

**MCI**

FORUM FOR DISASTER  
& MILITARY MEDICINE

[www.medical-corps-international.com](http://www.medical-corps-international.com)

# MEDICAL CORPS

INTERNATIONAL

## Multinational Medical Services in the world's conflict areas



A publication of Beta Publishing Group



## MCI – THE FORUM

In view of the globally increasing frequency of conflicts and crises and the growing risk of natural and technological disasters, the medical services of all nations are faced with massive challenges.

As a journal, **MEDICAL CORPS INTERNATIONAL (MCI)** concentrates on publishing specialist articles on subjects related to field, disaster and combat medicine. As deployments in disaster regions generally take the form of multinational co-operations, the contribution made by MCI towards international understanding is of particular importance under the current global conditions. MCI provides a forum in which the military

medical services, the medical aid agencies and other collaborating organisations of all countries are invited to participate in order to exchange their information and experience on a worldwide basis.

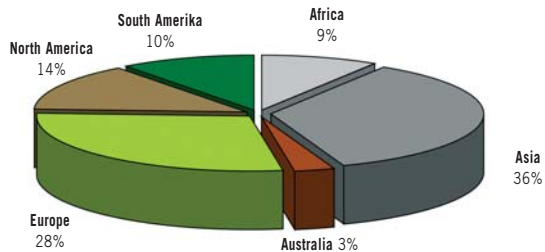
MCI thus represents a unique communication medium for this specialised subject area. It is designed specifically for readerships at both the management and executing levels.

There has been a dramatic escalation in materials needed to achieve these tasks – the requirements for personnel and materials are now at a new high. One of the

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## READERS

■ Africa	1162
■ Asia	4709
■ Australia	402
■ Europe	3755
■ North America	1852
■ South America	1362



Frequency: 4 issues per year      Circulation: 15,000 copies

The MCI is published in English. Summaries are provided in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish in more than 200 countries all over the world.

>> reasons why MCI was originally instituted was to facilitate the distribution of the related information.

The specialist journal MCI supplies information on materials and equipment to the supervisory levels of the military and civilian organisations that are already being deployed or are in preparation for assignments. The range of subjects covered is extensive, stretching from medical articles, through descriptions of the organisational structures of the various medical services, to information on devices and equipment.

## THE MEDICAL CORPS INTERNATIONAL GROUP OF INTERNATIONAL ADVISORS

MCI receives advice and support from senior officers of the medical corps of various nations, thus ensuring that MCI maintains its high quality standard.

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Karsten Ocker (MD)  
Vice Admiral MC (ret.)

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## SPECIFIC SUBJECTS

### Range of conditions

- Provision of medical care under peaceful or near-peaceful conditions
- Provision of medical care under difficult conditions (general environment, climate)
- Provision of medical care under war-like conditions (under fire and/or the threat of fire)
- Provision of aid for the reconstruction of medical structures in the theatre of activities
- Primary and secondary medical evacuation

### Range of capacities

- Mobile preclinical medical care
- Clinical care
- Preventive medicine, medical intelligence
- Assumption of responsibilities within the public healthcare system
- Traumatology - Military psychiatry - Infectiology

### Range of equipment

- Mobile units (for transport by road, water, air)
- Tent-container modules, mobile infrastructure systems
- Communication systems (radio, satellite, tele-medicine), orientation devices
- Robust medical technology, remote systems
- Supply and storage of pharmaceuticals
- Equipment for personal protection



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The President of the Advisory Group, Karsten Ocker (MD), Vice-Admiral MC (ret.) has described the underlying principles for the rationale of the journal in four letters written to **MCI**.

### WHY DOES IT MAKE SENSE, TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF **MCI**?

- This is the first international journal published in a single language that specifically deals with the needs of the military medical corps throughout the world.
- There has previously been no medium for promoting understanding and communication between the military medical services and the NGOs in individual countries and the larger UN organisations.
- National publications in the local language are of limited suitability as an international forum for the exchange of information, discussion and communication between the various medical corps. Valuable experience gained during specific deployments cannot be shared with a wider circle of interested recipients.
- MCI represents a unique medium of communication between the military medical services of the industrialised nations, of the developing nations and those nations that have yet to reach this stage, and between NGOs and the UN organisations.
- MCI provides for on-going publication of the dialogue and discussion between experts and interested parties, of know-how and experience – these can be archived and made available to others. Exchange of information extending beyond the cursorily summarised congress reports.
- MCI provides training in specialised dialogue in a single language. The use of a common language, both orally and written, is the key to success in international deployments and the fight against all global risks to health.
- In a world in which concerns for safety have become mutual and interlinked, in which there are no boundaries to travel and infections can spread rapidly across national borders, there is no longer any rationale for the maintenance of exclusively national medical services.

### **CAN MCI PLAY A ROLE IN THE TRANSFORMATION OF MILITARY MEDICAL SERVICES?**

- MCI, as an international journal for military medicine, places an emphasis on the revision of concepts for the operation of the various medical corps, a revision that has become necessary because of the changes to the political situation of our world.
- The various armed forces have been assigned to duties around the world on behalf of the security organisations of the UN, the EU, the AU, the OECD and NATO. The conception and planning of missions are subject to a wide range of variation. Deployments range from humanitarian aid missions, through nation building to combat in all geographical, climatic and epidemic-threatened regions of the world, many of which are difficult to reach or are poorly accessible.
- In many countries there is the expectation that our servicemen and -women, sent out with the objective of maintaining or restoring peace and security, will be provided with the very best quality of individual medical care and will be repatriated if necessary. For this, the quality of management and leadership of medical corps must also be maintained at a high level.
- The indigenous populations in the countries of deployment are now also to be covered by the humanitarian services provided by our military organisations. This requires the provision of both limited emergency services in close cooperation with the local health services and of support to enhance the effectiveness of these services.
- MCI actively promotes the development of innovative concepts for the work of medical corps in this new situation.

### **SHOULD MCI PROMOTE DISASTER AND RELIEF OPERATIONS?**

- Commitments of the military medical services to provide support to their civilian population in the case of national catastrophes.
- The number and severity of natural disasters has significantly increased in recent years. It is not just the extent of damage to infrastructure and environment that is growing, but also the number of victims and otherwise affected persons. Climate change bears the main responsibility for natural disasters (storms, floods and droughts).
- No country can consider itself safe from the assault of fanatics and terrorists, whose bloody actions can result in mass casualty rates.
- The normal rescue services and aid organisations are becoming increasingly unable to cope with the task of dealing with catastrophes because of their supra-

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## >> SHOULD MCI PROMOTE DISASTER AND RELIEF OPERATIONS?

regional dimensions, the destruction of the necessary infrastructure and the sheer numbers

of those affected. The military medical services are being more frequently called upon to use their capabilities, resources and skills as part of national and international efforts to deal cope with the results of large scale disasters. In many cases, it is the military authorities who are assigned to supervise such complex and major operations.

- The MCI promotes the exchange of information between the various military medical services on what resources and methods are used in various countries to facilitate the increasingly important cooperation between civilian and military organisations. It aims to help eradicate existing prejudices and the unnecessary demarcation of areas of competence. Contributions made by the aid and disaster prevention agencies of various countries will also help the military medical services to adapt their own organisational structures, capabilities and operational strategies to actual requirements. All sides in the various countries will be able to find material that will help them to their own targeted and effective solutions.
- The precautions and plans should be put in place in advance, and this would be a more suitable way to fulfil our mission to help people at need than any contribution on our part towards post-disaster clear-up operations, that would provide only inadequately coordinated and synchronised alleviation of human suffering.
- For this reason, we should solicit contributions on disaster preparedness and relief operations in the domestic and foreign spheres not only from the military side, but also from the civilian NGOs and GOs, so that this central civil-military aspect can be assimilated in the main objective of our journal, namely “optimisation through cooperation”.

## **HOW CAN WE HELP ENSURE THAT THE MOST APPROPRIATE EQUIPMENT FOR A SPECIFIC MISSION IS DEFINED AND MADE AVAILABLE?**

- MCI should also turn its attention to deployment materials, the medical devices and pharmaceutical products.
- Cooperation and mutual teamwork are only possible if, in addition to the application of a standard treatment concept and use of a common language, materials and equipment that can be mutually shared are available. It is the task of Medical Corps International to provide information on the basic concepts and planning systems employed in the various countries, and also on the differing approaches to material development and procurement.

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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- It is necessary to differentiate between the medical supply situation in those rescue and treatment missions following catastrophes in which a high level of technological and medical skills are made available and the requirements for providing medical services and support for self-help in countries without an adequately developed health care structure.
- MCI should be used to describe the material specifications applied of the military medical services that ensure that their personnel are provided with equipment that is both cost-effective and meets the highest possible technical standards.
- Mobile medical devices that can be transported by land or air into the field must be transportable – small, light, robust – and must be able to function independently in the field but provide an adequate level of diagnostic reliability.
- In stationary emergency centres, and in container- and canvas-based facilities, more complex equipment can be used. These must be resistant to extreme climatic conditions, the effects of sand and dust and mechanical stresses. There should also be the option of the integration of modern IT systems and telemedicine communication equipment.
- For use during humanitarian missions or initial deployments following catastrophes in regions, the equipment would also need to be designed so that it can be operated by paramedics or doctors with no specialist training. Robust utility supply systems for energy, water (and medical gases) are also needed.
- The medical equipment industry needs our input if it is to develop suitable devices on the basis of our specifications and experience of use of equipment in the field. The requirements of the military medical services with regard to these systems is unquestionably an area that has received little attention within the industry, while MCI is in the position to change this situation with benefits to all involved by promoting the publication of information and promoting discussion.
- MCI hopes this will result in a development to the effect that concepts for medical material design take into account the differing nature of deployment scenarios and the diverse conditions in the various regions of the world. ■ ko

Yours sincerely,



Dr. K. Ocker  
Vice Admiral (ret.)  
President Group of International Advisors

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