

Wounded Under Enemy Fire: British 2nd PARA Brings Blood from the Sky with Drones

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Armed forces are integrating the most advanced technologies to radically transform the treatment of wounded soldiers on the battlefield. Among the most recent innovations stands out the initiative of the **2nd Battalion of the Parachute Regiment (2 PARA) of the British Army**, whose medics are using drones to transport lifesaving blood and leveraging satellite video calls to consult with medical specialists thousands of kilometers away.



Blood from the sky: how drones save wounded paratroopers

Extreme Training in Canada

These cutting-edge solutions were tested in the field during the **Exercise Rhino Bizz**, which saw the 16th Air Assault Brigade train in Canada to simulate complex combat scenarios, dominated by the presence of hostile drones and electronic warfare.

Being airborne forces, the paratroopers of 2 PARA may find themselves operating behind enemy lines, completely isolated and cut off from traditional supply lines.

Sergeant **Mark Gordon**, a medic of the unit, emphasized the logistical criticality of managing blood in isolated contexts:

> *"We must be able to operate with what we carry with us into battle. Blood has always been a challenge: it is a living product, difficult to transport forward and keep usable. If a wounded person loses blood, they die if we cannot stop the bleeding and replace what they have lost."*

Advanced Logistics: Blood Delivery via Drones

To solve the problem of rapid supply, 2 PARA devised a **decentralized internal donation network**:

- **Profiling and tracking:** Each paratrooper has their blood type registered and their position on the field is monitored through real-time digital mapping.

- **Rapid intervention:** In case of critical wounds, the medic can draw directly from the nearest suitable donor.
- **Aerial delivery:** A drone transports the blood quickly to where it is needed.

> *"Drones are used to kill and injure, and I like the fact that we are using the same technology to save lives."*
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> — ***Corporal Olivia Snoots**, 2 PARA, Combat Medical Technician and qualified drone pilot.*

Corporal Snoots highlighted the unit's spirit of innovation, which encourages and supports military personnel in acquiring multidisciplinary skills, combining unmanned aircraft operation with first aid medical procedures.



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Field Telemedicine: Expert Opinion at a Distance

Another fundamental breakthrough concerns communications. Thanks to the new **MPU5 radio devices**, capable of ensuring secure voice and data links through a self-regenerating mesh network, medics can conduct **real-time video calls with specialists and clinicians** in the United Kingdom.

Sergeant Gordon explained the impact of this technology:

> *"A medic on the battlefield can call a consultant in the United Kingdom, and they can directly see the wounded person's injuries. Having that expert advice gives the wounded person a better chance of survival and gives the medic confidence, knowing they are not alone."*

Career Opportunities in the British Army

Technological innovation and the modernization of the armed forces are accompanied by a constant recruitment campaign. The British Army currently offers thousands of jobs in over 200 different roles, ranging from frontline combat to cybersecurity, helicopter piloting, and logistical support.