



**European Conference on Aerospace Medicine
2010 Athens
10th – 13th November 2010**

ABSTRACT

Title: MEDICAL SUPPORT OF A MILITARY AIR SHOW IN GREECE	
Author(s) Name: LtCol Odysseas Paxinos MD, PhD, FACS, Senior Flight Surgeon	
Affiliation: Hellenic Air Force Medical Directorate	
<p>Introduction: Medical care must be well-planned for mass gatherings. Air shows gather big crowds, increasing the rate of medical problems and injuries. Aircraft accidents during the show may result in terrible disaster with mass casualties. In this study we evaluated the medical care provided for a mass gathering of approximately 250,000 people, during an air show event organized by the Hellenic Air Force.</p> <p>Methods: Medical care was documented on printed forms, including data such as gender, time, diagnoses, specific therapies applied and patient discharge information. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics.</p> <p>Results: Out of 250,000 spectators, 126 medical care events were recorded (95 adults and 31 children). Most patient contacts (64%) were made during mid day and early afternoon. Of those treated 73% suffered only minor problems and were seen for less than 10 minutes. The most common type of complaint was headache (32 patients, 53.6%), followed by insect bite (24 patients) and fainting (10 patients). Serious medical problems requiring more extended medical care occurred in 33 spectators and 7 of them had to be transferred to local hospitals.</p> <p>Conclusion: Most of the medical needs in an air show were minor. The overall medical usage rate in the event was 5,4 encounters per 10,000 spectators. Nevertheless, the possibility of a disaster is well documented in the literature and requires a robust disaster plan.</p>	
Name and address for correspondence: Dr. Odysseas Paxinos, Peloponnisou 55, 15341, Athens, Greece	
Telephone No.: +30-6947-804082	Fax No.: +30-210-7781104
E-mail: odyfax@yahoo.com	Date: 30/08/2010