

A Beginner's Guide to Military Healthcare System (Audiology & Otolaryngology)

Austere/Remote Environment: Environments where access to clean water, electricity and a fixed or mobile medical facility is significantly degraded or denied and where diagnostic and treatment resources and medical personnel are unavailable or limited for extended periods of time.

Prolonged Field Care: The need to provide patient care for extended periods of time in theater when evacuation or mission requirements surpass available capabilities and/or the capacity to provide that care.

Site of Care	Typical Personnel and Physical Environment	Types of Care Provided
Point of Injury (POI)	Self; buddy; combat lifesaver (non-medical team member trained in enhanced first-aid); combat medic or corpsman trained in tactical combat casualty care.	Combat environment First-aid and immediate lifesaving measures
Battalion Aid Station (BAS), Regiment Aid Station (RAS)	Up to Physician Assistant (PA) or equivalent, supported by medics.	100% mobile. Not much electricity; little/no refrigeration; dusty/damp (not isolated from the ambient environment); very limited footprint. No patient holding capability. Triage, treatment, evaluation. No surgical capacity. No audiology testing is available.
Medical Companies	Mostly PAs and Registered Nurses (RNs) supported by many medics. May have a general physician/medical doctor (MD). May have augmented teams. No audiologist or otolaryngologist is available.	100% mobile. Limited inpatient bed space. Basic medical care and further triage, treatment, and evaluation of combat casualties. Includes the capability to deliver packed red blood cells (RBCs), limited X-ray, clinical laboratory, dental support, stress control, and preventive medicine. Forward Surgical Team (FST) has surgical capabilities when augmented with Forward Resuscitative Surgical Team (FRST). No audiology testing is currently available.
Field Hospital (FH) (formerly Combat Support Hospital), Expeditionary	PAs, MDs, and RNs supported by many medics. An otolaryngologist is available when an FH is augmented by a Head and Neck Team. Such teams	Scalable configurations up to 176 beds. Includes other Services' theater hospitals and Hospital Ships (USNS Mercy Care to all categories of patients, including resuscitation, initial wound surgery, damage control surgery, and postoperative treatment. Generally, no

Medical Support System (EMEDS), Expeditionary Medical Unit (EMU)	have been historically regularly deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Navy otolaryngologists are on Hospital Ships when the mission requires such support. An audiologist is rarely deployed on Hospital Ships.*	and USNS Comfort [999 beds]). Fixed/walled audio booth aboard both Comfort and Mercy, but not available in FH (using boothless technology).	audiology testing is available in FH unless an audiologist is specially deployed.
Fixed Medical Treatment Facilities (MTF)	An otolaryngologist and audiologist, including specialized otolaryngology and auditory and vestibular care, are available.	Continental United States (CONUS)-based hospitals and Outside the Continental United States (OCONUS)-based hospitals; may include Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other long-term care facilities.	Care to all categories of patients, including chronic and long-term care.

*All Navy audiologists are at the MTF or Branch Clinics, mainly occupied in Occupational Health missions. Navy audiology testing capability is available in most BAS/RAS at CONUS facilities such as Camp Pendleton and Camp Lejeune, but all are manned by corpsmen or civilian staff and receive site visits from the audiologist.

Acronyms:

BAS	Battalion Aid Station	OCONUS	Outside the Continental United States
CONUS	Continental United States	PA	Physician Assistant
EMEDS	Expeditionary Medical Support System	POC	Point of Injury
EMU	Expeditionary Medical Unit	RAS	Regiment Aid Station
FH	Field Hospital	RBC	Red Blood Cells
FRST	Forward Resuscitative Surgical Team	RN	Registered Nurse
FST	Forward Surgical Team	USNS	United States Naval Ship
MD	Medical Doctor	VA	Department of Veterans Affairs
MTF	Medical Treatment Facility		