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For many, DSA and NATSEC Asia are renowned for their display of cutting-edge military hardware, technological breakthroughs, and bold innovations in defence strategy. But for those of us in military healthcare, these events represent something far more essential - the preservation of life.

Our role is often unseen but never insignificant. Behind every deployment and every mission is a soldier, sailor, or airman whose well-being must be safeguarded. It is our responsibility in the Malaysian Armed Forces Health Services (MAFHS) to ensure that these men and women are fit to perform their duties, fit to respond, to endure, and most importantly, to return home safely to their families and loved ones.

When people think of military healthcare, they often picture wards in military hospitals or medical tents. However, today's realities demand much more. Modern military healthcare must be capable of operating anytime, anywhere, and often in environments where the nearest hospital or medical facility is miles away. Our teams must be ready to deploy into battle zones, humanitarian crisis areas, and disaster-stricken regions with little notice. It is about resilience and rapid response.

This is why I am eager to see the latest developments that will be showcased at DSA and NATSEC Asia 2026. One notable innovation is the concept of real-time soldier health monitoring, which enables the tracking of vital signs such as dehydration, oxygen deprivation, and early indicators of trauma during missions. These technologies, already in existence, demonstrate the potential to enhance operational effectiveness and soldier welfare, and I look forward to seeing how they will be presented and adapted at the exhibition.

Additionally, I am particularly excited about the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) segment that will take centre stage at DSA and NATSEC Asia 2026. This feature will showcase the latest innovations in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery, bringing together specialised HADR solution providers, emergency response agencies, and global relief organisations. The inclusion of this segment is a testament to the growing recognition of the role humanitarian assistance plays in military healthcare and the broader mission of preserving lives.



20 - 23 APRIL 2026
MITEC, KUALA LUMPUR

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MAFHS also operates on the global stage. From United Nations peacekeeping missions to humanitarian disaster response, our medical teams are deployed to some of the harshest environments in the world. In times of crises, we show up. Our work in places like South Sudan, Aceh, Adiyaman, Battagram, Cox's Bazar, and Turkiye for instance, is a testament to the courage and skill of our medical professionals. But it also demonstrates the importance of being prepared.

One of the greatest lessons we have learned from recent global events, especially the COVID-19 pandemic, is that health security is a global imperative. The virus crossed borders in weeks, but its impact on health systems, economies, and security has lasted for years, even until today. This is why partnerships are essential. No one nation can handle the next health crisis alone.

At DSA and NATSEC Asia 2026, I look forward to shared conversations and insights that will allow us to align strategies, enhance interoperability, and prepare for the next global health emergency, whatever it may be. I would also like to thank the organisers for championing the cause of battlefield healthcare and giving me this opportunity to represent the medical corps of the Malaysian Armed Forces.

I look forward to engaging with participants, delegates, and exhibitors of DSA and NATSEC Asia 2026, particularly those related to the field of healthcare. The cause of battlefield healthcare should never end, to ensure that those who serve are safeguarded, supported, and always ready to face the challenges ahead.

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