

Title: Prolonged field care: french SSBN medical training fort he past 50 years

Congress Theme: " "Far forward surgery Pre-Hospital Care & Outside Hospital Care »

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Summary

The French nuclear deterrence mission must be permanent and effective and rely on both air and ocean components.

To ensure the credibility and continuity of the mission, French SSBNs follow one another in mission without interruption. Their medical facilities are a 10m² role 2 field hospital with large capabilities but with a small optimized team: a general practitioner with skills in traumatology and surgery, a general practice nurse and a nurse anesthetist.

They have to face extreme isolation without any outside help to avoid communication and, by the way, indiscretion. This team is reinforced by stewardship crew members as lifeguards and stretcher-bearers and the deputy commander has surgical assistance skills.

This format requires a high level of specific training, both at the university and at the hospital, which represents a major challenge. The first level concerns environmental constraints (living in confined atmosphere, medical management of nuclear crisis, hyperbaric medicine) and the second is the acquisition of medical and surgical skills to get a large autonomy (emergency and resuscitation, anesthesia, general and specific surgery, dentistry, psychiatry, etc.).

The whole crew is also trained to the combat rescue with adaptations to the industrial and nuclear environment of the SSBN. This adapted combat rescue has 3 levels of skills for combat or accident situations with many injured sailors. Objectives are to continue the conduct of the SSBN for the naval operations and to guarantee maximum survivability for the crew.

For 50 years, this medical model has been effective and prolonged field care is the usual medical practice on French SSBNs.