NRF 2012 LCC SUBORDINATE COMMANDERS' CONFERENCE II/11,08 Dec 2011

Constantinos PROKIDIS
OF-4 (HE-A)
G5/DEEP OPS/PLANS

HQ NDC-GR hosted the second LCC Subordinate Commanders' Conference II/11 on 8 December 2011. The main focus of this activity was to set the scene for NRF 2012 stand by phase in terms of outlining LCC COM's No3 directive and 2012 training events as well as to identify deployment procedures and priorities.

Subordinate Commanders were briefed on NRF Directive No 3; NDC-GR 2012 training activities; Readiness and Reporting system for NRF 2012; and LCC HQ deployment plan.

Subsequently, NDC-GR COM was briefed by the subordinate Commanders on their units' current status as well as on their observations during national and NRF preparation phases.

After all units' representatives had presented their preparation status, NDC-GR COM opened the floor for discussion, which was focused mainly on LCC HQ involvement in 2012 units' training activities as well as deficiencies that were observed during LCC forces' certification. Participants agreed that in order to retain and enhance operational efficiency, timely and accurate reporting is of paramount importance, thereby rendering LCC capable of assessing LCC forces' status at any given time throughout the stand by phase. Furthermore, subordinate Commanders were encouraged to seize every opportunity presented to take part in next year's activities, so as to ensure that the entire LCC package maintains a high level of interoperability.

Finally, NDC-GR COM stressed the need to preserve and improve the current level of preparation, thanked the subordinate Commanders for their attendance and announced his intention to host the next Subordinate Commanders' Conference before the end of June 2012.

The successful conference with the subordinate Commanders was concluded with a lunch hosted by the Commander NDC-GR at the Officers' Club where the subjects discussed were focused again in the stand-by phase and the cohesion that needs to be sustained among NDC-GR and the subordinate formation and units. Before leaving the Officers Club, the Commander NDC-GR wished the participants a safe trip home and encouraged them to take advantage of their presence in Thessaloniki and have a sight tour of the city.

TAKING OVER COMMANDER'S ORDER OF THE DAY C' Army Corps/NDC-GR 8 NOVEMBER 2011

Officers, Non-commissioned Officers, Soldiers and Civilian Personnel of C' Army Corps and NATO Deployable Corps Greece.

It is with great honour, pride and sense of responsibility, that today I assume command, of C' Army Corps and NATO Deployable Corps Greece, in accordance to the Hellenic Governmental Foreign Affairs and Defence Council decision.

I bow with respect before the war flags and the immortal dead of the Army Corps honouring the heroes who fell loyal to their oath at the battlefields and the honour for the country.

I have complete awareness of the responsibilities and the duties emanating from the mission assigned to me. At the same time I consider myself blissful, because the political and military authorities of my country entrusted to me the command of a region with brilliant history, great offer to the Nation, acknowledged to the moral sense of the citizens of Thessaloniki, as well as all Greeks.

Succeeding the renowned General Michail Kostarakos, I thank him for his valuable service, offered to the Corps and NDC-GR and I wish him, expressing the thoughts of all of us, personal and family happiness and good luck to his new duties as Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff. I would also like to assure him that we will continue his work and we will strain every possible attempt to preserve and improve the acquired one.

The Geostrategic environment, characterised by the tensions of new balances, the flux and the rapidly evolving challenges of security, create arguable concern and demand continuous and high level readiness. These conditions lead us to careful military preparation with the necessary adjustments demanded by the modern operational reality where jointness and digital technology rule.

Lieutenant General Georgios Basiakoulis
HE ARMY
Commander NDC - GR

Lieutenant General Georgios Basiakoulis is the Commander of C'Corps/NDC-GR and assumed his duties on 08 Nov 2011.

He was born in Florina in November 1957. He entered the Hellenic Military Academy in 1975 and graduated as Artillery Second Lieutenant in July 1979.

He graduated successfully from all the basic and advanced Artillery Schools, the Hellenic Army War College and the Hellenic National Defense College.

During his military career he served as Battery Commander, Artillery Battalion Commander and as Staff Officer in Artillery Units and Commands. Furthermore he served as Staff Officer in the Defense Policy Directorate of the Hellenic National Defense General Staff (HNDGS), as Action Officer in the Intelligence Section of the Military Staff of the Western European Union in Brussels, and as a National Liaison Representative in the Supreme Allied Command Transformation – SACT in Norfolk, Virginia.

As flag officer, he served as the Director of the HNDGS Crisis Management Directorate, as Commander of the Artillery School and Commander of the Hellenic Military Academy.

He has been awarded with all distinctions and medals anticipated for his rank.

He speaks English.

Lieutenant General Georgios Basiakoulis is married and has two sons.

C' Army Corps and NATO Deployable Corps Greece have the capability to play key role. It has obtained the necessary abilities and it has been evaluated with success, a fact that enables it to assume any mission assigned.

The demands and challenges that we are summoned up to face, such as the ultimate one of the participation to the NRF of NATO as Command of Land Forces in 2012, rise up our duties. Nonetheless with the help of God and the efforts of all our personnel we will accomplish our mission, which is definitely particularly difficult.

I am totally convinced that the role of human factor will continue to be principal and dominant at the modern battle space, where moral, fortitude, integrity and physical endurance, patience, cooperation, professional and scientific brilliance and above all conscious discipline are needed.

With these thoughts I hereby address the most heartfelt thanks together with my appreciation to the trusted staff officers of Greece and allied countries, for what they have offered, but I would like to thank them beforehand for what they are about to offer, with the management of their experience, their knowledge and their high professionalism. Your work and the results of your efforts are not restricted within the borders of the Corps. They are well known by the Armed Forces of our country, as well as the countries that we have the honour to host their Staff Officers and generally known by the Alliance.

I will be by your side at your every action, idea and effort that will contribute to the increase of operational ability and readiness of the Army Corps and NDC-GR and also to other matters concerning our personnel.

Within the framework of my fair command, I commit myself to the Constitution, the Laws and the military regulations, demanding the same from every one of you. I challenge you to demonstrate high sense of responsibility, faith and devotion to the democratic ideas, strict adherence to military duty, conscientious discipline, paternal affection and staff care with respect to human dignity.

At this point allow me to thank the authorities and citizens of our beautiful Thessaloniki, which surround us with love and support our every effort. I know that C Army Corps is linked over time with bonds of friendship and trust with the city and the people of Thessaloniki. I promise that these bonds will be continued and promoted.

Let God bless us, in our every effort

Lieutenant General Georgios Basiakoulis
Commander C' Coprs and NDC – GR

NDC-GR 7th PLENARY CONFERENCE, 07 Dec 2011

Anastasios ALEXIADIS
OF-4 (HE – A)
G1/Chief Man&Aug

On the 7th of December, the annual plenary conference of the HQ (7th Plenary Conference) was held in "Alexander the Great" conference room of NDC-GR HQ. The aim of the conference was the approval of the reorganization of the HQ as well as the invitation to NATO members to join NDC-GR roster.

This year, apart from the HQ troop contributing countries, we had the Military Attaches from Albania and the United States of America representing their countries in the conference.

The conference began with a warm welcome from the Commander of NDC-GR Lieutenant General Georgios Basiakoulis who welcomed all attendees and expressed his feeling that, after the certification received during 2011, the HQ is ready to take over the forthcoming NRF commitment and manage this challenge for 2012. He also mentioned that there is space for new ideas and contributions either they will come through this conference or not. Commander thanked Albania for giving the opportunity to the HQ to raise one more flag and participating to the NDC-GR with one Staff Officer and stated that we are ready to accept more nations, ideas and flags. Concluding, COM NDC-GR thanked all participants for their attendance and wished them a productive meeting with fruitful results.

Major General Nikolaos Tamouridis, COS of NDC-GR and chairman of the conference, in his opening, welcomed all the participants on behalf of the Framework Nation and the HQ NDC-GR staff, expressing his hope in the 7th Plenary Conference's fruitfulness and productivity.

Before the presentation of the reorganization of NDC-GR, short briefings about HQ NDC-GR's training plan and budget were delivered by the respective Branches to the conference participants.

The discussion regarding the NDC-GR reorganization focused mainly in MOCC, G3, G5 and FCOORD of the HQ resulting to the approval of the proposed changes.

In addition, the Albanian representative stated his country's decision to participate to the HQ with 1 SO from 2012 in G7 Branch. Furthermore the American representative, answering the invitation of COM NDC-GR, said that USA will offer its assistance in the HQ by providing expert officers during exercises and he stated that he is working to find a way for a permanent participation in NDC-GR.

The conference concluded with a lunch that was hosted in the Commander's room in the Officer's Club where the participants had the opportunity to exchange opinions and ideas in a warm and relaxed environment.

In conclusion, it is worth mentioning that the conference was a big success not only by establishing a more effective organizational structure in NDC-GR but also by having the opportunity to raise one more flag in the HQ's poles.

LCC MAIN SUPPORT CONFERENCE, 06 Dec 2011

Nikolaos PAPAKYRIDIS
OF - 2 (HE - A)
G-4 Mov Ops/Plans SO1

Following the Joint Force Command's Brunssum (JFCBS) Initial Logistics Planning Conference (ILPC), the Land Component Command Initial Support Conference (LCC-ISC) and the Joint Force Command's Brunssum (JFCBS) Main Logistics Planning Conference (MLPC), a LCC-MSC has been convened in NDC-GR on 6 Dec 2011.

The aim of the conference was to finalize all the logistics support issues/requirements identified at the previous meetings, to seek further information/requirements from those Nations not participating in the MLPC and to initiate the development of Mutual Support Arrangements among Nations.

The Conference was held at "Alexander the Great" conference room and was chaired by BGEN (GRC-A) Kalogeropoulos Dimitrios, DCOS SPT of HQ NDC-GR.

A total of 12 entities were represented at the Conference: Besides NDC-GR, delegates from HNDGS, HAGS, JFCBS, JLSG, 71 GRC A/M BDE, III GRC CSS BDE and 5 TCNs (BGR, ESP, FRA, ROU and TUR) were present.

The Conference provided the forum for an open discussion among the participants and it was obvious that progress has been achieved in several topics, while a clear delineation of responsibilities was finally described.

JFCBS' FLPC and a subsequent LCC-FSC might be conducted, depending on National commitments for additional forces to NRF 2012 Logistic Structure or need for Technical Agreements (TA) coordination.

HANDING OVER COMMANDER'S ORDER OF THE DAY
C' Army Corps/NDC-GR
8 NOVEMBER 2011

Officers, Non-commissioned Officers, Soldiers and Civilian Personnel of C'Army Corps and NDC-GR.

According to Governmental Foreign Affairs and Defence Council's decision, I hand over today the Command of C' Army Corps and NDC-GR to Lieutenant General George Basiakoulis.

C' Army Corps is a Formation of long tradition, having participated in the struggles of the Nation for freedom, while its transformation to a NATO Headquarters, enables it to play a substantial role in the modern volatile geostrategic environment, demonstrating this way, the contribution of our country to the initiatives of the international community for peace and security.

I consider myself fortunate, because during my command, NDC-GR has achieved two significant goals:

- Firstly the successful Evaluation of Combat Readiness (CREVAL) that certified the headquarters capability to undertake any mission as high readiness Corps.

- Secondly during the preparation and execution of the exercise «Brilliant Ledger 11» you succeeded in achieving excellent results over the evaluation, certifying the Headquarter as combat ready to assume any NRF mission as Land Component Command in year 2012.

During my tour as your Commander, I tried with all my powers based on your outstanding support, to continue the great work done by our successful predecessors, whose hard efforts and ethos have brought our Headquarters to the highest standards.

I am quite convinced that NDC-GR will be a great success in the future. Honour, courage and devotion will provide the necessary guidance to accomplish your mission. During my tour as your Commander, the accomplishment of our mission in accordance with military laws and regulations was my main concern. Thanks to you I feel proud and

happy and I believe that you have the potential of accomplishing any mission. I wish to you and your families' health and happiness.

To your new Commander I wish from the bottom of my heart success at his mission especially the NRF responsibility for 2012 but also your every day national and international business.

In addition, I would like to thank the authorities and the institutions of the city of Thessaloniki for their exceptional collaboration and support. I feel also deeply obliged to thank the citizens of the city for the love and respect with which they embrace C' Army Corps and NDC-GR.

May God bless you in your future endeavours.

General Mikhail Kostarakos
Chief of Defence

General Mickail KOSTA
Lieutenant General Georgios K

NRF 2012 MAIN ENGINEER PLANNING CONFERENCE, 29 - 30 Nov 2011

Alexandros GEORGIADIS
OF-4 (HE A)
ENG Chief Ops/Plans

The NRF 2012 Main Engineer Planning Conference, which was organized by JFC BS and it was hosted in NDC-GR premises from 29 to 30 Nov 2011, was completed with great success.

The scope of the conference was to allow the Engineer Key Players, from Strategic to Tactical level, to establish a face to face contact and discuss Engineer related issues such as the NRF 2012 Engineer Directive, Engineer capabilities with respect to the Combined Joint Statement of Requirements (CJSOR), the development of documentation to acquire funding for urgent requirements, and way-ahead discussions for the Standby period in 2012.

Engineer personnel from SHAPE, JFC BS, JFC NP, FC HQ HD, NDC-GR, ACC, ARRC (which is nominated as LCC in NRF 2013), MILENGCOE, NAMSA, C' Coprs and 71 A/M ENG Coy participated in the conference.

NDC-GR Chief of Staff, accompanied with all the DCOSs, addressed a warm welcome to all the participants and wished that Engineer conference to be very useful and fruitful.

The subjects of the 1st day of the conference were related with the Engineer structure and capabilities of NRF 2012 package. The representative of JFC BS/RD/Engineer Branch delivered a brief regarding the Engineer structure and capabilities in operational level. Additionally, the representatives of FC HQ HD (DJSE), NDC-GR, ACC and JLSG presented the Engineer structure and capabilities at the tactical level.

Very interesting was the NAMSA briefing regarding the available support which NAMSA can provide to Component Commands (CCs) through the Capability Package 0156. Very useful also was the Force Protection briefing in which lessons indentified from ISAF (Afghanistan) were included.

The 2nd day of the conference was focused on the NRF 2012 Planning, Execution and Future issues and it was divided in two parts.

In the first part, the Engineer personnel of JFC BS delivered a briefing regarding the JFC BS OPLAN for the exercise "STEADFAST JUNCTURE 2011" (SFJE 11) and mainly for the Annexx EE. Also, they presented the NRF 2012 Engineer Directive, in which the Battle Rhythm, Boards & Working Groups, Reports & Returns etc. were included. Finally, the Engineer point of view outcomes from exercise "SFJE 11", Lessons Learned and Lessons Identified were discussed.

The last part of the 2nd day was covered by briefings regarding the Crisis Response Operation Urgent Requirement (CUR) process and the New NATO Command Structure.

Apart from the main body of the conference, some social events took place in the Officers Club. An ice-breaker was organized at the evening of 28th Nov 2011 so as the participants to be able to know each other and on the evening of 29th Nov 2011 the Official Conference Dinner took place.

Conclusively, the conference was very useful and fruitful. It was a great opportunity for the participants to have a face to face contact, to discuss a lot of Engineer issues and to identify areas that need to be further staffed. After the conference, all the participants had a common and clear picture regarding the latest Engineer issues.

THE TRACK TOWARDS NRF 12 CERTIFICATION / VALIDATION

Odysseas PAPAEVAGELOU
OF – 3 (HE – A)
G7/SO Coord/Eval

After Greek government's decision for NDC-GR to participate as the Land Component Command (LCC) for the NRF 2012, this year was a period full of activities for the NDC-GR.

NRF's mission is to provide a rapid demonstration of force and the early establishment of NATO military presence in support of an Article 5 or Crisis Response Operation. In order to achieve this goal, NDC-GR had to schedule, conduct and participate in several activities within NATO environment. The aim of these activities was the certification and validation of the NDC-GR and subordinate units as the LCC for the NRF 2012.

The first major step was the Combat Readiness Evaluation (CREVAL). A team from Force Command Madrit (FCMD) with monitors from SHAPE OPD evaluated the HQ at the preparedness and the demonstration of the documentation on the forthcoming NRF. The evaluation took place in the peacetime location of NDC-GR (Thessaloniki) from 20 till 23 June 2011and during this 1296 criteria were evaluated, in 5 areas (Policy, Operations, Logistics, CIS and Administration). The result was "**EXCELLENT**". Following this result, NDC-GR HQ was certified as "**COMBAT PREPARED**".

The next challenge was exercise "Brilliant Ledger 11". It was the evaluation-certification exercise for the whole NRF 2012 LCC package. The overall aim of "BRLR 11" was to train and exercise C2 procedures, validating the interoperability and the combat readiness of the NRF 2012 Land Forces package and also to provide the opportunity to COM NDC-GR to confirm COM JFC BS that the Land Forces package NRF 2012 has reached the desired level of proficiency and interoperability prior to operational level training exercise. Approximately 1000 persons participated while the total allied personnel were 181 officers and NCO's. The Evaluation was conducted by a team of evaluators from other NATO HQs and HAGS under the direction of the SHAPE OPD Director. All the Areas were examined for 6 days according to AFS Volume VII and the results were **excellent**. After this, NDC-GR demonstrated its ability to fulfill all its obligations deriving from its NRF 2012 commitment.

The final step was exercise "STEADFAST JUNCTURE 11". It was a 2-level Deployable Forces (DF) exercise for a NATO-led Crisis Response Operation (CRO), including Peace Support and Humanitarian Assistance, to exercise JFC Brunssum and FC Heidelberg Deployable Joint Staff Element (DJSE) along with their NRF 2012 Component Commands using the extant infrastructure of the NATO Command Structure (NCS) and to support the evaluation and allow the certification of NRF 2012. HQ NDC-GR, LCC, was the Land Training Audience. The total manning of the exercise was 882 persons. Among them, 474 belonged to the HQ and its units, while 408 were external participants. The total allied personnel were 93 persons, approximately 11% of the total strength.

The evaluation was conducted by an Evaluation Group consisted of 3 Staff Officers headed by the DIREVAL (OPD). The evaluation was applied to the Joint and Component level (NRF 2012 CC HQs) in their interaction with the Joint HQ and other CCs. During "SFJE 11", 62 general criteria were examined related to the following categories:

- Processes and Procedures;
- Liaison Officers;
- Situational Awareness;
- Command and Control;
- Intelligence;
- LOGISTICS;
- Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance;
- Targeting;
- Air Defense.

The results of this evaluation for the LCC were once more **"Excellent"**.

In this article only the major steps were mentioned on the track towards NRF 12 certification/validation. It is worth to be kept in mind that before and between these major steps, hundreds of people spent thousands of hours in meetings, conferences, workshops and whatever was needed in order to be achieved the excellent grade as a result of the evaluation-certification of the NDC-GR as NRF 2012LCC which made every one in this HQ proud of a job well done.

RAKOS is handing over.
BASIAKOULIS is taking over.

NATO DEPLOYABLE CORPS-GREECE HQ 6th ANNIVERSARY

Panagiotis ANDREADIS
OF – 4 (HE A)
PAO/MEDIA OPS

On 29th of September 2011 NDC – GR celebrated its 6th anniversary. In 2005 the North Atlantic Council (NAC) has approved the selection of the HQ NDC – GR as a NATO HQ of Force of Lower Readiness (Land) after a long period of evaluations, since August 2001 that the HQ was initially activated.

During the celebration a flag hoisting ceremony took place in the "PEDION AREOS" camp and a reception, hosted by the HQ Commander, Lt Gen KOSTARAKOS Mikhail, at the Thessaloniki Officer's Club where all the HQ personnel were invited.

In the aforementioned reception COM NDC – GR mentioned the so far successes of the Headquarters through consecutive exercises and evaluations in order to reach the necessary criteria and finally achieve the "Combat Ready" status. He also praised all the personnel that served and serve at the HQ and contributed to these achievements, coming from all different nationalities of the Ally. Finally, he referred to the future challenges that the HQ is facing by taking overthe Land Component Command (LCC) of the NATO Response Force (NRF) for the year 2012 and he expressed his certainty for the successful accomplishment of the mission.

Shortly after the event, exercises "BRILLIANT LEDGER 11" and "STEADFAST JUNCTURE 11" confirmed the COM's words by successfully fulfilling the criteria set by the Alliance.

NDC – GR IMPORTANT DATES

August 2001: *NDC – GR activation*
December 2003*: Initial Operational Capability*
August 2004 *:Activation as a NATO Military HQ*
September 2005*: NDC - GR confirmed by North Atlantic Council as a NATO FLR HQ [Force of Lower Readiness (Land)]*
June 2008 *: HQ passed The Combat Readiness Evaluation (CREVAL)*
October 2009*: HQ was offered for Land Component Command for NRF 2012*
June 2010*: Start of prep aration for NRF 2012*
June 2011*: Successful CREVAL*
October-November 2011*: Successful evaluation for NRF2012*
Year 2012: *NDC – GR* undertakes the role of Land Component Command (LCC) for the NRF 2012

In terms of numbers the deployed equipment included:

- 16 light vehicles
- 15 trucks
- 5 forklift trucks
- 450 tents
- 20.000m^2 camouflage nets
- 34 general purpose containers
- 31 specialized containers
- 12 generators
- 600m HESCO blocks

The above-mentioned equipment and installations enabled the autonomous function of the HQ in terms of water, food and power supply, along with the hygiene and sheltering needs and the security requirements.

Except for the deployment and the Real Life Support, HQ Spt Group covered the policing area through its MP section and the assigned MP Coy.

Last but not least, the Staff & Personnel support section, as part of the PCP, dealt with the critical area of both the personnel and their families' issues.

EXERCISES “BRLR11” - “SFJE11”: A CHALLENGE FOR HQ SUPPORT

Ioannis GALANIS
OF – 3 (HE – A)
MP SO OPS/PLANS

The support, of the Greek and allied participants, to the exercises “Brilliant Ledger 11” and “Steadfast Juncture 11” has been a great challenge, to which HQ Spt Branch responded in the best way. The branch passed to its operational formation, as a HQ Spt Group, utilizing its sections and organic units to reach its full operational capability.

The functional areas were covered by the respective sections:

- Ops/Plans Deployment
- Admin & Logistics (RLS)
- Staff & Personnel support
- Military Police

A land tactical deployment took place, supported by the Spt BN and the camp that was set exceeded the initial expectations.

The HQ was deployed using innovative equipment, which covered the whole spectrum of Real Life Support needs such as:

- New type tents for the OPSCEN supported by air tubes and not metallic frame.
- Water drilling equipment and water purification system.
- Meals preparation facility consisted of 4 interconnected - custom made containers. (storage, food preparation, cooking and offering)
- Mobile hygiene installations (containers) including bathrooms, toilets and laundry.
- Generators with an output power ability of 8 KwA to 500 KwA
- Self powered light towers
- Air conditioning equipment
- Perimetric protective wall constructed of HESCO blocks.

Water purification system

Self service

Kitchen facilities

EXERCISE “BRILLIANT LEDGER 11”

Georgios PAPAZACHARIOU
LTC (HE A)
G7 CHIEF EXERCISE

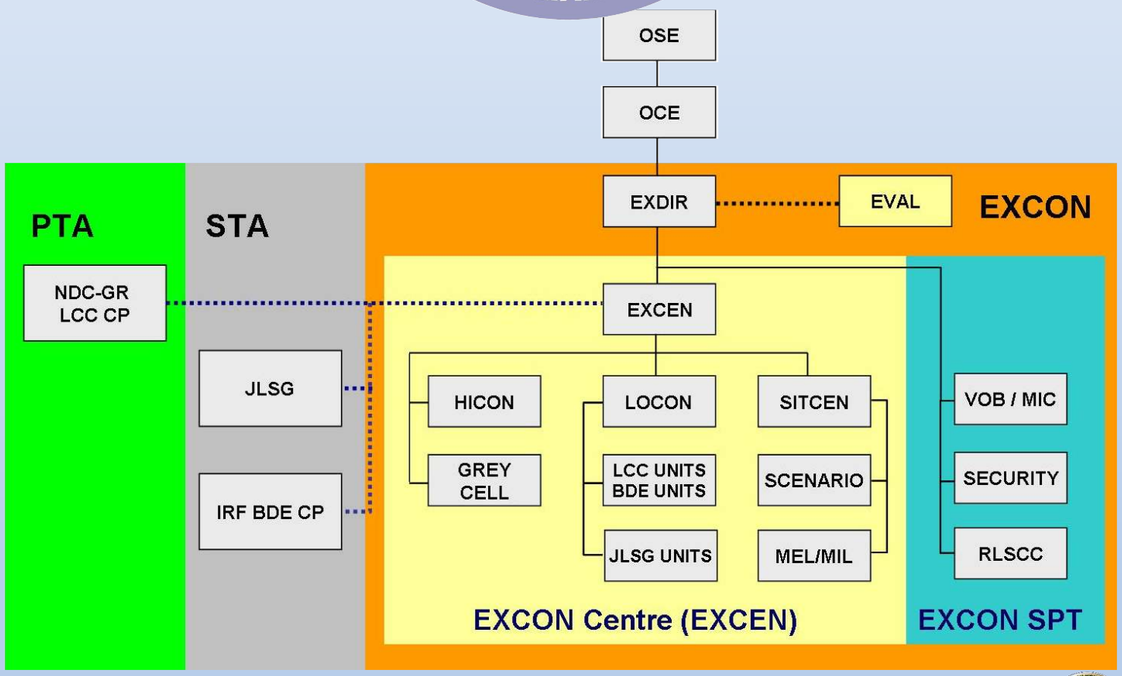
Exercise "BRILLIANT LEDGER 11" (BRLR 11) was conducted from 3 to 14 October 2011 in "PROKOPIDI" Camp in Assyros(25 Km NE of Thessaloniki). It was the evaluation-certification exercise for the whole NRF 2012 LCC package.

Aim

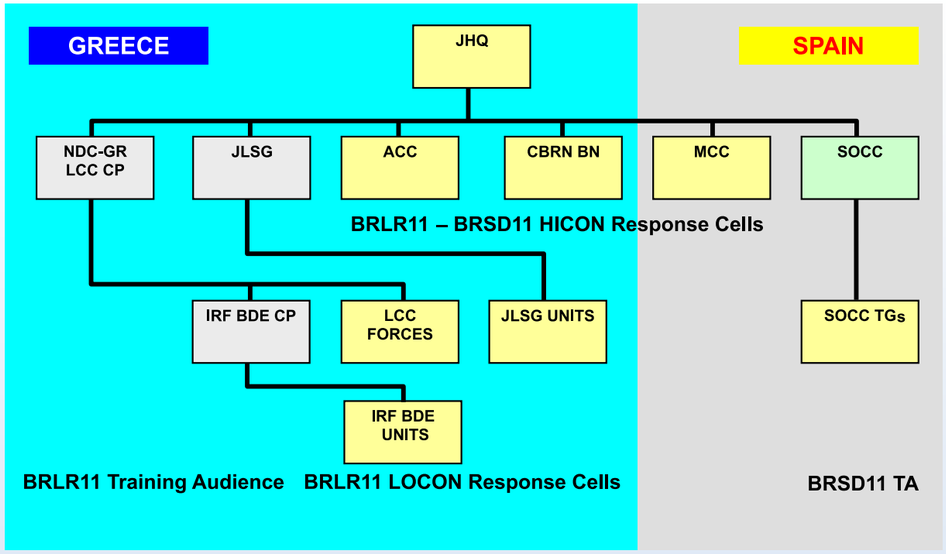
The overall aim of “BRLR 11” was to train and exercise C2 procedures validating the interoperability and the combat readiness of the NRF 2012 Land Forces package and also to provide the opportunity to COM NDC-GR to confirm COM JFC BS that the Land Forces package NRF 2012 has reached the desired level of proficiency and interoperability prior to operational level training exercise. It was a MEL/MIL driven training based on the scenario (CERASIA II) and the LCC OPLAN that was produced also for "STEADFAST JUNCTURE" exercise.

Exercise structure

HQ NDC-GR, LCC, was the primary Training Audience and the JLSG and the 71st AMB Bde (IRF Bde), were the Secondary Training Audience. The Exercise Control Centre coordinated the whole exercise with a high control element representing the JFC BS. “BRLR 11” was conducted in parallel with Ex "BRILLIANT SWORD 11", which was the SOCC validation exercise in Spain. The two exercises shared a common HICON located in Assyros.



Response Cells Structure/Relation



Participation

The Forward CP was fully manned with the presence of all the augmentees as a Primary Training Audience (PTA). FC HEIDELBERG JLSG and 71st GRC AM BDE (IRF BDE) were present with full capability CPs as Secondary Training Audience (STA). All the LCC and the IRF BDE subordinate units were present with Response Cells.

ENGINEERS DURING EXERCISES "BRLR 11" AND "SFJE 11"

Christos AGGELIDIS
OF – 2 (HE A)
SO PLANS/OPS

The Engineer works in "PROKOPIDI" Camp were of high importance for the successful execution of the Exercises BRLR 11 and SFJE 11.

Earthmoving machines from the 723 Eng Bn (dedicated unit to NDC-GR belonging to ENG Brigade) deployed early in July 2011 for the shaping of the exercise area.To accomplish the tasks, 8500tn of gravel and 66m^3 of cement were used, as well as a large variety of concrete products. Main concern to this effort was not to cause damage to the flora.

The ENG works were consisted of the following:

- Earth leveling works and site rehabilitation in the EXCON Area along with the creation of a new one for the SPT BN to full fill its needs.
- Shaping of the existing sites like the recreation area, the dining area, the vehicle service area and the accommodation area with a capacity of 650 paxs.
- Construction of a 2.000 sq meters new area for exhibition purposes, where a number of assets were demonstrated, a new parking area for civilian cars and several new roads and small accesses for security reasons.
- Additionally to the all aforementioned shaping works, two absorbent pits were constructed for the needs of the SPT BN and accommodation areas, and one cement base for the cooking facilities.

The whole amount of the works is considered a real endeavour for the Engineers and very demanding task taking into account the hot weather conditions during that time. The Engineers did their best to this effort and are ready to support the NDC-GR everywhere and under any condition.

Execution

During the first day of the exercise the STARTEX briefing took place in the HQ premises. After that a four-days Warm-up for the TA and EXCON training for the RC took place prior the Execution Phase (Phase IIIB). The execution phase was tense with lots of incidents that covered the situations that might occur to a deployed HQ.

Evaluation

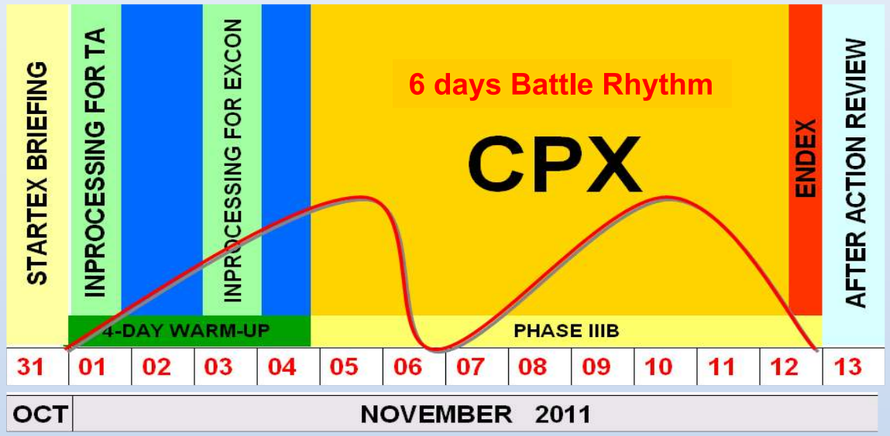
The evaluation was conducted by an Evaluation Group consisted of 3 SOs headed by the DIREVAL (OPD). The evaluation was applied to the Joint and Component level (NRF 2012 CC HQs) in their interaction with the Joint HQ and other CCs. During "SFJE 11", 62 general criteria were examined. The results of this evaluation for the LCC were excellent.

Support

Real life support for "SFJE 11" was more than adequate. There was available accommodation, dinning, medical, hygiene, laundry and recreation facilities fulfilling the needs of more than 1000 personnel. This was achieved by the tremendous effort of the personnel of NDC-GR Support Bn. Also the works done from the affiliated Eng Bn for opening new roads and arranging the HQs and EXCONs areas were remarkable.

Feedback

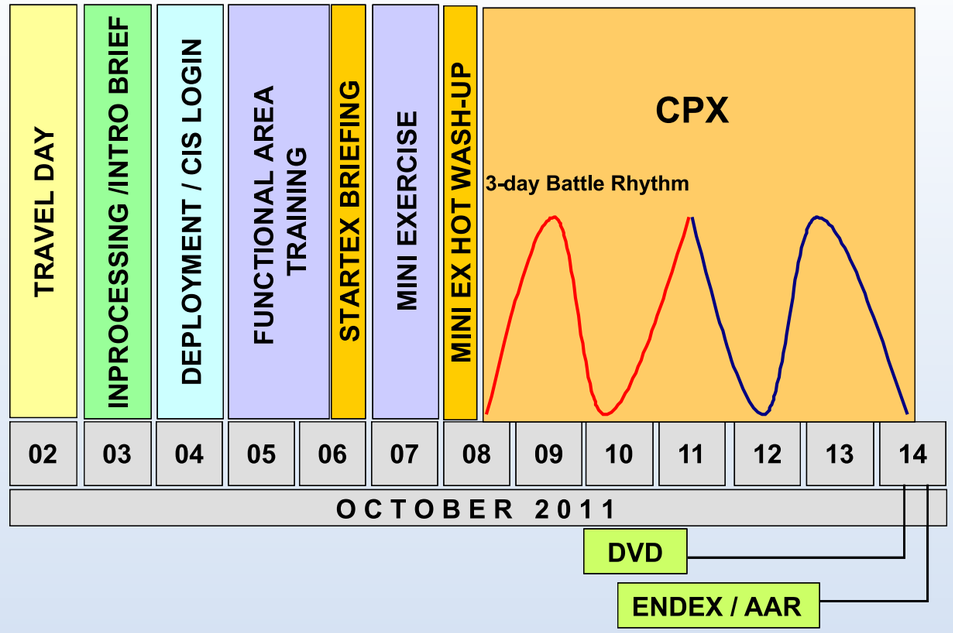
The After Action Review (AAR) was held on the 13th Nov via VTC. The Joint Commander chaired the meeting and each Commander presented a five-minute brief on his observations and recommendations. Following, the EXDIR provided amplifying comments and examples.



Execution

The Exercise was organized in two parts:

- Five and half-day integration training
- Two full three –days Battle Rhythms.



The STARTEX Brief took place in Thessaloniki Officers Club on the 6th Oct

The execution phase was tense with lots of incidents that covered the situations that might occur during a deployment.

Evaluation

The Evaluation was conducted by a team of evaluators from HAGS and FC Madrid under the direction of the SHAPE OPD Director. All the Areas were examined for 6 days according to AFS Volume VII and the results were excellent. After this NDC-GR demonstrated its ability to fulfill all its obligations deriving from its NRF 2012 commitment.

Support

Real life support for "BRLR 11" was more than adequate. There was available accommodation, dinning, medical, hygiene, laundry and recreation facilities fulfilling the needs of more than 1000 personnel. This was achieved by the tremendous effort of the personnel of NDC-GR Support Bn. Also the works done from the affiliated Eng Bn for opening new roads and arranging the HQ and EXCON areas were remarkable.

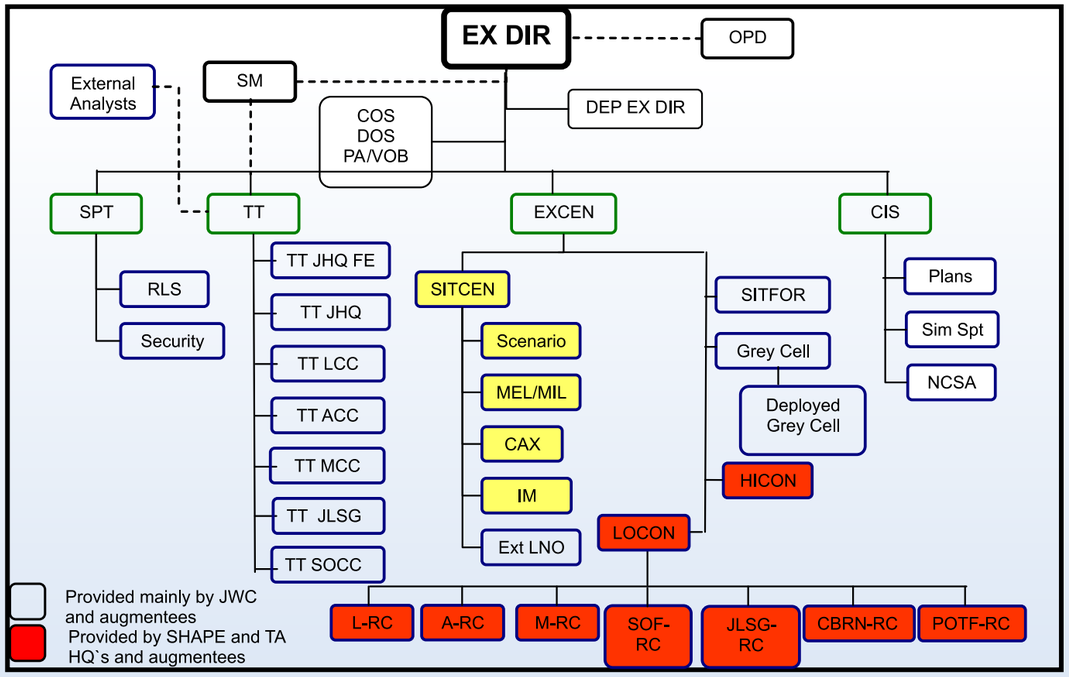
Distinguished Visitors Day

The DV Day was conducted on the 14th Oct. Chief of Defence General Giagkos Ioannis,the Chief of HAGS Lt Gen Fragoulis Fragos and the Chief of Portuguese Army General Staff Lt Gen Pinto Ramalho attended. Moreover, Consulates of the

Troop cotributing Nations were present at the event, as long as Commanders of NATO Headquarters, other Hellanic Army Hqs, former NDC-GR Commanders and local authorities.After a Brief about the Exercise, they took a tour to the Exercise area.

Feedback

The After Action Review was held on the 18th Oct. It provided a forum to discuss experience gained during the exercise by the Training Audience, highlighting activities that could be sustained or improved. The time driven delivery arrangement of the observations will ensure that even minor details will be kept.



SITCEN staff was responsible for maintaining situational awareness on the “ground truth” of exercise play, to include the simulation and the MEL/MIL, as well as the perception of the Training Audience. RCs represented subordinate, higher or flanking units and formations, plus other agencies and characters that had operated around the Theatre of Operations.

Locations

Phase IIIB, Operations Sub-Phase, was a CPX/Computer Assisted Exercise (CAX) and was executed at multiple locations:

- JHQ Brunssum for JHQ Main (including CBRN JAT);
- Pabrade (LTU) for JHQ FE and JLSG;
- Thessaloniki (GRE) for LCC;
- Kalkar (GER) for ACC;
- SFN HQ Naples (ITA) for MCC;
- Alicante (ESP) for SOCC and
- JWC Ulsnes (NOR) for EXCON HQ including all Response Cells

Participation

The Forward CP was fully manned with the presence of the HQs personnel and a number of 51 augmentees. In addition, in the exercise location were deployed 15 members of the Deployable Communication Module/2nd NATO Signal Battalion (DCM/2NSB) from Naples in order to establish and assure the HQs satellite connection with NATO and 5 SOs from the other CCs as Liaison Officers (LOs). Moreover, NDC-GR had dispatched:

- 5 SOs as LOs to JFC in Brunssum, Holland.
- 4 SOs, 2 to the Com of JFC Brunssum, 1 to Joint Logistic Support Group (JLSG) and 1 in the Forward Element (FE) which were deployed in Pabrades, Lithuania.
- 3 SOs as LOs to the Air Component Command (ACC) in Kalkar, Germany.
- 1 SO as LO to the Special Operations Component Command (SOCC) in Alikante, Spain.
- 1 SO as LO to the Maritime Component Command (MCC) in Naples, Italy.
- 23 SOs (4 from NDC-GR, 18 from 71 A/M BDE and 1 from 1st AA/V BDE to JWC in Stavanger, Norway as the LCC Response Cell.

EXERCISE "STEADFAST JUNCTURE 11"

Nikolaos TSALAVOUTIS
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G7/SO2 EX.

Exercise "STEADFAST JUNCTURE 11" (SFJE 11) was conducted from 31 October to 12 November 2011 in "PROKOPIDI" Camp in Assiros (25 Km NE of Thessaloniki).

It was an Allied Command Operations (ACO) sponsored 4 - phase NATO Command Post Exercise/Computer Assisted Exercise (CPX/CAX); was a 2-level Deployable Forces exercise for a NATO-led Crisis Response Operation (CRO), including Peace Support and Humanitarian Assistance, to exercise JFC Brunssum and FC Heidelberg Deployable Joint Staff Element (DJSE) along with their NRF 2012 Component Commands (CCs).

Aim

The overall aim of "SFJE 11" was to exercise JFC Brunssum HQ, its affiliated DJSE and NRF 2012 CC HQs using the extant infrastructure of the NATO Command Structure (NCS) and to support the evaluation and allow the certification of NRF 2012.

Scenario

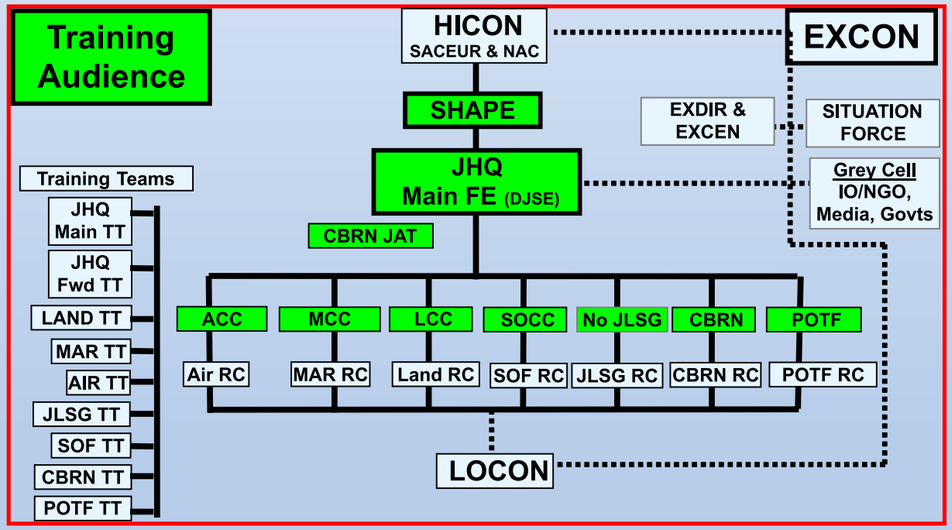
The exercise took place in the eastern part of the fictitious continent of Cerasia. All countries names, borders, ethnic and religious groups were fictitious, while the geography, population, natural resources and infrastructure were real. This scenario drove the HQ to carry out a Peace Support Operation (PSO) to stabilize the situation after long ethnical conflicts, humanitarian disasters, security and economic problems.

Exercise Structure

HQ NDC-GR, LCC, was the Land Training Audience. In the LCC's exercise location was activated a deployed EXCON provided by JWC and consisted of 1 Senior Mentor (retired general), 15 members of Grey Cell, 6 members of Training Team and 3 Evaluators from SHAPE OPD.

EXCON Structure

The Exercise Centre (EXCEN) was composed of two main branches; the Situation Centre (SITCEN) and the Response Cells (RCs). The SITCEN was actually the Joint Operations Centre for the EXCON.



OPERATIONS FUNCTIONS IN EX "BRLR11" AND "SFJE11"

Stylianos SERGENTANIS
OF – 5 (HE A)
DACOS G3 Chief LNO

After the Greek decision of offering HQ NDC-GR for HQ NRF 2012 Land Component Command (LCC), this HQ has walked through a busy way until nowadays. During the NRF preparation phase, many training events have been conducted for and by HQ NDC-GR, including participation in Exercises, Battle Staff Trainings (BST), Workshops, Seminars and Academics.

Among these, the most demanding was the execution of the LCC package evaluation and certification exercise "BRILLIANT LEDGER 11" in Oct 2011, where NDC-GR capabilities to operate for a sustained period in an austere environment and to exert an effective C2 have been confirmed. In addition, in November 2011, NDC-GR participated in the joint level exercise "STEADFAST JUNCTURE 11" (SFJE11), which was the venue for the mission readiness certification of the NRF force package as a whole. Following the exercise SFJE11, the NRF 2012 Land Component was validated by JFC Brunssum (JFCBS) as a whole, and officially declared combat ready.

The deployed NRF LCC CPs must be functional. Using the reach back capability, as much as required, the deployed CPs are able to provide effective and timely command and control functions, in an increasing way during the deployment phase, to the NRF subordinate elements. To achieve this, the deployed CPs must be based upon integrated Functional Areas (FA), Centers, Groups and cells.

Operations (OPS) FA Structure

OPS FA was a focal point for the success of the execution of both exercises. It was responsible to coordinate and synchronize all kind of operations within the 72/96 hours timeline framework including:

- Operational Centre (OPSCEN)
- Short Term Planning Group (STPG)
- Force Protection (FP),CBRN and Counter IED (C-IED) Cell
- Special Operations Forces (SOF) Cell
- Army Aviation, Airspace Management and Air Defense Cells.

Operations Centre

OPSCEN is a singular cell established within the NDC-GR's organization aiming to operate as the center of information and the point of contact between the Headquarter and the subordinate units and formations that participate in the NRF2012 package. The OPSCEN's mission is to ensure the synchronization, integration and coordination of deep, close and rear operations for the execution of COM NDC-GR's concept of operations according to his Critical Information Requirements. It is a very complex mission with many moving parts. All the events and operations are tracked and monitored in real time and immediately translated into inputs for the Commander and for the subordinate and affiliated units. Inside this austere environment of the OPSCEN, G3 Ops augmented with Subject matter experts from across the Headquarters and external agencies can control up to 4 divisions, which translates to approximately 50,000 soldiers.

NDC-GR's OPSCEN, as certified during the exercise "Brilliant Ledger 11", is able to track all events inside the LCC Area of Operations and pass relevant timely data and information from the subordinate units to the Command Group and vice versa. During the operations, the Commander is apprised for the units and assets situation on a 24/7 basis, he communicates with his subordinates and relays his guidance. And that is why OPSCEN is constituted with a representative from each functional area of the Corps HQ in order to transfer highly crafted data coming from the Commander and to synchronize the Operations.

During the exercises "Brilliant Ledger 11" and "Steadfast Juncture 11" all the personnel who operated inside the OPSEN demonstrated their professionalism under very difficult circumstances and actually performed like a "family". Officers and NCO's worked together to accomplish all given tasks, which is something that ensures that NDC-GR's OPSCEN is fully capable to function in every region, at any time if ordered during the NRF 2012 Stand-by period.

Short Term Planning Group (STPG)

G3 Branch as part of OPS FA leads and executes the current operations planning activity with a time horizon varying from 0 to 96 hours. Short term planning is conducted for the next 24 -96 hours depending on the intensity of the operations and the STPG leads the activity.

Current Plans Organization

Current Plans is organized with a Chief Cell, two Planning Teams (PTs), an Assessment team and an Administration/ Staff Assistant (Admin/SA), all personnel considered as permanent members originated from Ops Coord Section. STPG planning efforts were carried out by Plans Representatives from other Functional Areas also by Subject Matter Experts and Special Staff of HQ as required.

STPG Mission and Tasks

- During the execution phase of the exercises STPG:
- Achieved synchronization of planning among planning horizons (current - short term and long term), according to Fwd CP Director and OPS FA ACOS G3 directions and guidance
- Successfully coordinated all planning activities that took place in the Functional Areas.
- The main tasks resumed during exercises were:
- Development of Operational Orders such as Fragmentary Orders (FRAGO) and Warning Orders (WngO)
- Daily Assessment report
- CCIR monitoring and update
- Monitoring of Forces status and units capabilities
- Coordination of Air support to subordinate units
- Contribution to the MPG
- Participation to the Targeting and TST process
- Coordination FA's planning activities
- Provision of inputs to the Joint Coordination Order.

STPG Process

The bulk of the planning process was carried out through the STPG meetings. The format for these meetings was broadly the same, although adapted for specific issues. Planning teams with specific participants from different FAs as members of STPG were established to perform different assigned tasks. The participation of Liaison Officers from subordinate units and other CCs was constructive and fruitful. In total during both exercises, the STPG developed 35 FRAGOs, 7 WngOs and various other products.

CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR OPERATIONS (CBRN CELL)

The LCC CBRN Cell responded to the demands of both exercises "BRILLIANT LEDGER 2011" –"STEADFAST JUNCTURE 2011" on CBRN issues. According to the exercises planning of an NRF Crisis Response Operation (CRO) and the incoming incidents, CBRN Cell had the opportunity to execute its mission in close collaboration with all other NRF CBRN Cells. Monitoring, collecting, analyzing, assessing and replying to any incidents were conducted successfully based on the respective official documentation, Directives and STANAGs. All available means were used for an effective Warning & Reporting system. The reports were issued timely and were distributed through the Outlook or "NBC Analysis" software. Even though the personnel of LCC **used for the first time the "NBC Analysis" software**, the interoperability and improvement in Warning & Reporting capabilities among CBRN Cells was a fact, as its use fastened the information exchange process, updated almost in real time CBRN situation in the AOO and facilitated the accuracy of assessments.

COMPONENT MILITARY COMMISSION – LAND (CMC-LAND) IN EX "BRILLIANT LEDGER 2011"

Ilias KOSTOPOULOS
COL (HE A)
ACOS FCOORD

During exercise BRLR-11, which was conducted from 04 to 14 Oct 2011, the Fire Support Coordination Center Functional Area (FSCC FA) organized and conducted a Component Military Commission-Land (CMC-Land) meeting on 12 Oct 2011.

The CMC-Land is a formally established group of military and civilian principals, participating and contributing in a Peace Building Process, in order to translate political agreements into military implementation, negotiate issues, co-ordinate joint activities, disseminate intents and instructions, and resolve differences and disputes.

The CMC Cell, which is one of the three cells of the FSCC FA in the Forward Command Post, was responsible for the planning and conducting of all CMC – Land related preparatory actions and activities. Main tool in this direction was the CMC Working Group (WG) which was responsible for:

- Providing subject matter expert assistance and support to COM LCC, concerning all CMC-Land matters.
- Establishing a continuous contact and coordination with the respective Joint Military Commission Coordination Cell (JMCCC) at Joint Forces Command (JFC) level.
- Maintaining a horizontally and vertically directed, constant information flow, so as all the available data to expand the possibilities of detailed negotiations among the invited Parties, in favor of a fruitful outcome concerning the proposed agenda items.
- Performing all preparatory typical workload, so as all documents to be distributed correctly, within the invited Parties.

COM LCC was the chairman of this meeting, with the participation of the UNSRSG representative as a co-chairman and the Chiefs of Army of the regional countries. The agenda items were the Implementation of the Arms Embargo and the Security of the Land Borders.

The authority of this CMC - Land meeting was derived from the directions of JFC following the minutes (decisions and actions) of the Joint Military Commission (JMC), which was held before, with the participation of COM NIMFOR as chairman, the UNSRSG and the Chiefs of Defence of the regional countries.

The CMC-Land offered the Commander LCC, the opportunity to have a face-to-face contact with the Chiefs of Army of the regional countries, which turned to be the most crucial benefit of this meeting, due to the confidence bonds that were built, a fact that was reflected in the positive outcomes of the agenda items. The final outcome of this meeting was successful as it was depicted in the released minutes. The whole activity closed with a press conference by COM LCC and UNSRSG.

INFLUENCE OPERATIONS COORDINATION CENTRE (IOCC), "WE ARE READY"

Fernando RAVENA
OF – 4 (SP A)
G9 CHIEF OPS/PLANS

After the execution of the exercises "Brilliant Ledger 11" and "Steadfast Juncture 11", HQ NDC GR has already finished the roadmap that started one year and a half ago. The exercises were a great success, confirming that HQ NDC GR was indeed prepared to assume the Land Component Command Headquarters mission in January 2012.

Now is time for remembering all the people that have participated and analyzing the affectivity about all the time consumed and the works done during this period.

Coming to this point I would say that it has been everything except easy. A great deal of work has been done to "operationalise" the Comprehensive Approach and we will now pass the baton within the HQ to guard our progress to date and to take our work forward.

Influence is at the heart of the HQ's thinking and that is what this HQ has tried to achieve with the Influence Operations Coordination Center (IOCC) since this adventure started.

It has been a long and hard way but we have counted with the understanding and support of the HQ Command Group but also we have been supported by some of the most influencing IOs and NGOs located in Greece and mainly in Thessaloniki. I would like to mention some of them regarding their respective influence areas:

- United Nations area: UNHCR (UN High Commission of refugees or IOM (International Organization of migration), both located in Athens.
- International Organizations: ICRC (International Committee Red Cross) located in Thessaloniki.
- Scientist Experts: WO (World engineers) and EWB (Engineers without Borders), both located in Athens.
- Health experts: MSF (Medicines sans Frontiers) and WDW (Doctors of the World), both located in Athens.
- CEP Experts: HRT (Hellenic Recue Team) and CMT (Crisis Management Team), both located in Thessaloniki.
- Media: ERT3.

Exercises "Brilliant Ledger 11" and "Steadfast Juncture 11" were ambitious in scale and concept. They set out to break new ground in the NDC-GR's ability to operate in a hybrid environment, developing a comprehensive approach and operating as a Land Component HQ. Perhaps the most striking achievement was the civil-military integrated planning for the future that has been established in this area.

Finally we are proud to say clear and loud to our Commander:

"SIR, IOCC IS READY"

NBC Analysis Software System

NBC-ANALYSIS is a risk management software system for hazards arising from the use of CBRN weapons and Toxic Industrial Materials (TIM) also called: Releases Other Than Attack (ROTA). The NBC risk management software is designed to provide military commanders with rapid and accurate information to increase their understanding of the CBRN situation on the battlefield. It effectively supports and enhances incident-management in all phases of an operation from pre-deployment to deployment and onto the post –war recovery phase. Moreover the software automatically calculates the CBRN predicated area and can quickly display the information on the map to the operator. The same data is used to identify key interest areas and units at risk. The use for the first time of the NBC-analysis software helped the LCC CBRN cell to provide the Commander of LCC with rapid and accurate information; in addition, to help the Staff increase its situational awareness of the battlefield and enable decisions for saving lives, protecting assets and maintaining efficient operations.

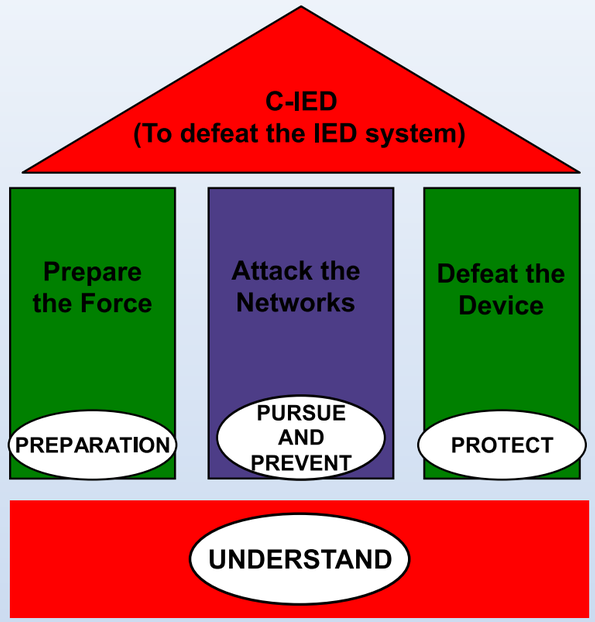
Counter IED (C-IED) Cell

The IED threat is a known and present factor in many current operations and C-IED capability is likely to be a key consideration when undertaking preparation, planning and execution of future NATO operations.

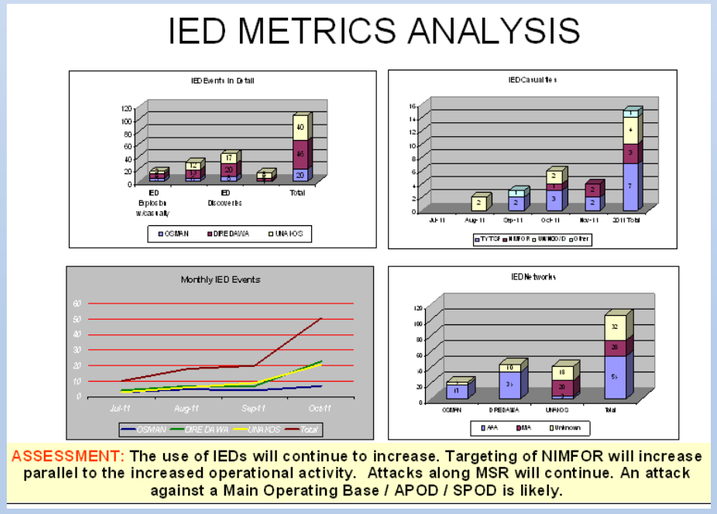
C-IED activities take place at the local, national, regional, and international level. Subsequently, designing an operation to defeat the IED threat requires a comprehensive strategy that integrates and synchronizes series of actions and tasks from the tactical to the strategic level of command and requires interaction with non-military organizations and the population. As with the wider hybrid operations, C-IED actions may be categorized as direct (focused on the enemy) or indirect (focused on the population).

C-IED Approach

In order to defeat the hostile IED system, the C-IED approach is to be made up of three mutually supporting pillars as follows:

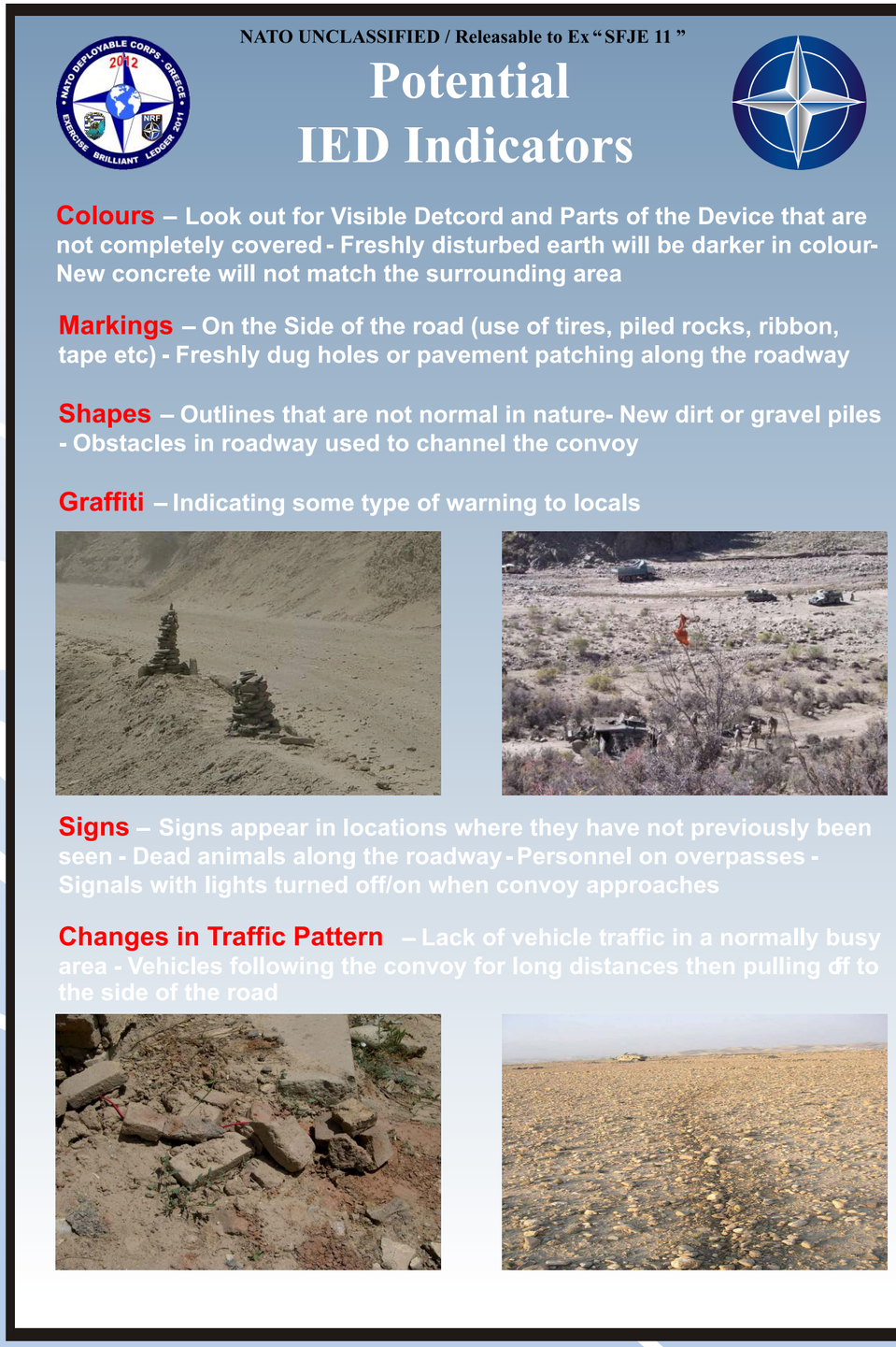


- Attack the Networks
- Defeat the Device
- Prepare the Force.



During Exercises “BRILLIANT LEDGER 11” & “STEADFAST JUNCTURE 11” the HQ LCC C-IED Working Group had been activated and conducted meetings as necessary to evaluate recent IED and C-IED actions and to make recommendations for improvements through C-IED awareness campaign. Meetings between FAs specialised staff were triggered by specific events or reports, such as IED exploitation reports, intelligence assessments etc. Recommendations from the C-IED Working Group outcomes were presented to the appropriate staff branches and to Chief of Staff.

The LCC C-IED WG conducted at least one meeting on a daily basis in OPS FA with the participation of representatives from the other HQ LCC Functional Areas. As an outcome of these meetings further actions were decided in order to:

- Evaluate the current alert State and the possibility of adopting suitable protective measures, taking into consideration the current threats.
- Provide further threat assessments and intelligence in C-IED activities by INTEL FA. RFI's also had been submitted IOT provide more specific information in Tactics, Techniques & Procedures (TTP's).
- Coordinate for personnel training in theater.

To sum up C-IED is a never ending process involving intelligence, training, assessments, protection, monitoring & detection, incident response, documentation and review.