



Improving Medical Care in the Russian Military

OE Watch Commentary: As Russia continues to move toward creating a more professional military, where the majority of manpower is staffed by officers and contract personnel, there has been a corresponding increase in social and material benefits for those in uniform. For instance, pay for military personnel is largely competitive with the civilian sector and the overall housing situation has improved. As the three accompanying excerpts from the pro-government source, *Izvestiya*, point out, providing medical care for military personnel, particularly in combat conditions, also continues to develop and become more responsive.

The first excerpt describes the new Vodnik armored tactical ambulance, which “being equipped with a set of diagnostic and intensive-care apparatus,” will allow for rapid treatment for injured personnel. The vehicle was first tested during the conflict in Chechnya back in 2001, but has since been modernized with “apparatus for artificial lung ventilation, stimulation of cardiac activity, and other intensive-care treatments” which allow for treating injured soldiers en route to a medical facility. The second excerpt describes a new specially outfitted Mi-8 helicopter, which carries “sophisticated medical equipment” within an on-board medical module that provides for “artificial ventilation, stimulation of cardiac activity and other resuscitative manipulations,” permitting “complex surgical operations even in flight.” The medical helicopter is also equipped with the Vitebsk air defense system, which will provide for reliable cover “from the enemy’s anti-aircraft weapons.” According to the article, four of these specially equipped air ambulances will be fielded this year.

The third excerpt describes the introduction of special medical modules to remote military locations designed for advanced telemedicine. According to the article, “this year, the Armed Forces will receive 16 hardware-software complexes for remote diagnostics,” providing for “qualified assistance to servicemen in remote garrisons, on ships, as well as in emergency situations and during humanitarian operations.” These telemedicine modules can be equipped with sophisticated diagnostic equipment and will be connected to professional personnel at the top military hospitals. As Russia moves toward creating a more professional military, it continues to strengthen the necessary medical care to keep this force healthy-in peace and at war. **End OE Watch Commentary (Finch)**

“The treatment and diagnostic apparatus of the medical Vodnik makes it possible to perform the requisite medical treatments en route...”

Source: Aleksandr Kruglov, “Спасение на Воднике (Vodnik Rescue),” *Izvestiya*, 29 June 2018. <https://iz.ru/760128/aleksandr-kruglov/spasenie-na-vodnike>

The Russian army is testing armored tactical ambulances for the evacuation of wounded from the battlefield. The special vehicle has been built on a foundation of the GAZ-39371 Vodnik wheeled armored all-terrain vehicle. Its strong points are high cross-country capability and mobility.... The medical compartment is equipped with a set of diagnostic and intensive-care apparatus, which makes it possible to stabilize the condition of the wounded until arrival at the hospital...

Izvestiya was told in the Defense Ministry that the Vodnik medical-evacuation vehicles with special medical apparatus went to the field this year. They are undergoing testing. The vehicles are being developed as part of an extensive program of the modernization and retooling of the medical service of the Armed Forces.... In 2001 some 12 vehicles of an experimental-industrial batch underwent field tests under combat conditions in Chechnya as escort vehicles. The tests were deemed a success.

After he is found, the wounded individual will immediately be rendered emergency medical and anesthetic and intensive-care assistance and taken under doctors’ care to a military hospital. The treatment and diagnostic apparatus of the medical Vodnik makes it possible to perform the requisite medical treatments en route.... The all-terrain “ambulance” has everything necessary for the transportation of casualties. The equipment is composed of apparatus for artificial lung ventilation, stimulation of cardiac activity, and other intensive-care treatments...

Source: Aleksandr Kruglov, Aleksei Ramm, “Военные получили летающую ‘скорую помощь’ (The military has received a flying ambulance),” *Izvestiya*, 28 June 2018. <https://iz.ru/737353/aleksandr-kruglov-aleksei-ramm/voennye-poluchili-letaiushchuiu-skoriuiu-pomoshch>

This year, the Defense Ministry will receive the first “flying operating table.” These are Mi-8AMTSh helicopters, equipped with container modules with a set of sophisticated medical equipment. Now doctors will be able to carry out resuscitation and complex surgical operations even in flight. The complex of on-board self-defense “Vitebsk” will reliably cover the helicopters from the enemy’s anti-aircraft weapons. Under such cover, the “air hospital” will have the opportunity to evacuate the wounded directly from the battlefield.

As Izvestia was informed at the VKS headquarters, before the end of this year four MI-8AMTSH with medical modules should enter the troops. This system is being adopted as part of a large-scale program for the modernization and technical re-equipment of the medical service of the Armed Forces. ...After first aid, the helicopter will take the wounded to the military hospital. The medical module has everything necessary to transport two victims who are in serious or extremely serious condition. These are devices for artificial ventilation, stimulation of cardiac activity and other resuscitative manipulations.

(continued)



Continued: Improving Medical Care in the Russian Military

Source: Alexander Kruglov, Bogdan Stepova, “Военная медицина уходит в Сеть; Минобороны осваивает технологии телемедицины (Military medicine goes online; The Ministry of Defense is mastering the technologies of telemedicine),” *Izvestiya*, 10 July 2018. <https://iz.ru/762755/aleksandr-kruglov-bogdan-stepovoi/voennaia-meditcina-ukhodit-v-set>

The technology of telemedicine is being introduced into the Russian military. This year, the Armed Forces will receive 16 hardware-software complexes for remote diagnostics. With their help, doctors on the ground will be able to contact the consultative centers of the country's leading military hospitals. Advice and help from experienced professionals will be indispensable in setting the right diagnosis and performing complex surgical operations. The first complexes will be directed to the parts located on the Kuril Islands. According to experts, telemedicine will provide an opportunity to provide qualified assistance to servicemen in remote garrisons, on ships, as well as in emergency situations and during humanitarian operations....

...The first stationary centers for remote consultations will be opened in the Military Medical Academy, as well as in the Main Military Clinical Hospital named after N.N. Burdenko and in the 3rd Central Military Clinical Hospital. A.A. Vishnevsky. Further the system will be consistently implemented in the hospitals of military districts. ...Depending on the configuration, mobile complexes can be equipped with a medical module, which includes various portable equipment. For example, an electrocardiograph, an ultrasound scanner, a tonometer, a glucometer or a spirometer. It is possible to connect additional devices. All data from them will be broadcast in real time to the doctor-consultant.

...Such equipment is indispensable in the conduct of rescue and humanitarian operations to provide military assistance - as, for example, in Syria. The introduction of telemedicine technologies will significantly increase the level of military medicine, told military expert Alexei Leonkov to Izvestia....



Vodnik Ground Ambulance.

Source: Vitaly Kuzmin, <https://www.vitalykuzmin.net> CCA BY 4.0.