



Data management system quickens patient flow during Cobra Gold 2011 medical visits

2/7/2011 By Lance Cpl. Kris B. Daberkoe, III MEF

CHANTHABURI, Kingdom of Thailand — Military medical personnel with the Combined Joint Civil Military Operations Task Force continues to use the Rapid Data Management System during the medical civic action programs of Exercise Cobra Gold 2011 here.

Since Cobra Gold 2008, military personnel participating in the humanitarian and civic assistance programs have transmitted information using the RDMS from field environments.

"The RDMS allows military personnel to seamlessly collect information and wirelessly send it to command and control operators," said Tom Gerrish, a Honolulu, Hawaii, native and director of field operations with Global Relief Technology. "The software is easily formatted to suit the type of data that is being collected."

During the medical civic assistance project here, medical staff used the system to process patients and record which illnesses or injuries are most prevalent in rural isolated locations.

The easy to use, hand-held, touch screen device alleviates the need to fill out medical data sheets and creates a database for military planners to look at during future civil humanitarian operations, said Gerrish.

Patients arriving at the medical team's registration desk provide information such as weight, gender, age and medical ailment which is then recorded using the Rapid Data Management System.

Care providers also update patient records with the diagnoses and medications prescribed.

"I list what diseases, whether they have, myopia, presbyopia or other eye diseases," said U.S. Army Pfc. Michael Rausch, a Gowen, Mich. native and optomic technician with the 168th Multifunctional Medical Battalion, 18th Medical command, 8th U.S. Army, based out of the Republic of Korea. "Then we update what treatment we used to correct the disease whether prescribing distance or reading glasses."

The system eliminates need to shuffle through hundreds of forms. It is also more legible than hand written notations and is more permanently stored than easily lost paper forms.

"Possibilities for the RDMS are limited only by the amount of information going into the system," said Scott Hourin, a Camp Smith, Hawaii, native and project analyst with the Marine Forces Pacific, Experimentation Center.

Cobra Gold 2011 is a regularly scheduled annual multinational training exercise.

For more information about Cobra Gold 2011, visit www.marines.mil/cobragold2011 or www.facebook.com/exercisecobragold.

