

# VOJENSKÉ ZDRAVOTNICKÉ LISTY

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VOLUME LXVIII

DECEMBER 1999

SUPPLEMENT 1

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## MEDICAL EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES IN THE CZECH ARMY

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A military doctor must be trained for particular needs of the Military Medical Service that are different from civilian service. Namely, for providing assistance within disasters, organizing humanitarian aid and for wartime. A prerequisite of the above mentioned is to know medical know-how, skills, and practice in the fields that are not thought at civilian medical faculties in the Czech Republic. Prominent research and teaching staff is employed at the Purkyně Military Medical Academy (PMMA).

Our country has a long-term tradition in a professional training and education of military doctors which is comparable with the leading European countries. The Military Medical Academy - Josefinum, where studied military doctors from the Czech Kingdom, was established in Vienna in 1785.

The Military Medical School, founded in Prague in 1927, represented the first component in training of physicians for military career in the 1<sup>st</sup> Czechoslovak Republic. In 1951, Hradec Králové began to play an important role in the development of the Czechoslovak military medical system of education at the Military Medical Academy which was became an educational and scientific centre of the Czechoslovak Military Medical Service.

A qualitatively new stage in the development of the School has started after November 1989. It has undergone a transformation, which has fundamentally changed:

- the organizational structure of the School
- military and professional teaching programmes
- personnel support
- the structure of the teaching staff which includes

scientific and research specialists

- the range and direction of international co-operation

The PMMA carries out its educational and scientific work on the basis of statutory contracts, with the Medical and Pharmaceutical Faculties of Charles University in Hradec Králové which covered general medical education.

Eight military departments (toxicology, combat surgery, general medicine, epidemiology, hygiene, combat internal medicine, military medical service organization, management and military pharmacy) and 2 institutes (information, radiobiology and immunology) conduct education, research and development at the PMMA.

The achievements of the School in the field of science, research, development and expertise are reflected in its individual forms of teaching and training - undergraduate training, postgraduate training, specialization training, scientific education and various professional programmes.

PMMA ensures:

- undergraduate studies for the Master's Degree in military medical subjects (general medicine, stomatology and pharmacy are taught at the Medical or Pharmaceutical Faculties of Charles University)
- undergraduate studies for the Bachelor's Degree in military health management
- postgraduate career studies for the postgraduate degrees in medical and pharmaceutical subjects for future posts in the military medical facilities

- postgraduate studies for Doctorate Degree in accredited subjects
- advanced courses for all categories of Czech Army medical personnel
- scientific, research development and specialty activities focused on the Military Medical Service's needs in peacetime, under threat of war, in emergency situations, when rendering humanitarian assistance abroad
- medical, pharmaceutical, specialty and scientific information and publishing services to support educational and scientific work of our School's staff and all staff of Military Medical Service of the Czech Army
- therapeutic and preventive activities at clinics and departments focusing on haematology, metabolic disturbances, polytraumas, burns and parenteral nutrition
- training of medical personnel to fulfil the projects of the Military Medical Service „in the state of combat readiness“
- special education and training of commanders in reserve - graduates from the Medical and Pharmaceutical Faculties in the Czech Republic on their admission to basic duty service
- special education and training of military paramedical personnel for the Czech Army's demands
- complete support to all military medical institutions of the Czech Army with special medical, pharmaceutical and military information, translating and interpreting services and publishing of the journal „Vojenské zdravotnické listy“ for military doctors and pharmacists

In present foci of conflicts in the world, the role of military medical personnel in our Military Medical Service and Military Medical Academy stresses a necessity of all PMMA's activities. Already in 1991 the Military Medical Academy played a significant role in the formation of a medical section of the Czechoslovak unit sent to the Gulf operation. Since 1994 a new tradition - regular participation of medical officers in peacekeeping missions in the former Yugoslavia - has been established. Present combat experience has thoroughly extended information exchange and development of working contacts of our Military Medical Service.

The contacts of the School with partnering departments abroad are of a high quality. Standards valid within NATO have been applied in military and professional education. Agreements of co-operation have been signed with the Bundeswehr Military Medical Academy in Munich, the Medical School in Lyons, the Polish Medical Academy in Łódź and with similar military departments in Europe and the US.

The objective of the School for the future is to function as a modern institution of university-type. At the same time it is important to extend co-operation with similar departments and institutions abroad in the field of science and education to improve a quality of medical care in the Czech Army.

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