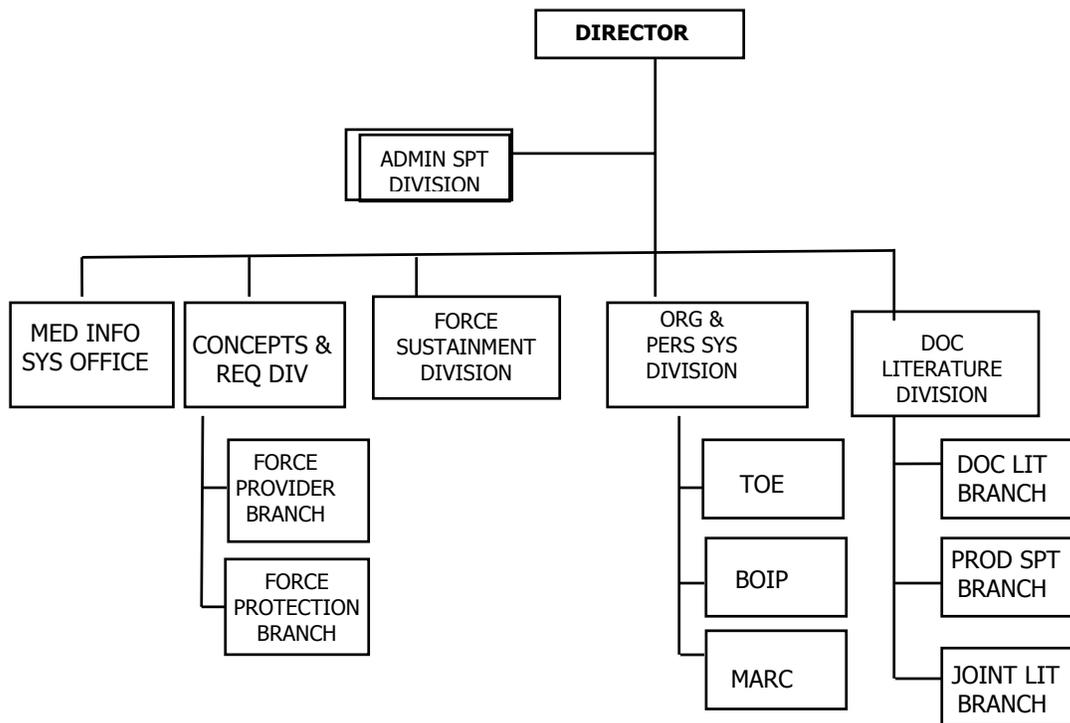


# The PA in DCDD

Each major schoolhouse in the Army has a Department of Combat and Doctrine Development (DCDD). The AMEDD's DCDD is located at Ft Sam Houston, Texas at the AMEDD Center & School (AMEDDC&S). Its mission is to determine Combat Health Support/Force Health Protection future operational capabilities that support the Army across the continuum, from war to stability operations and support operations. DCDD represents the user – both the warfighter and TOE medical units. Analytical modeling and analysis, as well as identification of the medical threat supported by intelligence assessments, accomplish the identification of future operational capabilities. The goal of DCDD is to determine and develop concepts, organizations, material and doctrine for future combat health support in support of the warfighter across all operational continuums under the future warfighting vision.

Within DCDD there are several areas (see fig 1)



There is one Physician Assistant (PA) assigned to DCDD and that slot is in the Force Provider Branch of the Concepts and Requirements Division. The mission of this Branch is to determine the combat health support future operational capabilities and requirements that support the Army across the operational continuum, and identify solutions across the domains of doctrine, organization, training, leadership and training, material, personnel and facilities (DOTLM-PF).

The duties of the PA in DCDD are many and varied. They include, but are not limited to:

The primary consultant for Echelon I and II Force Health Protection (FHP) and front line primary care.

Responsible for developing concepts and requirements that lead to the successful integration of products/ doctrine that is cost efficient, technologically advanced and user friendly.

Serve as the Combat Development Clinical Operations/ Physician Assistant (PA) to Force Provider Branch, Directorate of Combat and Doctrine Development (DCDD).

To support and assist in the development of FHP concepts and requirements to support the future vision of the Army Warfighter.

Evaluate developments in medical science and technology in all future health professional's functional areas to ensure a comprehensive, integrated, and seamless system of soldier care.

Provide input into force modernization issues, continue and maintain liaison with external agencies to facilitate issues.

Serves as the combat development clinical consultant to the OTSG.

In addition to the above tasks the PA interacts with and advises both other Army branches and other services on medical doctrine and issues. Current tasks include being the SME on Land Warrior/Objective Force Warrior (LW/OFW), the Army's transformation of the soldier incorporating the concepts of the Soldier as a System (SAAS) which will increase his lethality, survivability, sustainability, mobility and Command and Control computers Communications and Intelligence (C4I). Medical issues that include the Warfighter Physiological Status Monitor (WPSM), a suite of sensors that will detect wounding, determine live/dead status, and provide guidance for remote triage for the medic, maximize warfighter operational effectiveness and prevent casualties by integrating predictive modeling with real-time physiological monitoring, generate operationally relevant performance and health status indicators for use by commanders and medical personnel and provide a non-invasive, wear and forget, physiological monitor system for mounted warriors as well as other medical components of these systems. Being the SME on the medical aspects of Urban Operations and the DCDD POC for issues dealing with Army PAs and the 91W. This is an important position for Army PAs. The position results in the ability to impact medical issues early and to be a collecting point for issues from PAs in the field on equipment, training and organization. Calling or e-mailing the PA may save field PAs time and resources on equipment or doctrinal issues. There may not be an immediate answer for the problem but at least DCDD will know there's a problem.

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