



## 28-31 MARCH 2022 MITEC, KUALA LUMPUR





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The threat of chemical and biological warfare is ever-present not only in Malaysia but worldwide. Given its strategic location, geographical importance and growing economic strength, this region is increasingly vulnerable to bioterrorism attacks.

Such threats can only be kept at bay with the close cooperation from our neighbouring defence and military units. Our role in Health Services is to constantly find ways to improve the competency of our response teams and procure the latest technologies and equipment to help mitigate the risk and threats of bioterrorism here.

Although the Covid-19 pandemic cannot be classified as bioterrorism, it remains a threat affecting everyone worldwide. In fact, its after-effects are similar to a bio-terror attack as it has disrupted the nations' economy, caused mass casualty and left people living in fear. In Malaysia, a lot of measures had to be considered and put into place in order to contain the pandemic. Borders had to be closed and the Malaysian Armed Forces were also called up to help contain the outbreak.

We are also constantly seeing new medical advancements for field health care services which is able to cater to all forms of military operations. In the past, medical advancements made in the army has always found its way into our public and private healthcare facilities and its methods are adapted and used to help the general public.







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DSA's Battlefield Healthcare component has always stressed the importance of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR). This is crucial during emergency response and preparedness not just locally but also in our constant rendering of assistance to international humanitarian assistance crisis, such as Malaysian Field Hospital in Cox's Bazar Bangladesh since 2017 until recently. Over the years the Malaysian Armed Forces Health Services (MAFHS) medical and dental team has participated in several peacekeeping missions in Cambodia, Somalia, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Western Sahara and Lebanon. These missions also include providing medical relief during natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis and cyclones.

I am personally looking forward to the enriching discussions which will be taking place during DSA & NATSEC Asia 2022, along with the many new ideas and innovations which will be shared among members of the defence community in the ASEAN region. I am certain that the event will elevate the standard of health care and health services on the battlefield.

Thank you.

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