

Abstracts of Scientific and Invited Papers 15th World Congress for Disaster and Emergency Medicine

13-16 May 2007
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Oral Presentations—Topic 1: Civilian-Military Collaboration

Chair: M. Hoeyenbos

Using Military Mobile Hospitals for Primary Care in Rural Areas of Saudi Arabia

A.N. Algarzaie,¹ S.S. Alsaij,¹ A.A. Al alshaiqb²

1. King Fahd Military Medical Complex, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia
2. Medical Services Department, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Introduction: This study examined the use of military mobile hospitals for the provision of primary care in rural areas during four years. The Military Medical Service Department was ordered to send mobile hospitals to many different rural areas to: (1) provide primary care and treat patients; (2) refer cases to a larger hospital if necessary, using air medical evacuation if needed; (3) search for diseases endemic in that area; (4) conduct medical research in the field; and (5) train the military medical staff to work in the mobile military hospitals.

Methods: Eight military missions took place at the mobile military hospitals from early 2003 to December, 2006. The average time in each mission was 14–21 days.

Results: The numbers, data, and analysis will be presented.

Conclusion: The advantages and disadvantages of using a military mobile hospitals in providing primary care services in the rural areas will be discussed. Whether these hospitals applied the principles of civilian-military cooperation in humanitarian aid also will be examined.

Keywords: civilian-military cooperation; mobile hospital; primary care; rural hospital

Prehosp Disast Med 2007;22(2):s1

Aeromedical Evacuation in Greece: Flying Safely with Civil-Military Cooperation

C.L. Lavdas,¹ D. Efthymiadis,² K. Kavvada,³ S. Krimizas¹

1. Greek Emergency Medical Services/National Center for Emergency Health Care, Rhodes Island, Greece
2. National Center for Emergency Health Care, Air-Medical Transport Office, Athens, Greece
3. Rhodes General Hospital, Rhodes-Dodekanisos, Greece

Introduction: Aeromedical evacuation is defined as air transport of a patient to/from one place to another place or medical unit, while under medical supervision. Flying safety is the main objective for a successful aeromedical evacuation system. Examples of safe flying in Greece will be presented.

Methods: An analysis of statistics from the National Center for Emergency Health Care (EKAB) and the com-

puter database of the EKAB Air-Medical Transport Office was performed. Greek, international air medicine literature has been reviewed. Internet information has been processed. **Results:** The history of civilian aeromedical evacuations in Greece began in 1954. Olympic Airlines Helicopters and Hellenic Air Force aircraft were used. The organization of a national air-medical transport network was established in 1991–1992. In 1994, the Air-Medical Transport Office of the EKAB was established. Olympic Airlines' helicopters and aircrafts were utilized until 2000. There after, evacuations were conducted exclusively through civil missions by EKAB helicopters (AGUSTA A-109E Power). However, use of this model was discontinued in 2003 due to three helicopter accidents with deaths (one in 2001, and two in 2002 over the Aegean sea). Since then, the aeromedical evacuation missions are operated by the EKAB, in cooperation with Hellenic Air Force. All subsequent missions have been completed safely.

Conclusions: Civil-military cooperation for aeromedical evacuation in Greece resulted in a 100% of transports performed safely.

Keywords: aeromedical evacuation; civil-military cooperation; Greece; safety

Prehosp Disast Med 2007;22(2):s1

Mechanism of Emergency Relief and Responses by Military Sectors in Taiwan from the 1999 Chi-Chi Earthquake

B.J. Shih,¹ W.S. Li,² S.Y. Chen²

1. National Taipei University of Technology, Taipei, Taiwan
2. National Science & Technology Center for, Taipei County, Taiwan

Taiwan is located on the circum-Pacific earthquake belt, and one destructive earthquake might be expected every 10 years on average. In 1999, the Chi-Chi Earthquake (local magnitude (ML) = 7.3), was the most devastating earthquake in Taiwan during the 20th century. As a result, the central part of Taiwan experienced many casualties and heavy property damage. The death toll was >2,500, and there was [US] \$10.7 billion of direct property damage and loss. The infrastructure destruction, such as lifeline systems, had a major impact on livelihood and economic activity. Immediately after the event occurred, the Ministry of National Defense issued an emergency mobilization order to deploy the supporting army troops and organize Commander Posts in the effected areas. At that moment, most of local governments were fully or partially paralyzed and telecommunications were interrupted. With efficient