



## Summary

The US Military typically defines responsibilities and procedures for managing the implementation of the provisions for the “Guidelines for Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) Programs in Federal Facilities”, and implements guidance from their internal standard operation procedures or SOP’s. These procedures differ in their content from service to service, however the core duties and responsibilities are similar, and provide general guidelines to initiate and maintain the Public Access Defibrillation Program.

To date, feedback on the program has been extremely positive for the Department of Defense. In addition where deployed, the easy availability of a Philips Automated External Defibrillators (AED) and the quick reaction of a trained personnel have been credited with saving the lives of many DOD employees.

## Introduction

The Department of Defense is America's oldest and largest government agency. With our military tracing its roots back to pre-Revolutionary times, the Department of Defense has grown and evolved with our nation. Today, the Department, headed by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, is not only in charge of the military, but it also employs a civilian force of thousands. With over 1.3 million men and women on active duty, and 684,000 civilian personnel, we are the nation's largest employer. Another 1.1 million serve in the National Guard and Reserve forces. More than 2 million military retirees and their family members receive benefits. The Army, Navy, and Marine Corps were established in 1775, in concurrence with the American Revolution. The War Department was established in 1789, and was the precursor to what is now the Department of Defense. The Department of the Navy was founded in 1798. The mission of the Department of Defense is to provide the military forces needed to deter war and to protect the security of our country. We are war-fighters first and as such, have no peers. (DOD1)

## Challenges

There are many challenges with regard to PAD implementation within the DOD because of the decentralization of the services. Typically, the implementation of PAD programs is directed from

higher commands but can also be unfunded mandates. While the scope of the program and its intent are understood, the application and implementation provide little direction. Worldwide deployment of military forces is another challenge as local response criteria also play a role. Proper placement of the AED's in the throughout the installation to provide total coverage for any potential high risk areas is lacking. Additionally keeping track of expired pads and batteries has always been an issue for organizations.

## **Solution**

Philips offers the most trusted, widest range of solutions in the industry to help caregivers respond to cardiac emergencies, including sudden cardiac arrest, quickly and effectively wherever they occur. We offer a worldwide implementation program tailored to the needs, training and user skills from *battlefield to bedside*. Our solutions include supporting our customers with clinical training, services, accessories and programs so that the best possible treatment is available, and more people can return to actively living their lives.

With more than 500,000 AEDs deployed, many of the US Military installations, schools and communities place their trust in Philips HeartStart AEDs.

### **Military Installations with PAD Programs that save lives**

Military installations are often times seen as towns and communities within themselves. They have hospitals and clinics, homes, barracks, banks, restaurants, a commissary and PX, fire stations and security. They also have a varied population. Establishing an AED program on a military base involves many of the same components that are necessary in any town or community. Great programs begin with enthusiastic champions for the cause- people who envision the program, rally others, secure funding and make it happen. It can be the military command, hospital or emergency responders, or a division on base that decides to begin the process of going to that next step to be prepared to respond in an emergency. Some military bases in Alabama have layers of protection that keep its workforce safe. AED's are intended to save lives. In an event of cardiac arrest, response time is critical. The cardiac chain of survival instructs responders to activate the emergency responders, begin CPR, apply the AED and continue care when EMS arrives. For every minute that defibrillation is delayed the chances of survival decrease by approximately 10%. AED programs need more than just AED's on the wall. The best programs partner with experts in emergency response to train lay responders in CPR and AED. One of our AED partners, the American Red Cross, has been a strong supporter of our military since its inception over 125 years ago. The American Red Cross, Service to Armed Forces unit, with over 700 locally supported chapters and 61 stations, help the military to support soldiers and their families twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. Linda Schoo, of the American Red Cross, has been instrumental in helping military installations and families prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies through the use of training. AED's increase the chance of survival from Sudden Cardiac Arrest and the American Red Cross has trained hundreds of soldiers and civilians on military bases in Alabama on how to respond with lifesaving skills.

## **Key to a Successful Early Defibrillation Program**

At Philips, we understand that your successful early defibrillation program requires more than just defibrillators. You want a complete solution that helps you manage the entire spectrum of your AED program, including site assessment, training, data management, regulatory support, medical direction, risk mitigation, and more. With Philips HeartStart Essentials, you can rely on a dedicated team of program management specialists to help ensure that your program details are in place and that your organization is prepared in case a sudden cardiac arrest event should occur.

**SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST IS RESPONSIBLE FOR 13% OF WORKPLACE FATALITIES.\* FIND OUT HOW AN EARLY DEFIBRILLATION PROGRAM USING PHILIPS HEARTSTART DEFIBRILLATORS CAN HELP PROTECT YOUR EMPLOYEES RIGHT WHERE THEY WORK. PLEASE VISIT US AT [WWW.PHILIPS.COM/HEARTSTART](http://WWW.PHILIPS.COM/HEARTSTART), OR CALL 1-800-453-6860.**

### Citations

<http://www.defenselink.mil/pubs/dod101/>