From Green Beret to Building Simulation Centers Throughout the World

Profiles in Simulation with Shannon Swain, RN, BSN, CHSOS, CHSE, Florida Hospital

May 2018

In 2004, Shannon Swain, RN, BSN, CHSOS, CHSE was injured in Afghanistan while on deployment as a Green Beret in the Army Special Forces. During his recovery he was asked by the U.S. Army Research Development Engineering Command (RDECOM) to develop a MEDIC video game that would be used to train soldiers using simulation.

In 2006 he was brought on by the U.S. Army Program Executive Office Simulation Training Implementation (PEOSTRI) as a Subject Matter Expert for the development and execution of what became 22 Medical Simulation Training Centers (MSTC).

“I was fortunate to be in the initial phase in the requirement development of not only what the training requirement was, but also in the design of the facilities, contracted instructor operators, and the simulation solutions required for training Army Medics at these sites. This opportunity led to designing and building simulation centers all over the world including Saudi Arabia and Belgium.”

In 2014, he was hired by Florida Hospital to work on a simulation program that grew to 10 central hospitals (five Sim Centers), 15 graduate medical education programs (GME), an American Heart Association Training Center (approx. 215 classes a year) and 15 graduate and under graduate programs of the Adventist University of Health Sciences.

“As part of the Adventist Health System we only support 10 hospitals of the 22 Florida Hospitals. We have grown over the past three-and-a-half years from two people to over 55 in the Medical Simulation and Training Department. We have standardized all onboarding of new Graduate Nurses (approx. 850 new GN annually) with simulation as part of their orientation. This has helped greatly in the changing of the culture of learning throughout our hospital system.”

“SSH has been an Integral part of the growth of our program,” he said. “We developed a professional growth program for all Simulation Operations Specialists. Each level requires years of experience, education, and SSH certification. We have trained and certified 19 SOS that have received their CHSOS certification and five CHSE certifications. We’re also implementing standardized policies and procedures, as well as new data collection methods, to work towards our SSH site accreditation.”

“Having a governing body like SSH has brought credibility to our programs and has been a massive resource for information to make sure all simulation support is evidence based. We try to send each SOS to a simulation conference annually to bring back lessons learned to be implemented into our program.”