The military Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and the socio-medical action: Building multidisciplinary an integrative approach in favor of war wounded soldiers

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Introduction.—The French rehabilitation program provides a great support to the wounded soldiers by means of a structured and experienced organization of cares and aids. This organization is the result of many years of war mainly the both world wars. The conditions of the recent asymmetric conflict in Afghanistan and the number of wounded had improved this historical organization.

Results.—When a French soldier is injured in a conflict area, a chain of support is deployed; first with emergency measures, then with surgical therapy. Finally the soldier is repatriate. PMR is the ultimate link in the chain of medical support and the first link in the social and vocational rehabilitation. The PMR team, the soldier and his family work together in order to recover the soldier’s best abilities and maybe permit to return to his professional previous functions. After a severe wound, the injured soldiers can count on the support of various national organizations that offer measures such as military disability pension, cell conversion or other social advantages.

In 2011, we created an original committee made up of physiatrists, psychiatrists and military command, combining their knowledge and know-how. This entity links the numerous actors and improves the existing processes, in order to prepare the individual reinsertion project and to make easier the long term follow up of each soldier. Furthermore, it allows finding funding for many projects (adapted sports, bionic prostheses…).

Conclusion.—The organization and delivery of French military rehabilitation program is based on the gratitude of the Homeland and the right to repair. Recently, an original concept was born to complete the current system and prepare the individual reinsertion project and to make easier the long term follow up of each soldier. Currently, the PMR is the ultimate link in the chain of medical support and the first link in the social and vocational rehabilitation. The PMR team, the soldier and his family work together in order to recover the soldier’s best abilities and maybe permit to return to his professional previous functions. After a severe wound, the injured soldiers can count on the support of various national organizations that offer measures such as military disability pension, cell conversion or other social advantages.

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