

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# THE 11<sup>th</sup> CONFERENCE OF THE CZECH SOCIETY OF MILITARY PHYSICIANS, PHARMACISTS AND VETERINARIANS

The 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Society of Military Physicians, Pharmacists and Veterinarians took place at the Faculty of Military Health Sciences, University of Defence, in Hradec Králové, on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2011. The Society is a member of the Czech J. E. Purkinje Medical Association.

The main topics of the Conference were a) progress in diagnostics and treatment-procedures by military physicians engaged in primary care or practising in medical establishments b) practical problems of organization and command- and - control within the Service c) scientific activities and research in military health-care d) latest

experiences in foreign missions e) selected case-reports of special interest.

Altogether, 23 oral presentations and 13 posters were delivered. Presentations on the ethos behind the formation and development of the Military Medical Service, particularly in consideration of the economic restrictions and therefore, the re-organization of the Czech Armed Forces, attracted the close attention of all participants. Subsequent presentations dealt with the training, education and specialization of military physicians, pointing out precisely some of the current problems. At the same time, new legislation which should improve the situation, was presented.



**Figure 1.** View on a speaker and chairmen during the Conference.

The participants listened with exceptional interest to presentations on current missions by the Czech Military Medical Service abroad. Recently-instigated co-operation in Afghanistan with the French military medical service has been functioning very well. The Czech physicians (surgeons, anaesthetists), nurses and other personnel, integrated in international teams smoothly and successfully. The experiences gained, particularly in the surgical treatment of gunshot-wounds and injuries from explosions of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) have great value, and will be used in subsequent clinical practice as well as in the training of surgeons.

Papers analyzing the system of preparation for missions abroad, and the study of psychological aspects of „burn-out“ syndrome during deployment and post-deployment, fitted well into this interesting topic. Subsequent presentations, specifically on clinical disciplines (surgery, internal medicine), documented pathways into research on clinical practice in peacetime, particularly orientated towards its application in military medicine under field-conditions e.g. the development of a new fixateur externe for pelvic fractures. A high proportion of presentations came from junior military physicians on interesting cases from their clinical practices. Results of scientific research in the fields of military toxicology, aviation and hyperbaric medicine, metabolic and nutritional care, and in other areas of interest in military medicine, were delivered as poster-presentations.

During the Conference, there was enough time for energetic and fruitful discussion which formed a significant and welcome climax to this over-all successful professional gathering. The next Conference of the Society, the 12th, will again take place in Hradec Králové in October, 2012.

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