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THE PURKYNĚ MILITARY MEDICAL ACADEMY IN HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ - ITS POSITION AND A ROLE IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC ARMY MILITARY MEDICAL SERVICE

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The Purkyně Military Medical Academy in Hradec Králové (MMA) was founded in 1951 by command of the President of Republic to ensure a preparation of military doctors and solve military medical research and scientific projects. Hitherto, the Academy has prepared in undergraduate study 2194 military doctors, 169 dentists and 94 pharmacists. The present MMA is, according to the Law No. 172/1991 of the University Digest, the military school of university type. Since 1990 the Academy has passed through a period of transformation which has essentially changed teaching programmes of undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate studies, organizing structure, personnel support, the structure of teaching staff, research and scientific personnel, proportion of career officers and civil servants. Contemporary number of Academy staff has decreased at 52 % in comparison with the year 1990, however, number of taught lessons of theoretical and practical education and special training has increased twice.

MMA is an inseparable component of the Military Medical Service and fulfils following projects:

- undergraduate preparation of military medical subjects, first degree (magister's) study programmes in general medicine, stomatology and pharmacy and military medical management in bachelor's study programme
- graduate special study to acquire advanced certificates in basic medical and pharmaceutical branches for jobs in military medical authorities
- research (doctor's degree) preparation in accredited medical branches
- special training of military health personnel of all categories in the form of courses

- scientific research information and publishing activities specified for the needs of the Military Medical Service during a peace and for war purposes, emergency situations and humanitarian assistance in foreign countries
- research and special information and publishing activities - preparation for providing projects of the Military Medical Service during military readiness of the country
- special preparation, training and a complete support of the School of Reservists (SR) for graduates from the Medical and Pharmaceutical Faculties in the Czech Republic at their entrance to the basic duty service,
- special preparation, training and a complete support of the Military Nursing School and one-year Warrant-Officer's Health School
- complete support of all medical authorities in the Czech Republic Army with medical and pharmaceutical information, translating and interpreting activities, publishing of the journal "Vojenské zdravotnické listy".



Obr. 1 Vojenská lékařská akademie J. E. Purkyně - budova internátu pro studenty

Fig. 1 Purkyně Military Medical Academy - Students' Hostel

The field of military special preparation support in all types of study programmes, training, courses, the field of scientific and research activities, expert opinion and the field of information and publishing activities may be considered the main purposes of the MMA oriented on the Czech Republic Army Medical Service. In the respect of transformation steps which were passed and having been passed in the Czech Republic Army and in the Military Medical Service as well, it is necessary to mention problems of education, special preparation and military medical professionals training. That is closely associated with new establishing legislation for Universities and Colleges

where the basic question is the accreditation of study programmes derived from schooling authority of this type.

All primary suggestions on solving the problem of education of a military medical professional must be developed from the solving of following principal questions.

The first principal question is a need of military special education for the purposes of the Czech Republic Army medical personnel.

A necessity of special military professional education is objectively done with special demands in ensurance of therapeutic and preventive care in a peace and under military readiness of the country which is different from civil health service. This fact is generally accepted in all NATO countries. A need of education in military branches is accepted in the Czech Republic with the fact that the Medical and Pharmaceutical Faculties do not ensure even rudiments in this field as it is in other countries.

The second principal question is when the education is to be provided and in which form.

Basically a special military education may be engaged in a full-time undergraduate study and ever in a postgraduate study. The NATO countries have elaborated a special system of postgraduate education for armies in special military branches in order to have medical personnel at the professional level of that time. The forms of study may be four and depend on the needs and possibilities of recruitment and continual education. A combination of several methods is ever used as far as possible.

The third principal question is where the education shall be provided.

All NATO countries have their special authorities where they are engaged in this professional problem. Usually, they are military medical academies or health care academies or facilities for continual education. This problem in respect of its close linking up with the theory and practice of army activities is impossible to provide in civil facilities or only in military hospitals.

The fourth principal question is institutionalization of such education in the field of defence.

An existence of educational institutions is being established from contemporary valid educational laws (Law No. 171/92 and No. 172/92 of the Digest). A planned change of the educational laws may affect also education in special fields including military ones. Advanced education in medical field is performed in agreement with the Law No. 20/66 of the Digest, and people's health care in the reading of the Law No. 86/92 of the Digest.

The fifth principal question is an influence of the Department of the Ministry of Defence on the educational system and its control.

This problem has to be solve in accordance to possible clashes of competences between universities, colleges and their academic authorities and the centrally controlled organization (and directive system of management). In any case the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Health Service, Medical Chamber, Stomatological Chamber, Pharmaceutical Chamber and the special authorities will participate in control of education.

The sixth principal question is the statute of authority which will ensure education in the special field of military medicine and military health service.

This problem is associated with a character and content of educational authorities. The statute is necessary to create further to the Laws related to educational authorities.

A suggestion follows from answers to above mentioned principal questions that for the Department of the Czech Republic Ministry of Defence, or for further Ministries being controlled by the Armed Forces, it is necessary to provide courses and advanced education in special field of military medicine, military health service, possibly disaster medicine in agreement with principles of education in NATO countries at a special educational authority.

Scientific, research and expert opinion activities are the preconditions of a professional level of teaching process, its relevance and a high specification of education in military medical branches. The MMA has accredited 7 branches

of science to ensure a professional level of teaching and science for the Military Medical Service which are not accredited in any civilian university or college or research institute. Research and scientific activities at the MMA are provided at its 9 departments, 2 clinics and 2 institutes. A scientific work in the Military Medical Service is managed and controlled by councils of specialty and academic councils of the MMA. Expenses on research projects are covered from more sources, by the department of Ministry of Defence, civilian grant agencies, another ministries, the Czech Republic grant agencies, foreign grants. The MMA concluded



Obr. 2 Polní výcvik studentů VLA

Fig. 2 Field training of MMA students

ded various agreements on research cooperation with military educational and research institutes in foreign countries. The results of scientific research and expert opinion activities are of material origin (antidots, therapeutic methods, innovation of hitherto known preparations, publications, lectures, patents) as well as of immaterial origin (new knowledge, changes of regulations, functioning measures, new technologies). Results of research work were introduced into the following branches: medical and radiohygienic support under emergency radiation situations, radioprotectives, disactivating substances, antidots against chemical substances, practical disinfection, therapy of burns and polytraumas, intensive therapeutic methods in internal medicine, influence of living and working conditions on a health state, stability of drugs and chosen types of medical material and others. These are results being at the disposal only at MMA in accordance to the profile of work places for teaching and research. In the basic research, various distinguished results were obtained in the branch of toxicology, immunology and radiobiology.

7 professors, 21 associate professors, 9 doctors of science and 48 PhD (doctors of philosophy) are engaged in teaching, therapeutic, preventive, expertise and research activities at the departments, institutes and clinics of MMA for the benefit of the Czech Republic Army and its medical service. 35 workers with scientific and technical graduation degrees are in charge of the work at MMA.

Since 1992 the school has published the review of its recent activities (Annual Report) where results of teaching, research and publication activities are issued and numbers of organized special conferences and results of foreign cooperation are published there. The school has elaborated its own evaluation system of academic staff, departments, clinics and institutes, appropriate materials for accreditation of study programmes for magister's, bachelor's and doctor's degrees are done.

The aim of the Purkyně Military Medical Academy, which fulfils the projects of a social order for the Czech Republic Army Medical Service is to be even in the future a modern academic institution fully comparable in professional respect with other universities and colleges with essential orientation on a development of military medical specialties.