INTRODUCTION:
Operating facilities in a tertiary hospital including sterile operating theatre, central sterilisation unit, intensive care unit support and image intensifier are crucial in providing orthopaedic services to the community. Without such facilities, the orthopaedic surgical services in a state hospital could be severely handicapped.

A fire disaster which occurred in Hospital Sultanah Aminah on 25th October 2016 which resulted in 6 fatalities in the main block of the hospital has resulted in a complete shutdown of the main building inside which the operating theatre complex and other crucial services related to surgical services were located.

Safety concerns were among the reasons cited for the evacuation of patients and shutdown of the building. Between the period of 29th October 2016 and 9th Jan 2017 (a total of 72 days), a mobile Operating Theatre (OT) was set-up by the Malaysian Army (Angkatan Tentera Malaysia) within the hospital compound comprising of a mobile operating theatre and decontamination unit was set up to continue the operating services albeit limited to dire emergencies and urgent cases.

RESULTS:
Surgical procedures were carried out from 3rd November 2016 till 3rd January 2017 serving 12 surgical disciplines in the hospital including general surgery, orthopaedics, neurosurgery, paediatric surgery, obstetrics, ENT, plastic surgery, urology, gynaecology, vascular surgery and others. A similar operating theatre set-up has been deployed in other area during other disaster such as floods at the East Coast of Malaysia. Orthopaedic Surgery performed the second highest number of cases (101 cases, 36.3%) following after General Surgery (107 cases, 38.5%).

DISCUSSIONS:
For the orthopaedic surgeon, the operating facilities provided were limited to soft tissue cases due to concerns of surgical site infection; especially implant-related. Implant related cases were not performed due to lack of necessary equipment such as power tools and image intensifier.

CONCLUSION:
The mobile OT provides an excellent alternative to ensure that surgical services can still be delivered for selected cases.

REFERENCES:
1. Newspaper article: Army mobile hospital at HSA still being set up, fully operational tomorrow. http://fw.to/KnN0pig