



**Message by the Commander of the
military hospital Ulm
On the occasion of the Combat Medical Care
Conference 2023**



Distinguished colleagues, fellow soldiers, ladies and gentlemen,

as the Commander and Medical Director of the Bundeswehr Hospital in Ulm, I would like to welcome you to the 5th Combat Medical Care Conference in Ulm and Blaubeuren.

I would like to extend my welcome in particular to General Dr. Mahé, head of the French Special Operation Forces Medical Command and Major General Dr. Andreas Stettbacher, Surgeon General of the Medical Service of the Swiss Armed Forces.

Since 2014, the Bundeswehr Hospital Ulm, as the organization in charge of scientific management of the Combat Medical Care Conference, has been dealing with this subject and, also in the future, sees itself as an engine and facilitator for basic, advanced and sustainment training in the area of tactical medicine on all levels, in particular in the area of special and specialized forces. However, an event like this one here in Blaubeuren would not be possible without the close German-French cooperation with the Combat Medical Care in Paris and Ulm and the extraordinary support of the Combat Medical Care Conference by the Joint Trauma System. Already now, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the organizers and all the supporters for their dedicated and effective preparations.

So far, we have held four successful conferences with more than 1300 participants from 32 nations. Furthermore, in 2021, we successfully conducted the first virtual CMC in a digital format and in October 2022 the first Paris SOF CMC satellite conference. Thus, the Combat Medical Care Conference 2023 on 05 and 06 July promises to be another milestone in tactical medicine.

A large number of soldiers from many nations have registered for this conference. But I am particularly delighted that, this year, we also have many participants from the special forces of the German Police and the German Federal Police. This also shows that the topic of this specialist conference has indeed met the interest of and is important for many national and international participants, who work **“in different disciplines and represent different agencies”**.

The motto of this event, **“all in”**, describes amongst other things the necessity to be fully aware of the current global political situation and to fully integrate it into the further development of tactical medicine. True to the motto **“Standing still means losing ground – and, eventually, losing lives”**.

Russia's merciless war of attack against Ukraine that is still going on showed us in a brutal way how fragile the security situation in Europe is and how fast a war can be directly at one's own border....

At this point, I would like to observe a minute of silence and pay tribute to the **Ukrainian soldiers who died and were wounded** in this war.

In his internationally acknowledged government policy statement given on 27 February 2022 due to the war in Ukraine, Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz used the words **"the world afterwards will no longer be the same as the world before"** to prepare us all for a new era that had just begun. This new era in terms of security policy has also had an impact on the Bundeswehr Joint Medical Service and will continue to do so. Everybody is affected!

Due to the war in Ukraine, the treatment of casualties under combat conditions suddenly has a very real and complex meaning. The intensity and quantity have once again shown clearly that "Combat Medical Care" is an extreme form of medical treatment that requires specific procedures and in many cases also tactical behavior of the medical personnel. These are the challenges of this conference: addressing the core questions and maybe find a consensus on fundamental topics. Make use of this unique opportunity to exchange your views with other conference participants, on a different level, from a different agency and from another nation.

I wish us all a good, successful and interesting conference and a great evening in a lovely setting.

Yours General MD Dr. Johannes Backus