2/2016

Newsletter

Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Centre of Excellence

10th ANNIVERSARY

2006 - 2016

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Thank you fellow CBRN Professionals, Colleagues and Readers, for your interest in the Joint CBRN Defence Center of Excellence.

I recently arrived in Vyskov to assume the duties as the 4th Chief of Staff of the JCBRN Defence COE. In my short span I've met an exceptionally talented and experienced group of military and civilian professionals, supported by their twelve Sponsoring and one Contributing nation(s), and dedicated to providing world class reach-back, exercises and training, doctrine development, and synchronization of NATO and European CBRN Defence capabilities. 2016 has been a challenging year for many of our European Partners and allies and 2017 promises to be equally challenging. Accordingly, the JCBRN Defence COE will continue to support current NATO and European CBRN Defence requirements, while assisting with the transformation of these capabilities to meet the challenges of the future.

Ten years ago this October, eight nations signed the Memorandum of Agreement in Norfolk Virginia establishing the functional relationship for the JCBRN Defence COE. On the 17th of October COL Jiří Gajdoš and the other members of the COE will be joined by friends and dignitaries from our 12 Sponsoring Nations and one Contributing Nation to celebrate our tenth anniversary and memorialize the late Czech Republic Army Colonel Radomír Mikeš, the first Director of the JCBRN Defence COE.

The last ten years has seen enormous growth for the COE, not only in its membership, but also in its mission scope and capabilities. The seven original Sponsoring Nations were joined by an additional five nations, bringing with them their collective CBRN Defence experience, institutional knowledge and capabilities. In 2010 the COE collaborated on a Comprehensive NATO CBRN Defence Concept, with the aim of informing political and military authorities and improving civil-military interoperability out to the year 2025. In 2016 the COE was invited to collaborate with Katholic University in Belgium on two CBRN Defence related projects for the European Union Horizons 2020 project. The project leaders acknowledge the importance of civil and military synchronization in a CBRN crisis and seek to develop communications, training and exercise networks among organizations that are currently separated by function and national policies.

The COE lead a number of initiatives in 2016, including the 2035 "Acharia" Urbanization Experiment, the Live Agent Training Course, the Unit Evaluation Course, the Clean Care Course (in collaboration with the Joint Medical COE), the RAD Consequence Management Course, the Autonomous Reconnaissance Experiment and the latest iteration of the NATO Bold Blast Exercise. Additionally, the Reach Back Element continues to strengthen its working relationship with the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and other similar capabilities within NATO. In keeping with our inclusive vision to support CBRN Defense across Europe, the COE will officially welcome Austria as our first non-NATO Contributing Nation.

I look forward to my next three years here at the JCBRN Defence COE, expanding my CBRN Defence knowledge base and hopefully contributing to the ongoing efforts of my COE colleges and their partners across Europe.

"Per Virtutem Ad Securitatem"

Andrew L. Miltner

Andrew L. Miltner
Colonel, U.S Army
Chief of Staff

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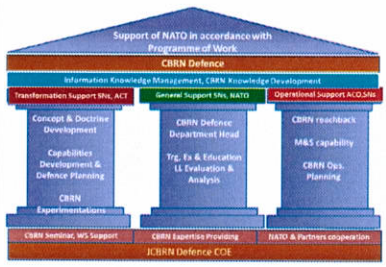
OPERATIONAL SUPPORT TO NATO, A UNIQUE CAPABILITY WITHIN AN UNIQUE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

The 2002 NATO Summit in Prague established a new start point for CBRN Defence within the Alliance's changing perspective of its future threats. The Prague Summit Declaration was followed by the establishment, 10 years ago, of the Joint CBRN Defence Center of Excellence, which initially consisted of 7 contributing nations: the Czech Republic as the Host Nation (HN), Germany, Greece, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and the United Kingdom. These first seven Sponsoring Nations (SNs) were followed by Hungary, Poland, USA, France and most recently by Austria as the first Contributing Participant (CP). The COE's initial mission was, as all COEs, to support NATO Transformation efforts in a rapidly changing threat environment, to provide training and education and to support the NATO Defence Planning Process (NDPP) and doctrinal development in the area of CBRN Defence. In 2013, however, a new approach developed and it became a new and unique type of COE support to NATO: Operations Support. The JCBRN Defence COE is the only COE which provides this type of support. A new department, Operations Support Department (OSD) was therefore established for the purpose of providing support to operational planning at all stages using all three of its sections: Reachback (RBS), Modelling & Simulation (M&SS) and Operational Planning Support (OPSS).



Picture 1 OSD organizational chart

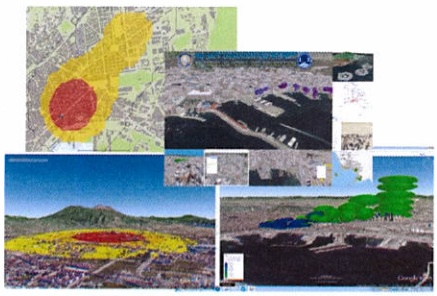
But what makes the JCBRN COE so different from others in terms of operational support to NATO?

Firstly, the primarily role of all three section of the Operations Support Department's is to serve as an advisory body to the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe (SACEUR) in the field of CBRN Defence.

Secondly, the RB Section provides timely and comprehensive scientific / technical and operational CBRN expertise, assessments and advice to NATO commanders, their staff and deployed forces during the planning and execution of operations through the NATO CBRN Reachback Element (NATO CBRN RBE). This is achieved, in the first instance, by using highly educated personnel (holding Masters and PhD degrees in different areas like chemistry and biology) who make up the Primary Network, in order to ensure reliable specialized responses to NATO inquires. The capability benefits from diverse Secondary and Virtual Networks consisting of military and civilian institutions/universities from SNs like DSTL/UK, DTRA/USA, the Military Research Institute/Czech Republic, the Military Biomedical Research Institute/ France, the National Defence University of Warsaw/Poland, the CBRN Command/ Germany, the Scientific Research Center for NBC Defence and Ecology/Romania and that is to mention but a few of them.

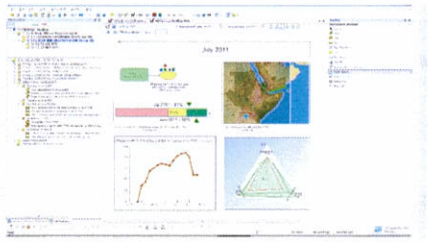
Picture 2 Generic Representation of RB networks

Thirdly, the M&S Section is able to provide support not only to RB but to all the COE's departments to assist with their efforts in successfully delivering the projects which they have been assigned, by using various tools such as CBRN Analysis, HPAC, ArcGIS, Battle Command, CBRN Simulation Suite, Emergency and Disaster Management Simulation (EDMSIM), PC based tactical Radio Simulator (RADSIM) and MAK Stealth. Moreover, M&S is to support and assist in all relevant JCBRN Defence COE tasks in accordance with existing organizational structure, MOUs and other valid agreements, JCBRN Defence COE's Strategic Vision and Program of Work.



Picture 3 A collage with M&S tools results appearance

Finally, the OPS Section, which is the only deployable capability within the JCBRN COE. This Section is responsible for operations planning support to ACO at the strategic and operational levels as part of NATO's Comprehensive Operations Planning (COP) and of the NATO Crisis Response System (NCRS). OPSS complements, but does not replace, their work in the areas of information and knowledge development during Phases One and Two of the OPP/NCRS Additionally, the OPSS supports the CBRN RBS in all planning and operational activities.



Picture 4 Planning Support

All of these efforts combined, ensure the proper level of support to NATO operations in general and specifically to ACO efforts on the one hand while supporting the COE's efforts on transformation and doctrinal issues on the other. OSD's personnel are therefore involved in the COE's projects as required by providing SME advice and support.

In the end, it is my personal hope that the operations support provided to NATO by the JCBRN COE will go on to a reach a whole new level. If it does so, it will, through its enhanced capabilities, become far more effective in supporting the whole spectrum of NATO responses to WMD proliferation concerning the prevention, protection and recovery pillars of CBRN Defence.

Author: LTC Costel GUSTERITEAN (ROU-A)

CBRN Courses in 2017

2017	Days	Course Name, ePRIME Ref. Number	Seats	Security Level
14 - 15 Mar	2	CBRN-Analysis Super User – Refresher Course, ***ACT.576.3***	12	NU
24 – 28 Apr	5	Introduction to the CBRN Training Curriculum Course, ***ACT.575.3***	18	NU
15 – 19 May	5	CBRN Units Evaluators Course, ***ACT.572.3***	18	NR
05 – 08 Jun	4	I-MED Course, ***ACT.570.3***	40	NU
05 – 08 Jun	4	I-RAPTER – Basic Course, ***ACT.571.7***	30	NU
04 – 08 Sep	5	CBRN Warning and Reporting Specialists Course, ***ACT.573.3***	18	NU/NATO, PfP
16 – 19 Oct	4	International Radiological Consequence Management Course, ***ACT.571.8***	25	NU
06 – 09 Nov	4	I-RAPTER - Advanced Course, ***ACT.571.9***	30	NU
27 Nov – 01 Dec	5	Consequence Management after CBRN Incident, ***ACT.574.3***	40	NU

■ **For detailed courses information visit http://www.jcbrncoe.cz/tp/ and learn "How to Enrol into a Course" or ePRIME or eTOC**

CBRN-Analysis Super User Refresher Course

■ To introduce experienced CBRN-Analysis users to the latest CBRN-Analysis programme release and provide knowledge about new and improved programme functions.

■ To enable students to perform as local or national Super User contact with sufficient knowledge to assist less experienced operators, to act as advisor for establishing CBRN-Analysis communication and to prepare exercises.

Introduction to the CBRN Training Curriculum Course

■ To enhance the quality and timelines of the response to CBRN incidents and the interoperability of first responders.

CBRN Units Evaluators Course

■ To prepare evaluators responsible for evaluation of CBRN Defence units for NATO Reaction Force Combined Joint Chemical Biological and Nuclear Defence Task Force (NRF CJ-CBRND-TF) to achieve common standard of CBRN certification.

International Medical Management of Radiation Injuries (I-MED) Course

■ To emphasize the medical treatment of the patient and methods to reduce the risk of radiation exposure and contamination to both the patient and health care provider.

International Radiological Assistance Program Training for Emergency Response

(I-RAPTER) - Basic Course

■ To provide radiation protection specialists, first responders, law enforcement, and

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emergency managers with practical information to effectively respond to radiological incidents and accidents.

CBRN Warning and Reporting Specialists Course

■ To train students to be qualified in warning, reporting and hazard prediction of the CBRN incidents and strengthen the foundation for integrity, good governance and management within members of the CBRN Warning and Reporting Centre by sharing experiences, challenges, and CBRN Warning and Reporting exercises in order to enhance professionalism. The attendees will be fully qualified in manual operational procedures in the NATO CBRN Warning and Reporting System.

International Radiological Consequence Management Course

■ To provide assessment specialists and emergency response personnel the tools and techniques to develop and execute plans for responding to complex issues related to the release of radiological materials.

International Radiological Assistance Program Training for Emergency Response (I-RAPTER) - Advanced Course

■ This course build on the basic I-RATER course by providing responders, law enforcement officers, radiation protection specialists, port and customs officials, and emergency managers with advanced techniques for radiological search and identification.

Consequence Management after CBRN Incident

■ To introduce and describe EU, NATO Crisis Management concept, organization, systems and procedures including Cooperation and Partnership initiatives in Crisis Management to EU, NATO and Partner Nation officers and their civilian equivalents.

Author: MAJ Veronika GOLKOVÁ (CZE-A)

Introduction to the International CBRN Training Curriculum Course

The 2016 iteration of OPS-NC-2010 Introduction to the International CBRN Training Curriculum for Trainers of First Responders to CBRN Incidents Course was organized from 4 to 8 April 2016.
The aim of the course was to familiarize the students with the International CBRN Training Curriculum, to provide knowledge and understanding required for implementation of the CBRN Training Curriculum within their own nations and to enhance interoperability among first responders in an international response to CBRN events.
The course was developed a few years ago under NATO Civil Emergency Planning (CEP) / Non-Binding Guidelines Project. This time there were four CEP members present (Mr. BOE, Mr. AHLBERG, Mr. WOLF and Mr. EKAASEN) to observe the course and act as lecturers as well.
Students participated in theoretical briefings, syndicate works and equipment demonstrations. The practical training was organized at the Training Centre of Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic in Brno. There the students had an opportunity to get familiar with individual protective equipment, various CBRN detection devices, sampling kits and decontamination equipment. During two exercise scenarios they learned how to conduct a search operation (they were looking for a stolen radioactive source) and how to deal with an accident involving a motor vehicle, toxic industrial chemical storage tank and injured people. Through the whole week the students got familiar with 10 Learning Objectives (LO):

- **LO1 Understand the security context behind national and international CBRN preparedness and response;**
- **LO2 Understand the methods employed to recognize a CBRN incident;**
- **LO3 Understand protection of responders and safety of victims;**
- **LO4 Understand the decontamination options;**
- **LO5 Understand basic medical and psychological considerations in relation to CBRN incidents;**
- **LO6 Understand the basic principles of detection and sample taking;**
- **LO7 Understand the principles of command and control in relation to CBRN incidents;**
- **LO8 Understand the implications of bilateral or international assistance for local first responders;**
- **LO9 Understand some of the operational implications between civil-military interaction;**
- **LO10 understand the capabilities and limitations of local crisis and consequence management structures and key services.**

The group of lecturers consisted of experienced personnel from various organizations including Technical University Ostrava (CZE), Fire Rescue Service (CZE), Oslo University Hospital (NOR), NBC-Defence School (AUT), 103rd CIMIC/PSYOPS Centre (CZE) and JCBRN Defence COE. Instructors and support speakers had difficult job to please the need for knowledge for very diverse group of students (24 in total 14 NATO and partner countries – ARM, AZE, BIH, BLR, ESP, GRC, MAR, MDA, PAK, POL, SRB, SVN, TUR and UKR; many were members of armed forces, some came from ministries of interior, defence and emergency services or medical service etc.). Nevertheless, the course was evaluated as very useful one with great value for students' job.
Next iteration is planned for 24-28 April 2017.

Author: CPT Gorazd STERGAR (SVN-A)
Photos: MAJ Petr VALENTA (CZE-A)

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I-RAPTER Basic – Cooperation between NNSA and JCBRN Defence COE

Another iteration of the OPS-NC-2008 International Radiological Assistance Program Training for Emergency Response (I-RAPTER) Basic Course was organized by the Joint CBRN Defence Centre of Excellence and US Department of Energy National (DOE) Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) from 30 May to 2 June 2016.

Established by Congress in 2000, NNSA is a semiautonomous agency within the U.S. Department of Energy responsible for enhancing national security through the military application of nuclear science. NNSA maintains and enhances the safety, security, reliability and performance of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile without nuclear testing; works to reduce global danger from weapons of mass destruction; provides the U.S. Navy with safe and effective nuclear propulsion; and responds to nuclear and radiological emergencies in the U.S. and abroad.

The aim of the I-RAPTER Basic course was to provide practical information to effectively respond to radiological incidents and accidents. The course provided instruction through briefings, equipment demonstrations and field exercises employing a wide variety of radiation detection instruments, radiation sources, and personal protective equipment.

During theoretical lessons the group of seventeen students (from CZE, ESP, HRV, POL, SVN, and USA, members of armed forces, fire brigade units, civilian medical service and JCBRND COE) have become familiar not only with variety of radioactivity detectors but also procedures related to this issue. The activities were culminating during the field exercise training on Day 3 during which the students had to conduct search operation in a building (laboratory environment), radiation survey in the area of Vyškov garrison and Air museum and a source recovery operation (locate and identify the luggage, in which radioactive source was hidden, then recover it to secure environment).

Search operation was conducted in cooperation with Institute of CBRN Defence – Radiological Laboratory (CZE University of Defence) and with Vyskov Air Museum. The premises of Vyskov Air Museum also created inspiring outdoors background for training the detection procedures and the safe transport of discovered radioactive sources to secure environment.

The students were engaged in the instructions, asking excellent questions, and found the field exercises valuable to gain hands-on experience using radiation detection equipment. They appreciated the extensive knowledge of the NNSA instructors (Mr. Richard MAURER, Mr. Michael MAZUR, Mr. James BUTLER and Mr. Kevin ROLFE) and their willingness to share experience.

JCBRN Defence COE offers NNSA courses since 2013. Currently there are four courses available:

- **OPS-NC-2008 I-RAPTER Basic Course;**
- **OPS-NC-3009 I-RAPTER Advanced Course;**
- **OPS-NC-3012 I-RCM (International Radiological Consequence Management Training) Course;**
- **OPS-NC-2011 I-MED (International Medical Management of Radiation Injuries) Course.**

Find more at our Training and Education Portal.

Author: CPT Gorazd STERGAR (SVN-A)
Photos: WO Petr MOHNACS (CZE-A)

EVALUATION PROCESS AS PART OF THE SYSTEMS APPROACH TO TRAINING (SAT)

Part 1 – Overview

Is the training audience right for organized course?
Have all the training objectives been met?
Are the trainers using adequate training methodology?
Are safety precautions for the Live Agent Training properly implemented?

Answer of all these and other questions related to any CBRN course, residential, blended or on-line, could be found during evaluation process.
Evaluation is a systematic, continuous process to appraise the efficiency, deficiency and effectiveness of a training programme, process and product. The evaluation process also focuses on CBRN professionals (trainers/speakers) passing their knowledge, expertise and experience to the CBRN personnel (training audience-TA).

The evaluation process is an inseparable part of the military Systems Approach to Training (SAT). According to this system, training is triggered by deficiency or lack of knowledge, skills and attitudes which suggest the definition of specific training requirements. This deficiency is usually identified in a front-end analysis (as a result of job specification review, new policy, changes in organization or institutional architecture, etc.). The training requirements are then taken forward and converted into manageable training information that runs the cycle of: Analysis, Design, Development, Conduct, **Evaluation** and Validation.

Evaluations are categorized into two types: internal and external.

Internal evaluation gather internal feedback and management data from the training instructional system environment to determine if the SAT process is being properly applied in the development of the training program, the training objectives have been met, the TA receive the required training and the required training infrastructure supported the training. The internal evaluation starts at the beginning of the SAT cycle and usually closes at the end of the training provided.

External evaluation determines if the training audience can meet job performance requiremens or need any additional training. External evaluation process gathers data after the course is conducted and is done in the TA normal working environment.
Internal as well as external evaluation process involves the following phases:

1. Planning
In the Planning phase the purpose of evaluation is defined, evaluation areas are determined, the scope of evaluation is set and methodology and available resources are identified.

2. Collecting
Data collection is the process of gathering, collating and preparing data for the analyzing phase. Relevant data should come from different sources and more than one method of data collection should be used. The intent is to collect sufficient raw data to ensure successful analysis.

3. Analyzing
The analysis process transforms large volumes of raw data collected into usable findings/recommendations concerning the issue being evaluated.

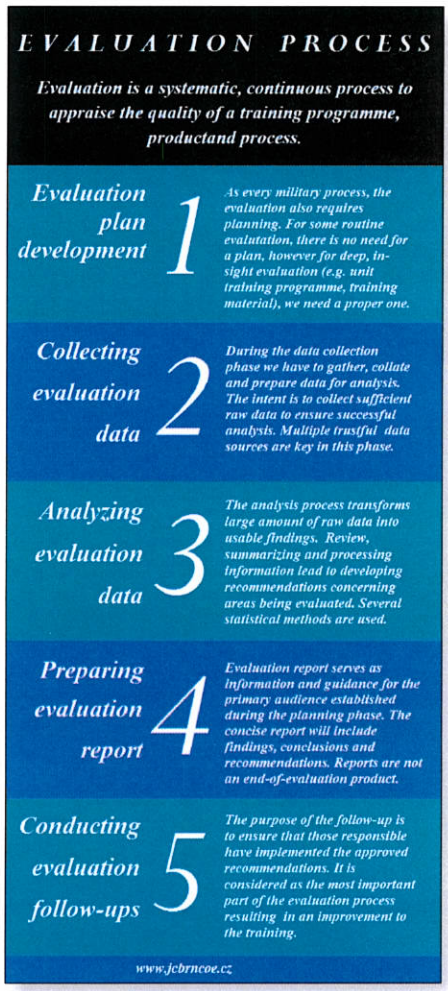
4. Reporting
The evaluation report is developed and written to capture the results of an evaluation. An evaluation report will include findings, conclusions and recommendations. The reports are an ongoing process during the life cycle of an evaluation. Reports are usually provided to decision makers and training organizers for information and guidance.

5. Follow up
During the Follow-up phase, it is determined if recommendations made as a result of the evaluation were actually implemented. This very important part of the evaluation process is often overlooked. You may read more about the individual phases in the forthcoming articles.

Evaluation efforts will determine whether:
1.training has accomplished its intended purpose;
2. If the right training audience was trained;
3. If the training process met minimum requirements of SAT;
4. training products met CBRN unit needs;
5. enough training quantity was received;
6. CBRN TA needed instructions they did not received;
7. CBRN TA received instructions they did not need.

The outcome of the evaluation process helps decision makers to make necessary adjustment in the training programme and provides valuable feedback for the instructional designer, course organizers, trainers as well as the training audience.

Author: LTC Vladimír HON (CZE-A)



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JCBRND COE involvement in Urbanisation Project, Experiment

"Inspiring quote by Albert Einstein: The only source of knowledge is experience."

Project background

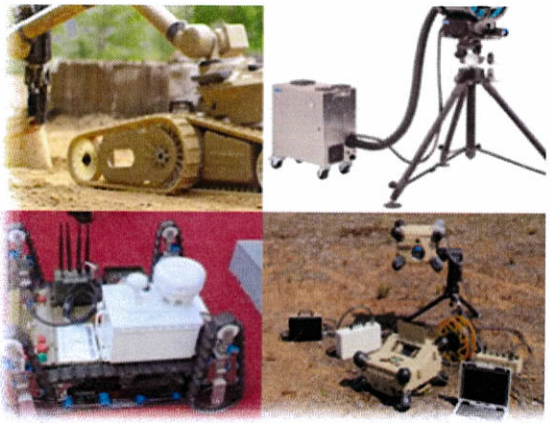
Urbanisation is and will continue to be a result of the naturally occurring growth rates of cities coupled with the increasing rate at which people migrate from rural areas to urban centres. The global urban population is projected to grow by 2.5 billion urban dwellers between 2014 and 2050, with nearly 90 per cent of the increase concentrated in Asia and Africa.

It was recognized by a number of NATO Nations during CD&E (Concept Development Experiment) engagement that urbanisation is a significant trend and should be further investigated. The main focus of the project was to articulate analytical findings for potential future NATO operations and capabilities in an urban environment out to 2035, informing Doctrine, Organization, Training, Material, Leadership, Personnel, Facilities, Interoperability. The way the Urbanisation Project uses the FFAO (Framework for Future Alliance Operations) process and complies with standards established by both the SFA (Strategic Foresight Analysis) and FFAO. In order to illustrate how urbanisation interacts with other SFA trends, ACT compared all 15 trends and ascertained that urbanisation crosses into all other trends and FFAO instability situations. Furthermore, urbanisation, in conjunction with predicted population growth and demographic shifts, implies an increased likelihood that the Alliance may need to conduct future combat or security operations in condensed urban environments.

NATO Military Committee requires the Bi-SCs to produce literature reviews on existing military and academic papers, reports, books and studies concerning urbanization and an interim report which aims to inform further work on FFAO. The aim was to produce a Conceptual Study with a focus on recommendations on future gaps and capabilities. These recommendations were refined during an Experiment, as detailed below.

JCBRND COE involvement

The Conceptual Study was the JCBRND COE's primary contribution to this project. The NATO Comprehensive Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) Defence Concept emphasizes that urbanisation and the process of global industrialisation facilitates the effective employment and proliferation of CBRN agents. Additionally, urbanisation and industrialisation markedly increase the hazards associated with accidental release of toxic industrial materials (TIM), or their deliberate release into the environment by NATO antagonist forces. Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Explosive threats will have potentially significant impact on the 2035 urban environment. These weapons may also pose a significant asymmetric threat to conventionally superior NATO forces. A NATO force will need to consider not only the CBRN threat to its own personnel, but to civilian populations in and around urban environments with which they're operating. Military leaders in the future may be responsible for preventing exposure of CBRN Weapons on civilian populations, transportation of civilians out of exposed areas, basic public order, consequence management of contamination and medical treatment for CBRN material exposure.



JCBRND COE also worked closely with Allied Command Transformation to develop CBRN related vignettes for their Limited Objective Experiment (LOE) urbanisation experiment 2035 "Acharia".

This particular type of experiment was selected to focus on gathering insights on the topic versus validating a specific idea or testing hypotheses. The experiment had a single aim of gaining insights on the implications of urbanisation from the NATO military-strategic and operational perspectives. The supporting objectives were: 1) the likely impact of a future environment on NATO and NATO operations, and 2) what NATO might do in response. The vignettes framing the discussion were derived from the FFAO instability situations of natural disaster, mass migration, and megacity turmoil. Additionally, a static 3D model of a future city, Archaria, bound the discussions.

Experiment Battle Rhythm: Participants were divided into to the three teams. Each day Facilitators briefed the teams on different instability situations (Natural Disaster, Mass Migration and Inner City Turmoil) and then lead their teams through the process. Analysts asked questions to clarify the sense of the data and data collectors recorded the process and the decisions made. In order to satisfy this design element, ACT developed a 2035 City of Archaria Exercise Country Book. The Country Book was developed through the input of SMEs from 18 COEs and individual contracted scenario developers, which also included aspects of the interim conceptual study. For the purposes of the experiment, the Country Book characterizes the future environment to include the issues related to urbanisation in both developing and developed cities. This Country Book also provided the back-drop for the vignettes and helps frame the dialogue.

ACT will conduct a 2nd high intensity Urban Seminar Warfare Urbanisation Experiment in October 2016 to examine current and future capabilities in a joint full spectrum urban operation. The experiment will inform recommendations for further Conceptual development and insights for a Joint Urban Doctrine. The JCBRND COE conducted subsequent CBRN analysis of a 2035 urban environment using M&S tools. The Archaria city model was used to align our analysis with the NATO 2035 Archaria experiment. The following CBRN scenarios represent the result

JCBRND COE involvement in Urbanisation Project, Experiment

of that analysis and were offered to the ACT for their consideration: (Scenario 1) Drones with spray dissemination devices that release nerve agent (Sarin) over an central urban area where ventilation systems of the large commercial buildings might be common.; (Scenario 2) The Universal Adversary (UA) acquired a radio thermal generator (RTG) and depleted uranium radiation shield from a navigation lighthouse. The RTG was BETA-M RTG, containing 35,000-curie strontium-90 source (5 kg). The materials were used to construct an RDD (Radiological Dispersal Device). UA intends to load the RDD with 250 kg HE onto a small truck, drive the truck into a highly transited pedistrian area and detinate it for maximum effect. (Scenario 3) UA delivered an aerosolized toxin in a densely populated low-income urban area using a concealed improvised spraying device mounted to a truck.

Conclusion:
Involvement in ACT's 2035 Archaria experiment provided the JCBRND COE's Experimental Support Section a valuable opportunity to contribute conceptual and technical expertise to NATO's effort to prepare for CBRN Response contingencies. See the concepts and vignettes incorporated in the city model 2035"Archaria" will be displayed during the Seminar Warfare Urbanisation Experiment in October 2016.

Author: Mr. Jiri Pail (CZE)

Senior Enlisted Advisor Thoughts

Fellow Comrades, Colleagues and Readers I am Master Sergeant (MSG) Dirk Müller a German CBRN Defence non- commissioned officer (NCO) and I have been tasked as an 'international' to describe my role in the COE and also to describe my first impressions of life here.
Before I moved to the Czech Republic and the COE I was an instructor at the CBRN Defence, Safety and Environmental Protection School (CDSEP) in Sonthofen for several years, specializing in reconnaissance and decontamination.
Since January 2016 I have been the Operation Warrant Officer (OpsWO) in the Reachback Section (RBS). In the RBS, I assist the Operation Officer in all aspects of Reachback Element (RBE) procedures and I am the Request for Information (RFI) Manager for the RBS. I also work closely with our RBS Database Manager and I am responsible for all of the equipment in the Operation Room.
As I mentioned, my primary role is as the OpsWO, but I have additional tasks. I support the COE Deputy Director in German national business and in this context I am acting as the national Command Sergeant Major. Furthermore, I am the NCO for our international community in the COE. As you can imagine, my position here is not only varied, but interesting as well: it may not always be easy, but an NCO needs challenges!
When I arrived in Moravia and specifically at the COE, I was really surprised by what I found and my first reaction was that it was going to be difficult to survive without any Czech language skills. To help me to meet this challenge, however I received and I still receive really good support from all my comrades. The COE has an outstanding NCO corps and overall there is an excellent working environment. It is not easy being the only international NCO, but everyone has been only too willing to help me and it has made no difference whether I have asked a Colonel, a Senior officer, an Officer or a NCO for help.
To sum up, I do not regret my decision to move here in the COE, I am looking forward to my remaining time here and I really appreciate everyone's contribution to a very real sense of belonging and of comradeship.

Author: MSG Dirk MÜLLER (DEU)

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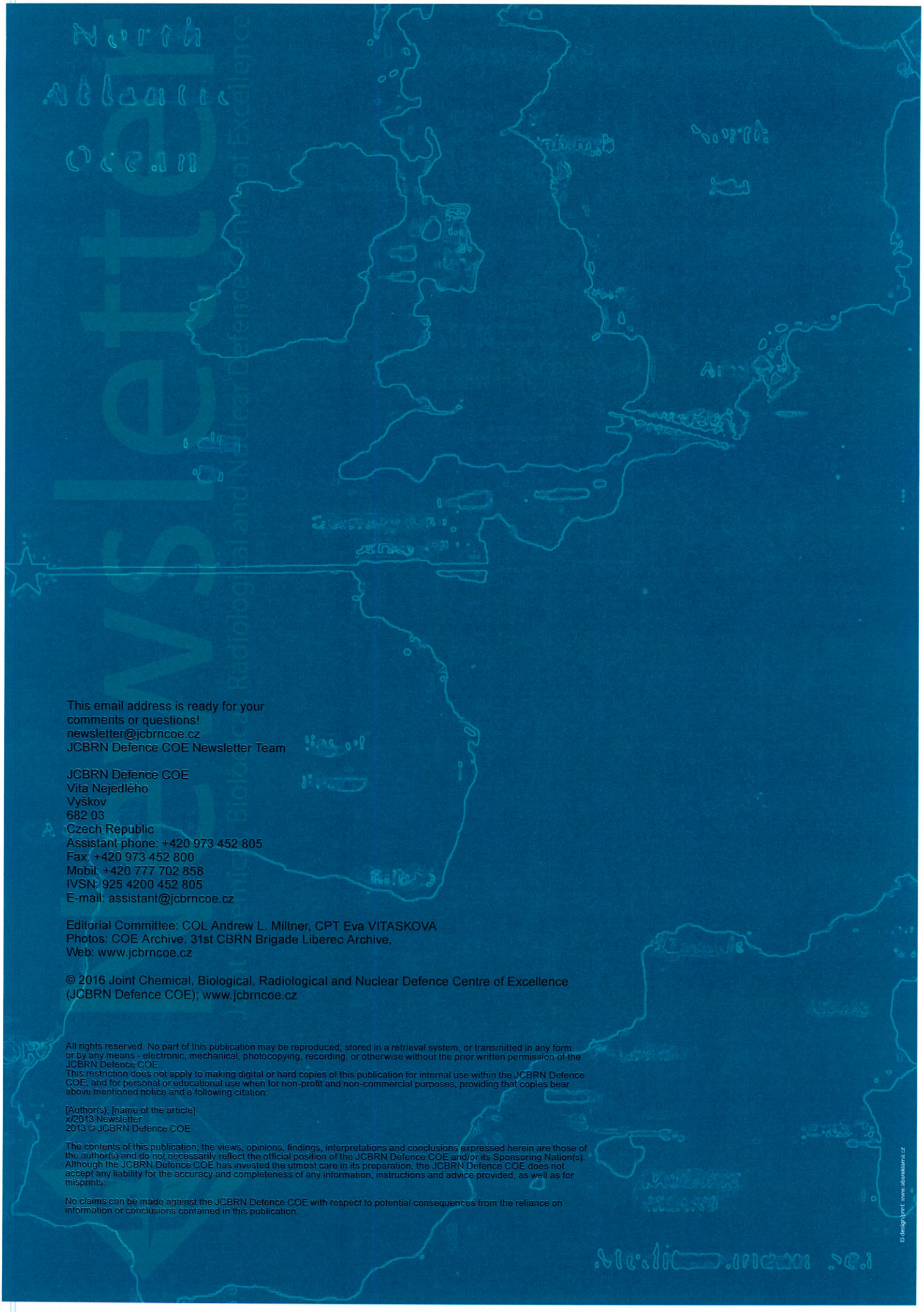
CLEAN CARE 2016

- Over 200 attendees from 7 countries (BEL, CAN, CZE, DEU, FRA, UK, USA) participated in the NATO multinational exercise Clean Care 2016 that was conducted at the military training area Tisá from 19-23 September 2016.



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