

Major Incident Medical Management and Support, Advanced Life Support Group and the Academic Department of Military Emergency Medicine Royal Centre for Defence Medicine

Finalist in : Education & Training

The Team:

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Aims & Objectives:

- To develop a multidisciplinary three-day course that develops the knowledge, skills and judgement to effectively manage the scene of a major incident.
- To deliver a simple, reproducible framework for planning and response irrespective of the nature of the 'disaster'. This all hazard approach is "Command and Control; Safety; Communication; Assessment; Triage; Treatment; Transport".
- To benefit patients by ensuring scarce clinical resources are effectively and consistently managed, and directed to the most needy.
- To reduce clinical risk of a poor response to an infrequent and highly complex situation.
- To teach application of these same principles equally at the scene and the treatment facility.

Project Summary:

Major Incident Medical Management & Support delivers a simple, reproducible framework for planning and response to major incidents and disasters. This benefits casualties by ensuring scarce resources are effectively managed, reducing the risk of a poor response and doing "the most for the most".

MIMMS is a synergy of joint experience. A structured military-style approach to managing crisis is combined with civilian exemplars of practice and research. This collaboration has endured for 18 years, with continuous incremental change.

Translated into multiple languages and running in 12 countries, MIMMS is the national and international standard for planning and response to multiple casualty incidents. It has been used for planning support to Summer and Winter Olympics and the football World Cup. Responders to many disasters in the UK and worldwide had been trained in MIMMS principles and these are also applied on a near-daily basis within the medical chain in Afghanistan.

Key Clinical Outcomes:

- A network of 1,157 trained instructors has trained 13,617 providers and the course has been translated into 6 languages.
- Post-course questionnaires showed that 82% believed MIMMS was relevant/highly relevant and 59% had put the skills into practice.
- MIMMS had been taught to responders to 7/7 London bombings, the Asian tsunami, and the Japanese tsunami, MIMMS principles are applied on a near-daily basis within the British field hospital.
- The scope of spread of MIMMS (Europe, Asia,

Australasia, South Africa, NATO) shows it provides a generic standard for civilian and military environments where the need is identified but unfulfilled.

- An adaptation for resource-poor setting runs across India, supported by the British Council and UN and has spread to Sri Lanka through the Sri Lankan College of Surgeons.
- MIMMS has been applied to the planning for high profile events (e.g. Sydney 2000 Olympics, Italy 2006 Winter Olympics where it was the enclosed training for staff preparation) and national disaster contingency disaster (e.g. Kosovo Force Generic Disaster Plan).

Key Learning Points

The most difficult challenge was to overcome the inertia of "It will never happen to us". Using simple principles, with applicability to even small day-to-day incidents, means they are seen as relevant and robust.

Simplicity also ensures that principles and tools have survived translation and have demonstrated interoperability within civilian and military environments.

Engage key leaders within emergency services to attend and instruct. Make the course manuals accessible by all interested parties to encourage learning from the principles and experience.

Keep the core principles at the centre but allow adaptation to acknowledge differences in environment (civilian, military and international). This ensures the course is fit for purpose wherever delivered. This ability to adapt the course to meet national needs has ensured MIMMS is not a 'British' approach to be adopted slavishly, but a flexible international approach.

Adopt continuous shared incremental change with national and international partners. Adopt innovative teaching/assessment methodologies.

Quote From Surgeon Commodore A Walker

The MIMMS course is a true partnership between military and civilian experts drawing on the best of both cultures and blends them into a readily available course which benefits all.

Key Quote From Training Session:

Even if you remember nothing else from MIMMS, using Command and Control, Safety, Communication, Assessment, Triage, Treatment and Transport will save dozens of lives

