

Brigadier General Nicola Sebastiani, Commander and Health Director, Logistics Command for Southern Italy, Naples

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to give you an overview of the key points presented by BG Sebastiani..

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Italian Armed Forces' participation in missions abroad .

Whether peace keeping or peace-enforcing military medicine assumes the dual and delicate task of ensuring the most appropriate framework of health security for both military and civilian personnel deployed to areas of crisis.

The health care requirements in operations abroad are multidimensional and necessitate the intervention of specialised military professionals working in close synergy with civilian medical personnel. This implies the need for mutual understanding made of shared values and commonality of interest and objectives, integration of skills, attitudes and habits to work in highly specialized teams, physical and psychological preparation to manage the stress in situations of specific environmental risk .

Based on these assumptions forms of reciprocal cooperation are being developed between the military and civilian medical institutions with the aim of pursuing the common goal of ensuring the Italian citizen, military or civilian, the best possible care in areas of crisis and war. Such centres of excellence include the Military Department of Forensic Medicine in Caserta, the Health Command - Logistics Command for Southern Italy, Naples, the Policlinico Militare "Celio" in Rome, the U.S. Naval Hospital, Naples, based in Gricignano, the Medical Branch of the Allied Joint Force Command Headquarters , Naples, the "A. Cardarelli " Hospital in Naples, the Niguarda Hospital in Milan, the Ospedale Maggiore in Bologna and the SUN, which established of a scientific board two years ago and is currently organizing an International Expert Conference titled " Civil Military Cooperation: Enhancing Combat Trauma System and Disaster Medical Management Capacities " to be held in Naples on 13, 14 and 15 September, 2012.