

A combat trauma hospital deployed for humanitarian response.

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On January 12th, 2010, the small Caribbean nation of Haiti suffered a devastating earthquake leading to a broad international humanitarian response. For the first time, the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) included a deployed combat trauma field hospital, in addition to its Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART). The field hospital was self-sustaining and operated for 6 weeks on the outskirts of Léogâne, a town near the quake epicenter, where estimates placed >80% of the structures destroyed. The lessons learned from this accelerated field hospital deployment for humanitarian response, eight years ago, continue to shape the CAF's policy and preparedness for domestic and international humanitarian as well as military combat deployments of advanced medical support capabilities.