

# 2018 COMBAT MEDICAL CARE CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

## Overview of the Combat Medical Care (CMC) Conference 2018

*Lieutenant Colonel Dr Florent Josse, Military Medical Center Ulm*

As an international symposium on Tactical Combat Casualty Care provided in military and police operations, the Combat Medical Care (CMC) Conference was held for the third time for medical and rescue personnel, nursing staff, and physicians on 29–30 June 2018 in Neu-Ulm, Germany.

Under this year's motto "Who Cares Wins," 1,300 participants from more than 32 nations attended a unique international platform that offered military, police, special forces, rescue, disaster control, and fire brigade personnel the opportunities to exchange information on the subject of tactical medicine and to share their experiences. More than 50 exhibitors provided participants information on the latest products for the provision of initial medical care in case of combat-related injuries.

On the first evening, the legendary CMC Get Together Party, which is the social highlight of the conference, took place at the Roxy Cultural Center in Ulm. After the European Best Medic award was granted to a Belgium SOF medic in recognition of his service in Iraq and to a Special Weapons and Tactics officer for his many years of commitment to the training of police medics, the evening was opened with a live show and a live band.

Owing to the German Society for Military Medicine and Pharmacy (DGWMP), the biennial conference was held without any interruptions. The Bundeswehr Hospital Ulm, most specifically the Department of Anesthesiology, Emergency Medicine and Intensive Care, was responsible for the scientific program and the medical content of the conference.

The Specialized Operations Training Center (AusbZSpezlOp) Pfullendorf and the Tactical Rescue & Emergency Medicine Association e.V. (TREMA) also contributed to the event in close cooperation and were responsible for the CFR The commander of Working Group, the TEMS symposium, and the TREMA course.

In his opening speech, the president of the German Society for Military Medicine and Pharmacy, Lieutenant General (Ret), Medical Corps, Dr Jürgen Blätzing, welcomed the tactical medical personnel from the civilian, military, and government sectors who attended the conference. What made this conference special were the scientific program and the target group workshops, which were offered to a broad spectrum of participants and ensured a high level of practical importance. The field medical care provided today had been mostly unknown 15 years ago and had been a "hobby" of medical



*CMC 2020 Save the Date*

service officers and paramedics. On operations abroad, they often had to work under difficult conditions and were confronted with severe injuries. In Germany, wounds caused by high-velocity projectiles or blast injuries are mostly unknown in the civilian area even today. Because of the terrorist attacks in Europe since 2015, civilian authorities and organizations have started to review the situation, and military and civilian expert associations have begun to cooperate closely.

Lieutenant General (Ret), Medical Corps, Dr Jürgen Blätzing pointed out that a major task of the Bundeswehr medical and nonmedical personnel responsible for tactical medical care was to share their knowledge and experience with the civilian sector. The development of networks and constant preparation and joint training were essential to ensure close cooperation now and in the future.

The commander of the Bundeswehr Medical Center Ulm, General (MC) Dr Hoffmann, then expressed his gratefulness on behalf of the entire team for having received the honorable tasks to support this conference and to prepare the ambitious scientific program. He was convinced that this third event with its focus on tactical medicine and a balanced proportion of theoretical and practical elements would be again successful and without doubt a valuable complement to the events of the Special Operations Medical Association (SOMA) in the United States. The objectives were to bring together participants of a wide range of professions, skill levels, work places, and countries and to commonly seek ways to fulfill the mission to provide the best care to casualties in crisis and threat situations. The great interest and the very high number of participants underscored the demand and the importance of this event. Dr Hoffmann was most of all delighted about the numerous participants from abroad. The topics during these 2 days also



*CMC 2018 European best medic award*



*CMC 2018 Conference Hall*

included the provision of medical care to casualties in military operations and after terrorist attacks and natural disasters at home. The program included new priorities such as crisis areas in Africa and future challenges posed by chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) attacks. Some topics of the last CMC conference were repeated on purpose to document the requested follow-up as a review of the progression with lessons learned as well as implementation and structural changes.

Special highlights were the numerous practical workshops offered in the first afternoon, which were organized with the support of instructors and created the opportunity to share, update, and complement knowledge.

On the second day, four additional lecture series tailored to the various participants and their skill levels were offered in parallel to the scientific program (including lectures on trauma care and deployment surgery, surgical care, training, and instruction). The Tactical Emergency Medical Services (TEMS) symposium had been prepared for German police and federal police officers. For all medical assistant personnel (paramedics, independent medics, emergency medical technicians, and nursing staff), lectures were offered as part of the medical assistant follow-on training. National and international CFR and SOF medics were able to exchange their knowledge in a closed working group and mission first aid providers had

the opportunity to repeat more than only theoretical elements during the MFAP-B follow-on training.

For Brigadier (MC) Dr Hoffmann, and his team, this conference was a splendid opportunity and a matter close to the heart to gather with fellow soldiers and colleagues from different countries with the goal of meeting the challenges of the future as a network and a team.

The last speaker was guest of honor Master Chief (Ret) Steve Viola, SOMA immediate past president from the United States, who focused on the close cooperation between the CMC Conference and the SOMA Scientific Assembly (SOMSA). He emphasized the huge importance of a European platform for tactical medicine and was delighted that this platform had finally been established a few years ago.

After two successful CMC conference days under the motto "Who Cares Wins," the commander, Regional Medical Facilities, Major General (MC) Dr. Kalinowski, underlined the significance of medical care in extreme situations. He thanked both the organizers and the participants of the event for their service to other people and acknowledged the great international platform of this well-organized congress. The next CMC Conference will take place on 1–2 July 2020 and is already highly anticipated.



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