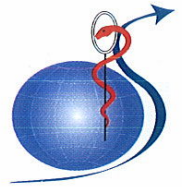




## 6<sup>th</sup> ICMM WORKSHOP ON MILITARY MEDICAL ETHICS

LILIEBERG, SWITZERLAND  
19-21 MAY, 2016



### REPORT

The 6<sup>th</sup> Military Medical Ethics Workshop was focused on "Military Medical Ethics and Hybrid Warfare", and held at the Lilienberg, Ermatingen, Switzerland from May 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> 2016. It was organized by the ICMM Center of Reference for Education of International Humanitarian Law and Ethics in close collaboration with the Medical Services Directorate of the Swiss Armed Forces.

The Scientific program of the workshop was planned and coordinated by Dr. phil **D. MESSELKEN** and Lt Col **D. WINKLER**. The workshop was supported and held under the patronage of MG **A. STETTbacher**, Prof. **P. SCHABER**, and MG (ret) **R. VAN HOOF**.

The workshop was attended by 36 participants from 18 nations, arriving from four continents. The ICMM was represented by its legal advisors Col (ret) **J. CROUSE** and Col (ret) **I. KHOLIKOV**, as well as Major **H. ESMEIRAN**, Chairperson of the Nurses and Paramedics' Technical Commission. The peaceful, warm setting of the Lilienberg venue has again provided an ideal venue for this scientific conclave. It opened mind and hearts for vivid and tough but respectful ethical and philosophical debates that continued during the breaks and late into the evenings after dinner.

The program started with an introduction on the only loosely defined term "hybrid warfare". The term may subsume a kind of modern warfare that involves in parallel (1) different fighting groups, e.g. state actors with conventional heavy weapons, non-state actors with modern weapons, or insurgents, as well as (2) a combination of different types of attacks, including cyberwarfare, propaganda using electronic media, terrorism, and economic warfare. The workshop aimed at investigating whether and to what extent this kind of warfare results in particular and new military medical ethical dilemma and challenges, and how these might be addressed.

In a first session, Lt Col **B. DEMUNYNCK**, Col **P. MAJOVSKY** and SCol **M. YU** reported on recent field experiences of hybrid conflict situation. The medical ethical dilemmas they observed in hybrid theatres included the provision of medical care to civilian victims of predictable collateral damage, as well as the support of local civil population in case of a natural catastrophe, such as a potential Mosul dam breach. The presentations on field experiences were amended by the introduction by Lt Col **L. BERNTHAL** on material for the training of ethical decision-making in order to better meet the challenges of contemporary conflicts.

The second session was focused on ethical reflections and thus more theoretical analyses of military medical ethical issues related to hybrid warfare. In their respective presentations, **P. GILBERT**, **D.L. DUSENBURY**, **M. GROSS**, and **B. KOCH** provided different perspectives on for example the question of and why whether medical care should be provided to all sides of the conflict and thus also to so called "unjust combatants", and to what extent medical personnel might be accomplices in wrongdoings by some actors within hybrid warfare conflicts. Some of the challenges mentioned during the first field experience session were also taken up again and commented upon.

In the third and last session, ethical challenges encountered by civilian actors/ organizations during hybrid conflicts were presented by **A. PALAMA** (ICRC), **V. NATHANSON** (WMA), **C. CLARINVAL** (WHO), **A. OKHOWAT** (WHO), and **P. CALAIN** (MSF). In both reports from ongoing projects on the one hand and more theoretical analyses on the other hand, they analyzed for example effects upon health care and the civilian population that result from hybrid warfare situations and, more generally, contemporary conflicts and "new wars". In addition, the question of how respect for IHL and ethical regulations may also be generated among non-state actors was discussed. A humanitarian perspective on the question of complicity of medical personnel amended and contrasted

the theoretical discussion of the previous philosophical session with ground experiences.

The abstracts of all presentations can be found in the program brochure published on the website of the ICMM Center of Reference for Education on IHL and Ethics (<https://melac.ch/courses-workshops/ethics-workshop/2016-lilienberg>). A publication of a comprehensive proceedings volume is envisaged.

*Daniel MESSELKEN and David WINKLER*

