Many fighters are valued by one skillful surgeon (Gomer, 8-7 century b.c.)

«Parties to the conflict shall take the necessary steps, in so far as military considerations permit, to make the distinctive emblems... clearly visible to the enemy»
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Objectives, documentation
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1. Introduction
2. How the use a red cross in the military
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Ref

1. International publications: GC's and AP's
2. National publications: laws in execution of Par 1
4. STANAG 2931, Ed 2 van 19 Jan 1998, « Orders for the camouflage of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent on land in tactical operations”
5. Allied publications on modern Medical Support (MC 326/2, AJP 4.10 (A)) since 2004
6. ACOS O& T 08-679688 van 25 Nov 2008, “Ajout d’un signe de protection pour les services de santé et le Pers religieux Mil »
8. ICRC study on operational and Commercial and other Non-operational Issues involving the use of the emblems (2009)
1. Introduction
1. Introduction
2. How to use a red cross in the military

a. Authorized emblems
   1) RED CROSS
   2) RED CRISTAL: when ratified and O/O
   3) Competent mil authority (CHOD, his delegate)

b. Protective use: to enhance protection
   1) Relative obligation to use it; according to tech guidelines
   2) Communicates the legal position of non combattant
      a) Medical or religious; ID card of non combattant
      b) BEL: there are no temporary assigned or auxiliaries
   3) Use/ non use doesn’t influence rights/ obligations of the non combattant
      a) Allow inspections
      b) Lt weaponry, don’t resist capture
   4) Exclusive use of/on transport, materiel, installation, ...
   5) Permanent: peacetime and « war » time
   6) Disadvantages vs advantages: « selective » use

c. Indicative use: not in the BEL military
Correct use
Correct use
2. How to use a red cross in the military

d. No use
1) Possible, O/O Bde Cdr or eqv (STANAG 2931)
2) « temporary, local, ASAP to be countermanded »
3) aim is highest protection not the promotion of the red cross
4) when suspicion of non combatant status: don’t fire

e. Misuse
1) Imitation
2) Improper: INT collection
3) Double use: with other emblem/ sign
4) Abuse or perfidy: war crime

f. Supplementary signs/ signals
1) Mandatory when sea and air transport
2) On land, today, to avoid friendly fire

g. Trg and instruction in use/ recognition of red cross is mandatory
1) Sometimes inadvertance/ ignorance
2) Frag Gren, LAW, MINIMI
**Misuse?**

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**Use of Ambulances by Palestinian Terrorists**

- **April 12, 2002**, New York Times: “The Israeli police said today that they had found a bomb with explosives in a Palestinian ambulance during a check at a roadblock inside the West Bank. The ambulance was headed toward Israel with the body of a Palestinian man, the police said, and they found the device alongside him. It was the second time in two weeks that Israel has reported finding explosives in an ambulance.”

- **February 5, 2002**, Reuters: With Iraqi, the Ramallah woman killed when a bomb she carried into downtown Jerusalem exploded last month, some of the capital by a Red Crescent ambulance. One Israeli was killed and over 100 wounded in the bombing.

- **June 30, 2002**, Associated Press: “In Ramallah, Israeli troops stopped two Palestinians ambulances and found 27 people packed inside — two of them suspected of involvement in shooting or bombing attacks.”

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Unloading an explosive belt from a Palestinian ambulance on 3-27-02

south of Ramallah. The explosive belt was found hidden underneath a sandwich on which a Palestinian child was lying. Also present during the incident were the sick child’s relatives—a man, a woman and three children. The driver was Jihad Jaleel, a Fatah-Tunisia operative and wanted terrorist, who was employed as ambulance driver for the Palestinian Red Crescent. During his interrogation, Jaleel admitted having received the bomb device from Mahamad el-Tin, with the assignment to deliver them to other Fatah-Tunisia operatives in Ramallah.

October 31, 2002, IDF: “Shots were fired at Mughrif from inside the Red Crescent building in Ramallah. In another instance, shots were fired at Mughrif from a Red Crescent ambulance as it traveled toward Ruganim. In both cases, the IDF did not return fire.”

April 23, 2002, Jerusalem Post: “Rescue soldiers apprehended a wanted terrorist who was hiding in an ambulance that was stopped during a routine check near Kaditza.”

January 30, 2002, The IDF reports it captured a terrorist on the wanted list at a roadblock near the Israeli settlement of Am'adi.”
The Combat Life Saver is a combattant, NOT authorized to use the Red Cross
3. Military considerations

a. Medical and Tactical Mission
b. Ennemi
c. Terrain
d. Troops
e. Timing
f. Civ considerations
3. Military considerations

Medical mission of the BEL Medical component is the “Medical Mission in NATO Operations”:
Ref: AJP 4.10(A), 1016. The mission of medical support in military operations is to support the mission, through conservation of manpower, preservation of life and minimisation of residual physical and mental disabilities. Appropriate medical support makes a major contribution to both force protection and morale by the prevention of disease, rapid evacuation and treatment of the sick, wounded and injured and the return to duty of as many individuals as possible.

The military medical mission is not a humanitarian mission.
3. Military considerations

a. Medical and Tactical Mission

1) Military medical mission
2) Mission authorized PAR:
   a) Save scarce medical ressources
   b) Avoid Humanitarian Assistance when not ordered
3) Meet the surgical timelines: 60 min to the Fd Hosp
   a) Collection of the wounded: shared mission with the combattants
   b) Extraction: the tactical mission is the medical mission
   c) Med Troops inside Comb Troops iot the meet the timelines
4) Conform to the Tac plan of the supported component
   a) support/ enable the fight
   b) Don’t mix a Red Cross with Combattants
   c) Respect the collective defense and FP measures
   d) Med Troops have same mobility, survivability as combattants
5) Consider the effect on the mission of targetted Med Troops
« Collection of wounded »
The tactical mission is the medical mission
Avoid humanitarian swarming
3. Military considerations

a. **Medical and Tactical Mission**

b. **Ennemi**

1) **Modus operandi?**
   a) Does he fire more often on something he sees better?
   b) Are emblems targetted (« san terrorism »)
   c) What is the local red cross score?

2) **$C^2$ structure or isolated cells? Behaves like a combattant?**
   a) LOAC known, understood, applied by actors in the battlespace
   b) Is there a reasonable (non)reciprocity

3) **Which signs does he use?**

4) **Conduct a thorough « Threat Evaluation » as part of the Med Intelligence Preparation of the Battlespace**
Cellular-lacunar combat
3. Military considerations

a. Medical and Tactical Mission

b. Ennemi

c. Terrain

1) Technical characteristics that make emblem visible: all round or selective visibility
2) Supplementary signs/sounds/active/passive beacons, trackers, IT enabler
3) GROUND- AIR and SEA
4) Regional differences
3. Military considerations
3. Military considerations

a. Medical and Tactical Mission
b. Ennemi
c. Terrain
d. Troops

1) Exclusive use assets? « dedicated or dual use »?
2) Attitude of coalition Troops? Joint combined use and SOP’s?
3) Which signs are (not) used?
4) Host Nation Support - In Country Ressources: IO, NGO, PME
5) Is it feasable to separate combatants from non combatants?
3. Military considerations

a. Medical and Tactical Mission
b. Ennemi
c. Terrain
d. Troops
e. Timing
   1) Change is authorized
   2) Response assets: no time to change
f. Civ considerations
3. Military considerations

a. Medical and Tactical Mission
b. Ennemi
c. Terrain
d. Troops
e. Timing
f. Civ considerations
   a. Cultural connotations (« red crusaders »)
   b. Avoid assimilation with IO/ NGO
   c. Expectations of red cross
4. Conclusions

a. There is a relative obligation to use the red cross
b. A red cross should augment protection
c. (Non) use of a red cross has potential consequences
d. Carefull analysis of military considerations indicate the use of the red cross
e. Modern medical support requires combattant and non combattant assets to execute the medical mission
f. Variable use of the red cross, but invariable legal position of non combattant
g. Modern tactical activities put pressure on the correct use of the red cross: INT, hearts and minds, eligibility for care,…
h. Misuse in BEL military is rare, has no disciplinary character and is due to punctual ignorance or inadvertance
“It's okay, Joe. I’m a noncombatant.”

Questions please