“ATC’s in the Military”

Eastern Athletic Trainers Association
January 9, 2011
Disclosure

• The views expressed in this lecture are those of the speaker and do not reflect the official policy of the US Government, US Army or the United States Military Academy

• There are no potential conflicts of interest declared.
The Largest Sports Team

• 1.4 million active duty
• 2.1 million Reserves and Guard
• High level of occupational physical activity
• Must pass periodic fitness tests and physical exams
• Compete against other "teams"
15 years ago

- Service Academies were probably the only place where ATC’s were working within the military.
- Dual credentialed PT/ATC’s scattered throughout the services
Today

- Army
- Air Force
- Navy
- Marines
- Coast Guard
ATC’s in the Military

- Army
  - USMA, West Point, NY
  - USMAPS, Ft. Monmouth, NJ
  - World Class Athlete Program, Ft. Carson, CO
  - Initial Entry Training, Fort Jackson, SC
  - Madigan Army Medical Center, Ft. Lewis, Washington
  - Sports and Fitness Director, Army Garrison Darmstadt, Germany

- Air Force
  - USAFA, Colorado Springs, CO
  - USAFAPS, Colorado Springs, CO

- Coast Guard
  - USCGA
  - USCG Initial Training, Cape May, NJ
ATC’s in the Military

- Navy/Marines
  - USNA, Annapolis, MD
  - USNAPS, Newport, RI
  - Navy Environmental Health, Portsmouth, VA
  - Navy Seal Teams, East/West Coasts
  - Marine Corps Recruiting Depot, San Diego, CA, Parris Island, SC
  - School of Infantry, Camp Pendleton, CA, & Camp Lejeune, NC
  - USS Essex, Sasabo, Japan
  - Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, VA
  - Navy Special Boat Warfare
Command Directive

- In 2003, he challenged the entire DoD to reduce injuries and accidents by 50%
- More specifically
  - Reduce training injuries & lost training days
  - Decrease attrition & physical evaluation boards
- BOTTOM LINE: Increase “readiness”
Results from Directive

- “Warrior-Athlete” concept
- Individual Command Initiatives
- Special Operations
- Marine Corps Model
- Military Spouses
- ATC’s retiring from active duty
Typical Day/???

- Sick-call
- Morning PT – Physical Training
- Training exercise
- Lunch
- Administrative
- Clinical coverage
Typical Day
Work Environment

- Compliment existing medical assets
- Can work directly with military physicians, therapist, nurses, etc.
- Work directly with the command structure
- Attuned to federal law
Job Satisfaction

• Hours/Weekends
• Working with motivated individuals
• Patriotic satisfaction
• Minimal travel
• Outdoors
• Unique working environment
• Team environment
Salary/Benefits

- Most positions pay better than college’s
- Hours are much better
- All Federal Holidays off
- Benefits/???
Major Similarities

• Same types of injuries, larger volume
• Motivated patients
• Team concept
• Training/Practice
• Resources
Major Differences

- Language
- Rules and regulations
- Chain of command
- Profession of Arms is serious business
- Compliance
- Everyone treated the same
- Medical model
Military ATC Positions

- Most ATC positions are “contract”
- Civil Service
- Non-Appropriated Fund (NAF)
- Only one military billet
Civilians are Non-Deployable
Skill sets needed

- CSCS credential is highly desirable
- Master’s degree
- Good communication skills
- Motivated
- No prior military service required
Job Hunting Strategies

• Familiarize with military

• Networking
  – ATC’s already in the field

• Send resumes to contracting companies
  – Even if they are not hiring ATC’s at the moment
Hiring

• NATA Career Center

Web sites

• PhyAmerica Government Services – www.phyamerica.com
• www.federaljobs.net
Resources

• AFATS – Armed Forces Athletic Trainer’s Society. Terry DeWitt, PhD, ATC (dewitt@obu.edu) or (www.afats.org)

• NATA Website under “members” section. Click on “Employers” and then “Military”. (www.nata.org)
Questions & Answers