



THE CISM ACADEMY OVER 70 YEARS OF CISM – PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

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The establishment and trajectory

The present article has the aim to update the information previously written in the paper *Updating on the role of CISM Academy*, by Maj Pedro Celso Gagliardi Palermo (Brazil), published in the Proceedings Book of CISM International Symposium – Prague, September 2009.

The *Académie du CISM/CISM Academy (ACISM)* is understood as the scientific and pedagogical study centre of CISM. Its history and trajectory are mixed with the development of CISM, as one of the largest multidisciplinary organizations in the world.

The idea that science develops sports performance goes back the presidency of Major Arne Thorburn (Sweden), from 1953 to 1956, when impregnated with the fundamental idea that the practice of physical training and military sport must recline towards medical sports and technical progress, it provoked and upheld all initiatives permitting fruitful contacts between sports doctors, technicians and athletes.

Under the impulsion of Colonel Henri Debrus (France), re-elected as President in 1956, the Secretary General Major Raoul Mollet (Belgium) made a proposal at 11th General Assembly in Cannes, on 8 September 1957, regarding the creation of ACISM. A unanimous vote established the ACISM, that represents a scientific and educational body that connects CISM with the most relevant researches, publications with the aim to study different doctrines of physical training and sports training to formulate theories that enable armies to apply as effectively as possible.

In 1958, to celebrate its 10th anniversary, CISM organized its yearly program on a very large scale, highlighted by the founding of ACISM, at that time a medical sports association devoted to the research in the field of sports, and the first issue of CISM Magazine, a quarterly review read at that time in some 35 countries, and specially meant for the military and sport circles. These were the main objectives: spread new methods of training used by troops around the world; keep a nucleus of military and civilian authorities in the field of sporting training, medicine and social inclusion; collect and file information on the modern methods of training; lead research in specific areas according to the necessity of CISM; lead symposia in which selected authorities could present studies and material brought up to date in all area of physical activity manifestation; spread new discoveries, methods and techniques of training for the countries

members through technical booklets, symposia and clinics; and foment and disclose initiatives in the field of the social inclusion by sport.

The 60's and 70's saw the rise of ACISM with a creation of the organizational structure and statutes, which defined it as a scientific and pedagogical agency dedicated to research in selected areas of physical activity and sports training. As a symbol of this pioneer stage the book "Medicine of the Sport" was launched in Italy in 1960 including a chapter under the title "Military Sports Medicine", written by Colonel G. Tartarelli (Italy), on account of findings promoted by ACISM.

During this profit time a number of military sport researchers has contributed with their findings to improve physical training methods. Some significant examples are the Power Training and Total Training by Major Raul Mollet, in 1954 and 1960, Altitude Training by Captain Lamartine DaCosta (Brazil), in 1966, and The Development of One Program of Physical Conditioning by Major Kenneth Cooper (USA), in 1968. Its practices transposed the military walls and remain until today as methods of training for both civilian athletes and military personnel. In short, the impacts from past CISM-based sport developments either for top level competitions or for warfare preparation in civilian or military grounds, had been a result of the leverage provided by scientists connected to CISM.

In 1986 the ACISM started to face financial problems for implementation of its projects. At the same time, after 32 years of mandate, the idealizer and responsible for the success of this outstanding project, Commander Raoul Mollet, said farewell to CISM General Secretariat. In 1991, the XLVI General Assembly, in Karibu-Tanzania, trying to maintain ACISM activities, voted in favour of a new structure.

Although, after years developing an effective work in the military sports field, ACISM lost space in scientific scenario and in 1998, during 2nd Board of Directors Meeting, in Windhoek-Namibia, it was decided to finish its formal activities. Since then, CISM has not been completely away from science, but not so close as used to be.

Despite this decision and to maintain the interactions between science and sports in Armed Forces, CISM International Symposium kept its existence and CISM Headquarter, developed on the web site the *Sports & Science Forum* in the end of 2006, as an open and democratic space to discuss sports related matters in a scientific standard. This Forum, jointly managed by the CISM Sports Medicine Commission and the CISM Sports Commission, has the intention to be an exchange e-platform in the area of sport sciences. It is a free space not only for improvement of traditional knowledge in the field of training sciences, biomechanics, sports medicine and physiology, but also other areas, newly related to sports like marketing, communication and management that have increased its importance day-by-day.

The rebirth

In this scope, the appropriated environment was once again created within CISM to relaunch ACISM. Fortunately, during CISM International Symposium, on September 21st 2009, in Prague-Czech Republic, during the presidency of General Gianni Gola (Italy), ACISM was declared reborn, with a ceremony with the attendance of all authorities and lectures of the Symposium.

Additionally, the ACISM rebirth was presented to the 3rd CISM Board of Directors, in Ljubljana-Slovenia, between 3 and 5 November 2009, by the Sports Director, Lieutenant Colonel Suzana Tkavec (Slovenia). After, its approval these components of the highest level of CISM structure signed the testimony book for the rebirth of ACISM.

At that moment, the ACISM was relaunched in the context of innovation and it was strategically connected with continuity and stability. Taking into account the considerations above the updated ACISM Academy should present the purposes to: manage the knowledge originated among researches related to all sports manifestations within the armed forces; raise awareness of scientific researches' importance as an efficient tool to support administrative decisions on sports related matters within the armed forces; Create and manage a network to discuss scientific issues on sports related matters within armed forces, and create synergy with scientific sports institutions; Propose areas of research on sports related matters according to the CISM needs; Compile and spread scientific information on sports related matters within the armed forces; Administer CISM academic events; establish cooperation with international institutions and create synergy on international and national levels and between military and civilian structures; and support different working CISM groups (commissions, committees, etc.) with scientific findings.

The last decade

Although ACISM's rebirth gave a new energy in the scientific field of CISM, there was a lack of activities that followed this symbolic moment, as for instance a new edition of CISM International Symposium would happen only 10 years after it.

During Colonel Hakeem Al-Shino (Bahrain) presidency, to deal with this new management profile, a multidisciplinary group of researchers, with a continental representativeness, started composing a consulting body within CISM in order to update the scientific current approaches. This suggestion aimed to provide a scientific-based organizational structure to guarantee a stable and long-term development. Therefore, the CISM Sport Science Commission was incorporated on April 2015, in Tartu-Estonia, as the scientific corps of ACISM and entrusted with the development of CISM scientific aspects.

In this way, CISM Sport Science Commission advanced in sport science and scientific knowledge transferring it to all CISM member nations, by using CISM web page a platform to publish scientific

abstracts, reposts and featured articles, mainly in two permanent lines of research: Fitness and performance of military sports and Psychophysiological military fitness and operational readiness.

Fortunately, with the support of CISM Sport Science Commission the conditions to restart the organization of the main scientific event, represented by the International Symposium, were again established and in this moment we are contemplating the result of it here in Quito, in where there was also presented for the first time the *Commandant* Raoul Mollet ACISM Sports Science Award in recognition to a high impact research about Military Sports and Armed Forces Physical Activities in its broad spectrum, that promotes CISM values and enhances CISM visibility in the scientific and academic fields.

The current conception and future

Nowadays, during *Commissaire en Chef de 1^{ère} Classe* Hervé Piccirillo (France) mandate as CISM President, ACISM adopted a new structure based in four pillars: Sports Science – responsible for the development and disclosure of science in CISM; Education & Research – in charge of the promotion of courses, internships and the support to researchers, by the partnership with military and civilian institutions; Library & Publishing – controlling the collection of rare books and documents and CISM own production; and Memory & Culture – the main bulwark of CISM history and future museum, by the continuous study provided by CISM 70 Project – Memory, Heritage & Legacy.

In this way, inside CISM Family ACISM wants the establishment of a Military Sport Science network platform for a future global collaboration under its umbrella, through the permanent cooperation and partnership with external scientific and academic institutions (Universities, Committees etc.); collaboration in the intellectual formation of international military personnel in the areas of Physical Education, Sports, Health etc.; being (CISM and Military Sports) object and subject of study and research; organizing its own scientific CISM Symposia, Clinics, Seminars, etc. and attending others from international scientific community; and publishing & distributing scientific articles, lectures, etc. – in order to raise ACISM to standards of excellence turning it into a Think Thank.

Conclusively, ACISM is now living a moment of “open doors” and increasing its network inside and outside CISM Family. ACISM is improving CISM’s capacity in operational process, decision-making, and management sciences and related methods that would enhance the quality and effectiveness of military sports is a matter of science and scientists, running in direction of new scientific approach using operational research and knowledge management to better develop and answer all important questions and looking for solutions in the scientific/academic field.