

Fire and Emergency Services advancing EMS program

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Within Air Force Fire and Emergency Services, we strive to be the “best in all we do.” Specifically, one of our many capabilities we must be “on top of our game” is providing care during medical responses. Our mission is “to provide the highest level of pre-hospital patient care and advance the Emergency Medical Services program with a comprehensive and coordinated system.”

To achieve this comprehensive and coordinated system, our top priority initiative was to develop an Emergency Medical Responder course to meet the National Registry Education Standards and Instructional Guidelines. We developed new course curriculum and beta-tested our new program at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico. The candidates and instructors presented us with feedback, and we made minor changes that we also felt were needed. To date, eight of the nine candidates passed the National Registry Emergency Medical responder cognitive test, with three awaiting test dates. F&ES Flights across the Air Force are being proactive and planning NREMR initial and refresher courses.

In addition to the new NREMR course, F&ES recently broke down barriers and worked with the Air Force EMS Working Group to formally identify Advanced Emergency Medical Technician as a recognized certification level within our AF EMS program. The Air Force Surgeon General’s office will include AEMT in the upcoming release of the 2021 AF EMS Protocols. A key player in the push to recognize AEMT was Hill AFB, Utah. They have been recognized as a “beta-test” location for fire-based EMS with Basic Life Support transport.

AF F&ES is also advancing its EMS program with multiple EMS Instructor Courses. There are currently eight Instructor trainers, two in Pacific Air Forces, two in United States Air Forces in Europe and four in the Continental United States. Since the onset of Instructor Trainers, there have been more than eight courses with the certification of more than 100 new AF F&ES EMS Instructors from 30 different bases; exceeding the strategic vision of having two instructors for each AF F&ES Flight. There are three courses scheduled over the next three months and additional courses being planned for 2021.

Finally, we must give credit where credit is due ... to the AF F&ES Flights as we continue to test at the National Registry level following initial EMR and EMT courses. Since officially tracking National Registry cognitive testing in 2020, we have surpassed the national standard of 70%. There have been six courses and 38 cognitive tests and we are proud to report that our program has garnered a 90% pass rate on 34 successful NREMR and NREMT cognitive tests.