

Chapter 6

Optical Support

Optometry support from the MEDLOG perspective focuses primarily on optical fabrication for the replacement of spectacles and frame repair. This support is a critical aspect of preventive health care and key to ensuring readiness. The loss of eyewear (spectacles or glasses, contact lenses, and gas mask and protective inserts) can degrade performance and make a Soldier combat ineffective. The proper eye care support allows the Soldier to quickly return to duty without visual impairment. This chapter outlines optical support available in the theater.

SECTION I — THEATER OPTICAL SUPPORT

6-1. Optical support includes—

- Fabrication of:
 - Single vision and multivision prescription lenses.
 - Standard spectacles.
 - Aviation spectacles.
 - Protective mask inserts.
 - Military combat eye protection inserts.
- Provision of military standard spectacle frame repair.
- Provision of contact lenses for Attack Helicopter-64 Apache pilots or military personnel on a mission-required basis.

6-2. Optometry teams and optical fabrication laboratories are responsible for making only those spectacles and protective vision devices that require corrective prescription lenses. Replacement spectacles and protective mask inserts requiring standard single vision lenses may be fabricated at optical support units in theater, afloat, or in fixed facilities. In the event the optical fabrication laboratory cannot fabricate a prescription, eyewear may be requested from the supporting full service optical fabrication laboratory in CONUS or outside the continental U.S. that has lens surfacing capability. Nonprescription lenses are a Class II item and are the quartermaster's responsibility.

6-3. Prior to deployment, commanders ensure that Soldiers have the following:

- Two pairs of military spectacles (a civilian or frame of choice pair of spectacles may count towards this requirement).
- One pair of protective mask inserts or 6-month supply of contact lenses (mission required only).
- One pair of military combat eye protection inserts.
- One pair of military combat eye protection goggle inserts.

6-4. Optometrists provide essential support to the operational aviation community for the Aviation Contact Lens Program. Contact lenses should not be used in theater unless medically or operationally indicated for specific mission purposes.

6-5. Patients requiring optometric services initially report to their supporting BAS or medical company. For those patients requiring only routine replacement of spectacles or inserts, necessary information is obtained from the individual's treatment record and forwarded to the supporting optical fabrication activity. The required spectacles are fabricated and returned to the BAS or medical company for issue to the individual.

6-6. Brigade combat team medical companies request replacement of corrective eyewear for units in the sustainment area. The BSMC submits replacement requests to the supporting optical fabrication activity via the best communications available with delivery back to the requester. For those units operating at EAB, requests for replacement spectacles or frame repair are submitted by the supporting MTF or medical company (area support).

6-7. Medical supply offices generally do not have organic optical support capability. However, they can act as a relay for requests for optical support within their area of operations.

OPTOMETRY DETACHMENT

6-8. The optometry detachment (TOE 08567GA00) provides optometry care and optical fabrication to the BCT on an area basis. They are assigned to the MEDCOM (DS) or MEDBDE (SPT) with further attachment to an MMB and may be further attached to the medical company of a BCT.

6-9. The detachment is employed in all intensities of conflict when a BCT is deployed. Task-organized elements of the detachment are deployed, as necessary, in support of brigade-sized elements conducting unified land operations. The optometry detachment consists of six personnel that can be divided into two teams. Each team has the capability to provide optometry support limited to eye examinations, spectacle fabrication, frame assembly, and repair services to brigade and EAB units in the area of operations as far forward as possible.

6-10. The optometry detachment's capabilities include—

- Initial diagnosis and management of eye injuries on the battlefield.
- Examinations, to detect, prevent, diagnose, treat, and manage ocular-related disorders, injuries, diseases, and visual dysfunctions.
- Assembly, repair, and fabrication of single vision spectacles.

6-11. Prescriptions and/or replacement requests that cannot be filled from on-hand stock or that exceed the MMB capability are passed to the CONUS or outside the continental U.S. support base. Once filled, prescriptions are delivered to the optical laboratory section of the supporting MLC.

MEDICAL LOGISTICS COMPANY OPTICAL SUPPORT SECTION

6-12. The optometry section of the MLC is responsible for providing single vision and multivision fabrication and repair of corrective eyewear for units on an area basis. Prescriptions and/or replacement requests which cannot be filled from on-hand stock or which exceed the MMB capability are passed to the MLC via the best communications available with delivery back to the requester.

6-13. The MLC provides limited single vision and multivision optical fabrication to EAB. All prescriptions requested from the MLC optical section that cannot be filled are passed to the full service optical fabrication laboratory in CONUS or outside the continental U.S. with delivery back to the requester. See Chapter 2 for a full description of the support provided by the MLC.

OTHER OPTICAL SUPPORT

6-14. Deployed units and Army clinics also submit requests to the Naval Ophthalmic Support and Training Activity for assistance in providing optical fabrication support.

SECTION II — OPTICAL EQUIPMENT SETS

- 6-15. Currently, there are three optical equipment sets in the Army medical supply system. The sets are—
- Unit assemblage 324A Optical Equipment Set, Field Combat (Line Item Number N23712). This optical equipment set is used by the Optometrist and the Eye Specialist to complete optical examinations. It replaces unit assemblages 1324 and 3324.
 - Unit assemblage 003A Optical Equipment Set, Optical Fabrication Unit Portable Field (Line Item Number N22073). This optical equipment set provides single vision capability. It replaces unit assemblage 3003.
 - Unit assemblage 006A Optical Equipment Set, Multivision Augmentation (Line Item Number P47705). This optical equipment set provides multivision optical support to the BCT and EAB units. The set contains the materiel required to provide for the casting of multivision and limited single vision lenses. This set augments the Optical Equipment Set, Optical Fabrication Unit Portable Field (Line Item Number N22073) standardizing optical fabrication across all roles of care. The new unit assemblage 006A is the replacement for unit assemblage 2006.
- 6-16. Current unit assemblage listings may be obtained from the USAMMA Web site, which can be accessed via the web address posted in the references section of this publication.