

2021 COMBAT MEDICAL CARE CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

“Now, more than ever”

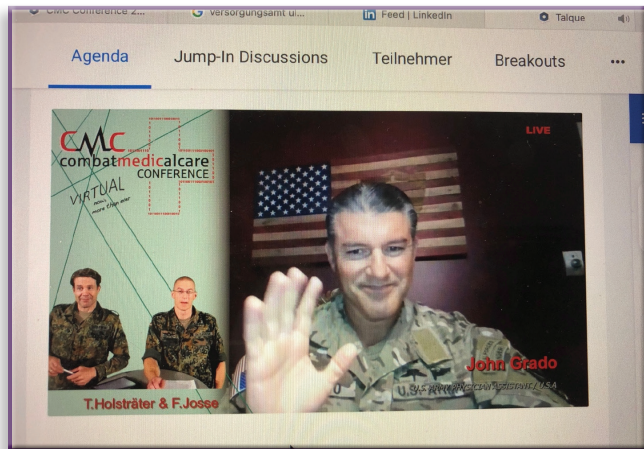
The Virtual Combat Medical Care Conference 2021 in a Pandemic Setting

Capt Sebastian Weber¹; LtCol Dr Florent Josse, MD^{2*}

For the fourth time, the Combat Medical Care Conference (CMC) took place under the motto “Now, more than ever” on July 13–14, 2021.

The research, development, and training of Combat Casualty Care have no standstill. Correspondingly, there was great motivation and commitment of the organizing team to hold the CMC 2021 despite of the COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) pandemic. Therefore, the conference had a new look, as a virtual event with live moderation and interactive components and live discussions.

The German Society for Military Medicine and Military Pharmacy e.V. (DGWMP) was responsible for organizing this event, as in the past. The cooperation between the Department for Anesthesiology, Critical Care, Emergency Medicine and Pain Therapy from the military hospital of the Bundeswehr in Ulm with Lieutenant Colonel (MD) Dr Florent Josse as responsible officer (scientific supervision), the Special Operations Training Center (AusbZSpezlOp) Pfullendorf, and the Tactical Rescue & Emergency Medicine Association (TREMA e.V.) was again successful, as in the past conferences.



John Grado and the organizers of the CMC at the virtual platform of talque.

The organizing team chose the specialized real-time community and management tool *talque* as event venue to master the balancing act between hygiene regulations on the one hand and providing an interactive platform for international and scientific exchange on the other.

Through their *talque* account, the participants had access to presentations, live discussions, and virtual workshops.

There was a virtual exhibition room for 25 companies to present their products related to the treatment of combat-related injuries in their profiles and workshops. Moreover, there was the possibility for direct interaction between the participants as well as between the lecturer and the audience by using the messenger client.

The symposium was bilingual (English and German) to meet the international character. All lecturers and instructors invested a lot of commitment and passion and created interesting and enriching lectures and workshops.

The opening contribution, “11 Years Since the Battle of Isa Khel, Afghanistan – What Have We Learned?” with the subsequent live discussion with three involved soldiers, was an exceptional introduction to the event.



CAPT (Ret) Frank Butler – A Quarter-century of Tactical Combat Casualty Care

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) Guidelines, it was a huge honor to host the developer of the TCCC concept, CAPT (Ret) Frank K. Butler, MD for his presentation. SGM (Ret) Mike Hertzler’s presentation about the latest updates of the TCCC guidelines completed this subject, and the subsequent live discussion with the two speakers was very special.

The livestream was split into three virtual rooms during the first evening of the event to meet the number of lectures and presentations. Case reports of military missions by the French Armed Forces in Africa and the US Armed Forces in Yemen were presented in the main program. Simultaneously, there were presentations in the virtual rooms: “CBRN,” such as the management of chemical warfare agents, and “Force Health Protection,” including a report of health protection during

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captivity in Syria and the psychological and physical impacts of missions abroad.

On the second day, there were various interesting lectures about the medical disaster control during terrorist attacks such as the Christchurch mosque shootings on March 15, 2019, and the terrorist attacks in Paris on November 13, 2015. Further, there were several inspiring talks on new approaches to medical procedures in tactical settings, like the use of Pentrox for analgesia or different “out-of-the-box” uses for the rescue blanket. A detailed impressive report from the battle of Mosul integrated the need but also success of training and interoperability in a high-risk environment.



LtCol Dr Thorsten Holsträter and LtCol Dr Florent Josse, who were responsible for the virtual CMC conference, in front of the green wall.



Setting of one of the session rooms at the virtual CMC conference.

One highlight of the main program, especially for soldiers of the German Bundeswehr, was CPT Timothy Lomas’s presentation live from Gao, MLI, about the combat casualty care of German soldiers during the suicide attack on June 25, 2021, in Mali. In addition, the virtual rooms for the TECC and Combat First Responders Symposiums were opened for all participants with the corresponding authorization.

With the “Virtual CMC 2021,” it was possible to create a unique knowledge database for the subject “tactical medicine,” which was accessible on-demand for 3 additional months after the conference until October 2021. Recognizing this and because there finally was a platform again for education and exchange concerning tactical medicine from the military, police, EMS, fire department, and disaster control communities, the participants and organizers consider the CMC 2021, despite adverse conditions, to be a remarkable milestone.

The next CMC conference, titled “All In,” will take place for the fifth time on June 5–6, 2023. We hope we can return to a face-to-face event again because no virtual platform can replace real encounters, discussions, or hands-on workshops.



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