2018 COE DIRECTORS’ CONFERENCE

PRECISE RESPONSE 2018

SAMPLING AND IDENTIFICATION OF CHEMICAL AGENTS – WEAPONS INTELLIGENCE TEAM INTEROPERABILITY EXPERIMENT

EADRCC EXERCISE SERBIA 2018

JCBRN DEFENCE COE APPROACH TO EXERCISES SUPPORT

4TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON DEVELOPMENT OF CBRN PROTECTION CAPABILITIES

NCOs THOUGHTS

I’M AN ALIEN, I’M A LEGAL ALIEN, I’M AN ENGLISHMAN IN VYSKOV

NATO CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE AND FORWARD ELEMENTS
Dear readers, fellow comrades and colleagues,

After our COE ten-year celebration in 2016, which happened almost unbelievably, two years ago, the Centre can now celebrate twelve proud years of service to NATO, Sponsoring Nations, Contributing Partner and more recently to the European Union. We have provided outstanding levels of support within the areas of Transformation, Education, Training, Exercises and Evaluation. Further, we have provided direct support to Operations and ACO readiness training. These last two areas of operational support make the JCBRN Defence Centre of Excellence unique amongst the twenty-four COEs accredited by Supreme Allied Command Transformation.

Accordingly, our centre has already been successfully reaccredited for the second time. We have fulfilled our criteria effectively with the review stating that “the JCBRN Defence Centre of Excellence serves as a good example of an effective NATO COE and is a valuable asset to NATO offering independent thoughts, analysis and solutions”. Our Centre could now be considered a primus inter pares and certainly provides an attainment benchmark. This is not unimportant, as several Nations are intensively reviewing the output and performance of the entire COE landscape (its effectiveness) against the changing security environment and the refocusing of resources on Article five operations. Considerations of how to reinforce the NATO Command and Force Structures are ongoing and COE personnel may be an option, especially given that qualified people are rare. Please allow me one personal remark; having been part of ACT’s accreditation visit in November 2006 and following the progress of the Centre over many years, I can reflect that the COE is a tremendous success story and an honourable achievement. I am very proud to serve as the Deputy Director for this Centre.

What else has happened since the last Newsletter was issued?

Just focusing on some highlights - the successful COE Directors Conference in July in Prague deserves mention. The Director of the JCBRN Defence COE (Colonel Osvald) served as Dean of COE’s Directors and chaired this conference together with Lieutenant General Lofgren. The conference is considered an extremely valuable forum, and this was reflected by the attendance: the NATO Assistance Secretary General for Fight against Terrorism (Mr. Weaver), the Deputy Supreme Allied Command Transformation (Admiral Nielson) and the Host Nation’s 1st Deputy Chief of Defence (Lieutenant General Baloun).

Civil-Military Cooperation is becoming increasingly important, not only for NATO but also for the EU. Cooperation between the two multinational bodies is increasing and the JCBRN Defence COE took concrete steps to enhance Civil-Military Cooperation. At an international level between the Centre and NATO HQ entities, the focus was on our cooperation with CEPC and EADRCC. At the national level there has been increasing ties between the Centre and the General Directorate of the Fire Rescue Service. The relevant legal documents have been signed and then reinforced through practical demonstrations that show how the centre can provide capable support to Civil-Military challenges.

A good example of this support was the EADRCC’s Exercise SRBIJA 2018 which took place near BELGRADE. This was a huge event, with more than 2000 participants coming from more than 40 Nations from around the world. Our Centre was able to provide Modelling & Simulation as well as Reachback support and became a part of DISTAFF.

Another highlight from 2018 was the enhanced cooperation with SHAPE and especially with CCOMC to improve the Centre’s visibility and NATO operations’ support. This strengthens the Reachback Element and refines the processes of this well-established capability.

The centre supported the NATO Projecting Stability Effort during the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) format by providing two “CBRN Awareness for First Responders” courses by deployed Military Training teams in KUWAIT.

Wolfgang Karl-Heinz Reich
Colonel, DEU A
In reflection of the training’s success the Director of KUWAIT Fire Service Directorate reciprocated with a visit to the centre seeking additional future support.

With our support, AJP-3.8(B) ALLIED JOINT DOCTRINE FOR COMPREHENSIVE CBRN DEFENCE has been promulgated. Our COE provided the custodian, chairperson and secretary of (JCBRND-CDG) Doctrine and Terminology Panel. For the next three to five years NATO now has a comprehensive keystone document for operational and tactical developments for CBRN defence.

Strategic Communications are an increasingly important requirement for the Centre. Early development has commenced, and a Strategic Communication Element has been installed within the Directorate to improve the Centre’s visibility foremost at the political / strategic level. Numerous campaign plans are currently under development for execution through 2019.

I have mentioned 2019 and it dawns on me that next year is just around the corner. So, what are the potential highlights for our Centre’s future?

We will certainly further contribute to NATO’s Joint CBRN Defence Capability Development Group (JCBRND-CDG) along all lines. In overview, we will continue to support the implementation of the NATO CBRN Capability Roadmap, Doctrine Development (focused this time on WMD Disablement), continue the improvement of the Joint Programme of Work (JPOW) and we will, of course, provide support to every single panel.

In addition, the revision of MC 0590 (Reachback & Fusion) is crucial to the provision of operations support. In this document we must contribute very precisely; if this concept is wrong, the centre will have to live with the consequences for many years as this keystone document provides the basis for operational working practices.

Another important document revision which will directly influence our way of working is MCM-236-03 “MC Concept for Centres of Excellence”. We and I hope more importantly, that Sponsoring Nations will take care of their status of influence.

Our Centre will carry on providing specific courses and we aim to reshape the training landscape to raise it to a more strategic level.

We will further improve our operational support tools, namely the Reachback, operations planning support and the Modelling & Simulation functions. The Primary Network of our Reachback Element has been sufficiently set up and works quite well. Now, in 2019 we need to reach out to improve the secondary network; there are already some firm ideas about how to progress this year.

Regarding the tremendous work on Knowledge Management which has been undertaken so far, we should not lose the momentum but continue to enforce its implementation.

Regarding the enhancement of the Centre’s infrastructure, we will finally (fingers crossed) have the activation of NATO Secret VTC suite. Further, the Colonel Janos Zelenak Conference Room is nice but for some occasions it is just too small. Consequently, a new and bigger Conference Room is under construction which we anticipate will be ready for use soon.

To conclude, the Centre will continue to support NATO’s major exercises, enhancing cooperation with the EU, support the Committee on Proliferation (and related bodies) and provide Subject Matter Expertise whenever and wherever needed to the JCBRND-CDG.

We will maintain and aim to enhance the Centres reputation in the area of CBRN Defence and WMD Non-proliferation with the intent to meet and overcome the expectations of NATO’s Sponsoring and Contributing Partner
Nations. Last and to finish on a positive note, another Sponsoring Nation, Canada, will join our Centre and Spain also seems to be interested in joining us soon.

I hope you will enjoy the articles within and I look forward to receiving your feedback – just drop me a note or write to our directorate’s mailbox postbox@jcbrncoe.cz.

Sincerely yours

Wolfgang Karl-Heinz Reich
Colonel, DEU A
JCBRN Defence COE
Deputy Director
The Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Centre of Excellence (JCBRN Defence COE) together with HQ SACT organized the annual COE Directors’ Conference from 10th to 11th July 2018 in Prague. The event was attended by 24 NATO accredited Centre of Excellence Directors and one COE Director currently going through the accreditation process.

The conference was co-chaired by the JCBRN Defence COE Director, COL Vratislav Osvald and HQ SACT Transformation Network Branch, COL Roberto Esposito.

The conference was opened by the Deputy Minister and Head of the Defence Policy and Strategy Division, Mr Landovský, together with the First Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Czech Armed Forces, LTG Jiří Baloun. In addition, Mr Robert Weaver, NATO Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, Admiral Manfred Nielson and Deputy Chief Of Staff Capability Development, LTG Jeffrey Lofgren attended and supported the conference.

The aim of the 2018 COE Directors’ Conference was to provide the primary venue to bring together all COE Directors and, upon invitation, equivalent representatives from NATO Bodies and Multinational Organizations to inform all about recent developments, exchange experience, discuss NATO-COE cooperation in light of NATO Command Structure Adaptation (NCS Adaptation) and its impact on COEs, provide a forum for an exchange of views on the way ahead and thus, facilitate the directors’ networking in order to increase the individual and collective effectiveness of the Centres. In addition, the conference intended to carry out an annual revision of its Terms of Reference (TOR).

ADM Manfred Nielson gave the audience the opening speech focusing on NCS adaptation and the structural changes inside ACT as well as the references about new NATO entities such as Joint Force Command in Norfolk, USA and Joint Support and Enabling Command in Ulm, Germany. His comments reinforced his intent to implement Delegating Tasking Authority (DTA) and its benefits and challenges, the way ahead towards revision of MCM 236-03, the importance of COEs’ Quality Assessment Accreditation (QAA) and the roadmap on Emerging Disruptive Technologies.

Mr Robert Weaver focused on NATO projects Defence Against Terrorism (DAT) and Science for Peace and Security (SPS) and potential COEs role in support of both NATO activities. Follow on discussion was then focused mainly on practical and conceptual issues related to those projects LTG Jeffrey Lofgren presented the background of the NCS Adaptation, DTA and the objectives to be achieved with this change.

Among the other topics discussed during the conference were Strategic
Communication and Public Diplomacy, Counter Terrorism and possibility for DAT projects, Program of Work (POW) Process, Future of the Command Post Project, TNB update, Potential COEs Contribution to ACT Emerging Disruptive Technologies (EDP) Road Map etc.

In the end, Directors articulated their general appreciation for the value of the annual conference and are looking forward to attend the next COE Directors Conference that will take place in the Mountain Warfare COE in July 2019, in Slovenia.

Authors:
COL Vratislav Osvald (CZE A)
CPT Zuzana Králíková (CZE A)
The Allied Engineering Publication 66, Edition A, Version 1 (AEP-66) - NATO Handbook for Sampling and Identification of Biological, Chemical and Radiological Agents (SIBRA) is the crucial document that describes the processes and procedures required to conduct NATO SIBCRA operational and forensic missions.

AEP-66 requires revision to properly and effectively reflect the present CBRN threats to NATO, the assessment of future CBRN challenges to NATO security and the development of efficient CBRN Defences within the joint operation area.

The AEP-66 testing and validation of procedures under real conditions are fundamental to discover gaps or identify best practices in the currently established SIBCRA procedures. The validation and development of AEP-66 Edition is the responsibility of the Detection Identification Monitoring Panel (DIMP).

The first phase of the AEP-66 validation was executed during Exercise TOXIC VALLEY 2017, in Slovakia in September 2017. This first phase was broadly supported by COE and provided a great opportunity for validation of AEP-66’s chemical agent sampling procedures.

Exercise Toxic Valley is an annual Live Agent Training event offered and sponsored by the Slovak Armed Forces. The event is held at the Training and Testing Centre (TTC) Zemianske Kostolany, Slovakia.

While the exercise was focused mainly on the sampling of chemical agents the scope of AEP-66 is wider. That is why DIMP superior working group, the Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Capability Development Group (JCBRND-CDG) was seeking for further training events that would provide opportunities to validate other areas of AEP-66 procedures (radiological and biological). Exercise PRECISE RESPONSE 2018 (PR-18), a live agent training exercise in Canada in July 2018, provided a perfect occasion to conduct the second phase of the AEP-66 validation.

The JCBRN COE provides numerous roles in the development and follow-on validation of AEP-66. CBRN subject matter expertise is provided by the COE liaison officer to Detection Identification Monitoring Panel (DIMP). Further, the COE provides CBRN advisors who support the evaluation and validation of AEP-66 processes during NATO Exercises.

This project met the key requirements; medium and long-term capability development. The second part (B/R/Mixed) of the AEP-66 validation was approved with 2018 funding supplied from the official Voluntary National Contribution Funds (VNCF).

The COE was officially asked by VNCF Project Manager to hold the position of the executing agent for financial aspects of the project. The COE, after Steering committee approval, accepted this proposal.
The validation of AEP-66 procedures across a wider scale was executed during Exercise PRECISE RESPONSE 2018 by a team of experts from NATO Nations (Canada, Finland, Germany, Norway, the United Kingdom and the COE). The COE was represented by WO Marek Němec, who contributed to the evaluation team who reviewed the whole spectrum of SIBCRA teams activities (sampling, sample management, sample receipt, inspection, tracking and shipment).

The AEP-66 validation was conducted throughout the exercise over three phases. The SIBCRA teams and the Evaluation Team operated in a real CBRN environment, which made tasks more difficult for each trainees and evaluators; dressed in full Individual Protective Equipment and with the facility located in the warmest part of Canada, the 40 degrees Celsius made conditions harsh.

The first phase was devoted to the mandatory preparation of the Evaluation Team to be authorized for operating in the live agent environment. This week consisted of medical, theoretical knowledge and practical skills testing.

The second phase was the start of the real evaluation and execution of the validation. Over a further week, the Evaluation Team observed SIBCRA team’s performance and collected observations and findings.

The third week, the training teams were grouped into three CBRN Task Forces with specific assigned tasks (e.g. planning of operations, sampling, Explosive Ordinance Disposal, reconnaissance, CBRN related intelligence analyses) which were raised from complex scenarios as compared to the single missions that had been used in the previous phase.

At the end of the exercise, the results of the validation were analyzed by the Evaluation Team and an Evaluation Report drafted which captured all observations and recommendations. This has been submitted to the JCBRND-CDG.

In conclusion, the validation of allied publication AEP-66 confirms the need to update publications and capture Evaluation Report recommendations. Due to the high level of realism provided by the training scenario, a well-prepared training audience, the quality of evaluation team members and the training environment, all validation tasks were fulfilled, and all participants satisfied. The COE support to Exercise PRECISE RESPONSE 2018 was highly appreciated and WO Marek Němec was praised for his personal contribution.

Authors:
LTC Ilona Chylíková (CZE A)
WO Marek Němec (CZE A)
The Sampling and Identification of Chemical Agents – Weapons Intelligence team Interoperability Experiment (SICA – WIT Interoperability Experiment) follows the 2017 Experiment of Technical Exploitation and CBRN Sampling and Identification Capabilities that was conducted by Allied Command Transformation. The outcome of previous experimentation confirmed the requirement to harmonise technical exploitation across C-IED and CBRN areas.

The main objective of this interoperability experiment of current SICA and WIT capabilities, was to test existing doctrine and procedures for interoperability, identify gaps and inform the direction of further capability development. The focus of the experiment was the provision of SICA and WIT support to technical exploitation. The experiment also supports NATO Defence Planning Process general requirements for interoperable technical exploitation capabilities. It also supports CBRN Capability Indicative Roadmap tasks related to CBRN related intelligence and WMD Disablement.

The SICA – WIT Interoperability Experiment was held simultaneously with the second part of Exercise Toxic Valley from 17th to 21st September 2018 in the Zemianske Kostoľany Training and Testing Centre in Slovakia. The exercise thus provided the infrastructure and capabilities for the interoperability testing. The experiment was led by the NATO Counter Improvised Explosive Device Centre of Excellence (C-IED COE) in Madrid, Spain, in close cooperation with the Joint Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Defence Centre of Excellence (JCBRN Defence COE) in Vyškov, Czech Republic, and the Slovak General Staff CBRN J-9. The experiment was conducted over three scenarios – a Chemical Ordnance Cache, a Chemically Enhanced IED and a Chemical Substance Laboratory. Each of these scenarios was run with different pairs of SICA-WIT teams from 18th to 20th September. There were three WIT teams provided by Austria, Romania and Spain and three SICA teams from Austria, Slovakia and Slovenia. The experiment was evaluated by seven SICA and three WIT evaluators from the Austrian CBRN Defence Centre, the Italian Joint NBC School, JCBRN Defence COE, C-IED COE and experts from the Czech, Polish and Romanian armies.

Over the execution phase, the evaluators observed the work, cooperation and interoperability between the SICA and WIT teams, completing evaluation sheets and adding their own observations. At the end of each day, the observations, proposals and comments were collated and discussed.

The experiment provided a huge amount of useful and important data which will be undoubtedly contribute this NATO integration project. According to the First Impression Report of the SICA-WIT Interoperability Experiment a new experiment should be conducted in the next year.

Author:
Mrs Lucie Šenková (CZE)
The 18th Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre consequence management field exercise, “SRBIJA 2018” was jointly organized by the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) and the Ministry of the Interior of Serbia. The exercise was conducted from 8th to 11th of October 2018 in and around Mladenovac, Serbia. The aim of the exercise was to improve interoperability in international disaster response operations and contributes to enhancing national capabilities of NATO Allies and partners.

This event was seen as a major NATO – UN – Serbia event and was widely attended with an estimated 2000 people from 40 nations and an uncounted number of institutions (IOs, GOs and NGOs). The strategic importance of this occasion was reflected by the opening ceremony. The NATO Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg and the President of the Republic of Serbia Alexander Vucic, led on opening the training and welcomed all participants. COE representatives included the Deputy Director, COL Wolfgang Karl-Heinz Reich who joined the VIP program and Operational Planning Support Section Chief, LTC Cosmin Mihaescu who acted as the “CBRN Advisor” and liaison officer. An earthquake scenario was chosen as it encompasses the type of geological and environmental challenges faced by Serbia. The exercise also provided an opportunity to practice international cooperation and strengthen the ability of teams from different nations to work effectively together. Also this scenario enabled a wide range of relief operations including:

- urban search and rescue,
- medical / paramedical first aid,
- CBRN Reconnaissance,
- CBRN Decontamination and water rescue.

From the outset, the JCBRN Defence COE has supported the exercise planning process. The COE has contributed to the Initial Planning Conference, Final Planning Conference, scenario development and MEL-MIL scripting with a quarter of the incidents being CBRN related and aligned to rescue team activity. In these scenarios the JCBRN Defence COE was able to provide only a sliver of its full capabilities. The Reachback Element linked to the On-Site Operations Co-ordination Centre provided expertise that had not been previously exploited on EADRCC exercises.

The assessments provided greatly assisted the planning and coordination of the CBRN rescue teams. The surprise and satisfaction of the technical assistance to incidents was clearly reflected in the facial expressions of some of the CBRN team leaders.

The improved outcomes from this exercise compared with previous EADRCC training events has resulted in an invitation for the COE to conduct more “CBRN Advisor” assistance including the opportunity to provide a part time liaison officer inside the Base of Operations. With two roles in the exercise architecture it was possible to be visible and useful at the same time. The DISTAF position granted the opportunity to identify the way for getting more involved. The liaison officer position facilitated the information exchange between CBRN Reachback and EADRCC and Local Emergency Management Authorities.

With the fresh taste of success, it is easy to be eager for more activity but the next step important step is the Lesson Learned Conference at the end of January 2019. The consolidated feedback from all participants, will confirm, improvements, enhancements and clarify interests and expectations for future activity with the EADRCC.

Author:
LTC Cosmin Mihaescu (ROU A)
Introduction
Since its inception, the JCBRN Defence COE has considered support to the area of Collective Training and Exercises (CT&E), as one of its main priorities. The COE’s support for NATO’s major exercise (STEADFAST JOINER) dates back to November 2008 and continues to represent a significant priority and effort. Over time, exercise support has grown to involve all phases of preparation and execution. The COE assumption of the position of Department Head (DH) for WMD/ CBRN Defence Education and Training (E&T) Discipline and chairmanship of the NATO CBRN Training and Exercise Panel (TEP) have heavily influenced its continuing role in exercises and collective training.

Current situation – review of JCBRN Defence COE support for NATO Collective Training
Currently, the JCBRN Defence COE serves as an essential body providing CBRN Defence related expertise to NATO in the sphere of the NATO CT&E. Regarding NATO exercise support, the COE provides broad support not only to NATO common funded exercises, but also to multinational CBRN exercises scheduled by COE Sponsoring Nations or particular NATO Nations. It became apparent by the end of 2017 that the level of COE exercise support reached or even exceeded JCBRN Defence COE capacity. In order to maintain a high quality of work, the COE’s approach to exercise support has been modified. The new approach includes the development of an annual “JCBRN Defence COE Strategy for the Support to NATO Exercises Workshops”. The primary aim of the workshop is to determine the COE’s exercise support priorities for the following year and assign exercise planning and support responsibilities among ACT, JWC, SHAPE, JCBRN Defence COE and the respective Training Audience (CJ-CBRN-TF, NATO Command Structure (NCS) and NATO Forces Structure (NFS) evaluated HQs).

The JCBRN Defence COE support to exercises in accordance with the „Update of the JCBRN Defence COE approach to NATO’s Collective Training Support”

JCBRN Defence COE will:

- Provide CBRN Defence related expertise, advices and also comments to the collective training / exercises’ documents drafted by respective authorities identified by the Bi-SC 75-3.
- Augment EXCON, Training or Evaluations teams when requested and appropriate.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Supported Body - Stakeholder</th>
<th>The support Scope</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>SHAPE</td>
<td>SAGE - SACEUR’s Annual Guidance on Education, Training, Exercises and Evaluation development;</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>SACT (Joint Forces Trainer) Officer Scheduling the Exercise (OSE)</td>
<td>Development of the selected Exercises’; Specification (EXSPEC) and CBRN Defence related Exercise Objectives (EO) elaboration;</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Joint Warfare Centre (JWC) Officer Directing the Exercise (ODE)</td>
<td>The exercises scenarios development; MEL/MIL development; The JWC Training Teams augmentation;</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>NCS / NFS HQs Officer Conducting the Exercise</td>
<td>The Exercise Plan (EXPEC) ant the exercise Training Objectives (TO);</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Director for Evaluation SHAPE J7; or TBD</td>
<td>Specific Evaluation Directive (SED); Evaluation Objectives (EO) Specific CBRN Defence addressed check lists;</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Lessons Learned Process – all stakeholders</td>
<td>Support the exercises authorities with the CBRN Defence related observations’ collection and in particular with the observations’ analyses and follow on proceeding;</td>
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The scope and method of the COE support to the exercises will be determined by the COE Memorandum of Understanding and specified by the COE annual Program of Work.

Brief introduction of the updated JCBRN Defence COE approach to NATO exercises

The overall aim of the COE effort is to assist both NATO Strategic Commanders with identification of adequate and sufficient CBRN Defence related Collective Training.

The process starts by assistance to SHAPE with development of the NCS collective training principal document „SACEUR’s Annual Guidance on Education, Training, Exercises and Evaluation development (SAGE).”

JCBRN Defence COE will provide aggregated inputs to the SAGE by considering respective NATO policy, CBRN Defence capability development ambitions, NATO Strategic Intelligence Estimates MC 161 and areas such as current NATO operations or CBRN / TIMs related incidents occurred across the globe (analysed by JCBRN Defence COE Reachback section), as well as by considering respective future trends identified by NATO Strategic Future Analysis and Framework for Future Alliance Operations.

The table No. 1 displays a synoptic overview of the main areas of the JCBRN Defence COE support to NATO exercises.

Rather than direct participation in the execution of the tasks, the JCBRN Defense COE will focus on how to most effectively and appropriately integrate CBRN Defence scenarios into the NATO exercises.

The JCBRN Defence COE support priorities – selected by subjects of the support

Since the JCBRN Defence COE would not be able to accept all Requests for Support (RFS) to the extent suggested by the applicant, the JCBRN Defence COE priorities for the exercises support were defined as follows:

1. NATO led joint level Exercises designated for training, evaluation and certification of:
   - NATO Response Force package.
   - NATO Joint Force Commands designated as Joint Task Force HQ.
   - NATO Force Structure HQs allocated for planning and conducting NATO small joint operations.

2. Exercises scheduled by the JCBRN Defence COE Sponsoring Nations. This priority stems from the JCBRN Defence COE Memorandum of Understanding.

Pic 1: illustrates the NATO Exercises stakeholders’ interaction scheme and interactions of the CBRN Defence expertise provided by JCBRN Defence COE
4. NATO Allies’ Multinational Exercises and the NATO Partnership Exercises.

The JCBRN Defence COE future tasks and challenges related to Collective Training and Exercises support area

In support of future NATO CBRN Defence capability development, the COE plans to enhance its expertise mainly through collection of observations (Lessons Identified) and subsequent analysis of these items in order to more adequately contribute to the NATO Lessons Learned process. Other future activities may also include introduction of remote Modelling and Simulation support in order to enhance the effectiveness and realism of CBRN play in NATO exercises.

Author: LTC Rudolf Konár (CZE A)
Exercise CORONAT MASK 2018 (COMK18) was a transnational Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear (CBRN) Protection Field Training Exercise conducted as a NATO Non Art. 5 Crisis Response Operation in a complex, joint and combined environment using the SKOLKAN scenario. The exercise, with 14 participating nations and almost 1500 soldiers, took place in the period 15th - 27th September 2018.

The main purpose of the exercise COMK18 was to demonstrate the capability of the Framework Nations Concept (FNC) Cluster CBRN Protection to provide mission tailored CBRN defence forces for planning / preparation and execution of exercise (and missions) within the full spectrum of CBRN defence capabilities in a joint and complex environment.

The exercise play was designed to support future training opportunities including major strategic NATO exercises such as TRIDENT JUNCTURE. During the exercise four Multinational CBRN Defence Battalions were deployed in Germany, the Czech Republic and Italy, linked to the Live Agent Training TOXIC VALLEY in Slovakia.

The exercise COMK18 offered the opportunity to validate specialized CBRN defence units as an important milestone towards the improvement of joint CBRN defence capabilities and served as an evaluation venue to verify the Full Operational Capability (FOC) of the FNC Cluster CBRN Protection. For that reason, the exercise planning process was led by the FNC Cluster CBRN Protection.

In order to support and evaluate the exercise and to enable a certification of the FNC Cluster CBRN Protection, close coordination between the JCBRN Defence COE of Excellence, the FNC Cluster CBRN Protection and the Bundeswehr CBRN Defence Command was of utmost importance.

The conclusion of the Director of Evaluation, COL Vratislav Osvald, was clear: the FNC Cluster CBRN Protection meets the requirements as described in the FNC Cluster CBRN Protection Concept and it is capable to facilitate the development and the provision of specialized, sustainable and effective CBRN defence capabilities for NATO and EU. The Cluster demonstrated this by planning, preparing, coordinating and executing a large scale multinational CBRN Defence exercise.

Author:
COL Jiří Gajdoš (CZE A)
Director of the Framework Nations Concept
Cluster CBRN Protection Cluster Support Cell
The 31st Doctrine and Terminology Panel was held at the French CBRN Defence Centre in SAUMUR from 15th to 19th October 2018. Twenty nine delegates from 14 nations and international organisations including SHAPE, ACT-SEE, JFCBS, (MCMSB) MAROPSWG, and JCBRN Defence COE met in the beautiful, small French city of Saumur, which is located in the Maine-et-Loire department in western France. The historic town is located between the Loire and Thouet rivers, and is surrounded by the vineyards of Saumur itself, Chinon, Bourgueil, Coteaux du Layon, which produce some of France’s finest wines.

The Chairperson LTC Bernd Allert, JCBRN Defence COE, opened the plenary session; he welcomed all DTP members detailing the aims of the meeting. DTP participants were informed about the highlights of the last JCBRND-CDG session, the Programme of Work Evaluation Report (PoWER), and the tasks addressed to the Doctrine and Terminology Panel. As a next step LTC Bernd Allert updated the audience on the status of AJP-3.8 Ed. B (Allied joint Doctrine for Comprehensive CBRN Defence) which was ratified by nations and promulgated by NSO.

The DTP secretary, LTC Norbert Drzewic presented the outcome of the Allied Joint Operations Doctrine Working Group (AJOD WG). The primary mission of the AJOD WG is to enhance the effectiveness of NATO forces through the provision of doctrine for joint operations, with an emphasis on operational doctrine. This includes development, review and harmonization of doctrine within the hierarchy of Allied Joint Publications, as well as the formulation of related terminology. LTC Norbert Drzewic was followed by custodian reports on ATP-3.8.1 (Vol. I, II and III) and a presentation on the status of CBRN Defence Comprehensive Database.

Immediately after the plenary session DTP split into two syndicates: a Doctrinal Syndicate and a Terminology Syndicate.

The Doctrinal Syndicate focused mainly on ATP-3.8.1 Vol. I (PSD4). 59 comments (critical, substantial and editorial) were discussed; subsequently the nations determined the final structure and content of the publication. The second main topic for this syndicate was a discussion on ATP-3.8.1 Vol. II. The revision of this publication was commenced in 2017 (according to the three years lifecycle). The German custodian, MAJ Sebastian Herrmann proposed a potential table of contents complemented by national proposals and comments.

The Terminology Syndicate’s focused on revisions to CBRN Defence relevant terms with an emphasis on the remaining terms on the “CBRN Master List”. The Syndicate developed definitions for 29 new terms. On completion of the session, the syndicate leader confirmed that approximately 90% of the 445 terms of the master list had been successfully confirmed.

LTC Bernd Allert concluded the 31st Doctrine and Terminology Panel meeting expressing gratitude to France and COL Xavier Lefebre, Commandant of the CBRN Defence Centre. LTC Bernd Allert expressed special thanks to MAJ Christophe Rohmer and MAJ Emanuel Yvrard for the excellent preparation and hospitality during the entire Doctrine and Terminology Panel Meeting.

Author: CPT Robert Hromada (SVK A)
The Joint Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Defence Capability Development Group’s (JCBRND-CDG) aim is to support the development of CBRN defence capabilities using all lines of development focusing on doctrine, materiel, and training as directed by the Military Committee Joint Standardization Board (MCJSB) and NATO Army Armaments Group (NAAG) guidance.

It supports the development of capabilities fitting into implementing the three-pillar approach: Prevent, Protect and Recover under the NATO’s Comprehensive Strategic-Level Policy for Preventing the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and Defending against CBRN Threats. There are 7 panels subordinated to the JCBRND-CDG:

- Doctrine and Terminology (DTP),
- Information Management Panel (IMP),
- Detection, Identification and Monitoring Panel (DIMP),
- Physical Protection Panel (PPP),
- Hazard Management Panel (HMP),
- Training and Exercise Panel (TEP),
- Challenge Level Panel (CLP).

All 7 panels cover the wide and various spectrums of responsibilities of the JCBRND-CDG in field of the Alliance prevention of the proliferation of WMD and defending against CBRN Threats.

The JCBRND-CDG Spring Meeting was held in the Hellenic Armed Forces Officers’ Club - Athens, Greece from 23rd to 26th April 2018. Approximately 71 participants from twenty NATO Nations, five Partners for Peace (PfP), and representatives from various NATO bodies and organizations (IMS, IS/ESC(CT), IS/PASP(ACDC), IS/OPS(CPS), ACO, SACT, SACT SEE, JFCBS, LANDCOM, JCBRN Defence COE, (MCMedSB) CBRN MED WG, NSO and NSPA) attended the four daylong meeting regarding JCBRND-CDG assessments on capability developments and related standardisation activities.

The assembly was opened by the JCBRND-CDG Chairman, Dr Frank Sabath (DEU), who welcomed all participants and encouraged the NATO Nations to forward nominations for the currently vacant positions of the Secretary and the Vice-Chairperson.
Briefings were conducted by numerous NATO bodies. NATO International Staff (IS) discussed the direction of the Committee on Proliferation (Defence) CP(D)’s Work Programme 2018-2020. Their focus areas include Defence Against Terrorism Programme of Work (DAT PoW) and Voluntary National Contribution Fund (VNCF) Projects that have been running through 2018. Representatives from SACT and SHAPE confirmed the operational requirements for doctrinal and tactical publication development and updated timelines regarding the development of CBRN concepts.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to exchange information on recent projects between Nations representatives and other NATO bodies like the CBRN Medical Working Group (CBRN MED WG) and the NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA). The meeting’s main outputs were; the Interoperability Platform (IP) format, the approval of the method of work for the JCBRN - CDG Programme of Work (JPOW), the preparation of the input to NATO Army Armaments Group (NAAG) Land Armaments Management Plan 2018 - 2020 and maintain an overview and development of the Standards which are under the group’s responsibility. A Final Draft (FD) of AJP - 3.8 (B) (Allied Joint Doctrine for Comprehensive CBRN Defence) was endorsed by JCBRN-CDG. MCJSB may now initiate the ratification process of this keystone CBRN doctrine.

The Joint CBRN Defence Centre of Excellence, represented by its Deputy Director, COL Volker Quante (DEU A) reemphasised that the Centre will continue its support to JCBRN-CDG by providing the Doctrine / Terminology Chairperson and Secretary, the Training and Exercise Panel Chairperson and Secretary, the custodian of Method of Work for the JCBRN-CDG Programme of Work (JPOW), and remain the custodians of the main CBRN Doctrine – Allied Joint Doctrine for Comprehensive CBRN Defence (AJP-3.8). He added that the Centre will continue to further develop the CBRN Comprehensive Database.

The next JCBRN-CDG meeting will be held in Roma, Italy from 10th to 13th September 2018.

Author: LTC Ilona Chylíková (CZE A)

4TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON DEVELOPMENT OF CBRN PROTECTION CAPABILITIES

The CBRN Symposium took place in Berlin/Germany from 3rd to 5th September 2018. The German Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, the Federal Ministry of Defence, the Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance, the Bundeswehr CBRN Defence Command and the CBRN Working Group with the Association of the German Army, all supported the German Association for Defence Technology to prepare and to conduct the symposium.

The State Secretary of the Interior, Building and Community, Mr Klaus Vitt (Pic 1), opened the Symposium. He was followed by the Austrian Minister of the Interior, Mr Herbert Kickl.

The objectives of the symposium were to provide a professional platform to meet and exchange ideas amongst the international CBRN protection community, whilst also informing representatives from the fields of politics, administration, industry, academia, civilian and military organisations about the latest developments in security policy. They were also provided with a current chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear risk assessment and the challenges they...
represent for military and civilian planners regarding hazard prevention. The symposium focussed on three specific areas for the development of CBRN protection:

- National and International cooperation,
- prevention (averting threats),
- the creation of resilience by understanding system vulnerabilities.

The organisers subdivided the conference into two parts: a plenary session combined with two panel sessions, and an industrial exhibition which included a live demonstration. All enabling components of CBRN defence were covered. The live demonstration took place in Schloss Diedersdorf, Germany utilising civilian CBRN defence capabilities (Pic 2). A poster exhibition complemented the symposium.

Fourteen panels offered the opportunity to discuss the entire spectrum of CBRN defence, with key panels including “Innovations by Industries” and “Innovation, Research and Development”.

COL Jiri Gajdos, Director of the Framework Nations Concept (FNC) Cluster CBRN Protection Cluster Support Cell (CSC) and former Director of the JCBRN Defence COE in Vyškov (Pic 3), informed the audience about the FNC Exercise CORONAT MASK. COL Anthony Stroup, IMS/PCD(NCB), and LTC Bernd Allert provided a joint briefing on “Disablement of WMD: How NATO takes into account the paradigm change”.

About 500 speakers and participants, military and civilian, academics and industries represented 45 nations (from A as AUSTRIA to Y as YEMEN) and International Organisations (DG HOME/European Commission, FNC Cluster CBRN Protection, INTERPOL, NATO HQ – IMS/PCD (NCB), NATO HQ – IS/PASP (ACDC), OPCW, SHAPE, JCBRND COE, SIPRI).

Of course, in addition the Symposium offered an excellent networking opportunity (Pic 4).
The recently established Central European CBRN-E Training Centre (CE CBRN-E TC) in Budapest (HUN) requested to enhance cooperation with the Joint CBRN Defence Centre of Excellence (JCBRN Defence COE) especially in the field of training. The TC forwarded an official letter to assist in identifying areas of potential cooperation between our two organizations. COL Vratislav Osvald, Director JCBRN Defence COE, confirmed that our COE is highly interested in close cooperation with the Training Centre and invited the representatives to Vyškov in order to establish relationships and understand our capabilities.

On 23rd July 2018 a meeting, chaired by the director of the JCBRN Defence COE, was held with the CE CBRN-E TC in Vyškov (CZE).

The event was divided into two parts. Initially, COL Osvald welcomed the guests and gave a general brief about the COE’s history, structure, manning and mission. Subsequently, the department directors provided detailed briefs about the tasks and responsibilities of their departments. During the later phase, MAJ Balazs Horvárh, the Deputy Director CE CBRN-E TC, provided a detailed briefing on the Training Centre, informing the attendees about the history, structure, ongoing projects, aims and future plans. In 2015, the Bomb Disposal Unit of the Hungarian National Police (BDU), in partnership with competent units from Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia, have initiated the establishment of the Central-European CBRN-E Training Centre in Budapest. The centre is hosted at the compound of the BDU. By enhancing the provision of training and technical assistance by leveraging law enforcement expertise and resources; the Centre aims to establish comprehensive strategies for prevention, preparedness, and response to CBRN-E incidents. It will provide the infrastructure for harmonizing best practices and training activities between the participating countries in order to enhance national and regional CBRN-E capabilities. Another key component of the newly established Centre is to provide a venue for workshops, conferences and symposiums in this special field of expertise.

After this briefing the participants discussed possible areas of cooperation and determined next steps. The meeting was really successful and conducted in a cordial atmosphere. The participants agreed to establish cooperation between the two organizations whilst focusing on information sharing. COL Imre Kiss invited the COE’s representatives to visit the Training Centre and the brand new training facility in Hungary in autumn 2018.

Author:
LTC Balazs Kovacs (HUN A)

1 CBRN-E is not a NATO agreed abbreviation. The “E” stands for explosives.
Dear Readers,

It has been my tradition and pleasure as the JCBRN Defence COE Senior Enlisted Representative to introduce new NCO members to our community and recognizing the exceptional service of our current NCO members. Please take a few moments to get to know these great leaders.

Let me be the first to officially welcome WO Jan Gottwald as the newest member of the COE family and the Communication Information System Security Section of the Support Department (SD).

WO Jan Gottwald joined the Czech Armed Forces in 2000 and successfully studied the Security and Legal subjects at the High School in Brno. After his graduation, He attended the Basic Warrant Officer Course (IT equipment) at the Military High School in Brno. During his career, He was assigned as a Deputy Platoon Commander/Squad Leader of the 2nd Communication Information System Base in Písek, followed by his redeployment to the Training Base in Lipník nad Bečvou at the Communication System Instructor. Before he joined the COE, he was assigned to the Support Battalion for the Vyškov Military Academy and served as a Chief Instructor and CIS Specialist. His primarily duties were to deal with information and communication technologies and provide technical support to users.

After 18 years of duty, primarily in service to the Czech Armed Forces, his quality and professionalism indicated to his superiors a capacity for working within the multi-national environment. We welcome his experience and look forward to his contribution to our COE Team.

I’d also like to recognize WO Milan Dvořák for his consistently outstanding work at the COE and allow him to provide a few thoughts, on his own behalf, regarding his 2018 deployment to Kosovo in support of KFOR.

“Servio ergo sum” (I am therefore I am) was our Task Force motto and the words God apparently spoke to Moses on Mt. Sinai in the book of Genesis. This motto was reinforced by my participation in peacekeeping operations in Kosovo.

Kosovo is a young country in the south Europe, formed from the collapse of the former Yugoslavia and the subsequent fracturing of that state into new nations across the Balkans. Unfortunately, the establishment of Kosovo was not achieved peacefully. NATO has been leading the peacekeeping operation since the end of the war in 1999.

The mission of KFOR units is to contribute to a safe and secure environment and to support and develop stable democracy enhancement within the Kosovo region as well as coordinate the international humanitarian effort and civil presence.

As a NATO member, the Czech Republic has been engaged in this operation since the beginning. Nowadays the Czech Armed Forces maintain positions in the KFOR HQ in Pristina and are no longer deployed in the outlying camps that are dispersed over Kosovo. My duty was to ensure the proper running of Communication and Information Systems (CIS) within the HQ J6 Infosec section. I was deployed to this position for 6 months and experienced that sustaining CIS systems within the environment of an operational mission is completely
Who is ISSS?

My name is Ilona Dvořáčková and I’m an International Staff Support Specialist (ISSS). My principal job description is to be in contact with our foreign colleagues from their arrival at the COE until the end of their duty tour. This position includes administration of documents related to In-processing and Out-processing, family support and cultural awareness. Well-adjusted and supported International members ultimately enrich our community and enhance our military mission.

Important information is available to all newcomers in the COE Newcomers SOP, which is available on the COE website. Initial contact usually occurs via email or by phone. I provide assistance for accommodations, local schools, primary medical care providers, and negotiations with the local and federal authorities as required.

When the newcomer arrives to the COE, he or she will never spend the first days here alone. I serve as their guide for the Vyškov community as well as the military garrison. The COE Director designates a sponsor for each newcomer who is responsible for ensuring that their new colleagues are never without assistance, good advice, or a friendly person to talk to.

New COE members are always welcome to ask me about cultural customs, sporting activities, national holidays, traveling, sightseeing, shopping, celebrations and entertainment. There are many options for people with different interests and for their family members. We are looking forward to our new members arrival and we are willing to help everyone.

Author:
WO Ilona Dvořáčková (CZE A)
The Czech Republic has been enchanting since my first visit to Prague in the late spring of the year 2000. Like the United Kingdom, capital cities tend to have their own unique micro-cultures and the surrounding towns and countryside provide a wider and more realistic view of a country. In 2003, I ventured further from Prague to Telč, a NESCO town about an hour from Vyškov, driving along secondary country roads to get a better feel for the Czech Republic and avoiding the sterile monotony of the motorway (actually I was just trying to avoid paying for the motorway vignette on a Captain’s salary). My impression then, refreshed in 2018 is of a country at ease with itself in many ways. The pace and focus of life in this country has a balance that many would envy; an emphasis on the quality of life and not the quantity of materiel obtained in life.

Brno was not my first choice whilst looking for a place to live in the Czech Republic as there are no shortages of big industrial cities in UK. After a 25 year military career, I have had enough of garrison towns so I also avoided Vyškov. I found a nice apartment in the beautiful UNESCO town of Kromeriz, famous for the Arch Bishop’s summer palace, gardens and also I have learnt that it is the location for a large psychiatric hospital …depending on life in the COE this may prove to be useful. I have now settled into my new apartment, but despite my attempts to escape garrison towns, I have since discovered that my new home was built on the site of an old military garrison…oh the irony!

Reception at the COE and further “in processing” was conducted with legendary teutonic efficiency by my highly capable Operations Warrant Officer. My predecessor (Simon Canning) introduced me to a bewildering array of ranks, uniforms, names and faces before he made his escape not just from the Czech Republic but also from the Army. This is not my first NATO appointment but the diversity of language, culture and of course the unique acronyms that apply to every new post, continue to provide plenty of mental stimulation. I was welcomed into the international lunch community and I have been infected by the good-humored banter that keeps multinational relationships healthy. From a work perspective, it is evident that the Czech Republic has invested significant financial and personnel resource into the COE. There are facilities at my disposal that compare well with my last place of work in the British Army’s Operations Centre.

NATO organizational linkages will be my main challenge in my role as Chief of the Reachback Section. Promoting the centres technical and operational capabilities will be key to ensuring the effectiveness of both the team and to NATO’s wider CBRN operational community.

For me personally, my assignment to Vyškov is like a dream come true, which links to a nice quote from the eternal optimist and visionary, Enzo Ferrari “If you can dream it, you can do it.”.

Author:
Mr Jasper R. Krause (DEU)
NATO CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE AND FORWARD ELEMENTS

The question seems to be very simple – can a NATO Centre of Excellence (NATO COE) operate a remote Forward Element in a location other than its Host Nation? At first glance, the answer seems to be yes. There is nothing that would prevent a NATO COE from doing so. But a closer investigation reveals several derivative questions, which must be answered in order to offer a valid opinion. Therefore, let’s analyse this issue and see what conclusions can be reached.

First of all, a short recapitulation should be offered, although probably not necessary, in order to describe what a NATO COE is. NATO COEs are international military organizations established by NATO Member States, in COE terminology Sponsoring Nations, to assist in doctrine development, identify lessons learned, improve interoperability and capabilities, and test and validate concepts through experimentation. NATO COEs also offer recognized expertise and experience and support the transformation of NATO. A NATO COE can be activated as a NATO Military Body pending a North Atlantic Council decision, in accordance with Article 14 of the Protocol on the Status of International Military Headquarters set up pursuant to the North Atlantic Treaty, dated 28 August 1952 (Paris Protocol).

The internal structure, manning and post allocation can be part of an Operational Memorandum of Understanding (Op MOU), signed by all Sponsoring Nations, or can be included into a NATO COE Concept or any other document approved by the respective NATO COE’s Steering Committee, which is a body set up by Sponsoring Nations for guidance, oversight and decisions on all matters concerning the administration, policies and operation of a NATO COE.

To wrap up, a NATO COE is an international military organization with a fixed structure and recognized processes which must be followed. Consequently, any deviation from the rules and established criteria may result in the loss of the accreditation as a NATO COE.

Secondly, a definition of a NATO COE Forward Element (Forward Element) should be provided. A Forward Element is designed to be a geographically separated yet integral part of a NATO COE, purposed to maintain liaison relationships with NATO, NATO Strategic Headquarters and other institutions and organizations, such as the European Union (EU). The Forward Element’s structure is provided by NATO COE documents, such as Op MOU, and is manned by Sponsoring Nations. Sponsoring Nations ultimately determine how Forward Element’s positions are manned. Nations may contribute to the manning of the Forward Element in one of two ways. A Nation can determine to contribute to the Forward Element through positions that are part of the overall NATO COE manning and thus basis for cost-sharing formula and consequently reflected in the Sponsoring Nation’s contribution to a NATO COE multinational budget. Or, a Sponsoring Nation may determine to contribute in the form of a Voluntary National Contribution (VNC), in which case their contribution is not subject to the cost-sharing formula. Both ways are possible and may be acceptable, taking into account the responsibility of a Sponsoring Nation to permanently fill at least one position allocated to the Nation in the manning table.

The main reason for creating the Forward Element is to build a closer day-to-day working relationship with NATO, and the EU, one which cannot be fulfilled through periodic engagement and from significant distances. Of particular importance is participation in meetings and working groups with special focus on follow-on discussions outside the formal meeting schedule or working groups.

These informal engagements will enhance co-operation between the NATO COE and appropriate NATO HQs or NATO entities and will endeavour to build trust through

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1 This view expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of NATO or any of its agencies nor the JCBRN Defence COE or its Sponsoring Nations and Contributing Partner. The author wishes to thank Colonel Volker R. Quante and Colonel Andrew L. Miltner for offering helpful and valuable comments.
2 http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_68372.htm?selectedLocale=en (visited on 26 April 2018)
4 MCM-236-03, MC Concept for Centres of Excellence, (Concept for Centres of Excellence).
5 IMSM-0416-04, NATO Centres of Excellence Accreditation Criteria.
more frequent and more direct communication.

What are the possible legal consequences of having the core of a NATO COE (which, after all, constitutes an International Military Organization) located in one country and an element of that same NATO COE located in another country? This is the key question that we should try to answer.

Each NATO COE has a Host Nation that is responsible for providing support infrastructure, including but not limited to buildings, communication infrastructure, furniture and security, as well as services, usually free of charge as outlined in an Op MOU with the respective NATO COE. In case a NATO COE is located in one given Nation (the Host Nation) would there be any difference if a part of this NATO COE would be permanently located in another Nation? Would there not be a need for two Host Nations? NATO’s Concept for Centres of Excellence (MC Concept for COE) does not provide any definitive answer. Nevertheless, it does mention the sponsor (Host Nation) and “participating nations” (Sponsoring Nations) in connection with administrative arrangements to be established between these two categories of nations. The use of the singular form of the term “sponsor nation” (Host Nation), may lead the reader to conclude that in a case where a NATO COE is situated in two different Nations then two “sponsor nations” (Host Nations), with appropriate legal arrangements in place, will be required. The former conclusion is supported by the example of the NATO Centre of Excellence for Military Medicine, which has a satellite branch located in Munich. This situation is well covered by their Op MOU, where the branch is listed as a part of the Manning Table, being one of the MILMED COE Sponsoring Nations, by signing the Op MOU expressed its consent to host the Deployment Health Surveillance Capability branch on its territory.

Other documents, which offer some insight, include individual NATO COE Op MOUs, which should set forth provisions for the NATO COE operation, funding, manning, equipment and infrastructure, as well as for its administrative and logistical support. The uniqueness of each NATO COE is mirrored by the uniqueness of their establishment documents. Nevertheless, for the purpose of this article, we can assume that the purpose of these documents is generally the same, e.g. to provide details for the establishment, administration and operation of a NATO COE. Establishing responsibilities of the Host Nation(s) in the Op MOU to provide specific support to the NATO COE would also lead to the conclusion that sharing responsibilities for support should be reflected by adequate provisions of the Op MOU.

Consequently, we can argue that two Host Nations are required to accommodate provisions for a Forward Element, which is dislocated from the original Host Nation as established by the Op MOU in close conjunction with the MC Concept for COE. Conversely, it is problematic to construct a legal framework for NATO Military Body hosted by one Nation, which in actuality is serving in a completely different Nation. This leads us directly to the next paragraph:

Last, but not least, documents to be used are the Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty regarding the status of their forces (NATO SOFA) and the already mentioned Paris Protocol. In accordance with the NATO SOFA’s preamble, the admission of a force is subject to approval of the receiving State. Although the NATO SOFA provides the legal framework for the admittance of friendly troops, nothing in NATO’s legal framework confers any rights to Allied States to deploy forces to the territory of another ally without the consent of that State. The consent can be expressed in different ways. One way is for Sponsoring Nations to sign an Op MOU providing that the location of a NATO COE, as a whole, including all the Department, Branches or Elements, is defined.

The very same logic would apply for establishing international military Headquarters or, by virtue of Article 14 of the Paris Protocol, for establishing any international military Headquarters or organization, which is established pursuant to the North Atlantic Treaty.

As a result, neither a NATO COE nor any of its integral parts can be situated in a nation without that nation’s approval. Taking NATO COE

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2Ibis 3.
3Ibis 3, paragraph 8.
6Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Centre of Excellent Operational Memorandum of Understanding, Section 2, dated 26 April 2018.
7Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty regarding the status of their forces, signed at London, on 19 June 1951 [hereinafter NATO SOFA], available at https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official_texts_17265.htm
9Article 14(1) of the Paris Protocol: “The whole or any part of the present Protocol or of the Agreement may be applied, by decision of the North Atlantic Council, to any international military Headquarters or organization (not included in the definitions on paragraphs (b) and (c) of Article 1 of this Protocol) which is established pursuant to the North Atlantic Treaty.
related documents into account\(^{15}\), having a NATO COE located in two different States would lead to the conclusion that this NATO COE would have two different Host Nations. Having two different Host Nations would consequently require an Op MOU amendment defining the clear distinction, which Host Nation is responsible for what kind of support.

In summary, and to answer the question we asked at the beginning of the article, it seems quite feasible for a NATO COE to establish a Forward Element in a nation other than the host nation. Nevertheless, there is a price to be paid. Whether the Nation selected to host the Forward Element is already a Sponsoring Nation of the NATO COE, or whether their joining is also required is one of several factors, which will complicate the process and will require consideration by those nations, that are already Sponsoring Nations of the NATO COE.

As implied in the previous paragraph, we should address the question whether Host Nation consent can be obtained without such Nation becoming a NATO COE\(^{16}\) Sponsoring Nations. Would it be sufficient to conclude a separate agreement with the new Host Nation guaranteeing that the consent to host the Element is granted? Such an agreement should specify any and all conditions to be fulfilled by a NATO COE, its Sponsoring Nations and the new Host Nation. One form of agreement that may be used is a Technical Arrangement for a Contributing Partner. A Contributing Partner is any Nation, organization or entity, in accordance with the North Atlantic Council agreed decisions and procedures, which is not a Sponsoring Nation and provides a contribution to a NATO COE. In this instance, a Host Nation consenting to a Forward Element on its territory would constitute a national contribution.

In any case, whether a NATO COE decides to go for the first or the second option or will prefer a separate agreement, deep analysis of internal documents to be changed and amended should be the first thing to focus on when considering establishing a Forward Element or any other element that is to be located in different State then the original NATO COE Host Nation. Also, the close co-ordination with a Nation supposed to host a Forward Element appears to be a key to success, because without the consent of the Nation a Forward Element will not be established on its territory.

One of the reasons for establishing a NATO COE is not only providing expertise and experience to support NATO's transformation but to encourage creativity and innovation. This includes but is not limited to searching for new possibilities and approaches together with finding ways how to achieve more with less resources. Establishing a NATO COE Forward Element could be one of them.

Author:
Mr Zdeněk Hýbl (CZE)

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\(^{15}\) E.g. MC Concept for Centres of Excellence, Op MOU, etc.
\(^{16}\) Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Centre of Excellent Operational Memorandum of Understanding, Section 1, paragraph 2(o)(i), dated 26 April 2018.
FEBRUARY

The Visit of the U.S Department of State Representative

On the 1st February, Mr. Kenneth Deal and Mr. Kasper Oswald as U.S. Department of State Representative visited the JCBRN Defence COE in Vyškov. The purpose of the visit was to develop a CBRN Incident planning and response tool for UN Aid Workers.

The Visit of the U.S Air War College Student

On the 28th February 2018, the JCBRN Defence COE hosted the delegation consisted of students of the U.S Airforce War College of the United States Air Forces. The highlight of the visit was to present a comprehensive overview of the JCBRN Defence COE missions, the current status of ongoing activities and future projects in support of NATO.

MAY

The Visit of Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic

On the 10th May 2018, the members of the Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic, lead by COL Daniel Miklós – Deputy Director General for prevention and Civil Emergency Preparedness visited the JCBRN Defence COE in Vyškov. The main aim of the visit was to discuss on possible cooperation between Fire Rescue Service and JCBRN Defence COE.

The Visit of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Military Representatives


The COE Periodic Review

Within a period of the 22nd and 24th May 2018, the members of the NATO Transformation Network Branch (TNB) visited the JCBRN Defence COE to conduct a COE Periodic Assessment (PA), as directed by MCM 236-03. Mr Jahoda from the Czech Republic Ministry of Defence attended as the Framework Nation Representative. The primary purpose for the TNB visit is to review the PA Questionnaire with key COE Leaders, conduct staff interviews, tour the COE facilities and provide critical feedback to the Framework Nation Representative.

The Visit of the Pyrotechnic Service of the Police of the Czech Republic

On the 29th May 2018, COL Michal Dlouhý and COL Jiří Lačňák visited JCBRN Defence COE in Vyškov. The main topic of discussion was the future mutual cooperation of the Pyrotechnic Service of the Police and JCBRN Defence COE.

The Visit of the Commander of the NATO Joint Warfare Centre

On the 31st May 2018 the Commander of the Joint Warfare Centre, MG Andrzej Reudowicz, visited the JCBRN Defence in Vyškov. The JCBRN Defence COE Director, COL Vratislav Osvald, welcomed him and his delegation consisted of WG CDR Robert McLucas and CPT Piotr Kaczor with an initial introduction of the welcoming and opening
remarks of the JCBRN Defence COE. The delegation has been briefed the work flow of the Transformation Support Department, Training, Exercise and Education Department, Operation Support Department, Modelling and Simulation capabilities with the level of Operational Readiness of COE and Reachback Capabilities in support of NATO ending with COE Tour as well.

JUNE

The Visit of the Director of the Comprehensive Crisis and Operations Management Centre (CCOMC)
On the 18th June 2018, the JCBRN Defence COE had a unique pleasure of hosting the visit of the Director of the CCOMC, BG Jasper de Quincey Adams. The main topic of discussion was the future cooperation with main focus on NATO CBRN Reachback.

The Visit of Colonel Denis Emmert, U. S. Army Functional Area 52 Branch Chief
Within a period of 24th and 25th June 2018, COL Dennis Emmert and Mr Bruce Brandes, who are both Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Combating WMD Functional Area Specialists, visited the JCBRN Defence COE in Vyškov. COL Emmert and COL Miltner are old friends and he wanted to visit Vyškov while he was nearby in Vienna. The two discussed the possibility of stationing an FA 52 Officer at the COE, specifically in the Forward Element at NATO HQs (Pre-Decisional).

The Visit of the NATO Counter Intelligence Centre of Excellence
On the 26th June 2018, the JCBRN Defence COE hosted COL Martin Achimovic, Deputy Director of the NATO Counter Intelligence Centre of Excellence (NATO CI COE) and his delegation. The main focus of the visit was to share information about the quality insurance and COE accreditation process.

JULY

The Visit of Members of the Central European CBRN – E Training Centre
On the 23th July 2018, the JCBRN Defence COE hosted members of the CE CBRN-E Training Centre. The meeting was chaired by the Director of the JCBRN Defence COE, COL Vratislav Osvald. The visit was sub-divided into two parts. During the first part, COL Vratislav Osvald welcomed the guests and gave a general brief about the COE’s history, structure, manning and mission. After that, the department directors provided detailed briefs about the tasks and responsibilities of their departments. In the second part MAJ Balazs Horvath, Deputy Director CE CBRN-E TC, provided a detailed briefing on the Training Centre. He informed the attendees about the history, structure, ongoing projects, aims and future plans of the Training Centre.

The visit of members of the VOP CZ, s.p
On the 25th July 2018, the representatives of VOP CZ, s.p. visited the JCBRN Defence COE. The topic of discussion was the future mutual cooperation.
AUGUST

The Visit of Members of Seibersdorf Laboratories

On the 28th August 2018, the JCBRN Defence COE hosted the delegation consisted of the members of Seibersdorf Laboratories. The topic of the visit was focused on course control documents and the discussion related to TEED in lead Course Development and Global Programming – Radiological Incident Investigation and Exploitation (RIE) Course CCDs.

The Visit of the Cleveland Biolabs (CBLI)

On the 30th August 2018, the JCBRN Defence COE had a pleasure to host representative of the Cleveland Biolabs. Dr Yakov Kogan (CEO) Rola Brentlin. CBLI, a U.S. based biotech company working in the field of Biodefense. The main aim of the visit was an informative meeting to establish relationship.

OCTOBER

The Visit of Finish ARMY CBRN Centre of Competence

On the 1st October 2018, the Finish Army Command Delegation led by COL Matti Ensio Lampinen, the Inspector of MILENG and CBRN Troops (Army Command Finland) and his team visited the JCBRN Defence COE in Vyškov. The purpose of their visit was to familiarize the Army Command Finland with the JCBRN Defence COE Vyškov and the Live Agents Training area “Kamenná Chaloupka”.

The Visit of members of NATO Parliament

On the 4th October 2018, the JCBRN Defence COE had pleasure to host the members of NATO Parliament. The topic of the visit was the presentation and promotion of the JCBRN Defence COE.

The Visit of U.S Delegation

On the 9th October 2018, the U.S Delegation visited the JCBRN Defence COE.

The Visit of Defence Threat Reduction Directorate

On the 11th October 2018, the JCBRN Defence COE had pleasure to host the representatives of Defence Threat Reduction Directorate.

NOVEMBER

The Visit of Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC)

On the 26th November 2018, Mr Claudiu Radu visited the JCBRN Defence COE. The main topic of discussion was the future cooperation with EADRCC and JCBRN Defence COE.

DECEMBER

The Visit of Defence Threat Reduction Agency

On the 12th December 2018, the delegation of DTRA visited the JCBRN Defence COE. The topic of discussion was the future mutual cooperation with Defence Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA).
# 2019 CBRN MAIN EVENTS

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<td><strong>14 - 17</strong> NATO CBRN Defence Orientation Course at NATO school, Oberammergau, DEU</td>
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<td><strong>28 - 1</strong> WMD/CBRN Defence Discipline TRA review, Vyškov, CZE</td>
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<td>FEBRUARY</td>
<td><strong>4 - 8</strong> NATO Nuclear Management Course at NATO school, Oberammergau, DEU</td>
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<td><strong>5 - 7</strong> NCT South America, Rio de Janeiro, BRA</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>13 - 14</strong> Defence Ministers’ Meeting, Brussels, BEL</td>
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<td><strong>18 - 21</strong> NATO CBRN Warning and Reporting System – Manual Procedures Course at NATO school, Oberammergau, DEU</td>
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<td><strong>25 - 28</strong> NATO CBRN Warning and Reporting System – Manual Procedures Course at NATO school, Oberammergau, DEU</td>
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<td><strong>25 - 28</strong> JCBRN Defence Capability Development Group Meeting, Brussels, BEL</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARCH</td>
<td><strong>4 - 8</strong> NATO WMD/CBRN Intelligence Indicators and Warning Course at NATO school, Oberammergau, DEU</td>
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<td><strong>12 - 13</strong> Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Brussels, BEL</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>13 - 14</strong> 4th IS/IMS coordination meeting on CBRN defence (TBD)</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>25 - 28</strong> NATO CBRN Analysis Operators Course at NATO school</td>
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<td><strong>25 - 29</strong> NATO Nuclear Policy Course at NATO school, Oberammergau, DEU</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>25 - 29</strong> NATO CBRN Analysis Operators Course at NATO school</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>26 - 28</strong> 6th FNC Cluster CBRN Protection Steering Committee, Vyškov, CZE</td>
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<tr>
<td>APRIL</td>
<td><strong>1 - 5</strong> Warning &amp; Reporting and Hazard Prediction of CBRN incidents training (ATP-45 Manual Procedure course), Budapest, HUN</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>1 - 5</strong> Arms Control Implementation Orientation Course at NATO school, Oberammergau, DEU</td>
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<td><strong>3 - 4</strong> Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Washington D.C., USA (TBD)</td>
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<td><strong>8 - 11</strong> NATO Officer CBRN Defence Policy Course at NATO school, Oberammergau, DEU</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>8 - 11</strong> Warning &amp; Reporting and Hazard Prediction of CBRN incidents training (ATP-45 Manual Procedure course), Budapest, HUN</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>9 - 11</strong> CBRN Summit Europe, Birmingham, GBR</td>
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<td><strong>14 - 16</strong> 4th Nation CBRN Safety and Security Conference of Babylon Hillah,I</td>
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<td><strong>15 - 17</strong> CBRN Convergence, Gatineau, CAN</td>
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<td><strong>29 - 3</strong> Environmental Management for Military Forces Course at NATO school, Oberammergau, DEU</td>
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<tr>
<td>MONTH</td>
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<td>MAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 - 9</td>
<td>JCBRN CDG Physical Protection Panel (PPP), Vienna, AUT</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 - 9</td>
<td>Environmental Management for Military Forces Course at NATO school, Oberammergau, DEU</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 - 9</td>
<td>NCT USA, Washington DC, USA</td>
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<td>13 - 17</td>
<td>JCBRN CDG Information Management Panel (IMP), Prague, CZE</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 - 17</td>
<td>JCBRN CDG Training and Exercise Panel (TEP), Turku, FIN</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 - 23</td>
<td>JCBRN CDG Doctrine &amp; Terminology Panel (DTP), Canberra, AUS</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 - 23</td>
<td>JCBRN CDG Challenge Level Panel (CLP), Canberra, AUS</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 - 23</td>
<td>Arms Control, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Course at NATO school, Oberammergau, DEU</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 - 23</td>
<td>8th International Symposium on Physical Protection and Decontamination, Munster, DEU</td>
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<td>JUNE</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 - 14</td>
<td>NATO Medical Intelligence Course at NATO school</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 - 14</td>
<td>NATO Chemical Warfare Defence Awareness Course at NATO</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 - 21</td>
<td>NATO CBRN Defence and Exercise Planning Course at NATO</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 - 20</td>
<td>CBRNe Summit USA, Texas, USA</td>
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<td>24 - 27</td>
<td>NCT Europe Vienna, AUT</td>
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<td>26 - 27</td>
<td>Defence Ministers’ Meeting, Brussels, BEL</td>
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<td>JULY</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 - 12</td>
<td>CP(D) Seminar, Szczecin, POL</td>
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<td>AUGUST</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 - 23</td>
<td>Hazard Prediction and Assessment Capability (HPAC) Course at NATO school, Oberammergau, DEU</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 - 30</td>
<td>NATO CBRN Analysis Operators Course at NATO school, Oberammergau, DEU</td>
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<td>SEPTEMBER</td>
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<tr>
<td>09 - 12</td>
<td>Joint CBRN Defence Capability Development Group Meeting, tbd</td>
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<td>9 - 13</td>
<td>NATO Nuclear Surety Management Course at NATO school, Oberammergau, DEU</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 - 12</td>
<td>NATO CBRN Defense and Exercise Planning Course at NATO school, Oberammergau, DEU</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 - 10</td>
<td>NATO Biological Warfare Defense Awareness Course at NATO school, Oberammergau, DEU</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 - 26</td>
<td>13th CBRNe Protection Symposium-Science for Safety and Security, Malmö, SWF</td>
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<td>16 - 18</td>
<td>Joint CBRN Defence Capability Development Group Meeting, Budapest, HUN</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 - 04</td>
<td>NATO CBRN Warning and Reporting System – Manual Procedures Course at NATO school, Oberammergau, DEU</td>
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<tr>
<td>MONTH</td>
<td>EVENTS</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCTOBER</td>
<td>JCBRND CDG Information Management Panel (IMP), tbd, FRA</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 - 10</td>
<td>NATO CBRN Warning and Reporting System - Manual Procedures Course at NATO school, Oberammergau, DEU</td>
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<td>7 - 10</td>
<td>Environmental Management for Military Forces Course at NATO school, Oberammergau, DEU</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 - 18</td>
<td>NATO CBRN Defence Orientation Course at NATO school, Oberammergau, DEU</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 - 18</td>
<td>Environmental Management for Military Forces Course at NATO school, Oberammergau, DEU</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 - 17</td>
<td>NCT Asia, Kuala Lumpur, MYS</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 - 17</td>
<td>JCBRND CDG Training &amp; Exercise Panel and 5th CBRN ADC USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 - 24</td>
<td>JCBRND CDG Information Management Panel (IMP), Bordeaux, FRA</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 - 24</td>
<td>Defence Ministers’ Meeting, Brussels, BEL</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOVEMBER</td>
<td>CBRNe Convergence, Nashville, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>DECEMBER</td>
<td>NATO Nuclear Command Control &amp; Reporting System User/Operators Course at NATO school, Oberammergau, DEU</td>
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<td>2 - 5</td>
<td>Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Washington D.C., USA (TBD)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The Sri Chinmoy Marathon Team was formed in 1977 by students of the Indian meditation master, author, poet and philosopher Sri Chinmoy.

At the time of the Marathon Team’s founding, Sri Chinmoy was encouraging his students to increase their physical fitness as a natural complement to their meditation practice.

Over the years, Sri Chinmoy Marathon Team branches were formed in over 20 countries.