Annual CBRN Defence Exercises Lessons Learned Report 2021

NATO CBRN Defence Lessons Learned Community of Interest

1. Aim

This first annual report compiles observations and reports from multinational CBRN Defence (CBRND) exercises delivered via JCBRND-CDG, Training and Exercise Panel (TEP) channels to enable proper information sharing and to enhance existing lessons learned (LL) across NATO CBRN Defence community. The report is not developed as a conclusion of 2021 CBRND LL exercise activities but rather as a booster or a trigger of learning processes.

2. Scope

The focus of this NATO UNCLASSIFIED document is laid on national and multinational exercise stakeholders represented in respective JCBRND-CDG panels. The report is offering simplified and interlinked information available in CBRN LL Community of Interest (CBRN LL COI) located on NATO Lessons Learned Portal (NLLP). Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the document covers only three exercises taking place in 2021, exercises TOXIC TRIP 2021, TOXIC VALLEY 2021, YELLOW CROSS 2021. The classified version of this document, shared via NS WAN NLLP, including NATO RESTRICTED/CONFIDENTIAL CBRND observations is ongoing.

3. Sources of observations

There are several multinational CBRND exercises organized by the TEP nations and/or offered to TEP nations providing the exercises updates regularly to TEP. Each exercise aims at different CBRN aspects and capabilities. However, there are natural common areas in the outcomes like observations related to C2, scenario and incidents, interoperability, access to relevant standards and procedures, evaluation etc. The CBRND community has been facing the COVID-19 limitations, and the impact was rather severe in last years. The exercises which did not have to be cancelled in 2021 were still influenced in all areas of their planning and execution.

a. Exercise TOXIC VALLEY 2021 (TOVY2021)

(1) A Slovak national tactical, NA5 field exercise (with multinational TA) organized annually to train sampling teams and laboratory crews in sampling, identification of chemical agents in accordance with AEP-66 at the CBRN Training and Testing Centre in Zemianske Kostoľany (SVK).

(2) OSE, OCE, ODE – General Staff of the Slovak Armed Forces; EXDIR – COL Oliver TODERIŠKA; POC – MAJ Róbert HROMADA.

b. Exercise YELLOW CROSS 2021 (YC21)

(1) An Allied Rapid Reaction Corpse (ARRC) multinational Computer Assisted/Command Post (CAX/CPX), Art5 exercise organized annually to train and verify complex C2 capabilities within ARRC CBRN Defence Brigade HQ (ARRC CBRN Def Bde HQ) at 31st CBRND Rgt Barracks in Liberec (CZE).

(2) OSE – COM ARRC CBRN Def Bde HQ; OCE/ODE – DCOM 31 CBRN Def Rgt; EXDIR – COL Milan KOZELKA; POC – LTC Vladimír KALMAN.

c. Exercise TOXIC TRIP 2021 (TOTP21)

(1) A TEP CBRN Defence in Air operations, NA5, filed tactical exercise organized annually to improve interoperability through complex multinational scenarios (including multiple CBRN capabilities – FP, SIBCRA, RECCE, CCA, A/C-VEH-PERS DCN, EOD, CPCA, C2), demonstrations, industrial display, and information exchange at Antalya Air Base (TUR) in 2021.

(2) OSE – TEP; OCE – TEP AIR; EXDIR/POC – CPT Jean-Christophe SCHWAB.

4. Observations, lessons, best practices

This part includes only essential observations originating from respective exercise reports; however, the icons lead to their full versions. None of the reports is a lengthy document therefore it is recommendable to at least scan the originals. The following tables might focus your attention, though. The most relevant information users are proposed in the column "Stakeholders". For categorization of the observations were loosely used the feasible elements of DOTMLPF-I concept. The interpretation of used signs is as follows: OBS – raw observation, LI – an issue with identified remedial action, LL – the remedial action is successfully completed, BP – the best way of doing business.

a. Doctrines

No	Observation	Stakeholders (decide or act or note)	Character/link
1.	AEP-66 sample data sheets do not match requirements	DIMP, AEP-66 custodian, EXDIR	LI, No2,
2.	Complicated availability of NATO standards for partners	TEP, respective EXDIR and custodian	LI, No2

3.	Relevant ARRC instructions and procedures must be available to TA (in time)	TEP, respective EXDIR	OBS

b. Training (including exercise planning, execution and setting)

No	Observation	Stakeholders (decide or act or note)	Character/link
1.	Clear referencing in Exercise documents	TEP, EXDIRs	LI, No3,
2.	The high intensity and complexity of the exercise tasks are to be kept	TEP, EXDIRs	BP
3.	Warm-up/Force/Field Integration is vital	TEP, EXDIRs	BP LI, No1 OBS, No11
4.	Negative impact of the scoring system, feedback necessity	TEP, EXDIRs	LL, No7
5.	C2 setting and its role and activity during exercises	TEP, EXDIRs	LI, No1,7,8
6.	Lost training opportunity due to unavailable equipment	TEP, EXDIRs	LI, No 17

c. Personnel

No	Observation	Stakeholders (decide or act or note)	Character/link
1.	Lack of key/experienced personnel	TEP, EXDIRs	OBS,LI, No9,10,14,

d. **Interoperability**

No	Observation	Stakeholders (decide or act or note)	Character/link	
1.	Scenarios including different services and nations (Firefighting Brigade, Police, Ambulance, Air, Land, Navy service)	TEP, EXDIRs	OBS, No1 BP, OBS, No15 BP	
2.	Patronage over new Exercise participant	TEP, EXDIRs	OBS, No16	

5. Conclusion and a way ahead

This report was produced as a starting point for more intensive learning and information sharing among members of NATO CBRND community. The NATO CBRND LL COI located on NLLP, which was used as a source of included information, has both available slots for new members and also tools for cooperation across the community.

Any reader is encouraged to propose whatever further action or development of this report via CBRND LL COI or directly to the community manager and author of this report – MAJ Josef SPURNÝ.