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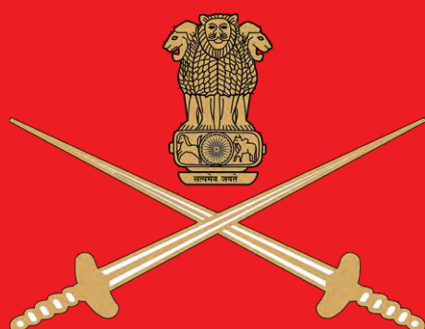
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VOLUME 9 ISSUE 11

MILITARY



MEDICINE





MISSION

We endeavour to sound **ALERTS** and create **AWARENESS** about the myriad dimensions and manifestations of **DEFENCE** and **SECURITY** in India and around the world.

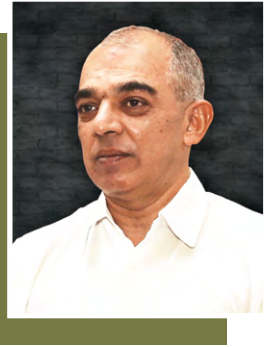


The power of a King lies in his mighty arms...

Security of the citizens at peace time is very important because State is the only saviour of the men and women who get affected only because of the negligence of the State.

- Chanakya

DSA IS AS MUCH YOURS, AS IT IS OURS!



The military serves in all possible human spheres of habitation and beyond. So the military person, belonging to any remote village anywhere in the country, is liable to serve, and mostly does so to, at the opposite end of origin. So, for example, if he or she is from the deep desert of Rajasthan, they will most certainly be found on duty at high altitude posts in remote Arunachal Pradesh. This has happened in the past and is certain to happen in the future. This spectrum of deployment puts enormous stresses on the body and the military logistics.

For the long time, logistics in the military was limited to analysis of equipment under use in that particular post or zone of service. For the first time, Team DSA looks at the human aspect of logistics, and in this case, the field of medical service in the military. The only time military medicine personnel come into limelight is when there is an incident that makes it a breaking news. A VIP who gets admitted to a military hospital or a soldier in an extreme scenario,

i.e., late Hanumanthappa and his rescue from an avalanche in the Siachen sector.

Military medicine is a far more complex field than merely attending to news making emergencies. Every day of the year, round the clock, the medical corps personnel are taking care of combat, support services, and their families, across the country and in all circumstances. So, while some will be delivering babies of military wives, others will be on duty in a submarine on a long range patrol. And, their service people will be patrolling the high Himalayan peaks with a combat ready platoon, while some will be manning posts in the highest known battle zone, Siachen.

All these duty fulfilling deployments happen without the slightest hint of publicity, or self-pity. It is simply taken as what it is, duty under oath. And, the military medical corps takes the Hippocrates oath very seriously. So seriously that they are willing to serve for it under any physical or psychological circumstances. Their primary task or mission is to save lives,

serving in an institution that is actually authorised to take lives. It is one of the unknown truths that medical personnel have been known to save enemy lives too, for they are under oath to save lives.

Which really is a remarkable commitment to duty and service. To mark the truly unique nature of their service, Team DSA produces this current issue as an ode to Army Medical Corps. Most countrymen are not aware of their nature of service, or the complexity of their deployment, and in some cases, even the extreme dangers they face. Some have made the supreme sacrifice, whilst many carry battle wounds. Another unique aspect of the AMC is that its personnel can actually change the colour of their uniform if they so choose within the three services. Given their spectrum of deployment it is only fair they get the final call on which colour they'd prefer to wear.

Manvendra Singh



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MILITARY MEDICINE



For any effective outcome of any activity, a good health is required. It encompasses proper diet, sleep and precautions against diseases for every human being. And when it comes to any military force, it becomes more important that the force personnel's health is perfect in all manners. Be they at the border or at any other ground duty. Their health plays a vital role in keeping the national security upright and tight.

For the military establishment in India, it is all the more important considering the various types of terrain it is required to defend. From altitudes up to 20,000 ft in the Himalayas to the jungles of northeast India and the deserts of Rajasthan where our force personnel are being posted and have to face ever newer threats internally and externally. As the climate has changed drastically in the past few decades, many new threats have arisen for the forces and health is a major concern to each individual. The forces deployed in the -40 degree and 50+ centigrade temperatures have to confront health hazards caused by extremes in climate change. Acclimatisation alone is no more the panacea for all terrains. So, special training is being imparted in which yoga plays an important part to make them fit to face such climate changes in areas of their operation. And to maintain morale at a high level, it is necessary to also ensure that separated families are comfortable and bereft of the contingencies of everyday life.

It has been observed that the force personnel deployed at the high altitude and deserts face lot of deficiencies even when they are shifted to other posts.

As a matter of fact, the research conducted by the military has been very supportive for the entire nation as in the discovery of the bacteria of malaria. There are many other such researches being done by military teams during the natural calamities; it's the military medical paraphernalia which gives support to the disaster management system along with the other medical teams.

In greater or lesser measure, the fact is that military medicine has played a vital role in both the combat situation as well as in support of civil authority. The research and development being done in defence laboratories has spinoffs in the civil sector.

This edition was visualised by our Editor-in-Chief and designed accordingly as you will not find such articles focussed only on the issue of military medicine anywhere. I am thankful to all the contributors who have added content to this edition to make it a collector's edition.

Happy reading!

Pawan Agrawal



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