

PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: LIVED EXPERIENCES OF EMERGENCY CARE PROVIDERS DURING EXTERNAL DEPLOYMENT

by

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Introduction

- Categories of Peace support operations (PSO)
- Why are PSOs' conducted
- The role of the United Nations, African Union, Guerrilla Forces and host countries
- Healthcare services provision to PSO mission personnel
- Healthcare services as a military strategy
- The role of the South African Military Health Service
- Pre and Post Cold War era civil war in African states
- The role of the South African National Defence Force

- The aim of this paper:
- The larger study
- The aim of the larger study

Methodology

- Qualitative, exploratory descriptive design
- Social phenomenology
- Study setting: 7 Medical Battalion Group, 8 Medical Battalion Group, Area Military Health Unit Gauteng, School for Military Health Training
- Semi structured individual interviews (n=18 PECPs)
- Study Population (n=276 PECPs from Gauteng)
- Purposive sampling (n= 55 PECPs)
- Microsoft randomization tool (n= 25 PECPs)
- Data saturation (n= 18 PECPs)

- Thematic analysis
- Nvivo CAQDAS

- Five themes emerged
- However this paper discusses two

- Theme one: *Resources*
- Subthemes:
 - *Limited resources*
 - *Unique casualty transportation*

- Theme two: *Political situation during external deployment*
- Subthemes:
 - *Political will of the host country*
 - *Civilian hostility*
 - *Gaps between what the mandate authorises*
 - *Prolonged casualty evacuation times*

Discussion

- Resource constraints
- Scarce equipment
- Financial constraints in the host country
- Little political support from host countries resulting in resource constraints
- Deception
- Underutilization of skilled PECPs
- Outdated equipment

- Delays in the delivery of resources
- Improvisation and its strategic consequences
- Collapsed health care systems
- Free enterprise and enemy funding
- Lack of understanding of PECP roles and responsibilities
- Casualty evacuation using armoured personnel carriers
- International Committee of the Red Cross protocols supplementing the Geneva Conventions resolutions of 12 August 1949

Conclusion

- Development of cost effective and sustainable strategies to equip PECPs
- Awareness of the roles and responsibilities of PECPs

Limitations

- Military commitments of participants
- Gauteng based study

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