

Difficulties in Implementing Pre-Hospital Care in Law Enforcement Operations of Brazilian Army in favelas of Rio de Janeiro, Doctrine Proposal

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summary

In Brazil, the military is often used in subsidiary actions such as Law and Order Enforcement (LOE), actions to support law enforcement agencies, in a previously established area and period, in civil disturbance situations. Brazilian favelas are one of the main theaters of LOE operations. The specificities of this type of occupation, such as narrow and irregular routes and potential multidirectional positioning of the shooter, are factors that cause great difficulty in caring for and evacuating a potentially injured person in combat.

Methods-Results:

A specific questionnaire was applied to 52 members of the Brazilian Army (BA) of varying hierarchical levels deployed in LOE. The purpose was to understand the difficulties found today in the tactical scope of the force on the topic of pre-hospital care (PHC) that is so current and relevant.

The main data obtained in the survey was that 65.4% of the military personnel interviewed were not aware of the Tactical Casualty Combat Care (TCCC) protocol, and only 7.7% had undergone such training. Additionally, 48.1% said they had not undergone any PHC-specific training, which suggests a potential deficiency in the qualification of the ground force to care for the wounded, in accordance with international protocols.

Upon reviewing the materials made available to military personnel on a mission, 53.9% did not have a tourniquet in their individual kits and 25% claimed not to have any of those listed in the questionnaire (Table 1).

Upon assessing the casualty evacuation time, considering the "10-1-2 Doctrine" currently adopted by the UN, 65.4% of the military personnel said that they required more than the "platinum 10 minutes" to evacuate the wounded from the hot zone to the ambulance, a crucial factor to define the prognosis of a seriously injured person.

Conclusions

In 2020, the 1st edition of the Basic Tactical PHC Campaign Manual was published, showing the Brazilian Army's concern for the subject. Therefore, it is essential to implement the subject in the BA's military Basic Instruction Plans, aiming to improve the qualification of the ground force manpower, as well as supplement basic individual materials. The TCCC itself emphasizes, in its introduction, that the protocol is changeable and should be adapted with time, according to newer studies, equipment and techniques that may arise. It is therefore encouraged to have more scientific research on the topic, taking into consideration the country's specificities.