

REFUGEE RELIEF INTERNATIONAL

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2022

OPERATION SAVE UKRAINE II



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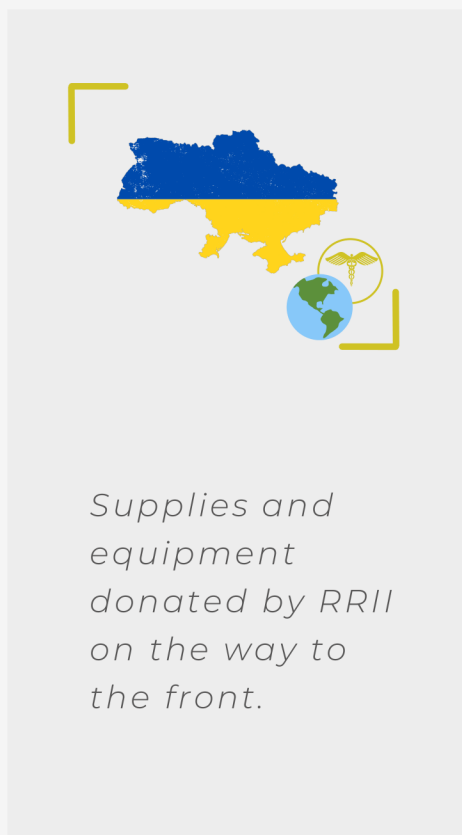


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Refugee Relief international, Inc. (RRII) sent another small team to the Ukraine at the request of our Ukrainian contacts. During our initial mission in March of this year we developed contacts with the Territorial Defense Force (TDF), Ukraine's version of the US National Guard. RRII was happy to assist the TDF

as the Ukrainian military is often the first response to injured displaced persons and refugees. While the TDF and other Ukrainian military units have talented and dedicated medical personnel, the RRII team was able to share some concepts and skills with medical personnel and line troops alike.



AFTER CROSSING THE UKRAINIAN BORDER FROM POLAND AND PASSING THROUGH NUMEROUS CHECKPOINTS, THE TEAM TRAVELED FOR TWO DAYS TO REACH KYIV, WHERE THE TRAINING WOULD TAKE PLACE.

After consulting with the indigenous leadership, it was determined that the training that RRII was to provide should be in two parts. One segment to medical personnel, to include physicians, combat medics and others, and one segment for the nonmedically trained soldiers.



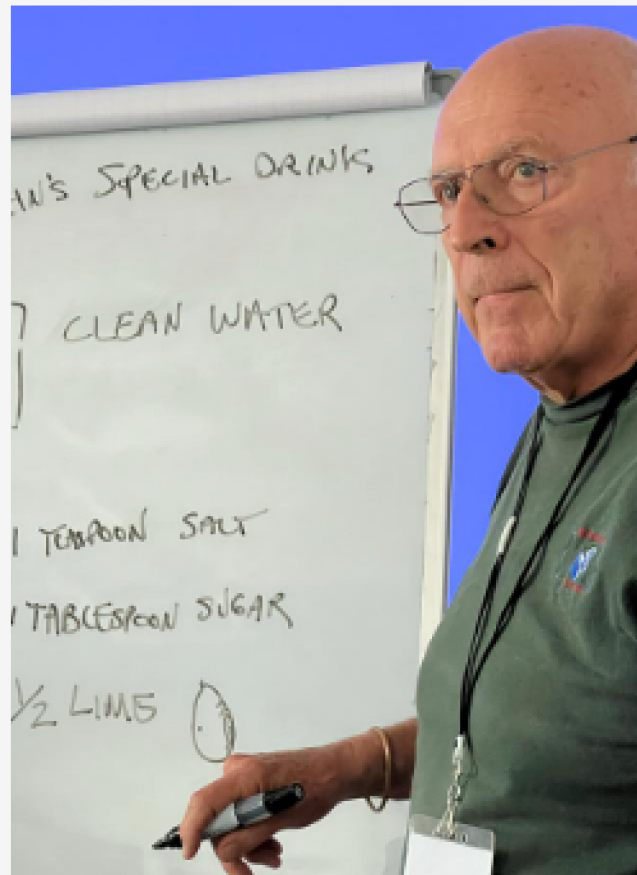
RRII was fortunate to have an instructor who teaches combat trauma to an elite US military unit and brought decades of experience to the classroom and field training. Concepts such as rapid typing and crossmatching of blood to enable transfusions close to the point of wounding and total intravenous anesthesia were taught, with the medics performing these skills on each other after instruction. The medical professionals were very interested in the PTSD and traumatic brain injury block of instruction and asked for additional information regarding screening. We were pleasantly surprised when a Ukrainian anesthesiologist, also a TDF member, volunteered to help us teach a unit on regional anesthesia.

Instruction for the line troops consisted primarily of Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) and evacuation of the wounded, as well as the establishment and running of clandestine medical facilities in a guerrilla environment. The training was then moved from the classroom to the field, where tactical simulations were run.

THE UKRAINIAN ARMED FORCES ARE RECAPTURING TERRITORY AND DRIVING FORWARD.

During its time in the Ukraine, the team noticed a definite shift in attitude and overall behavior of the military and civilian populace. The military members with whom we spoke, be they officers or line troops, have gone from worrying about their country's survival to pushing on to victory. The Ukrainian armed forces are recapturing territory and driving forward.

The material and moral support from the US and EU countries has made a noticeable difference in the war. In the areas away from the combat zones the civilian populace is more relaxed, with restaurants and shops now open, air raids and missile strikes becoming rare, and general confidence and patriotism on display.



Dr. Padgett instructs on a simple, cost-effective rehydration formula.

That is not to say that the Russian invaders have quit or that atrocities do not continue. Sadly, they do, but Ukrainians are now discussing what victory will look like, what to do with the thousands of Russian POWs, and how to bring the guilty to account for their war crimes.



The need to support the over one million refugees continues but there is now reason for optimism in this struggle.

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