

Advancing military medical evacuation strategies through studying the "Formosa Fun Coast flammable powder explosion"

Xiao-Wei Ho¹, Shin-Jie Zheng²

¹ **The 3rd (Northern) Regional Support Command Department of the Army**

² **Army Command and Staff College, National Defense University**

Abstract

On June 27th 2015, a flammable powder-based explosion occurred at the Formosa Fun Coast water recreational park in Bali, New Taipei City. With 15 deaths and 484 injuries, the incident has the highest number of casualties since the 1999 Jiji earthquake (921 earthquake). In the past couple years, Taiwan has experienced the 2014 Kaohsiung Propene gas explosion and the above mentioned Formosa Fun Coast flammable powder explosion. These public security incidents has incurred considerable fatalities and economic losses.

This article discusses challenges faced by the military health service units while supporting mass casualty incidents (MCI). These challenges includes problems with the incident command system, and medical resource and personnel allocation during MCIs. This article suggests that the military shall plan for possible MCI rescue mission under combat settings and medical evacuation for future national defense and disaster rescue missions. By study ing the United States Military medical evacuation protocol , the military health service units shall be able to better prepare for future MCIs and enhance its capacity to execute medical evacuation tasks.

Keywords: Mass Casualty Incidents, Incident Command System, United States Military Medical Evacuation Protocol

