



**Message by the Surgeon General
of the Bundeswehr
On the occasion of the Combat Medical Care
Conference 2023
Blaubeuren 5 - 6 July 2023**



Fellow Servicemen and -women, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to take on the patronage of the Combat Medical Care Conference 2023 hosted by the German Society for Military Medicine and Pharmacy in Blaubeuren, which can finally take place in its usual format as a two-day conference in attendance again. For it is particularly in the field of tactical casualty care that personal information and knowledge exchange are of great importance.

This year's motto "all in" is an expression of the need to become fully aware of the current global political situation and to take this into account in the further development of tactical medicine. Every day, the war in Ukraine shows how important this further development is.

The high numbers of casualties show that the qualified medical care of the soldiers is an essential prerequisite for the sustainability of a country. It is not just a matter of the quick and as comprehensive restoration of combat power as possible, but also of troop morale in the certainty that "there is someone who cares".

The Bundeswehr has been in the process of reorientation towards national and collective defence since Russia occupied Crimea, and this process has been pushed forward with the highest priority since the beginning of the war in Ukraine. This also applies to the Bundeswehr Medical Service. Close interaction with national and international, civilian and military partners is essential in this context.

Not only the war, however, is claiming victims. The recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria has made us aware of how quickly a MASCAL situation with severely and very severely injured patients can exhaust the available resources of rescue forces and hospital capacities. Here, too, a functioning MEDEVAC chain and rapid international crisis management are crucial to the probability of survival of the casualties. Because the essential factor is always time.

Against this background, the development of networks and joint training are essential. Common standards and mutual understanding, in theory and practice, are the basis for achieving best possible results despite increasing demands on the provision of medical care.

The CMC conference offers a unique platform for this interdisciplinary exchange, the opportunity to look at scenarios from different perspectives and to enter into dialogue with others. I therefore wish all participants exciting presentations, interesting discussions and many new contacts.