

ABSTRACT

The beginning of the ethnic conflict, almost three decades ago, triggered a paradigm shift in the modalities of the provision of health facilities by the Sri Lanka Army Medical Corps (SLAMC). The responsibilities of the SLAMC increased many folds to meet the needs of the soldier in combat before, during and after disease and injuries, traumatic or otherwise.

The effectiveness of the health care processes and the efficiency of management of the facilities, from injury to recovery, were contributory factors that helped to maintain the morale of the troops, which had a direct impact on the success of battle. A detailed evaluation of CASEVAC system and treatment of battle casualties in this study has suggested many improvements to the status quo as modern weaponry and their lethality caused more damages to life and limb of our soldiers.

Excessive military expenditure, inability to recruit and retain professionals with the worsening war situation, were the major impediments whilst systemic diseases like TB and Malaria, Sexually Transmitted Diseases like HIV & AIDS common to the civilian sector were the noteworthy causative factors for making the health care demands exceed potential capabilities of the Medical Corps. The on-going collaboration with the state health sector in providing effective health care to the military personnel needs to be continued on a sustainable basis.

The unity of purpose and the shared vision amongst the rank and file has developed a trust amongst the professionals of the battle hardened SLAMC, enabling them to maintain a healthy army to the best of their abilities.

This study recommends and suggests a number of improvements, like changes in the field medical card, a computer-based medical record management system, introduction of a classification for minor wounded, introduction of a convalescent hospital and also other improvements for the treatment of battle wounded and CASEVAC system.