

Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic in the European Air Transport Command during 2020-2021

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Abstract : Introduction: The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has completely changed the global health situation, with more than 400 million cases published and over 5 million deaths. European Air Transport Command (EATC) is integrated by seven nations, and among its capabilities is that of aeromedical evacuation (AM). Material and methods: Impact of novel coronavirus was analysed based on the number and characteristics of patients and executed missions within EATC and, particularly by Spain, during the biennium 2020-2021. Results: One thousand sixty patients were transported in 186 missions. Neither death nor disease contagion was reported during AM performances. Military cases transferred were 986, mostly routine priority (91,4%), and 74 were civilians, who were transported in 17 missions, and 81,1% of which were categorized as urgent. Niger led the list of original countries, with 191 evacuated patients. 76,1% of requests came from Italy and Germany. Airbus A310 was the most used aircraft (32,2%). Germany transported 222 patients of another nationality, while Spain executed eight missions and repatriated 68 cases, 58 of which were from Mali. Conclusions: COVID-19 has led to a surged number of evacuated patients inside EATC, which has proven to be a safe and effective means of transportation, even in critical cases. Spain has gained prominence since its annexation in 2015.

Keywords : COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2, pandemic, aviation, Spain

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