

# MULTINATIONAL MODULAR MEDICAL UNITS (Field Hospitals)

## Capability gap

Field Hospitals are among the most valuable contributions Members States can make to provide for multinational missions. A vital prerequisite for any deployment, they are incredibly flexible assets that can be deployed to a whole range of missions. Improvements in training and equipment means that now, even in the toughest environment, a single field hospital can save many lives and limbs.

However, a properly outfitted field hospital requires expensive and sophisticated equipment, and few Member States can provide adequate amount of doctors and nurses experienced in trauma care who are the core of the hospital's work.



## Multinational Modular Medical Unit

Facilitated by the EDA, 16 Member States agreed to build Multinational Modular Medical Units. This will provide highly flexible modular field hospitals, complete with state of the art equipment and highly trained medical personnel, drawn from across Europe. The hospitals will be provided with all components associated with a modern field hospital, including mission-tailored enhancing modules, with a standard of medical care which is as close as possible to prevailing peacetime medical standards and follows the principles of "best medical practice".

At the same time, formal agreements on contributions to this resource between Member States will be established, cutting back obstructive regulations. The field hospital can be deployed to a range of CSDP missions, from international peacekeeping to humanitarian assistance, providing everything from vaccinations to emergency surgery, providing medical care for soldiers and civilians alike. Such multinational efforts in medical support have previously only been ad hoc for major operations.

Medical support to a CSDP mission must maintain a high state of readiness and availability, providing timely, responsive and continuous care to any patient or casualty within the medical system.

## The project so far

Initiated by Italy in May 2011, a clear road map was provided by September 2011. The project swiftly gathered momentum and buy-in from 16 Member States (AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HU, IT, NL, RO, SE and SI). A Declaration of Intent was signed by Ministers at the EDA's Steering Board in March 2012, confirming political commitment to this project, well ahead of schedule. In 2013 a Common Staff Target was agreed amongst the participating Member States. In 2014 the definition of common standards will pave the way for fully equipped and trained deployable Medical Treatment Facilities (MTFs). The establishment of an open information exchange with the NATO Centre of Excellence for Military Medicine in Budapest, Hungary, and with other multinational organisations, ensures that the project avoids duplication and delivers best practice and value for European taxpayers.

- Highly flexible, modular arrangement.
- Trained personnel with state of the art equipment.
- All the resources of a modern hospital, in the most challenging environments.
- 16 Participating Member States.
- Initiated by Italy.
- Expected to be deployable from 2016.
- Avoiding duplication, building on best practice.