Allied Rapid Reaction Corps
CBRN Defence Brigade Headquarters

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YELLOW CROSS 2022
Final Evaluation Report

1. **Exercise Abstract.**

    a) Identification of the Exercise

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    <tr><td>I.</td><td>Name:</td><td>YELLOW CROSS 2022</td></tr>
    <tr><td>II.</td><td>Serial Number:</td><td>YC22</td></tr>
    <tr><td>III.</td><td>Category:</td><td>ARTICLE 5 Exercise</td></tr>
    <tr><td>IV.</td><td>Level:</td><td>Tactical</td></tr>
    <tr><td>V.</td><td>Form:</td><td>CAX (Computer Assisted Exercise)</td></tr>
    <tr><td>VI.</td><td>Type:</td><td>CPX (Command Post Exercise)</td></tr>
    <tr><td>VII.</td><td>Area:</td><td>Liberec (CZE) / 31st CBRND Rgt Barracks</td></tr>
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    VIII. Dates:

1)	BST I:	24 – 28 JAN 2022
2)	BST II:	21 – 25 FEB 2022
3)	BST III:	28 MAR – 01 APR 2022
4)	Execution:	16 – 27 MAY 2022

    b) OSE: COM ARRC CBRN Def Bde HQ

    c) OCE/ODE: COM 31 CBRN Def Rgt

    d) Participating HQs and Forces:

    I.   ARRC CBRND Bde HQ (PTA)

    II. CJ-CBRND-TF Units (STA / LOCON RCs):

    1)   311 CBRN Bn (CZE)

    2)   312 CBRN Bn (CZE)

    III. 31 CBRN Def Rgt HQ (MEL/MIL team, HICON)

    IV. HQ ARRC (HICON)

2. **Exercise Aim and Objectives**:

    a) Aim:

        The exercise is aimed to enhance team building, cohesion and

interoperability within ARRC CBRN Def Bde. Furtheremore, to train and exercise command and control capabilities (decision making process, staff processes and procedures) within ARRC CBRN Def Bde HQ.

b) Objectives:

1) Verify capability to conduct Operational Planning Process (OPP) in order to develop Operational Order (OPORD).

2) Verify capability to plan, command, control and coordinate (C3) CBRN Def tasks in support of HQ ARRC.

3) Verify capability to develop & maintain CBRN Situational Awareness (SA) portrayed in Common Operational Picture (COP).

4) Verify interaction and foster co-operation between ARRC CBRN Def Bde HQ and higher command (HQ ARRC).

5) Verify capability to assess & evaluate CBRN threats/ incidents, provide CBRN recognized expertise and advise to supported command.

6) Verify capability to conduct R2 requirements considered as Mission Critical Information (MCI).

7) Verify capability to set-up and run multi-level CBRN W&R System, enhanced manual and software-based prediction capabilities.

8) Verify info flow capabilities within ARRC CBRN Def Bde HQ (instant and effective info sharing and exchange).

3. **Overall Appraisal of the Exercise.**

As part of the annual YELLOW CROSS series, Ex YC22 has tested the CBRN Def Bde HQ capabilities in support to HQ ARRC operations.   The exercise also provided a training opportunity for 31.CBRN Def Rgt staff and the personnel of its batalions.

YC22 utilized the OCASSUS-N Scenario with corps-level maneuvre and operational documentation from Ex STLE21, which improved the quality of the Ex by providing a detailed operational environment portraying an Article 5 Warfiting Ops on MJO+ scale incorporating both symmetric and asymmetric threats. MEL/MIL scripting was focused on adding multiple CBRN-focused storylines to meet Ex TOs.

The portrayal of HQ ARRC by the Corps personnel in HICON and of CBRN BNs personnel in LOCON RCs (incl. SMEs from DLAB) has provided realistic operational C2 interactions and a focus on interoperability.

Focusing on CPX (in comparison with a more FTX focused YC21), the Ex provided the Bde HQ with viable space for revision of its SOP and inter-staff processes.

4. **Assessment of the achievements of Exercise Objectives.**

All YC22 Training Objectives (TOs) have been successfully achieved (for a list of TOs refer to 2.b). The Bde HQ has demonstrated its capability to conduct all phases of the OPP and to develope a detailed OPORD during the BSTs, and also the capability to conduct C3 of CBRN Def tasks during the Ex Execution Phase (Obj 1&2).

The effectiveness of the staff in developing and maintaining Situational Awareness (SA) and portraying the situation in Common Operational Picture (COP) has significantly improved in comparison to last year (Obj 3). Based on Lessons Identified from YC21, multiple Operational Tactical System user

training sessions have been added to the schedule of the BSTs resulting in user capability improvement.

HQ ARRC personnel participation in HICON has greatly improved the quality of the simulated interaction with the higher command (Obj 4) as did the assistance of HQ ARRC personnel during the BST, providing SME advice during the OPP.

A multi-leveled CBRN W&R System has been set-up and tested in a high operational tempo environment with a high intensity of CBRN incidents (Obj 7). A "fusion" of the CBRN W&R Cell and G2 has improved the HQs capability to assess & evaluate CBRN threats (Obj 5).

The Ex play placed high demands on the information flow within the HQ   (Obj 8) which was lacking in effectiveness and timeliness in the early phase of the Ex (Mini-Ex) and has improved over Ex time (Execution Phase).

Necessary ammendments and additions to the HQs SOPs and inter-staff processes have been identified during the exercise and will be implemented (see Annex A).

5. **Summary.**

Exercise YC22 has provided an intense training opportunity for CBRN Def Bde HQ and both CBRN BNs staff focusing on multinational and multi-level interaction and interoperability supported by participation from HQ ARRC in a high intensity Warfighting Ops; building Lessons Learned during the previous exercises of the YELLOW CROSS series, and has yielded valuable experience and Lessons Identified for future exercises in the series.

6. **Recommendations.**

In planning for exercise YC23, the aim will be to focus on testing the HQs capabilities in the areas of establishing an effective information flow and to provide timely and detailed CBRN assessesments and evaluation. The Ex will be conducted as a 2-level (CBRN Def Bde HQ as PTA and CBRN Bn HQ as

STA) CFX (combination of CPX and FTX/LIVEX with subordinate units deployed in a military training area).

As for MELMIL scripting, the focus will be on the complexity and interconnectivity of the scripted storylines over the Ex preparation. Participation of HQ ARRC personnel w/in HICON will be sustained, while BNs staff will transfer from the role of Response cell to full Secondary Training Audience (STA), directly providing C2 over deployed subordinated units.

7. **Point of Contact**.

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8. **Annexes.**

a)   Annex A   YC22 Lesson Identified Overview

Exercise YELLOW CROSS 2022
Lesson Identified Overview

This Annex presents an overview of the main Lessons Identified during the Exercise Preparation and Execution Phase including main points from the After Action Review and feedback from the JCBRN Def CoE CREVAL Team.

1) Exercise Structure

   The addition of battalion HQ-level RCs to the Ex has proven to be invaluable in producing a realistic interaction between the Bde HQ and Bn HQs with concurrent planning as opposed to the model of the Bde providing direct C2 to deployed units (usually Coy level) during some of the previous exercises.

   The aim is to enhance this model by including a deployed full BN-level HQ (in command of deployed units) in STA role under the C2 structure of the Bde for YC23.

2) International Participation

   As with the previous iterations of the Ex, the participations of staff SMEs from HQ ARRC both in the MEL/MIL scripting and as HICON augmentees during the execution phase has proven invaluable and will be sustained for YC23.

3) MEL/MIL

   The full spectrum of MEL/MIL storylines focused not only on the CBRN domain but also on multiple functional areas (C2, BSM, Sit Awarness, Logistic Concept, Personnel Recovery, Med etc.) has been highly appreciated, providing training and learning opportunities in all operational areas for the TA staff and will be sustained for future exercises.

Two "gaps" in the MEL/MIL have been identified and these areas will be be focused on in YC23: simulation of the national chain of command (reporting via the national chain of command back to the HNs, incl. repatriations, breach of ROE and military rules of conduct, STRATEVAC of casualties etc.) and preparation for 2nd and 3rd level effects of the injects IOT to portray a complex and interconnected Ex play.

4) Operational Planning Process

The execution of the OPP during the BTS will be sustained (incl. participation of HQ ARRC staff). The inclusion of subordinate BNs in the Bde MDMP has been beneficial and will be enhanced in YC23 by incorporating simultaneous two-level planning (with the Bde staff conducting OPP based on the Corps OPORDER and the BN staff conducting their OPP simultaneously 1-2 steps behind) IOT simulate a more realistic model of multi-level operational planning.

5) Standart Operating Procedures and Staff Processess

The exercise identified multiple "gaps" in the HQ SOPs, these will be amended and new SOPs added and trained for accordingly:

- SOP detailing a Command Post CBRN Defence Plan (IAW ATP- 3.8.1. VOL I), covering the responses to emergency alarms (IAW ATP-85) incl. the procedures,processes and training requirements.
- IAW the last point, the G4 SOPs will be amended by stating essential/specialist CBRN def equipment and way of maintenance/repair/resupply (given the multinational structure of the Bde)
- In regards to C2, CBRN SITREP pattern will be enhanced by adding CBRN prediction for ARRC AOR. This will be also replicated in the appropriate SOP and added to future Bde Operational Orders.
- A comprehensive SOP describing general processes for planning, employment, and coordination of appropriate CBRN def measures

within ARRC CBRN Def Bde AOO will be produced (instead of the info and coordination being spread among multiple area SOPs).

- A more comprehensive approach to RFI management will be produced, including establishing a standart way of approaching NATO CBRN ReachBack.

6) Functional Area Systems

Multiple Operational Tactical System user training sessions have been added to the BSTs schedule resulting in user capability improvement. These will be sustained and improved upon during the preparation of the next Ex, taking into account that multiple user capability "gaps" are remaining and that a new version of the OTS will be used for YC23.

The addition of a Geo specialist has merited in high quality digital mapping products for the systems used in the Ex and will be sustained.

The implementation of the use of tools such as JChat and BattleLog needs to be improved upon as well and some FAS (such as LogFAS) are yet to be implemented into the Operational Tactical System (OTS).