

Risky Business

OCVS KWRO
2005

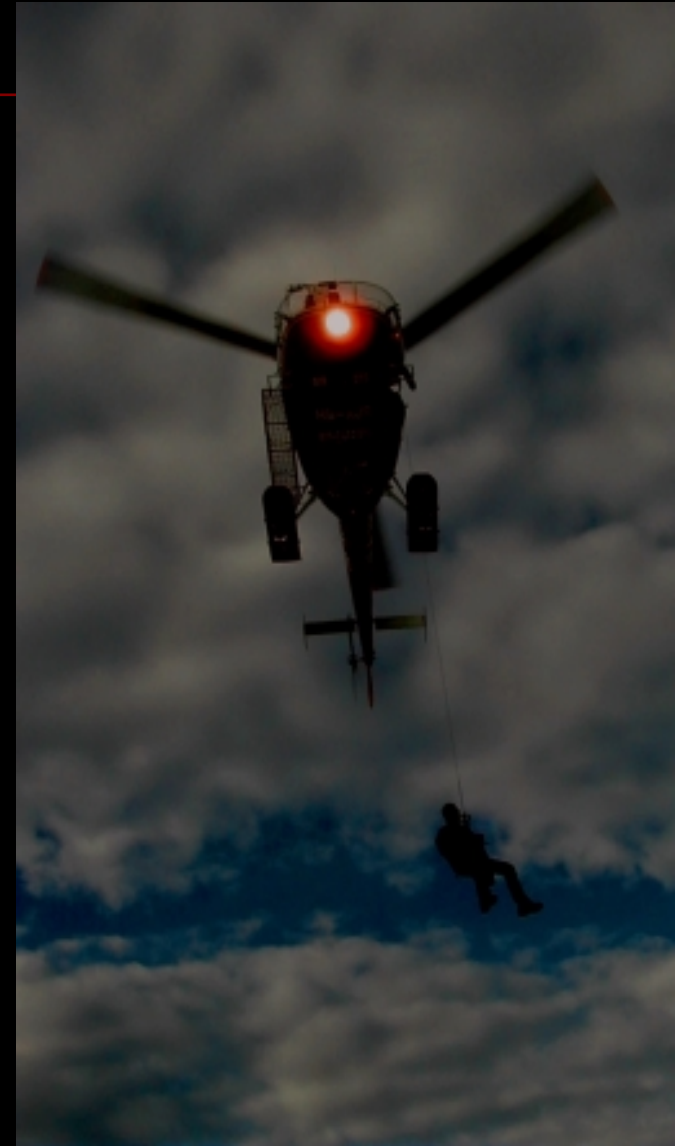
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Where to go ?

reflexions on
helicopter rescue flights
at night...

OCVS
Created by Doctor
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Goal

- Night Ops = risky business...
- Change the strategy, establish SOP's...

On the menu...

- Accident by rescue mission
Fate or not ???
- Justifiable risks ?
- Why we take risks ?
 - what the psychology say
 - personal experience
- How to decrease the risks ?



- An accident is rarely a fate !



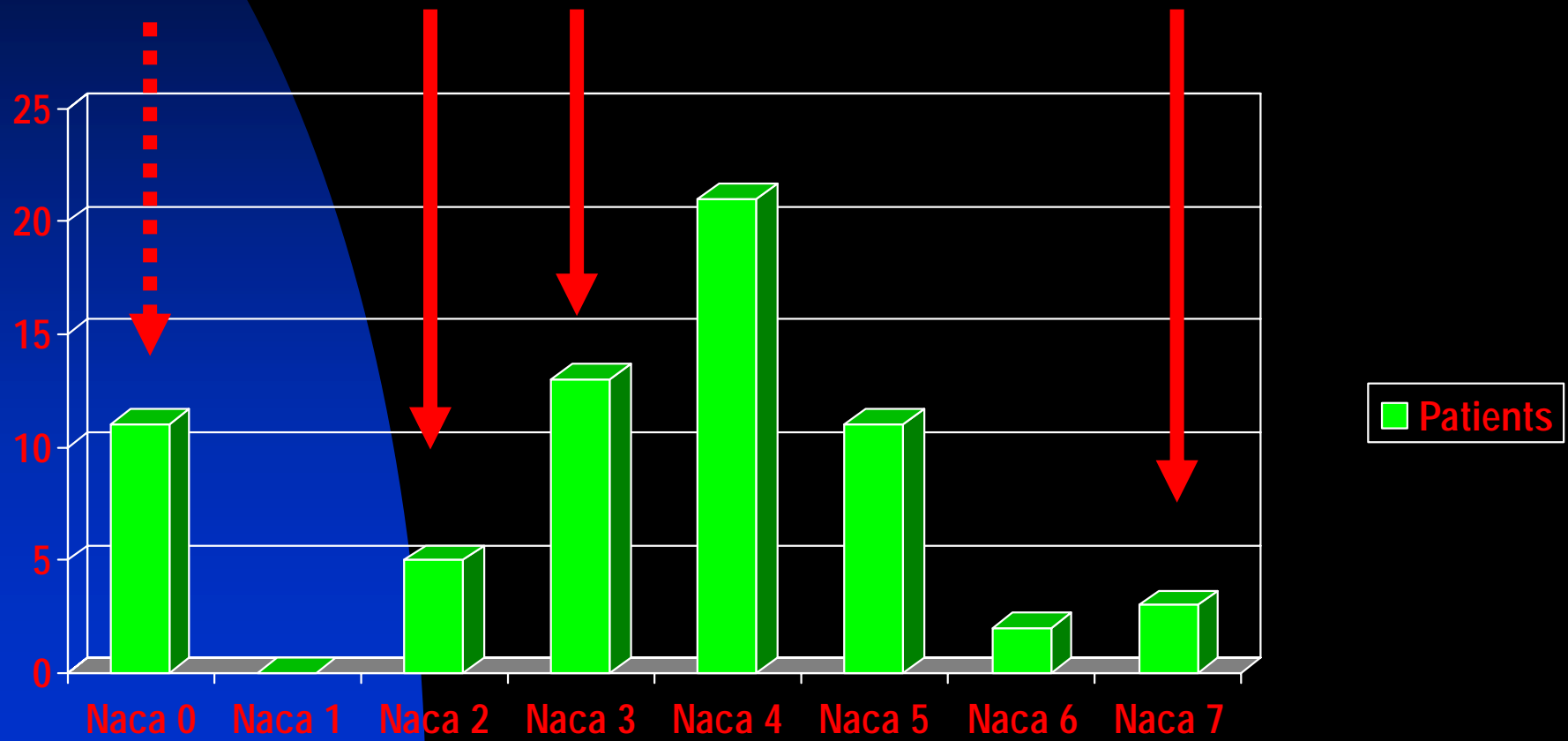
Do we take risks ?

Small study about the night ops rescue at
the base Air-Glacières in Sion 2002 -2003
(66 missions)

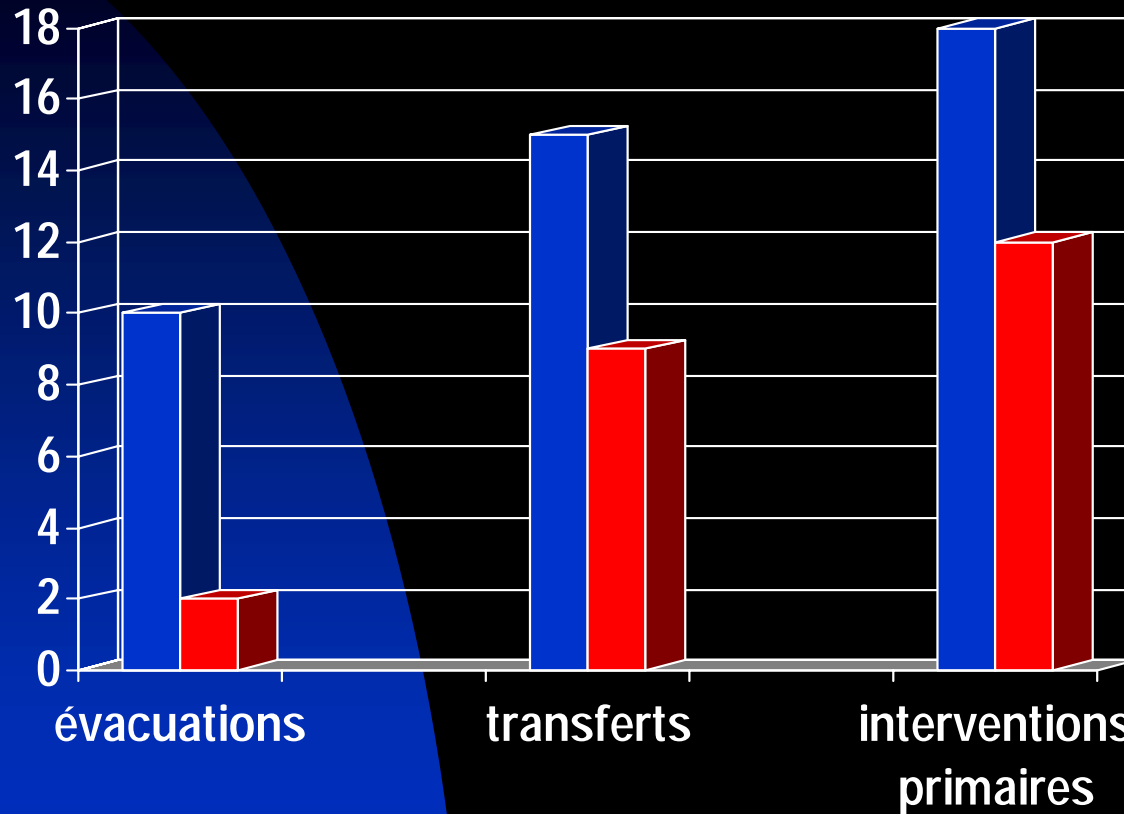
One good news...

One bad news...

- 2002-2003 heli night ops
66 missions, base AG Sion



Are the missions justifiable ?



■ justifiables
(techniquement ou
médicalement)
■ peu justifiables

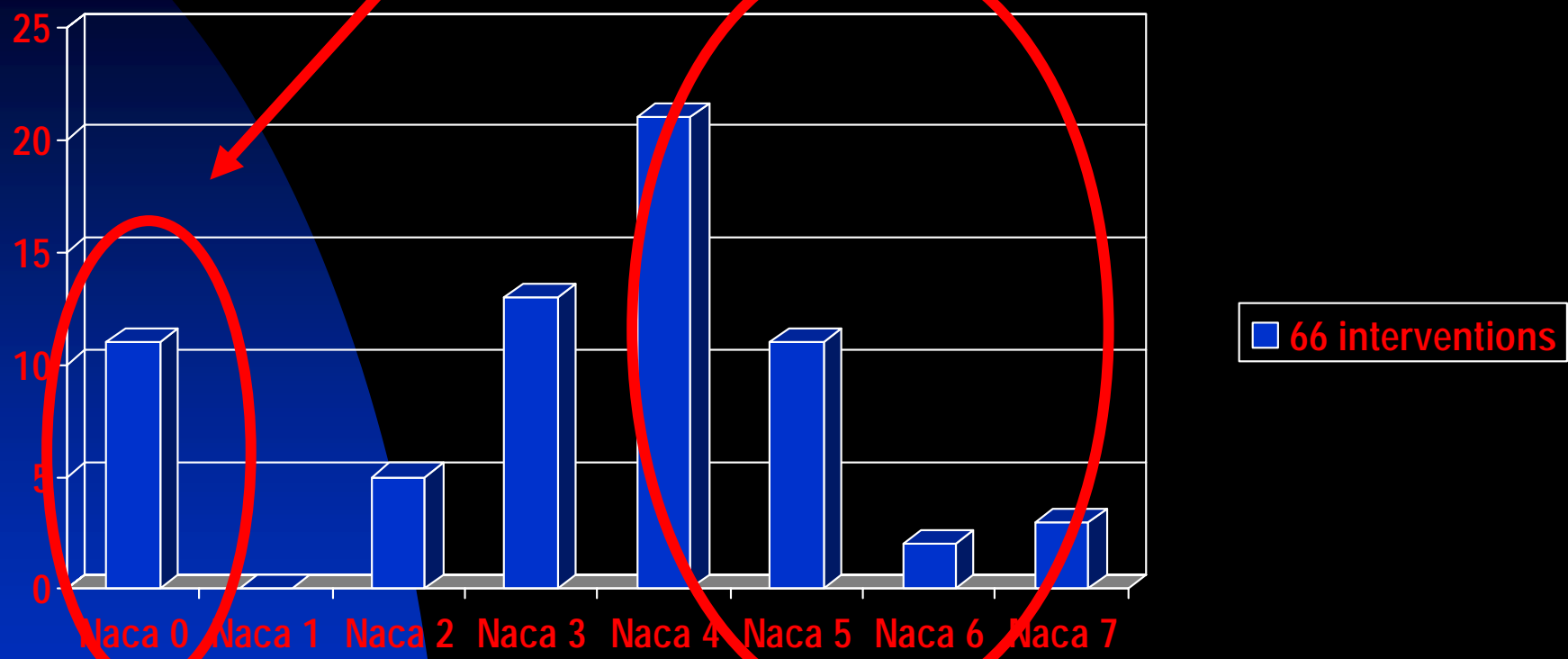
Is it reasonable ???





Reality from the field,
Good news...

Risks probably justifiable...



Why we take risks ?

- What the « psy » says
- Personal Experience

Psychology ?

Tells us the trap of the « unconscious » :

- 1) Obstination
- 2) Seduction desire
- 3) Aura of the expert
- 4) Social place occupied
- 5) Rarety sensation

Trap n°1 : Obstination



Once you take the first decision, the following decisions are easier to take if you stay coherent with the first ...

Trap n°2 : Seduction desire

You go because you think that if you do the mission you will be seen or appreciated by others (boss, chief pilot, lead doctor, ect..)



Trap n°3 : Expert aura

In a lot of cases, an informel leader take decisions for the all group...

The Leader has a positive impression that push the group to follow him even if is not competent.



Trap n°4 : Social position

When a person is confident about his competencies he may have a tendency to take more risks

Even more If someone is watching...



Trap n°5 : Rarity sensation

The mechanism of rarity is when you allow a great value on a spectacular mission.

Greater is the risk better is the action.



Risks, personal experiences ...

- Save lives ?
- The «hot potato» principle
- The vicious circle
- The red cross sheep and commercial reason
- The « Zorro » effect

Analyse des motivations « profondes »



The « HOT potato » principle



Intervention → anxiety = hot potato

- Witness of the accident



- Operator 144



- Ops helicopter



- Specialized rescuers



A quick start with the helicopter often calm the anxiety related to the mission !

- Red cross sheep
(or the commercial principle)

It is easier to start with the helicopter instead of trying to elaborate another strategy.

No contestation risk, from the direction, base, colleagues, witness of the accident as we started rapidly..

**It is often easier to adopt
the same attitude as the others.**



The vicious circle :

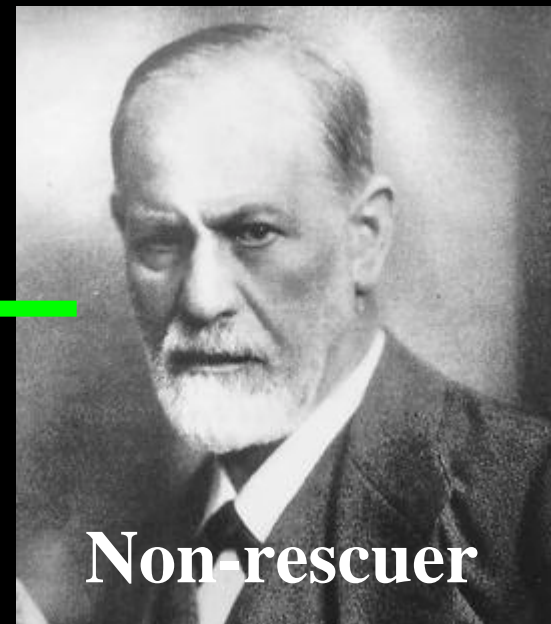


By the alarm...

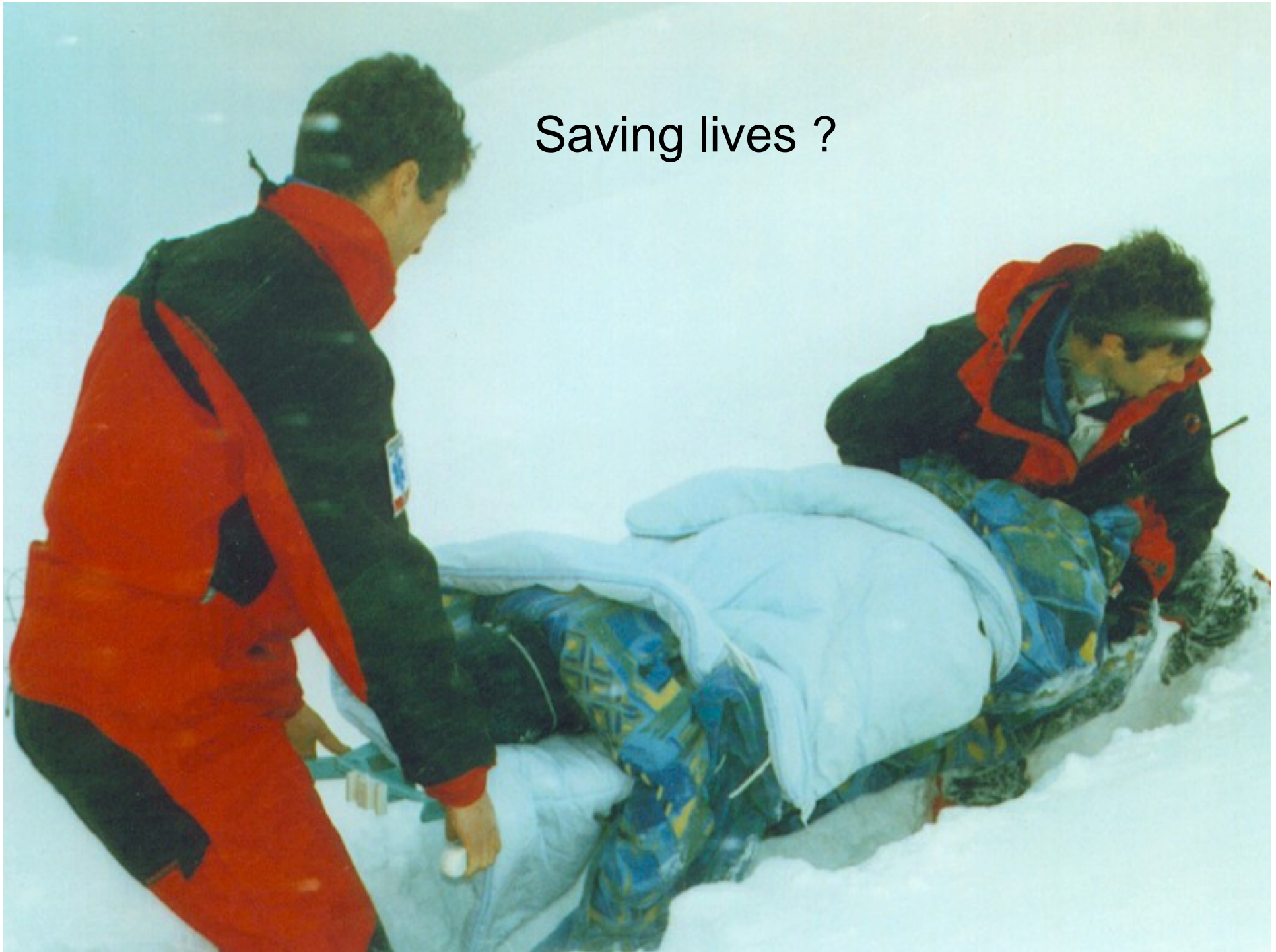
- ◆ The pilot think it is urgent,
- ◆ The Hems crew member follow the pilot,
- ◆ The doctor follow as he does not want to stay and then give more wait to the decision of the pilot...

- The « Zorro » Effect

- ◆ As you get the alarm, you take some decisions. These decisions are not the same if you are not involved in the mission.



Saving lives ?



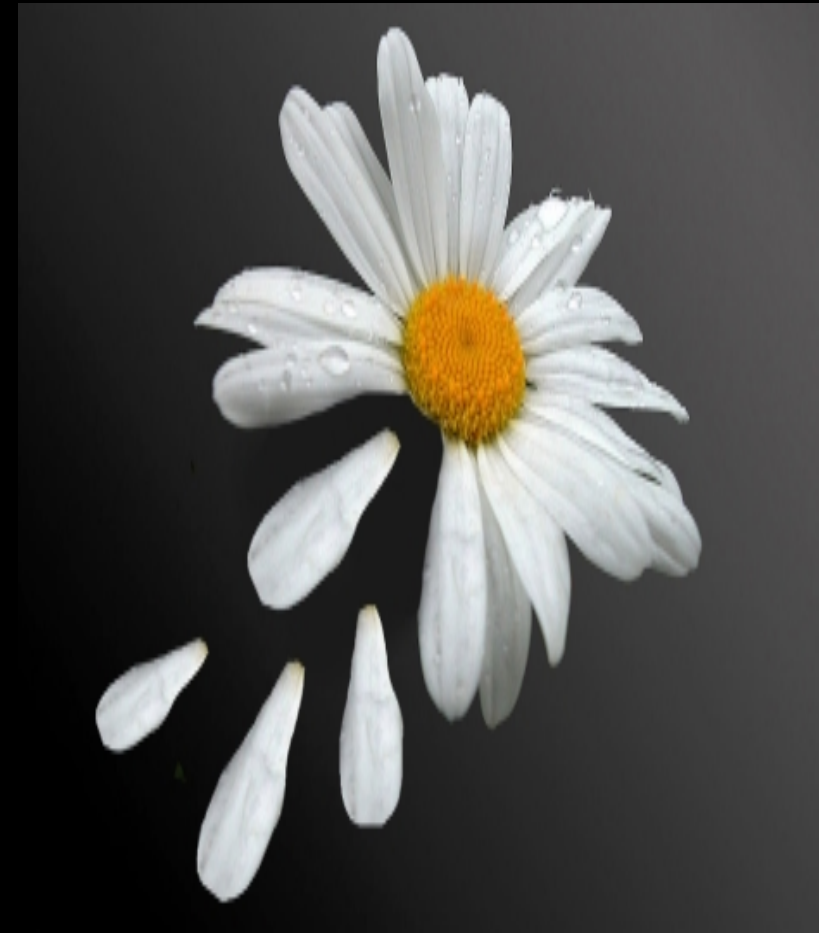
- Saving lives ? At night ? By helicopter?
 - ◆ With the risk to loose your's ?



- ◆ Some times OK, but the risks have to be well evaluated...

■ We took risks :

- ◆ *A little : for commercial reasons*
- ◆ *A lot : by a lack of réflexion*
- ◆ *Passionately : by habits or by anxiety*
- ◆ *Often....never
To save lives !*



How can we minimize risks..

- Good sense ?
- Not guilty feeling
- Coffee break
- Guideline
- Give a call...



« Good sense »



- ◆ « good sense » : is what every body thinks we have in profusion
- ◆ In short, do not count on the good sense....especially in the urgency !
- ◆ And especially, beware of yourself !



« We did not put them there ! »

↳ Not guilty feeling ↳



« Easy call »



YOU take personally contact with the patient, or the witness.

- ★ No errors due to the intermediates
- ★ Allow you to judge of the medical urgency..

« Coffee break »



- ◆ Allow you to take a few minutes and to think a little bit before going
- ◆ Avoid the trap of the « hot potato », or the « vicious circle »
- ◆ Allow you to open a map, to discuss the way you plan and cancel the stopwatch effect...

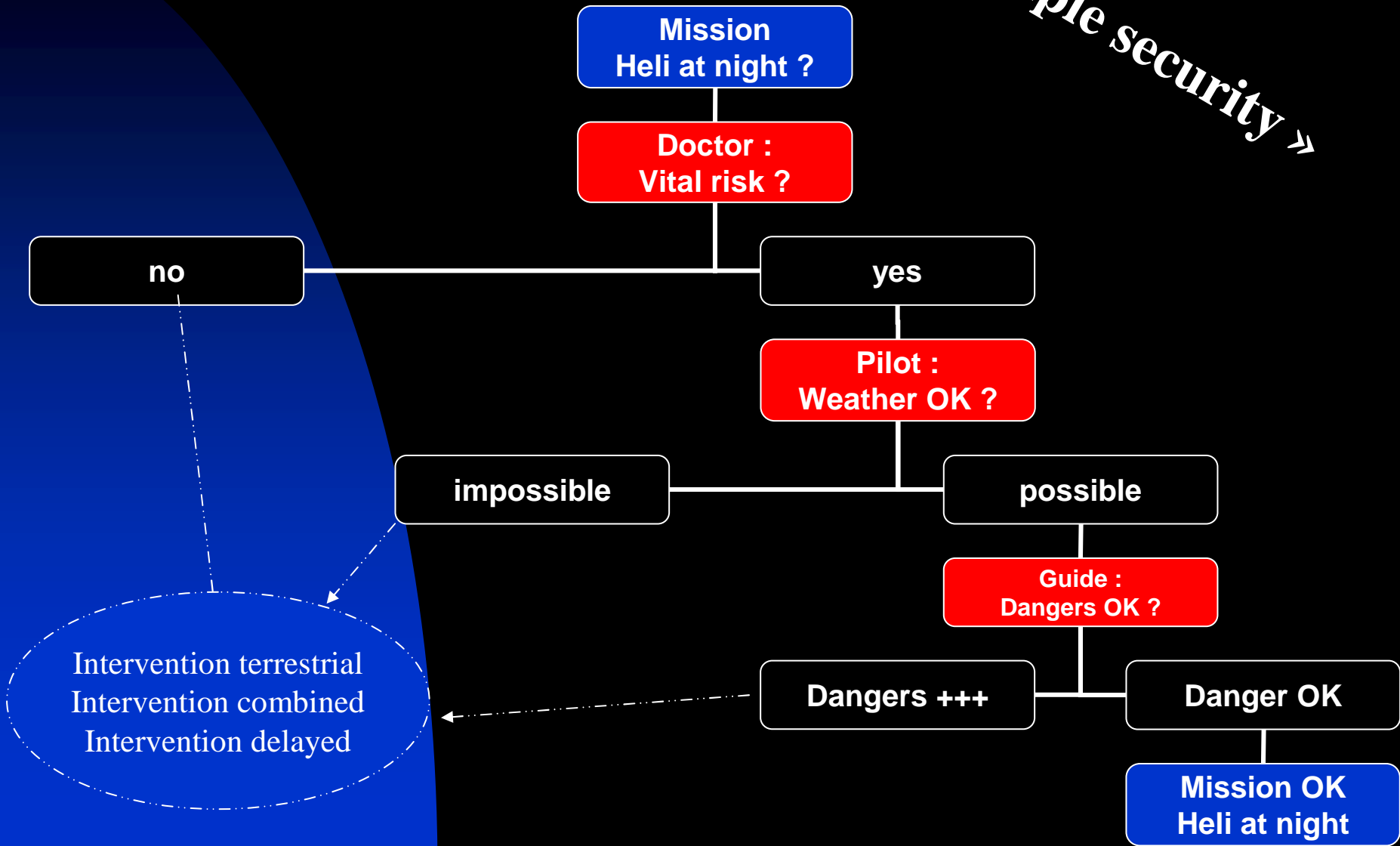


« Guideline »



- ◆ Gives you a way to go (decision compass)
- ◆ Avoid your brain to overheat in always more complex and changing conditions
- ◆ Leave some energy for improvisation ,always good in the field

« Triple security »



Remarks

No heli missions at night for
« desperate case »

- ★ Buried in an avalanche
> 1 hour(?)
- ★ Cliff fall
> 50 m(?)
- ★ Reanimation(?)
- ★ Extraordinary risks...
- ★ Others.....(?)



Combined
Missions :

- ★ Smur / terrestrial at start
- ★ Then heli if needed for a medical or technical reason

Take home message : heli at night ?

- Do not feel guilty
- Give a call
- Work as per « triple security »
- Allow a coffee break

Total : 5 min 55 sec.

More doubts...

call a colleague not implicated in the action !



Be cool...

Due to the complexity of some situations,

An assessment mistake can always be done !

