

Professional Filler System (PROFIS)- Medical personnel

By: Spc. Amy Bombassaro
100th Mobile Public Affairs Office
Texas Army National Guard
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TAEGU, Korea--While most Reception Staging and Onward Integration 2001 (RSOI 01) participants traveled here with buddies from their home station, Cpt. William F. Bohl, medical regulating officer from the 8th Army Surgeons Office at Ft. Irwin, Calif. made the journey alone.

Bohl was surrounded by strangers on the plane because he is on Professional Filler System (PROFIS) status, the. The system utilizes soldiers from units across the country to form a surgeon's office, whereas most units deploy as an entire element.

“Two-thirds of the cell that is here for the 8th Army [surgeon’s office] comes from other Army entities. Medical assets come from other Army facilities and backfill wartime missions,” said Bohl.

The surgeon’s office regulates and monitors medical teams within the theater of operations. Most military medical centers do not staff every specialized medical position, so PROFIS is used to fully staff the surgeon’s office. Exercises like RSOI help medical personnel practice for those real-world missions.

Cpt. Henry E. Holliday, 8th Army medical liason is also on PROFIS status while in the Korean theater of operations

“This [mission] takes a massive amount of coordination, just to get us here with

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TDY orders and making sure everybody gets where they're supposed to be. Then everyone has to be ready to do their mission when they get there, that's the tough part," said Holliday.

It is not difficult to work with new people for each exercise and mission because the experience and training everyone has, according to Bohl. Soldiers often work together during other PROFIS assignments.

Soldiers are pulled from around the world for these scenarios. The 25-member office for RSOI 01 consists of five soldiers stationed in Korea, and 20 from as far as Alaska, Hawaii, and the continental United States.

Medical personnel are required to do at least one week annually of field training on tasks and measures that are associated with their wartime mission. Both active and reserve component soldiers are often called on PROFIS status to help fill surgeon's offices for exercises and missions. This is the third PROFIS exercise in the past six months for Bohl.

"It's difficult to leave our full time job back at our duty station, but the experience that we gain out here doing this goes a long way preparing us for our wartime mission," he said.

