

## **Medical Services of Croat People in Bosnia and Herzegovina during 1992-1995 War: Losses, Adaptation, Organization, and Transformation**

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During the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BH), Croatian people in BH had 19,600 (2.6%) killed and 135,000 (17.6%) displaced persons, and 222,500 (28.9%) refugees. They lost around two thirds of both physicians and other health personnel, and were left with 8.5% of prewar patient beds. Fortunately, the organized defence against Serbs was initiated in time and Croats defended the territories where they formed majority. The first defense unit established was the Medical Corps Headquarters (MCH), caring for soldiers and civilians alike. MCH was soon incorporated in the Croatian Defense Council (CDC, armed forces of Croatian people in BH). MCH had two chains of command. The first one went through the district commanders of medical services and their subordinated physicians to paramedics in military units, and the other one directly to the commanders of 14 war hospitals. After its formation in 1993, the Ministry of Health took the jurisdiction over the civilian medical services and after the Washington Peace Agreement (April 1994) over the war hospitals, too, whereas the medical services within military units remained under control of the Ministry of Defense. Dayton Peace Agreement divided BH into the Federation of BH and Republic Srpska, each with their own army. The Federation of BH Army is composed of the CDC and Bosniac-controlled Army of BH, with overall numerical ratio 1:2.3 for Bosniacs, and organized in accordance with NATO standards. Military medical services are provided by the Logistics Sector of both Ministry of Defense and Military Corps Headquarters (Joint Command).

**Key words:** *armed forces personnel; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Croatia; hospitals, military; military medicine; military personnel; military science; military veterinary service; soldiers; war*