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Dear Readers,

Change is an integral part of life and it is something we cannot avoid or escape, especially in military life and here at the Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Centre of Excellence (JCBRN Defence COE), change is a driver for all and influences everything around us. A fundamental element of any military organisation is the rotation of personnel. In 2019, we said farewell to some of our colleagues and welcomed new ones. One of them was the new Chief of Staff, Colonel William Epolito (United States of America Army). Colonel Epolito shares his first impression in the article “New JCBRN Defence COE Chief of Staff”. Yet, there is not only new personnel via rotation. We also welcomed a new COE Sponsoring Nation. Canada officially joined our COE in December 2018 and the new Canadian COE member was welcomed in August 2019. What is the experience of a non-European Union (EU) citizen moving to an EU country? What was the most challenging? Major Randy Godfrey (Royal Canadian Air Force) answers these questions in the article “Canadian Newcomer to JCBRN Defence COE”.

During the last decades, we could see a continuous decline of interest in CBRN Defence. However, recent events in Syria and Great Britain show we should be prepared not only for consequence management from the military point of view but also from a civilian one as well. To deal with this emerging issue, NATO developed non-binding guidelines for enhanced civil-military cooperation to deal with the consequences of large-scale CBRN events associated with terrorist attacks. Following this, the COE identified the requirement to continue the momentum of this work and organised the COE Advisers Conference to enhance civil-military cooperation. If you want to know about the outcomes of the conference and the way ahead, read the article “The First JCBRN Defence COE Advisors Conference 2019”.

One of the COE pillars is CBRN Defence Education and Training (E&T). The focus is to support NATO Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)/CBRN Defence E&T Discipline. In this respect, 2019 was a very productive year as we addressed a lot of changes and will implement them in 2020. The COE hosted the Training Requirement Analysis Workshop to revise NATO requirements for WMD/CBRN Defence E&T discipline. It was followed by the Training Needs Analysis Workshop to update Training Objectives of existing courses. In the article “NATO WMD/CBRN Defence E&T Discipline Development” Major Veronika Dočkalová describes the steps in the Global Programming (GP) process which are necessary to ensure proper CBRN Defence training for NATO Command and Force Structure. As the next step in this GP process, the COE must reflect any new NATO E&T requirements and update its courses. We interviewed Lieutenant Colonel Jiří Chrastek on what the impact is on the COE courses in the article “Individual Training and Education Development”. He also announces the COE courses for 2020 in the article “Planned Courses and Workshops in 2020”.

Talking about the COE courses, a new European regulation which might affect the COE’s role in course preparation and execution should be mentioned. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2016/679 is a regulation in EU law on data protection and privacy for all individual citizens of the European Union and European Economic Area. What is the GDPR impact on COEs? Look for the answer in the article “GDPR and NATO Centre of Excellence” by the JCBRN Defence COE Legal Adviser, Mr Zdeněk Hýbl.

There are many other interesting topics worth reading in this COE Newsletter. Do not miss any of them!

In summary, we should not be afraid of or shy away from changes. Instead, the change should be seen as opportunities. I believe we will have a lot of opportunities in 2020 and beyond. I am very confident that the JCBRN Defence COE and its staff will meet them head-on and use them to not only better themselves but also the COE and NATO’s CBRN Defence.

David Martinek
Colonel (CZE Army)
JCBRN Defence COE
Director
The only constant is change; and in keeping with that proverb, I would like to introduce myself as the 5th Chief of Staff for the JCBRN Defence Centre of Excellence (JCBRN Defence COE). I replaced Colonel Andrew (Andy) Milner after his impactful three years at the JCBRN Defence COE. In my short span I’ve met an exceptionally talented and experienced group of military and civilian professionals.

After seeking out this assignment for over a year because of the JCBRN Defence COE’s reputation and impact on CBRN Defence and protection, I finally arrived at the COE in July 2019. I bring a unique set of CBRN skills and experience including CBRN Institutional Training; Military Academy Academic Teaching; Chemical Weapons Demilitarisation; Chemical Weapons Convention Compliance; Live-Nerve Agent Training; Domestic and Civil-Military CBRN Defence; and CBRN Defence Staff from Company- to Theater Army-Level.

One of the common questions I get asked about the COE is what exactly a COE is and what do we do. In accordance with Military Committee Memorandum 236-03, Military Committee Concept for COEs, a COE is a nationally or multi-nationally sponsored entity, which offers recognised expertise and experience to the benefit of the Alliance, especially in support of transformation. A COE is not part of the NATO Command Structure, but forms a part of the wider framework supporting NATO Command Arrangements. A COE provides opportunities to enhance education and training; assist in doctrine development; test and validate concepts through experimentation; and support analysis and lessons learned processes. The COE is governed solely by the COE Steering Committee, which is comprised of the sponsoring and contributing nations who fund the COE activities at no cost to NATO. There are currently 25 NATO COEs. For additional information on NATO COEs, please visit the following NATO webpage at [www.nato.int/cps/en/natoq/topics_68372.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natoq/topics_68372.htm).

The JCBRN Defence COE is a multi-nationally sponsored entity with the Czech Republic as the Framework Nation with a total of thirteen Sponsoring Nations and one Contributing nation. It was founded in October 2006 by the Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and the United Kingdom; and was officially activated and accredited as a NATO Military Body by the North Atlantic Council in July 2007. Today, Sponsoring Nations are Canada, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, the United Kingdom and United States of America; and Austria as a Contributing Nation.

In accordance with the recently approved JCBRN Defence COE Concept, the JCBRN Defence COE leads institutional and operational efforts to support NATO capability development, mission effectiveness, and interoperability striving to promote adaptive and innovative methods for preventing the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and protecting against CBRN incidents. Our principal lines of effort include Support to NATO Military Transformation; Support to Defence Planning (including Education and Training); Support to Operations Planning and Execution; and Conduct Outreach.

I look forward to coordinating, synchronising and supporting the JCBRN Defence COE efforts throughout 2020 and beyond. Major upcoming efforts are the Hand Over to the new Director in January 2020; five-year Quality Assurance Reaccreditation in 2020; Annual COE Advisors Conference; Semi-Annual Steering Committees; Continued improvements to CBRN Reach Back Modelling and Simulation; NATO-European Union Cooperation; and the COE’s 15-year Anniversary in 2021. “Per Virtutem Ad Securitatem” … “Through the Power to Security”.

William Epolito
Colonel (USA Army)
JCBRN Defence COE
Chief of Staff
NATO’s progress report to Foreign Ministers on enhancing NATO’s role in the International Community’s fight against terrorism led to the “2018 Workshop on civil-military cooperation in response to a large-scale CBRN terrorist attack”. Following the workshop’s recommendations, the Civil Emergency Planning Committee (CEPC), supported by the Committee on Proliferation in defence format (CP(D)) developed non-binding guidelines for enhanced civil-military cooperation to deal with the consequences of large-scale CBRN events associated with terrorist attacks. However, guidelines are only one part of the solution; and now NATO and its member nations must expand on those guidelines. That is the reason why the Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Defence Centre of Excellence (JCBRN Defence COE) took the initiative to prepare and conduct an advisors conference on enhancing civil-military cooperation in case of a large-scale CBRN incident. The conference took place in Prague from 17–19 September 2019 aiming to contribute actively to NATO’s efforts to enhance civil-military cooperation at political and strategic levels on CBRN defence, crisis response and consequence management to support national efforts.

Ambassador Major General (ret.) Petr Voznica, chaired the conference. In total, about 39 representatives from ten nations (Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Romania, and United States of America) and International Organisations (NATO HQ – International Staff, SHAPE, JCBRN Defence COE) attended. Colonel Vratislav Osvald, Colonel Wolfgang Reich, Colonel (ret.) Milan Novotný, Lieutenant Colonel Bernd Allert, Mr Zdenek Hýbl and Mr Jasper Krause represented...
the JCBRN Defence COE. Ambassador Petr Voznica <fig. 2> opened the conference stating that NATO is facing evolving threats from both state and non-state actors that includes a range of complex challenges, including hybrid warfare, terrorism, cyber-attacks and wide range of events involving weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and CBRN threats.

H.E. Ambassador Jakub Landovský <fig. 3a>, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the NATO, expressed his satisfaction on the progress made in the Non-binding guidelines for enhanced civil-military cooperation to deal with the consequences of large-scale CBRN events associated with a terrorist attack, which was endorsed by NATO’s Ministers of Defence in February 2019. He welcomed JCBRN Defence COE’s initiative to begin working on the implementing the non-binding guidelines.

Colonel Vratislav Osvald, Director of the JCBRN Defence COE, presented a threat assessment and current gap analysis, followed by intense discussions leading to a variety of recommendations addressing NATO Headquarters, NATO Command Structure, NATO member nations and – of course – the JCBRN Defence COE.

Ambassador Petr Voznica concluded the conference summarizing the way ahead, and thanking Colonel Osvald for his and the JCBRN Defence COE’s efforts on a successful conference. He added, “Colonel Osvald, your Centre deserve its name. You are really excellent.”

Finally, the COE Event Support Team <fig. 4> consisting of Major Eva Vitásková, Major Jakub Smolík, Major Petr Koudelka, Captain Zuzana Králiková, Captain Jan Krček, Warrant Officer Jan Gottwald and Master Sergeant Vlastimil Šplíchal were recognized for going above and beyond to make this a first-class conference. While they were often working unseen in the background, without their unwavering efforts the conference would not have been successful.

What is the way-ahead? The JCBRN Defence COE already drafted a report on the conference, which will be staffed within NATO HQs. An internal action list was developed to track the tasks for the Centre to ensure their implementation.

The JCBRN Defence COE have already briefed the Military Committee Joint Standardization Board (MCJSB) on the conference. Consequently, MCJSB tasked the Joint CBRN Defence Capability Development Group (JCBRND-CDG) to develop “CBRN rescue and extraction” terminology, as well as common civil-military CBRN response terminology. In addition, the Committee on Proliferation in Defence Format (CD(D)), and the Civil Emergency Planning Committee (CEPC) were informed on the outcomes of the conference.

Other key actors, such as the Military Committee (MC), the International Military Staff (IMS)/International Staff (IS) CBRN Defence Coordination Meeting, the JCBRND-CDG, and the CBRN Medical Working Group (CBRNMed WG) as well as other relevant bodies must be involved for these efforts to be successful, and the JCBRN Defence COE is continuing to engage with these bodies.

Due to the success of the First JCBRN Defence COE Advisors Conference a second one will follow from 6–7 October 2020 with an increase in involvement of the European Union (EU) because of the increased cooperation between NATO and the EU, and overlapping interests and concerns.

Authors/Photos:
LTC Bernd Allert (DEU Army),
CPT Zuzana Králiková (CZE Army)
Following the official invitation by the Chief of Staff, Headquarters Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (SACT), a delegation, headed by the Director of the Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Defence Centre of Excellence (JCBRN Defence COE), Colonel (GS) Vratislav Osvald (CZE A), participated in the first ever "COE Marketplace" at the NATO HQ in Brussels, Belgium from 15–16 July 2019. The COE Marketplace had the full support of NATO’s leadership and was officially opened by Ms Rose Gottemoller, NATO’s Deputy Secretary General, who showed a very high personal interest in our capabilities.

**Aim of the “COE Marketplace”**

All 25 NATO accredited COEs had the unique opportunity to present their capabilities to the NATO HQ staff from the International Staff (IS) and International Military Staff (IMS). The aim of this event was to provide an opportunity for all staff and national personnel at NATO HQ to meet representatives of the 25 NATO-accredited COEs in order to recognise, understand and embrace the value of the expertise, support and advice provided by these COEs. Additionally, each COE Director had the opportunity to provide a 10 minute overview of the Centre’s work and outputs to all national delegations and NATO HQ staff.

**Director briefs the Military Committee (MC)**

The Director, Colonel (GS) Vratislav Osvald, represented the JCBRN Defence COE throughout the entire event and provided a presentation to the invited national delegations and NATO HQ staff, pointing out the unique capabilities of the JCBRN Defence COE. As one of two selected COE Directors, the JCBRN Defence COE Director received the opportunity to brief at the Military Committee (MC), chaired by Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach, the Chairman of NATO’s MC (CMC).

**JCBRN Defence COE promotion booth**

In addition, the JCBRN Defence COE delegation, consisting of Lieutenant Colonel Roman Laimer (AUT A), Major Eva Vitásková (CZE A) and Major Zdeněk Hlávka (CZE A) set up an JCBRN Defence COE booth to provide information on the development, organizational structure, key areas of interest, mission, tasks, courses, and general guiding principles of JCBRN Defence COE. The information was well received by NATO HQ staff and other COE representatives.

To summarize, the JCBRN Defence COE successfully participated in the 2019 “COE Marketplace” whilst enhancing its reputation, establishing contacts and increasing the COE’s visibility within the NATO HQ staff and other COEs. This “COE Marketplace” was an excellent opportunity to share information with interested persons, hopefully, this event will be conducted in 2020 as well.

**Author:**

LTC Roman Laimer (AUT Army)

**Photos:** COE Programme Development Branch
The Joint Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Defence Capability Development Group (JCBRND-CDG) Autumn Meeting was held in the Stefania Palace – Honved Cultural Centre – Budapest, Hungary from 23–26 September 2019.

Approximately 67 participants from 21 NATO Nations, four Partners for Peace (PfP) Nations, Israel and the Republic of Korea (new Interoperability Platform (IP) partners), and representatives from various NATO bodies and organisations attended a four day meeting to discuss the JCBRND-CDG assessments on capability developments and related standardisation activities.

The Joint Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Defence Centre of Excellence (JCBRN Defence COE) was represented by Colonel David Martínek (CZE A), who also served as the chairperson of the Training and Education Panel (TEP). Lieutenant Colonel Bernd Allert (DEU A) served as the chairperson of the Doctrine and Terminology Panel (DTP); and Lieutenant Colonel Alessandro Scherzo (ITA A) and Lieutenant Colonel Roman Laimer (AUT A) participated as Joint Programme of Work (JPOW) custodians.

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1 Military Committee Joint Standardization Board (MCJSB); NATO headquarters – International Military Staff (IMS), International Staff/Defence Investment (IS/DI), International Staff/Political Affairs and Security Policy Division (Arm Control Disarmament and WMD Non-Proliferation Centre) (IS/PASP/ACDC) and International Staff/Emerging Security Challenge Division (Counter-Terrorism) (IS/ESC(CT)); Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (SACT); Supreme Allied Commander Transformation Staff Element Europe (SHAPE); NATO Standardization Office (NSO), Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Centre of Excellence (JCBRN Defence COE); and Framework Nation Concept (FNC) Cluster CBRN Protection.
Aim and Objectives

The JCBRND-CDG aims are 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).

The objectives of this meeting were developed in accordance with three work areas of the Group including: (1) information exchange between national experts and NATO bodies, (2) development of interoperability through standardisation, and (3) cooperation on multinational equipment programs.

Additional focus was placed on:
- developing and maintaining military operational, materiel, and administrative Standardization Documents (STANAGS, STANRECs, APs and others) in support of capability development;
- reviewing documents of other working groups of interest and submitting comments and proposals as necessary;
- managing and prioritizing the JPOW, while ensuring all tasks from the NAAG and MCJSB are included.

Meeting

The JCBRND-CDG was organised in two main parts, (1) NATO/Partners session, and (2) NATO Only session. The JCBRND-CDG chair and vice chair, all panel chairpersons, JPOW custodian, and representatives from NATO bodies met a day prior to the official opening in a chairperson’s format in order to set the groundwork for a successful and meaningful meeting.

The official meeting was opened by the JCBRND-CDG Chairman, Dr. Frank Sabath (DEU), who welcomed all participants to the very beautiful Stefania Palace – Honved Cultural Centre in Budapest, Hungary.

The meeting continued with numerous briefings from different NATO bodies and organisations with the following highlights:
- NAAG representative informed the group on non-lethal weapons (NLW) and Directed-energy weapons (DEW) as these “Incapacitating agents” have been and will be a matter of concern in the future;
- MCJSB representative informed the group on the current Allied Joint Doctrine Campaign Plan (AJDCP), which can be found on the protected NATO Standardization Office (NSO);
- International Staff/Emerging Security Challenge Division (Counterterrorism) ESC(CT) representative informed the group on the proposed Defence Against Terrorism Program of Work (DAT POW) including the Project Cards focusing on future capabilities development.
- Panel chairpersons informed the group on their Program of Work and progress on developing new standardisation agreements or proposals related to their respective field of expertise.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to exchange information on recent projects between Nations’ representatives, other NATO bodies and industries. For example, Mr. Dieter Rothbacher from the company Response Solutions Ltd., who visited the JCBRN Defence COE recently, informed the group on "Dry Decontamination", non-aqueous decontamination solutions.

The JCBRN Defence COE contribution

The JCBRN Defence COE representatives served as chairpersons for two panels, TEP and DTP; actively participated in each panel, and provided the custodian report on the JCBRND-CDG Programme of Work (JPOW) including the Project Cards focusing on future capabilities development.

The JCBRN Defence COE clearly stated, that the Centre will continue its support to the JCBRND-CDG by providing Chairpersons (DTP, TEP) and Secretaries (DTP, TEP, DIMP) and other working groups at all levels. Finally, the JCBRN Defence COE advertised the "Discovery Experiment Workshop on Search and Extraction in a CBRN environment", which took place from 5–7 November 2019 at the JCBRN Defence COE in Vyškov, Czech Republic.

The next JCBRND-CDG meeting will be held at NATO HQ in Brussels, Belgium, from 24–27 February 2020.

Author:
LTC Roman Laimer (AUT Army)

Photo:
LTC Zoltan Vagfoldi (HUN Army, host nation)
The Doctrine and Terminology Panel (DTP) of the Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Defence Capability Development Group (JCBRND-CDG) met for the 33rd meeting at the Italian Joint Nuclear, Biological and Nuclear (NBC) School in RIETI, ITALY from 14–18 October 2019.

The JCBRND-CDG DTP is charged to monitor the structure and hierarchy of all NATO CBRN defence related Allied Publications and Standardization Agreements (STANAG); and to propose and monitor the development of all doctrines and procedures in support of operational requirements on behalf of the Military Committee Joint Standardization Board (MCJSB).

Twenty-nine representatives from fifteen nations (AUS, AUT, BEL, CAN, CZE, DEU, DNK, FRA, GBR, ITA, NLD, NOR, POL, TUR, USA), Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) and the JCBRN Defence Centre of Excellence (JCBRN Defence COE) participated. Prior to the start of the panel meeting, on 13 October, the JCBRND COE’s Doctrine and Terminology Section held a working dinner in a traditional Italian restaurant in order to set the groundwork for a successful and meaningful meeting.

As the DTP’s chairperson, Lieutenant Colonel Bernd Allert of the JCBRN Defence COE welcomed the twenty-five participants from NATO Nations and organisations, and partner nations. The first day was dedicated to a plenary session that focused on a general information exchange concerning the recent JCBRND-CDG, MSJSB and related working group meetings. The progress of Allied Joint Publication (AJP)-3.8.1 Volume (Vol) I “CBRN Defence on Operations”, terminology, and CBRN defence comprehensive database were also briefed. The plenary session then split into doctrinal and terminology syndicates. The doctrinal syndicate reviewed comments on Allied Tactical Publication (ATP)-3.8.1 Vol. I “Sample Drill & Distribution (SD2)” and delivered a consolidated draft. Additionally, the German Custodian provided an update on ATP-3.8.1 Vol. II “Specialist CBRN Defence Capabilities”. The syndicate coordinated both volumes in order to avoid duplications. The second syndicate, the terminology syndicate, reviewed and defined left-over-terms of the Terminology Master List (TML). Upon request of the MCJSB Land Operations Working Group (LOWG) the terms for “non-persistent agent”, “persistent agent” and “effective downwind message”, and for the Military Committee Medical Standardization Board CBRN Medical Working Group (CBRNMed WG) the term “biological agent” definitions were developed. As of August 2019, 94% of the 455 terms on the TML have been completed.

Finally, Lieutenant Colonel Allert farewelled to Lieutenant Colonel Ilona Chylíková, who had been a very valuable member of the DTP since 2016. As no nation provided a chairperson for the terminology panel, Ilona stepped up and chaired the panel professionally and excellently.

The next, the 34th, DTP meeting will take place in Brussels, Belgium from 11–15 May 2020.

Author/Photos:
LTC Bernd ALLERT (DEU Army)
The Discovery Experiment 'Search and Extraction in a CBRN Environment' workshop was hosted by the Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Centre of Excellence (JCBRN Defence COE) from 5–7 November 2019 in Výškov, Czech Republic. Objectives of the workshop were to determine meanings of 'search' and 'extraction' in a CBRN environment for NATO in accordance with existing terminology, to identify personnel required to conduct 'search and extraction in a CBRN environment', to outline tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) for conducting search and extraction, and to identify gaps in terminology, TTPs and personnel.

Colonel Friedrich Aflenzer, representative of the Austrian Ministry of Defence, Colonel Bernhard Traxl, Austrian CBRN Defence Centre, Lieutenant Colonel Andreas Steinert, HQ Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, and Lieutenant Colonel Stephan Schneider, German CBRN Defence Command Framework Nation Command representative, participated in the event. The JCBRN Defence COE was represented by Lieutenant Colonel Attila Csöka, who also served as the chairperson of workshop, Lieutenant Colonel Bernd Allert, Lieutenant Colonel Roman Laimer, Lieutenant Colonel Miroslav Štábl, and Major František Grmela.

The workshop provided a broad array of presentations covering the possible components of Search and Rescue such as Joint Personnel Recovery and International Search and Extraction Advisory Group (INSARAG) guidelines. The workshop was also a great opportunity to have a discussion on the experience and task organisation of the Austrian Forces Disaster Relief Unit, and to compare already existing NATO requirements.

During the workshop the participants agreed that the INSARAG terminology 'Urban Search and Rescue' did not fully encompass the desired terminology and proposed the introduction of a new term 'Rescue and Extraction'. There was also common understanding on the answers of the key questions to include who needs to be rescued, by whom—especially from a CBRN hazard area, considering the requirement written in AJP 3.14(A), Allied Joint Doctrine for Force Protection.

The workshop identified a doctrinal gap regarding 'Rescue and Extraction' and made a proposal for the forces conducting light 'Rescue and Extraction,' Which were captured in the final report.

Author: LTC Attila Csöka (HUN Army)
Photo: MAJ František Grmela (CZE Army)
Introduction

This article follows the article on the Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Centre of Excellence (JCBRN Defence COE) support to NATO Collective Training and Exercise (CT&E) published in the COE Newsletter 2018. In this issue of the COE Newsletter, I would like to inform you of what has been achieved and what are our goals in the area of promoting CBRN Defence related to CT&E for the future.

A summary of the JCBRN Defence COE support to NATO Collective Training in 2019

As mentioned by the 2018 Newsletter, the JCBRN Defence COE has considered support to the area of CT&E, as one of its main priorities since its inception. This general principle was also applied in 2019. Generally, the COE followed the 2018 Annual JCBRN Defence COE Strategy for the Support to NATO Exercises Workshop guidance. In particular the principle: “To support the collective training cycle or any particular addressed exercise from their very beginning”. Thus we assisted both of the NATO Strategic Commanders with the initial identification of adequate and sufficient CT&E related to CBRN Defence.

The process started by assistance to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) with development of the NATO Command Structure (NCS) Collective Training document “SACEUR’s Annual Guidance on Education, Training, Exercises and Evaluation development (SAGE)”, and continued by our COE engagement in the “Exercise Specification (EXSPEC)” and Exercise Plan (EXPLAN) development. Additionally, the JCBRN Defence COE assisted SHAPE J7 with the evaluation of the NATO Response Force (NRF) 2020 Stand-by Joint Force Command (JFC Brunsum) and CBRN Joint Assessment Team. In connection with NATO HQs and units evaluation, it is worth to mention the JCBRN Defence COE contribution to the revision of the Allied Command Operations (ACO) Force Standards (AFS).

The JCBRN Defence COE ensured broad support not only to NATO common funded exercises but also Allies’ multinational CBRN exercises. Part of this support was to the exercises Lessons Learned (LL) process with our support varying from the review of LL products to full organization of the process. The total extent of the JCBRN Defence COE support to exercises was kept on par with 2018, but the support quality was significantly improved. For example, our support to the TRIDENT JUPITER 2019 Main Event List/Main Incident List (MEL/MIL) development was very appreciated by SHAPE, Joint Warfare Centre (JWC) and the Training Audiences as well.

To avoid any potential difficulty in keeping a high level of quality, the overall JCBRN Defence COE approach to collective training support has been revised and streamlined in the 2018–2019 period.

The 2019 NATO Strategic CBRN Defence Exercise Support Workshop

In accordance with the new JCBRN Defence COE approach to NATO CT&E support, it was agreed that the responsibility for convening and carrying out the NATO Annual Strategic CBRN Defence Exercise Support Workshop would be transferred to SHAPE J5. The 2019 Workshop designated for Alliance CBRN Defence Training & Exercise Subject Matter Experts was organised by SHAPE and held from 27–28 November 2019 at the COE in Vyškov, Czech Republic.

The workshop aimed to analyse and discuss CBRN Defence challenges in NATO exercises for the year 2020, recommend and develop solutions, agree on timelines, and identify respective stakeholder’s responsibilities for each required action. The JCBRN Defence COE goal was to specify and confirm the next year extent of JCBRN Defence COE support to NATO CT&E. The discussions and development of the solutions were conducted in the light of the CT&E responsibilities transfer from Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (SACT) to SHAPE. Moreover, the transition of NCS to the new architecture requires updating most of the CT&E directives, guidelines and documents. For the JCBRN Defence COE staff, there is a need to familiarize ourselves with all the changes and be prepared to implement them in practice.

The JCBRN Defence COE support to NATO CT&E in the year 2020

The JCBRN Defence COE Training, Exercise & Education Department (TEED) will provide support to the NATO major Joint Exercises (e.g. “STEADFAST” series evaluating the NRF Joint HQ). Next, TEED will support the evaluation of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) as Warfighting Corps HQs during exercise LOYAL LEDA 2020. Additionally, TEED Subject Matter Experts will support other Multinational CBRN Defence Exercises such as TOXIC TRIP, CLEAN CARE, TOXIC VALLEY and PRECISE RESPONSE.

The JCBRN Defence COE will provide aggregated inputs to the SAGE 2023 considering respective NATO Political Guidance, CBRN Defence capability development ambitions, NATO Strategic Intelligence Estimates (MC 161) and areas such as current NATO operations.
or CBRN incidents occurred across the globe. Furthermore respective future trends identified by NATO Strategic Future Analysis (SFA) and Framework for Future Alliance Operations (FFAO) will be taken into account.

Other future activities may also include the introduction of remote Modeling and Simulation support in order to enhance the effectiveness and realism of CBRN play in NATO exercises. Currently, the JCBRN Defence COE serves as an essential body providing CBRN Defence-related expertise to NATO in the many spheres or areas, especially NATO CT&E.

Author:
LTC Rudolf Konar (CZE Air Forces)
In order to safeguard the freedom and security of its members, the Alliance must maintain the capabilities to prevent, detect, deter and defend against any threat of aggression. For this reason, NATO conducts Education and Training (E&T) programmes to increase cohesion, effectiveness and readiness of its multinational forces. In 2014, NATO realised that money on education must be spent with greater effectiveness and efficiency. This is achieved through Global Programming (GP).

The GP Approach was introduced as part of the NATO Education, Training, Exercises and Evaluation (ETEE) policy in September 2014 (MC 0458/3 (Final), NATO Education, Training, Exercises, and Evaluation (ETEE) Policy, dated 03 September 2014). The GP procedures attempt to guarantee that the money is spent on the right people, at the right place, achieving the important goals. NATO Allied Command Transformation (ACT) is responsible for planning and delivering the NATO E&T programmes using NATO or national Education and Training Facilities (ETFs). The E&T programmes are delivered under the e-NATO approach, to be efficient, effective, affordable and open.

To have a better overview and better handling of the courses offered to NATO, there has been developed a sorting mechanism within the GP. The educational topics are organised and divided into disciplines. We can see a discipline as an overarching umbrella for a training category that focuses on training and education efforts with the aim to achieve NATO operational requirements (see MC 458/3). The HQ Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (SACT) and HQ Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) defined “discipline” as a “NATO approved body of knowledge and skills, which supports an existing or evolving capability.”

Currently, NATO distinguishes 27 disciplines in total. Some of them are quite new, and some of them are much older. There is a pattern of responsibilities, and we can say that ACT is the mother and father to a discipline. In an ideal case, the parental role is being supported by a godfather; in our case, it is the Requirement Authority (RA). The RA sets up the E&T requirements for a discipline, as well as collects, defines and prioritises them. The requirements are reviewed annually. In November 2013, the SHAPE Assistant Chief of Staff (ACOS) J5 was appointed as the RA for the Weapons of Massive Destruction / Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Defence (WMD/CBRND) E&T Discipline. This makes the WMD/CBRND E&T Discipline one of the oldest disciplines in GP.

But the RA cannot take care of everything alone. There has been established a Department Head (DH) role in support of the RA role. The DH trans-
lates the operational requirements, leads the Training Needs Analyses and Systems Approach to Training (SAT) process, leads the Annual Discipline Conference (ADC), participates in Production Planning, and supports the exercises planning process. In a way, the DH communicates and translates the ACT and RA requirements to the ETFs. In June 2015, the JCBRN Defence Centre of Excellence (JCBRN Defence COE) was appointed as the DH for the WMD/CBRND E&T.

From the DH perspective, we are proud of this honour, yet we know that with this honour, there is also a great responsibility. The initial Training Requirements Analyses (TRA) conducted in 2013 defined the E&T requirements, and it was identified during the ADC in 2017 a necessity to revise the NATO CBRND E&T Requirements. This was also supported by the NATO Adaptation Process.

As a result of this agreement, the JCBRN Defence COE hosted the second TRA from 28–31 January 2019. The NATO CBRN Community of Interest and Education Training Facilities participated in the TRA Workshop. In total 23 participants from NATO HQs (ACT, SHAPE, JCBRN Defence COE, NATO HQ – Internal Military Staff, Joint Force Command (JFC) Brunssum, Land Command, NATO Rapid Deployable Corps-Turkey), Education Training Facilities (JCBRN Defence COE, NATO School Oberammergau, NATO Maritime Interdiction Operational Training Centre (NMIOTC)) and other stakeholders (Joint Warfare Centre, US liaison to GBR Defence CBRN Centre, CZE 31st CBRN Regiment, AUT CBRN Defence Centre, POL Ministry of National Defence CBRN) actively attended the workshop.

During the working and friendly atmosphere, the participants under the lead of Lieutenant Colonel Giuliano Venditti (Joint Force Development – HQ SACT) with Lieutenant Colonel Simone Mancinelli (Requirements Authority – SHAPE J5) and Colonel David Martinek (Department Head – JCBRN Defence COE) finalised the revision of Training Audience Functional Areas and Performance Statements for Political/Military, Strategic, Operational and Tactical levels.

The NATO CBRND E&T Requirements were revised and updated for the NATO WMD/CBRND E&T Discipline with the Training Requirements Analysis Report as the outcome of the workshop. The TRA WS was the first step in the demanding process. When the TRA report is approved by ACT/ Joint Force Development (JFD), the Training Needs Analysis (TNA) can commence. Do you have more questions about the TNA and the results of the workshop? Read the interview with Lieutenant Colonel Chrůstek on ‘Individual Training and Education development’.

Author: MAJ Veronika Dočkalová (CZE Army)
Photos: WO Petr Mohnacs (CZE Army)
The Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Centre of Excellence (JCBRN Defence COE) hosted the Training Needs Analysis Workshop (TNA WS) from 29 July to 02 August 2019. This workshop aimed to identify solutions for the NATO Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)/CBRN Defence Education & Training (E&T) Requirements for the E&T Discipline. These requirements were defined during the Training Requirements Analysis (TRA) Workshop in January 2019.

So why select Lieutenant Colonel Jiří Chráštěk (CZE A) to be interviewed on this subject? He is the JCBRN Defence COE Individual Training and Education Section Chief and represented the COE at the above event. In addition, he served in the NATO School Oberammergau, Germany as a member of the Protection Department from August 2014 to July 2017, where he was the Course Director for several courses. His experience during the current and last assignment qualifies him to be the best Subject Matter Expert (SME) to be interviewed on this IT&E topic.

1) Sir, what exactly is your role in the WMD/CBRN Defence (CBRND) E&T Discipline?

Well, frankly speaking, we can say that the JCBRN Defence COE is a double-headed dragon when referring to the WMD/CBRND E&T Discipline. One of the “heads” is the Department Head (DH) “head”, and my section is representing the Education and Training Facility “head”.

2) Oh, this is an interesting explanation. Do these two different heads work well at the COE?

Indeed, my “head” would be lost without the “DH head”. On the other hand, my section provides courses/training solutions in case that the DH cannot find any solution provider. In case that a gap (non-existing solution) is identified, the DH develops performance objectives for the uncovered performance statements and addresses a CBRN Education and Training provider with a kind request for support. Based on Performance Statements and Performance Objectives, a new course with a new curriculum is developed.

3) I see! I thought that the COE is not allowed to compete with any other Education and Training Facility (ETF)?

Yes, indeed. You are right. We are not in a competition with any other Education Training Facility (ETF). Only if there is no other way to obtain a solution which would meet the training requirements specified by the Requirements Authority (RA), the DH addresses the CBRN Community of Interest (CoI). In case of no other possibility, the DH knocks on my office door with the request to develop a new course.

4) Wonderful. Still, this sounds pretty easy and difficult at the same time!

That is precisely what it is. At the very beginning, it is straightforward. The Course Control Document I (CCD – Control Form) is supplied with the course name. This document is essential to me as this is the confirmation that NATO, specifically the Allied Command Operations (ACO) and the RA, request this training. Then the DH provides me with the CCD II (Course Proposal) where the requirements, aim, security classification, target audience and depth of knowledge are specified. Now the tricky part comes as I am in charge to develop the CCD III.

5) CCD III? You mean Course Control Documents No. 3, as stated in the Bi-SC Education and Individual Training Directive (E&ITD) 075-007?

Exactly, you know the Bible of the E&IT SMEs. The Programme of Classes with all details is hiding under the abbreviation CCD III. All the Enabling/Learning Objectives (ELOs) are carefully described, setting also a time frame for them.

6) How often do you create a new course?

It is hard to say. This is linked to the outcome of the TNA WS or the Annual Discipline Conference (ADC). For example, the Introduction to NATO WMD Disablement course was created based on NATO’s request last year <fig. 1>.

7) In 2019, during the TNA WS, the second revision of the WMD/CBRND E&T discipline was conducted. What was the impact of the TNA WS on the JCBRN Defence COE courses?

Quite huge! We have matched the existing courses to the new NATO requirements. In other words, these following JCBRN Defence COE courses were recognised to be in line with the NATO Training Requirements; thus, NATO Approved.
Four other courses were identified to not be in line with the NATO Training Requirements.

8) What will be the consequence for these courses not in line with the NATO Training Requirements?

Well, the Live Agent Training Course (WMD-CD-31883) and the Introduction to the International CBRN Training Curriculum for Trainers of First Responders to CBRN Incidents Course (WMD-MD-21769) will stay on the COE’s portfolio without any change. Their certification in the Global Programming will be NATO Listed, and we will continue to offer these specific courses in the future.

In the case of the WMD-CD-21765 International Radiological Assistance Programme Training for Emergency Response (I-RAPTER) – Basic Course and WMD-CD-31766 I-RAPTER – Advanced Course, some changes have been implemented. Of course, in mutual agreement with the course provider, the United States of America (USA) Department of Energy (DOE).

9) Please, can you tell us more about these changes?

Yes, of course. The CCDs of the I-RAPTER basic course has been modified. The well-known old I-RAPTER ceased to exist. Now we offer the new version of it called the International Radiological and Nuclear Training for Emergency Response (I-RAD) course. In addition, I would like to highlight that besides the residential version, this course can also be delivered as a Mobile Training Solution (MTS). As for the I-RAD advanced course, well, it is all a question of resources. Therefore, the advanced version is currently under consideration.

10) Thank you for the explanation. This shows that you are not keeping the old courses without any update, but you react to the latest needs, and you develop new products. Will this affect the set of the courses your section will conduct in 2020?

Of course, it certainly will. You see, all steps in the “System Approach to Training” are linked. They logically follow each other and ensure that each course is well organised, reflecting the requirements. This is the way to gain the NATO Quality Badge. But this would be the topic for another discussion. Now I would like to invite you to read the article by Warrant Officer (WO) Petr Mohnacs in which you will learn which courses the JCBRN Defence COE Courses will offer in 2020.<page. 40>.

Dear Jiří, thank you for your time and a thorough explanation of the course development process. It is really a broad area. I would like to wish the TEED members team spirit and all success in both fields. May both heads, the DH head, as well as the Individual Training head, be smart and not biting each other (following one goal which is NATO requirements and the satisfaction of the RA).

Authors:
MAJ Veronika Dočkalová (CZE Army),
LTC Jiří Chrástek (CZE Army)
Photos: Mrs Hana Jurčová
First: A brief introduction of the European Union (EU) Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Risk Mitigation CoE Initiative

In a nutshell

As we all know how the NATO’s Centres of Excellence (COEs) are organised, as nationally- or multi-nationally sponsored NATO military bodies which offer recognized expertise and experience to the benefit of the Alliance and other partners. The EU CBRN Risk Mitigation CoE initiative is something similar in desired outcome, but totally different in its method and organisation.

This 9-year-old (or should I say young) EU initiative aims to strengthen regional security by increasing local ownership, local expertise and long-term sustainability. It is centred around a worldwide network of local experts and collaborating partners. In addition, it avoids a traditional top-down approach and works in partnership with countries to encourage local ownership of CBRN action plans, policies and project proposals.

The idea, together with the United Nations and other international organisations, is to build up a system of countries in a regional approach with regional secretariats, national focal points and national teams in order to strengthen and promote security and stability, in this case, CBRN security and stability.

Up to now, 61 countries are grouped in 8 regions around the globe, and each country is encouraged to develop a National Action Plan (NAP) which is based on a national threat assessment reflecting the specific local circumstances. The next step is Regional Action Plans (RAP) which are already in development.

But this is not enough, the initiative must include CBRN related projects that benefit CBRN security. In total, 82 CBRN defence related projects, focused on each country’s needs are providing real benefits (e.g. CBRN-Waste-Management, CBRN Forensics, Mobile CBRN Laboratories, Dual-use-goods, etc.). 60% of these projects are related to Training, 24% are focused on Inter-institutional network activities, 12% are Table-Top-Exercises and 7% serving Awareness-raising.

Another innovative idea by the European Commission Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (EC DG DEVCO), which oversees this initiative, is to motivate the various countries and regions creating a sort of competition by providing awards in various categories like the best regional success story, the best regional CBRN innovative / creative proposals, or the best CBRN Defence related Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) studies.

Second: The role of the JCBRN Defence COE – how we might support and interact

The JCBRN Defence COE is already taking part in EU CBRN CoE Initiative events on a regular basis and there are relevant outcomes from this cooperation and coordination. For example, a number of students affiliated with the EU CBRN CoE Initiative participated in the JCBRN Defence COE’s Live Agent training in Vyskov (covered by the Project-No. 68). EU CBRN CoE partner countries (11 students from 2 regional Secretariats, Central Asia – Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and South East and Eastern Europe – Georgia, Azerbaijan, North Macedonia) participated in that Live Agent training course in
October 2019. Another example of the JCBRN Defence COE’s support is the evaluation of CBRN Defence capabilities by participating in specific audit teams, conducted already once in October 2020.

In 2020, a JCBRN Defence COE Mobile Training Solution supporting Morocco, either in Rabat or Casa Blanca, is planned.

There are several support opportunities to further our already close cooperation and coordination. The JCBRN Defence COE Deputy Director introduced some of these opportunities together with the coordinators of the EU HORIZON 2020 eNOTICE project (www.h2020-enotice.eu/), Prof. Jean-Luc Gala and Dr Olga Vybornova, in a kind of trilogy session in November 2019 in Brussels when the Heads of Regional Secretariats had their annual meeting.

The JCBRN Defence COE, according to our mandate and within our capacities, might support our sister-EU CBRN CoE by offering residential courses, mobile training solutions, e-learning and also to some extent reachback and modelling & simulation capabilities.

And regarding the eNOTICE project, some EU CBRN CoE Initiative-related training centres could also be part of and visible in the eNOTICE Training Centres Catalogue.

In summary, the EU CBRN Risk Mitigation CoE Initiative is similar in desired outcome, but totally different in its method and organisation. However, in my point of view, it is a very successful one because it strengthens security and stability in many sensitive areas around the globe, and one could state: Their security is our security.

Author: COL Wolfgang Karl-Heinz Reich (DEU Army)
First: A very brief introduction of the European Union (EU) HORIZON 2020 eNOTICE project

In a nutshell
What is European Network Of Chemical, Biological Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Training Centres (eNOTICE) about, who is involved and what has been achieved so far?

The eNOTICE project is part of the EU HORIZON 2020 Research & Development project which started in 2017 and is scheduled to conclude in 2022.

The overall goal is to establish a European network of CBRN training, testing and demonstration centres aiming to enhance CBRN training capacity for improved preparedness and incident response through increased collaboration between CBRN training centres and practitioners’ needs-driven CBRN innovation and research. It also aims to enhance CBRN training capacity for improved preparedness.

As of now, 202 Training Centres are identified of which 44 are in the network. Networking for Training Centres (TC) has established a practical practitioner-centred approach by building an interface with stakeholders (industries, Subject Matter Experts (SME’s), academia, policy makers, civil and military actors) and by developing an online community centre encompassing a catalogue of TC, dissemination and communication.

The JCBRN Defence Centre of Excellence (JCBRN Defence CoE) is an official partner in this project, and one out of three military contributions.

Joint Activities (JA) are an essential part of the project using existing training curriculum of partner TC, hosting 17 joint exercises and inviting stakeholders and Research and Development (R&D) projects to participate.

More specific information can be found by following this link: www.h2020-enotice.eu

Second: The Joint Activity – description and images
This was the first time a JA took place at the JCBRN Defence CoE in Vyškov, Czech Republic, and it had to be planned and conducted in a slightly different manner. The challenge was to combine and integrate a regular residential course into an eNOTICE JA. The chosen course was the ‘International Radiological Assistance Programme Training for Emergency Response (I-RAPTER) Basic Course 2019’ which included practical training.

The aim of this course was to provide radiation protection specialists, first responders, law enforcement and emergency managers with practical

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<td>Coordinator</td>
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<td>Université catholique de Louvain – UCL</td>
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<td>Fire and Rescue Service of Seine et Marne – SDIS77</td>
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<td>Civil CBRN Training Centre</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Association pour la recherché et le développement de méthodes et proscessus industriels – ARMINES</td>
<td>FR</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Joint CBRN Defence Centre of Excellence Vyškov – JCBRND CoE</td>
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<td>Serious Gaming and Simulations Centre</td>
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Fig. 1 Shows the partners of eNOTICE
information to effectively respond to radiological incidents and accidents.

The course provided instruction through briefings, equipment demonstrations and field exercises with the use of a wide variety of radiation detection instrumentation, radiation sources and personal protective equipment. The course itself was conducted by the United States of America (USA) National Nuclear Security Agency (NNSA), a part of the USA Department of Energy (DoE). They came with ten instructors and all the required equipment from the USA to Europe, and they were positively surprised by the huge number of students.

In total 33 students attended this course, and approximately 42% of them only attended based on dissemination of this courses through the eNOTICE consortium. So, for everybody, including the JCBRN Defence COE, NNSA and eNOTICE, it has been a win-win situation.

The objectives for the invited experts were:
- The external participants take the course as an opportunity to reflect on the added value of opening activities of CBRN TC for other CBRN (and public safety and security) stakeholders;
- They are asked to identify opportunities to build bridges between practitioners, academia, industry, researchers, policy-makers and to improve collaboration (through this type of participation) for all groups of stakeholders;
- By extension, they are asked to identify opportunities to exchange knowledge and practices between civil and military first responders.

The Objectives for eNOTICE partners were to observe the practical training and identify:
- opportunities to strengthen the network of CBRN TC;
- best practices to share with the eNOTICE community;
- input for ongoing eNOTICE Tasks.

Third: Results and lessons learnt from Vyškov JA
As it was the first time that the COE hosted and prepared a JA as an eNOTICE project partner and consortium member, the challenge was to combine an existing course with the JA format.

Combining the two had the significant advantage that 42% of the students were directly or indirectly linked to the eNOTICE consortium members, and therefore it has been an added value for eNOTICE while increasing the visibility of the COE. Without the JA course, some students (e.g. Dortmund Fire Department (Germany), Campus Vesta and Université catholique de Louvain (Belgium)) may not have found their way to Vyškov otherwise.

In addition, there has been a numerous of opportunities to mutually share knowledge, experiences, expertise and even develop ideas for future common projects. The information sharing be-
tween the students from various countries and regions with different cultures, and the experts from the USA and the consortium members can be considered as unique and an added value.

While there was no direct impact to the NATO Education Quality Assurance process, the combination of the course with the JA did reveal some recommended actions to make the practical training even more successful.

The above lessons learnt have been taken into account, and will be translated into the upcoming JA at the COE in 2021, where we will once again say: Welcome to Vyškov, welcome to the JCBRN Defence COE, welcome to the eNOTICE JA!

Author/Photos: COL Wolfgang Karl-Heinz Reich (DEU Army)
The Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Defence Centre of Excellence (JCBRN Defence COE) attended the "Non-Conventional Threat (NCT) CBRNe1 Europe 2019" in Vienna, Austria from 25–27 June 2019 organised and conducted by IB Consultancy. IB Consultancy is one of the most important organisers of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) events. The NCT CBRNe 2019 is one of the largest CBRN events in Europe; however, without the outstanding support of the Austrian Ministry of Defence and its subordinated CBRN Defence Centre the conference would not have been as successful. About 360 speakers and participants, military and civilian, academics, industries and media represented about 34 nations (among them the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Oman and Qatar, the Russian Federation, Uganda and Ukraine) and International Organisations (ECMAN, ICRC, ISEMI, JCBRN Defence COE, SHAPE) <fig. 2>. Forty companies exhibited and advertised their products. Gold sponsors were Bruker Detection, Heyl and Kärcher Futuretech GmbH <fig. 3>. By the way, both well-known in the CBRN defence community, Brigadier (ret.). William King and Colonel (ret.) Henry Neumann, co-chaired the conference.

The conference objectives were to discuss the newest developments on how to combat CBRN(e), IED, and EOD threats; to learn about showcased novel technologies; and to network with international and regional stakeholders from high-level decision-makers to civil and military first responders, as well as to leading industry representatives. The conference was subdivided into three parts: a plenary session combined with an industrial exhibition, a live demonstration, and a – upon invitation only – CBRN defence capability development roundtable. The live demonstration took place at the CBRN Defence and Catastrophe Assistance Training Site in Eggendorf, Austria where Austria presented its CBRN defence capabilities <fig. 1>.

The JCBRN Defence COE supported NCT CBRNe Europe 2019 in various ways to include: (1) Colonel Wolfgang Reich, Deputy Director, representing the

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1 The „e“ in CBRNe stands for „explosives“. However, CBRNe is not a NATO agreed term or abbreviation.
JCBRN Defence COE throughout the entire event and provided a presentation on “JCBRN Defence COE – an overview” <fig. 4>; (2) Lieutenant Colonel Bernd Allert chaired the Workshop “CBRNe Training Interoperability and Multinational Cooperation” <fig. 5>; (3) Colonel Reich and Lieutenant Colonel Allert participated in a roundtable discussion on capability development; (4) Lieutenant Colonel Tomas Radek provided a presentation on “CBRN Defence Courses at JCBRN Defence COE”; and (5) Major Richard Hanák and Captain Zuzana Králiková provided a JCBRN Defence COE Information Desk. Lieutenant Colonel Laimer, a JCBRN Defence COE member, attended as an Austria National representative.

At the JCBRN Defence COE Information Desk, Major Hanák and Captain Králiková provided and stressed the COE’s capabilities and capacities. Visitors received information on the development, organizational structure, key areas of interest, mission, tasks, courses, and general guiding principles of JCBRN Defence COE <fig. 6>. In total, more than 50 people visited the JCBRN Defence COE booth to request information.

The conference provided a large amount and variety of presentations covering all enabling components of CBRN defence (detection, identification and monitoring; hazard management; CBRN knowledge management; physical protection; medical countermeasures and casualty care), as well as all lines of capability development. Many presentations proved useful for the ongoing development of CBRN defence capabilities.

The JCBRN Defence COE successfully participated at NCT CBRNe Europe 2019 whilst enhancing its international reputation and establishing contacts in order to focus on promising developments and improve NATO’s CBRN defence. If beneficial, JCBRN Defence COE may support future events in order to share knowledge and expertise, but also to raise COE’s visibility. IB Consultancy will conduct the next NCT CBRNe EUROPE 2019 in Rome, Italy during the period of 14–18 September 2020.

Authors:
LTC Bernd Allert (DEU Army),
CPT Zuzana Králiková (CZE Army)

Photos: IB Consultancy,
LTC Bernd Allert (DEU Army)
The visit of the Deputy Chief of the German Joint Support and Enabling Service, Lieutenant General Peter Bohrer

Major General (MG) Jaromír Zůna, the First Deputy Chief of Defence of the Czech Armed Forces, invited Lieutenant General (LTG) Peter Bohrer, who led the German delegation from the Joint Support and Enabling Service (JSES), to visit Prague, the Czech Republic and the Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Centre of Excellence (JCBRN Defence COE) from 20–21 March 2019. The subject of the meeting was the future cooperation between the Bundeswehr and the Czech Armed Forces in the fields of logistics and CBRN defence. The second day of the visit was focused on visiting the JCBRN Defence COE. The delegation was welcomed at the COE by the Director Colonel Vratislav Osvald and his Deputy Colonel Wolfgang Reich.

The Visit of the Mayor of Vyškov

On 4 April 2019, the Mayor of Vyškov, Mr Karel Jurka, visited the JCBRN Defence COE to learn more about the COE and its mission.

The Visit of Emergent BioSolutions

On 30 April 2019, members of Emergent BioSolutions, Inc. visited the JCBRN Defence COE to learn more about the COE and its mission. This visit was in support of the 2018 NATO-Industry Forum and the Brussels Summit in which NATO Heads of State and Government highlighted that “We will further develop our partnership with industry and academia from all Allies to keep pace with technological advances through innovation.”

The Visit of Smiths Detection

On 3 April 2019, members of Smiths Detection, Inc. visited the JCBRN...
Defence COE to learn more about the COE and its mission. This visit was in support of the 2018 NATO-Industry Forum and the Brussels Summit in which NATO Heads of State and Government highlighted that “We will further develop our partnership with industry and academia from all Allies to keep pace with technological advances through innovation.”

The Visit of Specialist Response Solutions Ltd.

On 3 April 2019, members of Specialist Response Solutions, Ltd., visit the JCBRN Defence COE to learn more about the COE and its mission.
This visit was in support of the 2018 NATO-Industry Forum and the Brussels Summit in which NATO Heads of State and Government highlighted that “We will further develop our partnership with industry and academia from all Allies to keep pace with technological advances through innovation.”

**Border Security Symposium**

On 7 July 2019, the JCBRN Defence COE welcomed members of Border Security Symposium to learn more about the COE and its mission, and exchange information on relevant CBRN security and stability topics.

**The Visit of Abu Dhabi Police General Headquarters**

On 19 July 2019, members of the Abu Dhabi Police General Headquarters (GHQ) led by Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Ebrahim AlAli, Director of CBRN Administration, Emergency and Public Safety visited the JCBRN Defence COE to exchange information on CBRN defence training and discuss a potential partnership between the GHQ and COE to build confidence and support capability building. Additional members of the GHQ included Professor Amer Abbas Hosin, Senior Executive and Scientific Advisor to the Abu Dhabi Police Emergency and Public Safety Directorate; Major Mohamed Salem Alameri; and First Lieutenant Salem Subaih Alkaabi. Colonel (ret.) Milan Novotný, Acting Director of the COE, welcomed the Emiratis and provided a COE briefing on NATO’s COEs and on the JCBRN Defence COE’s mission, tasks and structure. The COE’s Transformation Support Department (TSD), Training, Exercise and Education Department (TEED) and Operation Support Department (OSD) provided briefings on their structure, tasks and major efforts to include the COE’s unique CBRN Reachback and Modelling and Simulation capability. Lieutenant Colonel AlAli introduced the Abu Dhabi CBRN defence system.

Fig. 5 The Visit of Abu Dhabi Police General Headquarters

Fig. 6 The Visit of Royal Netherlands Army
and their CBRN defence capabilities focusing on CBRN forensics and decontamination of mass casualties.

**The Visit of Royal Netherlands Army**

On 3 September 2019, students from Royal Netherlands Army visited the JCBRN Defence COE to learn more about the COE and its mission.

**The Visit of Austrian Military Attaché**

On 10 September 2019, the Austrian Defence Attaché to the Czech Republic, Colonel Karl Fitsch, visited the JCBRN Defence COE to learn more about the COE and its mission. He also established a personal contact with the COE’s Austrian CBRN Defence Staff Officer, who has been working as the Capability Development and Defence Planning Deputy Section Chief in the Transformation Support Department since October 2016. This was the first official visit by the Austrian Defence Attaché since he took over this responsibility in 2018.

**The Visit of ACOS J5 SHAPE, BG SMITH**

On 4 October 2019, Brigadier General (BG) Gregory Smith, the Assistant Chief of Staff J5 for Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), visited the JCBRN Defence COE to learn more about the COE and its mission especially in regards to Global Programming, Department Head responsibilities and CBRN courses.

**The Visit from MILMED COE**

On 3 September 2019, the NATO Centre of Excellence for Military Medicine led by BG Dirk Friedrich Klagges, COE Director, visited the JCBRN Defence COE to discuss future cooperation between the two NATO COEs focusing on major NATO exercises and Lessons Learned Processes.

**The Visit of Austrian CBRN Defence Centre**

On 26 November 2019, the Commander of the Austrian CBRN Defence Centre Colonel (GS) Jürgen Schlechter, accompanied by his deputy Lieutenant Colonel Franz Fraiss and 2 members of the “Forum CBRN Defence”, Brigadier General (retired) Norbert Fürstenhofer and Councillor Karl Schrattenholzer visited the JCBRN Defence COE to learn more about the COE and its mission, discuss future cooperation, build on previous relationships, and visit the COE’s Austrian CBRN Defence Staff Officer, who is working in the Transformation Support Department at the JCBRN Defence COE.

**Author:**
MAJ Eva Vitásková (CZE Army)

**Photos:** COE’s Archive
THE AUSTRIAN CBRN DEFENCE CENTRE AND
THE “FORUM CBRN DEFENCE” VISITED
THE JCBRN DEFENCE COE

The Commander of the Austrian Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Defence Centre Colonel (GS) Jürgen Schlechter, accompanied by his deputy Lieutenant Colonel Franz Fraiss and 2 members of the “Forum CBRN Defence”, Brigadier General (retired) Norbert Fürsternhofen and councillor Karl Schrattenholzer visited the Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Centre of Excellence (JCBRN Defence COE) on 26 November 2019 in Vyškov, Czech Republic.

The aim of this visit was to gain insight into the current activities and efforts at the JCBRN Defence COE; discuss future cooperation; build on previous relationships; and visit the Austrian CBRN Defence Staff Officer, who is working in the Transformation Support Department at the JCBRN Defence COE.

The JCBRN Defence COE Chief of Staff, Colonel William Epolito (USA-Army), accompanied by the department directors of the Transformation Support Department (TSD), Operation Support Department (OSD), and Training, Exercise and Education Department (TEED) warmly welcomed the Delegation at the JCBRN Defence COE; and provided the command briefing covering NATO COEs in general, the JCBRN Defence COE development, vision, mission, tasks, and structure, and each departments responsibilities and duties. The command brief was followed by two very interesting tours and briefings of the Operation Support Department (OSD) CBRN Reachback and Modelling & Simulation with special emphasis on their unique capabilities as the NATO CBRN Reachback and expertise. The Delegation was very impressed and interested in these unique capabilities and future potential cooperation.

Cooperation now and in future

The visit concluded with a summary by Colonel Epolito, pointing out the previous and continued cooperation between the two organisations. Colonel Epolito provided three examples of such cooperation to include the Austrian-lead European Union (EU) European Defence Agency (EDA) Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) project CBRN Surveillance as a Service (CBRN SaaS); JCBRN Defence COE Mobile Education and Training (MET) at the CBRN Defence Centre in Austria; and Austria subject matter experts support to JCBRN Defence COE courses. Colonel Schlechter expressed his high appreciation and gratefulness to this informative and very well organised and comprehensive event. He underpinned his high interest in increasing the cooperation in areas such as exchange of expertise between the national and the JCBRND COE-led NATO CBRN Defence Reachback; increasing support to the JCBRN Defence COE Education and Training with subject matter experts; and optimizing European Union and NATO cooperation efforts. Finally, Colonel Schlechter thanked the JCBRN Defence COE for the previous, current and hopefully future cooperation on the EU EDA PESCO CBRN SaaS project.

Author:
LTC Roman Laimer (AUT Army)
Photo: LTC Aleš Mylan (CZE Army)
The Senior National Representative (SNR) of the German contribution to the Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Defence Centre of Excellence (JCBRN Defence COE) founded a tradition within the COE to both celebrate the founding of the German Bundeswehr and to educate the COE members on the German military. The official date of the founding of the German Bundeswehr is 12 November 1955 when the first soldiers began their service in Andernach. When the Bundeswehr was established in 1955, its founding principles were based on developing a completely new military force for the defence of the Federal Republic of Germany. In this respect the Bundeswehr did not consider itself to be a successor to either the Reichswehr (1921–1935) of the Weimar Republic or the Wehrmacht (1935–1946). Neither does it adhere to the traditions of any former German military organization. In 1956 the first troops set up seven training companies in Andernach and began the formation of schools and training centres. On 1 April 1957, the first conscripts arrived for service in the army. The first military organisations created were instructional battalions, officer schools, and the Army Academy, the forerunner to the Führungsakademie der Bundeswehr in Hamburg.

However, celebration is more than a reception to talk, drink and eat; the COE members also are educated about German specific military niche capabilities. In 2016, the German civil-military language training and military sport units were introduced. One year later, in 2017, the JCBRN Defence COE learned about the German military memorials; and in 2018, the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Armed Forces presented.

In 2019, it was different, the German SNR, Colonel Wolfgang Reich invited representatives of the psychological service in the Bundeswehr to brief on the German military psychological system <fig. 1>. Ms. Jennifer Friedewald and Warrant Officer Marco Nenninger, both from the Bundeswehr CBRN Defence Command’s psychological service section, accepted the invitation. Ms. Friedewald fascinated the audience with her presentation on the Bundeswehr Psychological Service <fig. 2>. The mission of the Bundeswehr Psychological Service is to use psychological expertise in the Bundeswehr wherever it is required and where it is necessary for accomplishing tasks during routine duty and operations. It applies its scientifically sound and ethically approved procedures and methods to contribute to mission accomplishment. The priorities in applied military psychology are the provision of psychological support during operations and standby commitments.

Fig. 1 Colonel Reich welcomed Ms Friedewald and Warrant Officer Nenninger

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the assumption of responsibility for the psychological elements of aptitude and potential assessments, the provision of psychosocial support within the framework of morale, welfare and recreation, including the psychosocial elements of Occupational Health Management (OHM), and to help prevent deployment-related mental disorders. Ms. Friedewald was so successful that after her presentation the COE members continued talking about their respective national psychological services <fig. 3 and 4>. In addition, as an unexpected outcome, a contact within the Czech psychological service in the Military Academy has been established for future information exchange.

Author/photos:
LTC Bernd Allert (DEU Army)
The first significant Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Defence Centre of Excellence (JCBRN Defence COE) enhancement project was in Autumn 2016 with the construction of a parking lot, monument and other minor enhancement efforts such as signage on the building. As a continuation of this previous enhancement project, a new project was developed to create a renovated space for 50–60 persons with versatile usage to meet the COE’s needs to organise and host meetings, workshops, conferences, courses, internal trainings and collective events; and new storage space for COE property and materials.

The first step was to seek approval of the project by the JCBRN Defence COE Steering Committee, which the committee approved and provides funding in Autumn 2017. Following the approval, the Support Department Director, Lieutenant Colonel Petr Menšík, and Chief of Logistic Support Branch, Major Jan Hopliček, initiated negotiations with representatives of the Vyškov Military Academy to locate a suitable space within garrison footprint. Unfortunately, the Military Academy could not locate additional rooms, but proposed to use the existing COE storage area <fig. 1> as a new conference hall and to use an open area at the entrance to Block “C” corridor as a new storage area <fig. 2>. This solution had many advantages for the COE to include creating a consolidated grouping of COE rooms in Block “C” that would provide a more effective and efficient COE space to centrally organize events.

Placing of the new conference hall near where the COE already has a recon-
structured classroom, lobby and syndicates led to extension of the initial idea to construct a kitchen unit <fig. 3> located just across the corridor on the opposite of syndicates in order to provide better support to courses and events held there.

In coordination with the Czech Republic Logistic Agency and Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces of Czech Republic all the necessary investment requirements were submitted and approved by the end of 2017. At the beginning of 2018, the COE received the Statement of Feasibility from Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces of Czech Republic. Based on this document the competitive tender and construction of the storage was managed by the Military Immovable Infrastructure Agency, and completed on 17 December 2018 <fig 4>.

Whilst the storage project was underway, the Logistic Support Branch had a project company draft the conference hall project documentation based on specified COE’s requirements. The competitive tender of conference hall construction was launched in Autumn 2019. In December 2018, the COE Contract Award Committee recommended and the COE Director approved the awarding the contract to the bid from the Iridium Company as the best favorable of three bids received. The conference hall project began on 14 January 2019. Despite unexpected delays with wall demolition that could have had effects on stability of the building <fig. 5>, the construction was successfully completed on 27 March 2019 in time for the hosting of the 6th Framework Nation Concept (FNC) CBRN Steering Committee Meeting. The official opening ceremony was conducted as a part of the JCBRN Defence COE Steering Committee Meeting on 16 April 2019. These continued enhancement projects will allow the COE to better organise and host meetings, workshops, conferences, courses, internal trainings and collective events for years to come <fig. 6>.

Author/Photos:
MAJ Jan Hoplíček (CZE Army)
The General Data Protection Regulation, known as the GDPR, has blown into our lives. It is literally everywhere, it pops up from our mailboxes, it is on TV screens and first of all it becomes part of our daily work. But is that really true when you are working for a NATO Center of Excellence?2

“The Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation, GDPR)” applies to the processing of personal data wholly or partly by automated means and to the processing other than by automated means of personal data which form part of a filing system or are intended to form a part of a filing system3. This Regulation applies to the processing of personal data in the context of the activities of an establishment of a controller (an organization that collects data) or a processor (an organization that processes data on behalf of a data controller) in the Union, regardless whether the processing takes place in the Union or not.

Personal data is any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person4. A more readable definition of personal data can be found in the European Commission press release, which provides that “personal data is any information relating to an individual, whether it relates to his or her private, professional or public life. It can be anything from a name, a photo, an email address, bank details, your posts on social networking websites, your medical information, or your computer’s IP address.” 6

It has to be highlighted that the Regulation does not apply to the processing of personal data “in the course of an activity which falls outside the scope of Union law.” 7

In accordance with Article 8 of the European Union’s Charter of Fundamental Rights everyone has the right to the protection of personal data concerning him or her.8 The Treaty of Rome establishes a legal basis for rules on data protection for all activities within the scope of European Union (EU) law under Article 16, which states that everyone has the right to the protection of personal data concerning them. It also empowers the European Parliament and the Council to lay down the rules relating to the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies, and by the Member States when carrying out activities which fall within the scope of Union law, and the rules relating to the free movement of such data. Compliance with these

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1 This views 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 for offering helpful and valuable comments.

2 “Centres of Excellence (COEs) are international military organisations that train and educate leaders and specialists from NATO member and partner countries. They assist in doctrine development, identify lessons learned, improve interoperability and capabilities, and test and validate concepts through experimentation. They offer recognised expertise and experience that is of benefit to the Alliance, and support the transformation of NATO, while avoiding the duplication of assets, resources and capabilities already present within the Alliance.” For more details: www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_68372.htm, visited on June 28, 2018.

3 The Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation), Article 2, paragraph 1, available at https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:41f89a28-1fc6-4c92-b1c8-03327d1b1ecc.0007.02/DOC_1&format=PDF, visited on June 24, 2018.

4 Ibis 3, Article 3, paragraph 1.

5 Ibis 3, Article 4, paragraph 1.


7 Ibis 3, Article 2, paragraph 2(a).


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rules shall be subject to the control of independent authorities.

Crucial part in terms of this article is a part of Article 16 specifying who can process personal data of individuals. This is relevant to the processing of personal data by Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies, and by the EU Member States when carrying out activities which fall within the scope of Union law. EU institutions, bodies and EU Member States family per se does not cover international organizations, including but not limited to NATO: “The European Parliament and the Council, acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure, shall lay down the rules relating to the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies, and by the Member States when carrying out activities which fall within the scope of Union law, and the rules relating to the free movement of such data. Compliance with these rules shall be subject to the control of independent authorities.”

Article 16 of the Treaty of Rome has to be read in conjunction with Article 39 of the Treaty on European Union, which provides that in accordance with Article 16 of the Treaty of Rome and by way of derogation from paragraph 2 thereof, the Council shall adopt a decision laying down the rules relating to the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Member States when carrying out activities which fall within the scope of Chapter 2 of the Treaty on European Union on Specific Provisions on the Common Foreign and Security Policy, and the rules relating to the free movement of such data. Compliance with these rules shall be subject to the control of independent authorities.

Both Treaties as well as the Regulation are not applicable for NATO Centres of Excellence as those international military organizations are neither Union institutions, bodies, offices, agencies nor the Member States. Moreover, as mentioned above, the Regulation does not apply to the processing of personal data in the course of an activity which falls outside the scope of Union law. Definitely, activities of NATO and its bodies fall outside the scope of Union law and as such NATO bodies are not bound by the Regulation.

A strict rule that *pacta tertiis nec nocent nec prosunt* (a treaty binds the parties and only the parties; it does not create obligations for a third state or a third organization without the consent of that state or that organization) applies to international organizations in the same way as it applies to states. NATO Centres of Excellence are not parties to the EU, therefore the GDPR rules are not directly applicable to them.

The relevant provisions of the NATO SOFA may be useful in this discussion as well. Its Article II establishes the duty

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10 ibid, Article 16, paragraph 2.
12 ibid 3, Article 2, paragraph 2(a).
to respect the law of the receiving State. Respect the law of the receiving State does not necessarily mean that a force or its civilian component is to be abiding by the law of the receiving State. Rather it is due regard for the right and duties established by the receiving State legal system. Therefore, NATO Centres of Excellence are supposed to follow, meaning meet the intent of national law, including EU law, and preferably adopt their own edicts in areas where required.\(^{19}\)

It has to be mentioned that personal data protection and attempt to regulate this area is not the motion of the last couple of years. Already in 1990 the United Nations General Assembly adopted Guidelines for the Regulation of Computerized Personal Data Files.\(^{20}\) The Guidelines provide that information about persons should not be collected or processed in unfair or unlawful ways, nor should it be used for ends contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.\(^{21}\) It is quite significant that the Guidelines are not only applicable for States but should also apply to personal data files kept by international organizations. The applicability of those Guidelines for international organizations may be subject to any adjustments taking into account data collected for internal and for external purposes.

In accordance with the Guidelines, the international organizations are encouraged to establish its own internal mechanism to deal with the personal data storage and management. There are many international organizations that adopted rules dealing with data protection. These included, for example, the 1980 OECD Guidelines, the 1981 Council of Europe Convention (Convention 108), the 1995 EU Directive 95/46, the 2005 APEC Privacy Framework, the 2010 Supplementary Act on Personal Data Protection of ECOWAS, and the 2016 EU GDPR.\(^{22}\)

What to do with the situation at hand? On one side, we may conclude that the GDPR is not applicable to the NATO Centres of Excellence for several reasons: a) the EU legislation explicitly excludes activities falling outside the scope of the Union law from its applicability. Moreover, the data protection rules "relating to the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies, and by the Member States" per se do not cover international organizations; b) public international law, mainly the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, which expressly forbids creating obligations or rights for third party without its consent; c) the NATO SOFA, which by virtue of Article 3 paragraph 2 of the Paris Protocol,\(^{24}\) is applicable to NATO Centres of Excellence when granted Paris Protocol status, and articulates the duty of a force and its civilian component to respect the law of the receiving State, meaning that each NATO Centre of Excellence should seek coordination and cooperation with the receiving State legislation, where necessary, and, as already stated above, develop its own internal rules pertaining any particular topic. In case of the personal data collection, the internal rules adopted in the form of Standing Operating Procedures or a COE Directive should cover not only internal information regarding staff members provided by sending States but also information submitted by third parties, such as those attending courses, conferences and other events organized by a NATO Center of Excellence.

On the other side, there is a strong demand to regulate personal data collection and provide sufficient guaranties that those data are not mishandled and misused. The solution, which is supported by both, the NATO SOFA and the Guidelines, seems to be obvious. Any NATO Centre of Excellence operating within the territory of the EU should develop its own internal regulations for personal data protection.

Having said that, this is the way the JCBRN Defence COE will act. The Centre is currently working on the JCBRN Defence COE Data Protection Directive, which should provide sufficient and solid background for the personal data protection. By adopting the Directive, the Centre will fulfil its duty to respect the receiving State law as well as the overarching demand to protect personal data.

Author: Mr Zdeněk Hýbl

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21 Ibis 17, paragraph 1.
23 Ibis 9, Article 16, paragraph 2.
Officially Canada joined the Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense Centre of Excellence (JCBRN Defence COE) on 14 December 2018 during an official Signing Ceremony which took place in Norfolk, United States of America (USA). This was where representatives of all Sponsoring Nations of the COE together with a representative of Canada and the Allied Command Transformation signed the respective Notes of Joining for Canadian accession to the JCBRN Defence COE.

During the Steering Committee Meeting on 16 April 2019 Canada was officially welcomed into the JCBRN Defence COE by the raising of the Canadian national colours. As mentioned during that official welcome, the Czech Republic welcomes a strong partner in the CBRN domain with great know-how, and it is beyond doubt that this will improve our combined capabilities and expand the COE’s knowledge. It was also stated that Canada brings a level of expertise and inherent quality of products and deliverables, and it is a great honour to welcome Canada as a 14th member of the COE. In conclusion, is was stated that this is as a good example and encouraging message for others, who are looking to expand their capabilities in support of NATO.

The first Canadian representative, Major Randy Godfrey, did not arrive with his wife Kelly until the traditional Canadian posting season in the Summer of 2019 (12 August). While it did take some time to place him into this position, it is understandable as he is not only the first Canadian in the COE, but also the first Canadian military member in the Czech Republic. This brought a whole host of issues that needed to be resolved and overcome; more on that later. Randy has been in the Canadian Armed Forces for 33 years, starting as an Artillery Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) for his initial 3 years, then (seeing the light) took a commission as an Air Traffic Controller. He served in a variety of positions in Canada, and has also served 3 tours in Afghanistan (2004/2008/2012). Married to Kelly in summer 1990, they have 2 girls, Alexandra – 25 and Meagan – 23, both of whom live in Canada pursuing their careers. Of course, they will visit their parents and do the requisite ‘European Tour’ during this 3 years posting.

Moving to a new country is challenging and stressful at the best of times, and this was tested by being the first Canadian family moving to the COE. Starting with the House Hunting Trip in May 2019, it was clear that things are a little different here. I will not say that things in Canada are better or worse, simply that they are DIFFERENT, and the differences need to be understood. Kelly and Randy are collecting a large list of Lessons Learned to pass to follow-on Canadians. This starts with getting them to do some language training before moving here. However, we will be here to help the follow-on Canadians, as a major hurdle of us was not having on-site Canadian support for National related issues. I would like to pass on a “Shout out” to Warrant Officer (WO) Ilona Dvořáčková, as she is the COE International Staff Support Specialist and provides much appreciated help. This is not just translation but, in our case, also doubled as realtor as she found the house we have rented in Vyskov for the full 3 year posting.

While some of the transition challenges were difficult (i.e. registration of vehicles), others were easily overcome (i.e. internet and satellite Television). Culinary selection takes some adjusting to as pork/chicken/potatoes/dumplings are very prevalent, but salads are not. One item we brought from Canada that will get much use here is a barbecue (BBQ). It is necessary to do grocery shopping here much more often than in Canada, driven by the size of the fridge/stove/microwave (much smaller than in Canada).

While most of you know that winters in Canada are harsh (and they are), I am looking forward to NOT having to deal with -40 C and 100’s of centimeters of snow. To those that haven’t met many Canadians in the past, Kelly and I hope to give you all a positive view of our country and people, and we hope to get to know all of you and the Czech Republic much better. We look very much forward to our time here.

Authors:
Randy and Kelly Godfrey (CAN Army)
A solid and disciplined organisation was something obvious, even from the initial days of my arrival. The psychological barrier due to the ‘feeling of being a stranger’, was overcome very quickly, and not just by chance or happenstance. A whole philosophy is hidden behind this; not a written one, but obviously several principles are faithfully followed, such as the support by everyone at the Centre, coordination management, motivation of all members, and the cornerstone ingredient of cultural acceptance.

My personal contribution to the CBRN community has just begun and I am excited for my time here at the Centre. While reviewing doctrines, amongst other projects, is a demanding task in which different nodes constructively interact for the benefit of the Alliance; it is a worthwhile and rewarding effort. Continuous improvement, proactivity, team spirit, are some of the vital assets which are gained by most individuals, including myself. Human capital is the key for further development; a robust value of its people that is empowered by the COE leaders.

Czech Republic is a well-structured country. Our introductory administrative obligations and requirements, both inside and outside of the Centre, were addressed; an unexpected and pleasant surprise.

I am inclined to believe that even more innovating projects, efforts and activities will emerge through our team’s active collaboration, whilst all individuals achieve their personal and professional objectives.

Author:
Cdr Lefteris Bekatoros
(GRC Navy Army)

CPT Matúš Glinda
CBRN Defence TTP Specialist

As a person who grew up in Czechoslovakia, I am in the unique position of returning “home” to a foreign country. I am Captain Matúš GLINDA, the fifth Slovak representative to the JCBRN Defence COE (and its youngest member). Being assigned to Vyškov, Czech Republic is really just coming back to my roots; treated as an international member but with natural affiliation to the Czech Republic and Czech people, and a decent knowledge of how it feels to be on both sides.

Moving to another country usually goes hand in hand with multiple life challenges. Different culture, language, habits, mindset, cuisine, climate and all the large and small adjustments that go along with a foreign assignment. I experienced all these things and more when I was assigned for six months to Fort Leonard Wood Missouri in the USA. One Soldier from the former “Dark Side of Europe” amongst a nation of strangers.

I started my military career as a DECON platoon Leader in a CBRN BN and I have held various assignments since that time. When I got the chance to join the JCBRN Defence COE I knew that it would be a great opportunity. I look forward to the challenge.

On August 1st, 2019 my wife Veronika, my six-year-old son Dominik, and I moved the 154 km from Bratislava to Vyškov. No cultural or language barriers! Dominik could easily enroll in Czech kindergarten. I already knew many people from the COE whom I met during my time working in the General Staff of Slovak Armed Forces.
as a CBRN SME. It has been a very smooth transition.

I am eager to make a positive impact with the assignment to the COE. Contribute with expertise, a constructive point of view, offer a helping hand, make a bridge between internationals and the host nation, or just be positive and smile because I believe it is the small things that make a big difference. I would rather be a part of solution than part of a problem. I would like for my time here at the COE to be as positive for my work “family” as it will be for my family.

Finally, I would like to thank all the people for a warm welcome. I am looking forward to a stimulating and fruitful collaboration with the dedicated professionals of the JCBRN Defence COE.

Author: 
CPT Matúš Glinda (SVK Army)

WO Martin Konečný 
Clerk and Deputy Section Chief

My name is Warrant Officer Martin Konečný and I am an administrative specialist in the Support Department at the Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Centre of Excellence (JCBRN Defence COE).

My military background has never had anything in common with being an office worker, but with more than 16 years of service, I have realized that everything is possible when you have enough dedication and patience to learn new “stuff”.

I first experience with the military was in the summer 2000, right after my high school graduation, when I become a conscript in the Czech Military. I survived this tough year long conscript period without knowing that I would voluntarily rejoin the Czech Military 3 years later.

The beginning of my career was significantly affected by transformation of conscripted forces into professional-ones, which included continuous changes, modifications, and fluctuations of every part of a soldiers life. Nevertheless, even with the continuously changing nature of the transition to a Professional Army, I discovered numerous courses that developed soldiers skills making this new army a more professional and attractive army.

The majority of my service I spent in the Combat Engineers with the first 10 years at the Military Scuba Diving Center teaching new trainees the Scuba equipment and Its operation and proper maintenance. Then, the following 2 years, I worked as an instructor teaching small engineer machinery operators.

I also had the opportunity to go to a number of courses with two of them being the highest importance to me. The first one was a course certifying me to handle and plan small range exercises using engineer explosives, and the second one was Drill Sergeant school in the United States of America which was the most physically and mentally challenging course I have ever went through.

In 2010 I was deployed to the Kosovo mission which was my first international experience where I realised the importance of the English language and its advantages.

The next turning point in my career came in 2015 when I became a candidate for a NATO Structures position. The next three years at Ramstein Air Force Base in a NATO Structure logistic department turned out to be the quickest years ever I spent in career. As I was approaching the end of my NATO mission I was lucky to get the post here at the JCBRN Defence COE which allowed me to stay in current with my English even though I new I would face new challenges, responsibilities and tasks.

Being a newcomer is not easy no matter what position you take over especially if more than one person changes over in an office, which was the case in the Administrative Support Office. Luckily our colleagues are extremely helpful which allowed us learn our jobs quickly.

I am happy to be here and I am looking forward to creating good cooperation with everyone.

Author: 
WO Martin Konečný (CZE Army)
The CBRN Units Evaluators course is not offered for 2020 due to revision of the Allied Command Operations (ACO) Forces Standards (AFS). Once the new AFS volume VII is released, and all changes are reflected in the course curriculum, the course will again be offered, tentatively in 2021.

For more details, please visit our Training Portal using courses.jcbrncoe.cz, or the direct link www.jcbrncoe.cz/tp, or below QR code where additional information is provided. You can also contact us via e-mail at courses@jcbrncoe.cz.

Author:

WO Petr Mohnacs (CZE Army)
# 2020 CBRN MAIN EVENTS

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<td>4–8</td>
<td>JCBRND CDG Knowledge Management Panel (KMP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5–7</td>
<td>NCT USA 2020, Edgewood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11–15</td>
<td>JCBRND CDG Doctrine &amp; Terminology Panel (DTP)</td>
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<td>11–15</td>
<td>JCBRND CDG Physical Protection Panel (PPP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>14–19</td>
<td>Horizon 2020 – eNotice Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>18–22</td>
<td>International Radiological and Nuclear Training for Emergency Response (I-RAD), Mobile Education and Training Team in Greece*</td>
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<tr>
<td>26–28</td>
<td>JCBRND CDG Challenge Level Panel (CLP)</td>
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<td>JUNE</td>
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<td>8–12</td>
<td>Eurosatory 2020, France</td>
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<tr>
<td>15–19</td>
<td>NATO CBRN Defence and Exercise Planning Course, Oberammergau, DEU</td>
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<tr>
<td>18–12</td>
<td>Introduction to NATO WMD Disablement Course, Vyskov, CZE</td>
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<td>MONTH</td>
<td>EVENTS</td>
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<tr>
<td>JUNE</td>
<td>International Radiological and Nuclear Training for Emergency Response (I-RAD), Mobile Education and Training Team in Austria*</td>
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<td>NCT Middle East 2020, Abu Dhabi</td>
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<td>AUGUST</td>
<td>Hazard Prediction and Assessment capability (HPAC) Course, Oberammergau, DEU</td>
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<td>NATO CBRN Analysis Operators Course, Oberammergau, DEU</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEPTEMBER</td>
<td>CBRN Warning and Reporting Specialists Course, Vyškov, CZE</td>
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<td>NCT CBRNe Europe 2020, Italy</td>
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<td>NCT eXplosive Europe 2020, Italy</td>
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<td>28 Sep–9 Oct NATO CBRN Warning and Reporting System – Manual Procedures Course, Oberammergau, DEU</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCTOBER</td>
<td>NATO Biological Warfare Defence Awareness Course, Oberammergau, DEU</td>
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<td>2nd JCBRND COE Advisors Conference, Praque, Czech Republic</td>
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<td>Live Agent Training, Vyškov, CZE</td>
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<td></td>
<td>NATO CBRN Defence Orientation Course, Oberammergau, DEU</td>
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<td>Future Forces Forum, Prague, Czech Republic</td>
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<td>JCBRND CDG Meeting</td>
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<td>JCBRND CDG Knowledge Management Panel (KMP)</td>
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<td>NOVEMBER</td>
<td>JCBRND CDG Doctrine&amp;Terminology Panel (DTP)</td>
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<td>NCT CBRNe &amp; eXplosive Asia 2020, Korea</td>
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<td>JCBRND CDG Training and Exercise Panel (TEP)</td>
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<td>23–27 Consequence Management After a CBRN Incident Course, Vyskov, CZE</td>
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