

Military Medical Service

The military medical service is responsible for providing continuous medical support to the armed forces in the peacetime as well as during crises situations or wartime on national territory. At the same time, the health care system has to be prepared to provide adequate medical support to the expeditionary troops.

In emergencies or in combat, physicians are not always immediately available to treat the injured or wounded. When a physician is not available, medical service technicians provide basic and emergency medical treatment. They also assist medical officers in caring for sick and injured patients.

The military medical service consists of the medical corps and the veterinary service.

The central military medical institutes and the central military veterinary institutes provide hygienic and epidemiological as well as veterinary support.

Education for medical specialists is organized at schools of medicine at universities.

In order to be able to cope with the tasks outlined above, the military health care system needs to develop and maintain a unified medical support system consisting of both stationary and mobile elements. The former is to be used to provide medical support not only in peacetime, but also in threat and crises situations, even in wartime. It comprises military hospitals and garrison medical centres.

Garrison dispensaries provide primary health care and medical support during the training of troops. They are independent professional facilities that organize and provide complex medical services to the members of the armed forces and to other categories of citizens within the territory.

Military hospitals ensure special medical care, including specific advisory activities, further education of military doctors, and a base for a treatment and evacuation system during large-scale crises and emergency situations.

Because of the anticipated centralization of troops, the garrison system structure needs to be organized with primary (general) health care provided by medical centres serving outpatients, while special health care is to be provided by hospitals. Mobile elements, such as field hospitals and medical units, have to be able to cope with tasks resulting from the tasks in support of humanitarian and expeditionary combat operations. They are usually structured and organized in a way allowing them to provide medical support under different alternative scenarios. Such roles require high mobility, variability, deployability and high standards of training emphasizing advanced professional skills, psychical and physical endurance.

The modern and flexible military medical service concentrates upon maintaining the high standard of medical care provided to military personnel and eligible civilian patients. Lately, medical care offered to some categories e.g. to the military veterans has been expanded and improved.