



## 8<sup>th</sup> Course on Military Medical Ethics in Times of Armed Conflict (MME)

by the International Committee of Military Medicine (ICMM)

### **Virtual Classroom Course**

Monday 31 August – Friday 04 September 2020

## General Information

The International Committee of Military Medicine, the *ICMM Reference Centre for Education of International Humanitarian Law and Ethics*, and the Swiss Armed Forces Medical Services Directorate wish to offer to Military Medical Personnel, Military Medico-Legal Officers, and Chaplains as well as other interested members of the armed forces a

### **Course on *Military Medical Ethics in Times of Armed Conflict***

The course aims at...

- ... enabling participants to recognize and analyze situations that present *ethical and legal dilemmas* from contemporary military deployments;
- ... qualifying the participants to make legally *and* ethically sound decisions in situations where competences in international law *and* ethics are similarly relevant.

## Virtual Classroom Course 2020

Due to the travel restrictions imposed by the response to COVID-19 by many countries, we unfortunately cannot organize the 2020 course in Spiez/ Switzerland as we usually do. We decided to see the current situation as an opportunity to **explore a new format of the course** and to hold the course as a “virtual classroom course”.

In **preparation** for the course, participants will get access to an **e-learning tool** and will have to follow some exercises online. Participants are free to schedule when they do these tasks (which amount to about 5h in total) within three weeks before the course.

The **main course will be held via videoconferencing** and the participants and teachers will **meet during fixed times in the virtual environment**. Hence, the usual format of the course that includes some lectures and much groupwork and discussions will be transferred into a virtual classroom. In addition, external experts may join the course for lectures. Thus, the virtual course shall be as close to the *in situ* course format as possible and shall offer as much direct exchange between the participants and the teaching team as possible.

In order to allow **participants from different global time zones** to join the course, the daily virtual classroom hours will only cover half a day (morning in Europe, afternoon in Asia). On some days, participants will receive follow-up tasks which they can schedule themselves in between the sessions. Details can be found in the program at <https://mme2020.melac.ch>



## Learning Objectives

### The course...

- ... establishes connections of International Humanitarian Law with its ethical fundamentals;
- ... illustrates the ethically difficult role of military medical personnel, occupying a role in between the roles of soldier and physician;
- ... familiarizes course participants with approaching ethically difficult situations and dilemmas by teaching them a framework for ethical decision making;
- ... recognizes and analyzes current problems and challenges related to International Humanitarian Law and military medical ethics within the scope of military operations including peace-keeping operations, and helps to identify possible solutions;
- ... motivates course participants to recognize their responsibility of training and disseminating International Humanitarian Law and Ethics.

### The teaching and training focus on Ethics

- Ethical Decision Making in Military Medical Ethics
- Ethical Foundations of IHL
- The course presupposes basic knowledge of the rules of International Humanitarian Law applicable for military medical personnel (Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols) on the level taught in the ICMM LoAC courses.

## Conditions to participate

The **following conditions must be met by everybody who wishes to participate in the 2020 MME virtual classroom course**. Even though the course is held as a virtual classroom course, it is not a passive e-learning course, but all participants and teachers will meet online during fixed times in a closed videoconference room.

### Course schedule

- Access to a **mandatory e-learning module** will be given to all participants before the course. All participants must follow the e-learning individually and complete some tasks online in weeks 33-35. A total of 5h is needed to complete the e-learning.
- The course will be run from Monday, August 31 to Friday, September 04, 2020. **Daily fixed hours are from 0830 to 1400 CEST (Zurich time)**, including breaks. In addition, participants should be able to spend 1h00 during the rest of their working day for individual follow-up of the course. **The course program with the exact schedule can be downloaded on <https://mme2020.melac.ch/>**
- Participants are expected to be (1) **available during the virtual classroom hours during the whole week** and (2) in an **environment that allows them to follow the course and to participate in discussions**. Usually, this means they should have a separate room in order not to be disturbed by other or disturb them when talking.
- In sum, the course consists of 29 hours. An individual preparation time of 5h before the main course week, 20h virtual classroom sessions, and 4h individual follow-up during the course week.



## Technical requirements

- **A computer or tablet with a webcam and microphone.** A mobile phone is not sufficient.
- The software “**zoom conferences**” will be used for videoconferencing and must be installed by all participants. A paid subscription to zoom is not needed by participants.
- Internet access with **sufficient bandwidth for videoconferences.**
- **Unrestricted access to “zoom conferences” and the websites <https://e-courses.melac.ch/> and <https://scenarios.militarymedicalethics.ch>** must be guaranteed during the whole course. Potential restrictions by security settings or military firewalls must be checked beforehand by the participants.
- The use of a headset is strongly recommended.

## Language

- The course is held in **English language**. Participants must have sufficient knowledge in English to understand presentations and to participate in discussions.

## Course Certificate

- **Successful participants will receive a certificate** issued by the Swiss Armed Forces Medical Services Directorate.
- The MME course has been accredited by the **Swiss Institute for Postgraduate and Further Education in Medicine (SIWF / ISFM) with 25 Credit Points**. Participants will receive a certificate and can check with their national institutions if the credit points are accepted by them.
- To be eligible for the certificate and to receive the credit points, participants must (1) follow the e-learning tasks before the course, (2) be present during the whole virtual classroom course and participate in the discussions, (3) submit the follow-up tasks they are given during the course. The workload is specified in the program and amounts to 29h in total.

## Course fee & registration

- **A course fee of 50 CHF is charged to participants.** This includes access to the online material, the preparatory e-learning session, and the virtual classroom sessions of the main course. If you are unable to pay the fee, please indicate on the application form and we will evaluate a waiver of the course fee.
- **Registration for the course is mandatory.** The number of participants is limited and only confirmed participants will be able to access the course.
- **[Please use the application form provided by us](#)** and fill out all questions.
- The **deadline for applications** is July 20, 2020.  
Places at the course are limited. Applicants will be informed by July 25 at the latest whether their application has been accepted.

## Further information

- **Further information and the provisional course program** can be found at <https://mme2020.melac.ch/> or you can contact [courses@melac.ch](mailto:courses@melac.ch)