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Bragg troops get course in pre-deployment vaccination, immunization

by Pfc. Jaime Avila

1st BCT PAO

Members of the Military Vaccine Agency visited Fort Bragg April 11 through 13, to train troops in immunizations and vaccines to prepare for upcoming deployments and help keep Soldiers healthy. There was training for lower enlisted troops, noncommissioned officers, officers and civilian medical personnel.

The Immunization Basic Course, for lower enlisted troopers goes through the day in the life of someone who gives immunizations.

"We take them through many things like the screening of records and the techniques for proper storage of vaccines and immunizations," said Capt. Allison Christ, clinical education coordinator of MILVAX.

The Immunization Leaders Course, which is meant for noncommissioned and commissioned officers, was a three-day training course, which covered a variety of information-related tasks regarding the Anthrax Vaccination and Immunization Program, and the Smallpox Vaccination Program, said Col. John

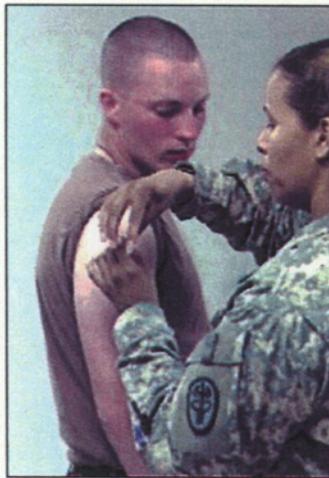
Grabenstein, director of MILVAX.

"This training is very important," said Troy L. Ricks the North Atlantic regional analyst, "because these are units that are deploying, and knowing the latest policies and how to implement a vaccine program is vital."

The training allowed the students to ask important questions which might come up while they are treating a patient, Christ said.

The people who receive the immunizations and vaccination benefit the most from this

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Sgt. 1st Class Angela D. White demonstrates how to give a vaccine to Soldiers attending the Immunization Basic Course April 12. Spc. David A. Stephens volunteers to show the proper technique.

photo by Pfc. Jaime Avila/1st BCT PAO

Vaccine

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training because they receive better care from the medics, Christ said.

The Immunization Basic Course began in February. Although the Immunization Basic Course has only been around for a couple of months, it has gotten good feedback from Soldiers, Christ said. After each class the students complete a survey and the course usually gets good grades, Christ said. The Immunization Leaders

Course has been around for about four years but under a different name. Before the Immunization Leaders Course was in place, the MILVAX agency had another program which was called the Spokesperson Training which had been running since 2002 until it was changed to the Immunization Leaders Course.

The Immunization Leaders Course is offered every three months and is not limited to

the people in the medical career field.

Since the Immunizations Leaders Course began, about 1,000 people have received the training. About 250 people take the course every year.

If there are any questions about the course, upcoming training events or if anyone wants to register for an upcoming course, information is available online at www.vaccines.mil.