



## Occupational Therapy in the U.S. Army

### Occupational Therapy in the U.S. Army

Occupational Therapists (OTs) have a long proud history of service dating back to World War I as reconstruction aides. OTs have been a part of the U.S. Army Medical Specialist Corps since its inception in April 1947. OTs have served our country throughout the world in times of war and peace.



### Army Occupational Therapy Vision

Occupational Therapists working in the U.S. Army are human performance experts and dedicated leaders whose innovative programs and services help optimize Soldier performance and readiness in-Theater and garrison environments. OTs serve as valuable members of the U.S. Army Medical Department (AMEDD) team improving rehabilitative care by:

- Promoting healthy living among all Department of Defense (DoD) beneficiaries
- Maximizing Soldier readiness
- Developing and validating innovative applications in U.S. Army OT services

### Army Occupational Therapy Mission

Promote Soldier readiness, healthy living, and optimal performance among all DoD beneficiaries using occupational therapy principles and practices while providing services that reflect best clinical practices in a timely, cost efficient manner.

### Advanced Training Opportunities for Active Duty Occupational Therapists

- **Ph.D. Programs:** Army occupational therapists have the opportunity to complete civilian Ph.D. programs while on active duty.
- **U.S. Army Doctor of Science in Occupational Therapy Program (DScOT)** is an 18-month advanced post-graduate clinical Occupational Therapy doctorate offered in San Antonio, Texas. The DScOT is awarded by Baylor University.
- **Upper Extremity Neuromusculoskeletal Evaluator Training** is a three-phase, one-year course providing advanced education to Occupational Therapists for the evaluation, diagnosis, treatment and management of upper extremity injuries, trauma and disease. Successful completion of the training provides OTs with an additional skill identifier to enhance career progression.
- **Management of Burns and Multiple Trauma Course** is five days offered through the United States Army Institute of Surgical Research, San Antonio, Texas. The course emphasizes the acute medical management and rehabilitation of burn injuries and polytrauma.
- **Combat Stress Casualties Course** is a five-day course conducted at Camp Bullis, TX. This course utilizes scenario-driven exercises, as students assume roles in a notional Combat Stress Control unit.
- **COL Mary Lipscomb Hamrick Research Course** is a 5-day course providing lecture-based and interactive education on the development and conduct of research.





## Occupational Therapy in the U.S. Army

### Occupational Therapy Practice Settings

Occupational Therapy practice occurs throughout the AMEDD in a variety of settings. Each unique environment strives to implement the best clinical practices utilizing state of the art equipment. Occupational therapists serve around the world in both the clinical environment and on the battlefield.



### Areas of Practice

- **Inpatient and Outpatient Rehabilitation** for physical conditions
  - **Behavioral Health** settings with the focus on promoting effective adaptive coping strategies
  - **Work and Community Reintegration** through the Warrior Transition Programs
  - **Traumatic Brain Injury Rehabilitation**
  - **Neuromusculoskeletal Evaluation and Treatment** with OTs often serving as physician extenders by diagnosing and treating upper extremity injuries, diseases and illnesses
  - **Ergonomic Programs** including strategy, policy, and program development for injury prevention to decrease human and economic costs of injuries in the DoD
- **Burn Rehabilitation** for the prevention and correction of burn scar contracture and deformity to maximize functional and cosmetic outcomes.
  - **Amputee Rehabilitation**
  - **Combat Operational Stress Control (COSC) Units** performing combat and operational stress control to individuals and units and using therapy animals to maximize functional capabilities and mission effectiveness of Soldiers within theater affected by Combat and Operational Stress Reactions and other bio-psycho-social conditions
  - **Mentorship Programs** for developing versatile, competent OT leaders who successfully manage clinic operations and serve in branch immaterial positions throughout the AMEDD
  - **Deployment** in Overseas Contingency Operations
  - **Recruiting** environments serving as recruiters for the Army Medical Department
  - **Research** opportunities provided through US Army Medical Research & Materiel Command labs such as the US Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine and the US Army Institute of Surgical Research
  - **Humanitarian** missions throughout the world
  - **Military Leadership** positions throughout the AMEDD

For more information on U.S. Army Occupational Therapy, please visit [www.cs.amedd.army.mil](http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil) and search “occupational therapy.”

**Rehabilitation & Reintegration Division (R2D)**  
**Health Policy & Services, Army Medical Department, Office of The Surgeon General**

7700 Arlington Boulevard, Falls Church, VA 22042

[www.armymedicine.army.mil/F&8](http://www.armymedicine.army.mil/F&8)

Telephone: (703) 681-5838 | Fax: (703) 681-6862

[usarmy.ncr.hqda-otsg.mbx.otsg-r2d-inquiries@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.ncr.hqda-otsg.mbx.otsg-r2d-inquiries@mail.mil)

