

An Outlook to Malbatt-Unifil Peacekeepers Repatriation on Medical Grounds from Year 2013 To 2018

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: The Malaysian Battalion (MALBATT) was established in October 2012 and it has been restructured since 2013 by increasing the military capacities and human resources. The MALBATT is deployed every year and based at the southern region of Lebanon. The battalion plays a major role in persevering peace in the region under the United Nations mandate and enforcement. In the military environment, repatriation can diminish the force of military readiness and tarnish the nation's image as well as pride in the perspective of international relationship and foreign policy. The objective of the study is to investigate the causes of medical repatriation in 5 years of MALBATT deployment and further plan of management to encounter a similar problem in the future. **METHODS:** A retrospective review of the repatriation data record of the military personnel involved in the MALBATT was conducted and the causes were determined. **RESULTS:** Information about MALBATT repatriation that was recorded during the years 2013-2018 was reviewed. There were 35 cases had been reported for repatriation due to various grounds such as medical reasons or disciplinary matter. From the cases, 51% repatriation was due to medical reasons and male gender contributes 100% of total repatriation on medical grounds. The medical disease (72%) is the major reason for medical repatriation. **CONCLUSION:** A preventive measure by doing a thoroughly pre-deployment health screening program on all military personnel selected and tightening the Standard Operating Procedure have been seen in reducing the incidence of medical repatriation.

KEYWORDS: Malaysian Battalion, UNIFIL, Repatriation

An Overview of Outbreaks in Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya, 2018

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: Outbreak detection, response and reporting are key components of a state's public health capacity to prevent and control illness¹. This study aims to determine the 5-year trend of outbreaks reported in Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya, to describe the epidemiological characteristics of outbreaks in 2018 and the possible relation with climate and serological changes. **METHODS:** This is a retrospective study on all outbreaks in Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya from January to December 2018. Data was retrieved from E-Denggi for vector-borne diseases and E-wabak for other communicable diseases. Data was analysed on epidemiological characteristics and areas of outbreaks using EpiInfo and Excel Workbook. **RESULTS:** During 2018, there were more outbreaks reported than in the previous four years with an increase of 24.8% compared to 2017. Dengue fever (71.5%) followed by Hand foot mouth disease (HFMD) (22.8%) recorded the highest number of outbreaks. Most outbreak associated cases for Dengue Fever and HFMD were distributed between 25-60 years (53.9%) and 1-6 years (46.8%) age group respectively with a male predominance. The months of May through September reported the highest number of outbreaks throughout the year. Wangsa Maju and Setiawangsa parliament constituency had the highest number of communicable disease outbreaks. However, based on population size, the Federal Territory of Putrajaya recorded the highest outbreak rate per 100,000 populations (976/100,000). **DISCUSSION:** There was a remarkable increase in outbreak incidence in 2018 which could be influenced by climate change and serological changes.

KEYWORDS: outbreak, climate, serology, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya