

'TF Cacti' medic gives back

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Cpl. Joel M Kuhn (center, kneeling) combat medic, Co. A, 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. Regt., "TF Cacti," 3rd BCT, 25th ID, teaches a medical class to soldiers from 2nd Kandak, 2nd Bde., 201st ANA Corps, at Nangalam Base in eastern Afghanistan's Kunar province, recently. Kuhn is on his second combat tour and said he uses his experiences in the field to help train others.

Story and Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Mark Burrell, 210th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KUNAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Most days, "Task Force Cacti" medics treat troops in combat; yet, some days, they train troops what to do in combat.

"Let's say your battle buddy gets shot in the leg. Where do you want to put the tourniquet to stop the bleeding?" a 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Soldier asked a group of Afghan National Army soldiers during medical training at Nangalam Base, here, recently.

Cpl. Joel Kuhn, combat medic, TF Cacti, patiently waits for a response, and then he asks the ANA soldier who answered to show him how to put a tourniquet on properly

Kuhn decided to become a combat medic in 2008 to help people and for something exciting to do, he said. Now, on his second combat tour, Kuhn said that helping people out, no matter where they come from, is an important part of him.

“I don’t think I adopted America; America adopted me,” he said in his Brazilian-born, Portuguese accent.

Adding that whether it’s in Hawaii, Iraq or Afghanistan, Kuhn said the military affords him the opportunity to help America continue to adopt people, just as it did him.

“Over here, these guys are so isolated, and the only Americans that they see, here, are us,” Kuhn said. “Being in the military is not just giving back to America, because we are not just doing good for America. We’re not just doing good for people back home, but we are doing good for the populations in other countries, also.”

“Even back in Schofield (Barracks), when he is giving a (Combat Lifesaver) Class, he is the same way. If you don’t know something, he’ll spend the time to teach you,” said Sgt. Nathan Timmons, infantry team leader, 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. Regt., 3rd BCT. “He likes to help people and make sure they are doing the right thing.

“I would not take any other medic if I had a choice, and that’s God’s honest truth,” Timmons said. “Just the way he is ... Kuhn goes above and beyond.”

Credit to: <http://www.hawaiiarmyweekly.com/2011/06/23/%e2%80%98tf-cacti%e2%80%99-medic-gives-back/>