Reviewer's report

Title: Ethical challenges experienced by UK military medical personnel deployed to Sierra Leone (Operation GRITROCK) during the 2014-2015 Ebola outbreak: a qualitative study

Version: 0 Date: 03 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Bridget Haire

Reviewer's report:

This is an important and well-written qualitative study of participants involved in a UK military medical deployment in Sierra Leone during the recent Ebola outbreak.

Suggested minor revisions:

1. introduction - the relationship between the researcher and the military could be clarified. Paragraph 2 of the introduction is somewhat ambiguous, such that I googled the author to get a clearer picture. The relationship between the researchers and the military should be explicated further.

2. It would be useful to introduce the MRoE earlier, to make it clear whether/how these are determined by the specific nature of the engagement, or whether they are standard. I get conflicting sense of this from the text (suggests some situational variability) and the end note (which suggests very little).

3. This is a similar point to #1. The extent to which the study was done in collaboration with the military could be clearer at a range of points in the methods section.

4. A very brief account of the composition/nature of the advisory group would be helpful. Did it include Sierra Leone nationals? UK military? Others?

5. Some participants are asterixed (eg P5*), but I could not find a key to this.

6. The table of ethical concerns listed some very tantalising issues that arose that do not get explored, and I understand that is necessary. The issue of who should be regarded as a healthcare worker does seem pertinent to the paper, however, and if there are data that could be included on this point (and participants' perceptions of this) that would be very interesting.
Typos, etc:

p 4 line 79 tranches were deployed (missing word 'were').

p 27 iii and iv - inconsistent heading treatment

p 27, line 641, 2nd sentence - this could be reworded for clarity.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable
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