

# New trauma center to aid military training

By Sonja Haller

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Scottsdale Healthcare Osborn Medical Center is expanding its military training program with a new \$1.6 million trauma center.

The 7,500-square-foot center will add five hospital-type bays, all the hookups and equipment for patient care areas and auditorium seating for observers.

Hospital officials said that when the center opens in December, regional paramedics and firefighters will be able to use it for their own training.

The remodeling of the existing training facility, adjacent to the hospital, is being done with congressional funds.

Since 2004, the hospital has trained military personnel to treat the injured in Iraq and Afghanistan. Almost 650 men and women have gone through the program.

This week, 27 men and women, mostly from the 911th Aeromedical Staging Squadron from Pittsburgh, began a two-week training stint in the cramped quarters of the existing two-bay facility.

When the new facility is complete, existing high-tech equipment such as a \$350,000 lifelike dummy that can breathe, bleed and talk will be transferred. On one day this week, soldiers, some with jobs in the medical arena and some that, as Randy Derr, clinical educator for military training said, work when they're not deployed at UPS or at Safeway, engaged in a trauma situation with a manikin.

The scenario was a 25-year-old male with a gunshot wound. They're given little information other than that.

"So when they go overseas and they're dropped in the desert and they have to insert a chest tube, it's not the first time they've done it in 15 years," Derr said.

As a trauma team worked over the patient, members stopped the chest bleeding, but missed a leg wound, which was concealed under a pant leg and the "patient" bled to death.

"It's a fabulous way to train," said Capt. Brian Carr, of the Aeromedical Staging Squadron and a nurse manager at Akron Children's Hospital. "As you get in there, you don't think of it as a dummy. Even though my patient ended up dying, we thought about how to take care of him."

After working with the dummies, the military personnel will have two more weeks of training, including time in the



MICHAEL SCHENNUM/THE REPUBLIC

Capt. Robert Davis works on a computerized manikin at Scottsdale Healthcare Osborn Medical Center. This week, 27 men and women, mostly from the 911th Aeromedical Staging Squadron from Pittsburgh, began a two-week training stint.

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operating room, pediatrics, the burn unit and other clinical rotations.

Derr said injuries typically seen in Iraq and Afghanistan are head wounds, burns, trauma to eyes and ears from blasts, missing limbs and fractures in the upper body.

U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell, D-Ariz., who was present at the center's groundbreaking this month, touted the training program's role in helping Scottsdale Healthcare Osborn retain its designation as a disaster relief hub for the region.

Mitchell went to Iraq, Afghanistan and Germany more than a year ago, following injured soldiers to see how their care was handled.

"I was just so impressed," he said. "This enhanced training center is going to better enable them to deliver care."

Scottsdale Healthcare Osborn was the first civilian hospital to offer a military training program and both medical personnel and Scottsdale residents gain from the partnership, said Michelle Pabis, government relations director for the hospital.

Nurses use the manikin simulators as a part of their training, she said. Hospital staff and personnel are able to attend the lectures for military personnel.

"The other benefit is that we're learning from each other," Pabis said. "A lot of the things that these guys are learning about trauma and how to treat it in the field are things that they bring back and share. We can learn from that."



SCOTTSDALE HEALTHCARE OSBORN

U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell swings a sledgehammer during the groundbreaking.