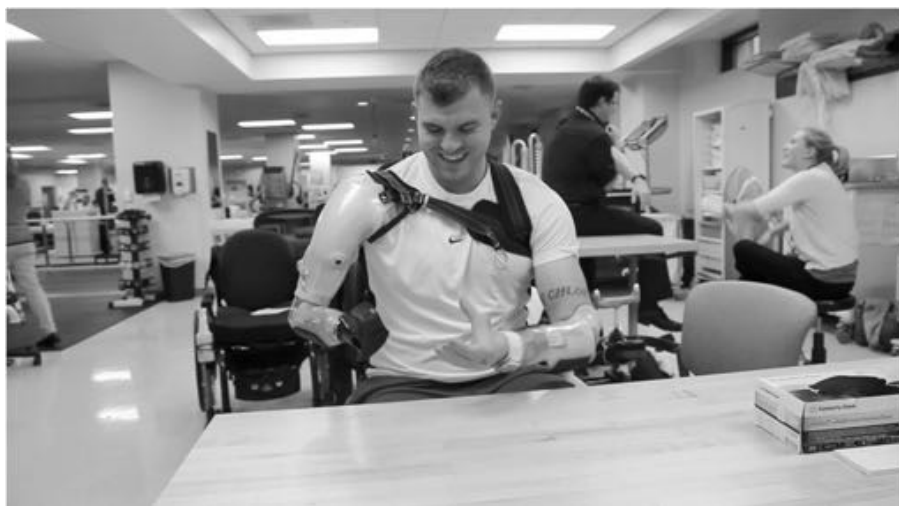
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Prosthetic Training



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Prosthetic Training



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Prosthetic Training



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Prosthetic Training



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State of The Art Prosthetics



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Complications



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Burn Rehab

Purpose of Burn Rehab

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

- Maximize function
- Improve appearance
- Re-integration



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



- 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

continued

Impact Potential



continued

Animal Assisted Therapy

continued

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Service Dogs



continued

Hippotherapy



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Everything Else

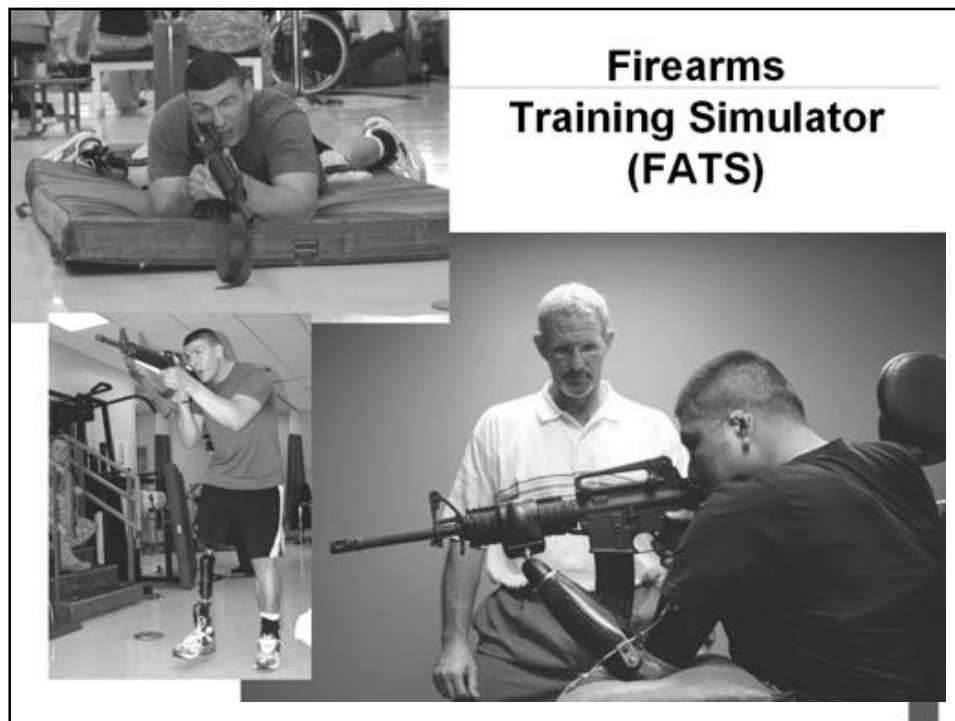
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Driving



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continued[™] Leisure Exploration

A collage of three black and white photographs. Top left: A hockey player in a dark jersey with 'US' on it is on an ice rink, holding a hockey stick. Top right: A person is skiing down a snowy slope. Bottom: A person is ice climbing a steep, icy wall, secured by a rope.

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Leisure Exploration



continued

Leisure Exploration



continued

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Technology in Treatment



continued[®]

Video Games



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continued

Mechanism of Injury

continued





Concussion Care Center





continued

continued

Treatment



continued

Finding Leisure



continued

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

continued

Questions?

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Complex Comorbidities And The Wounded Warrior

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|-----------|--|
| 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 |

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