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Allied Rapid Reaction Corps  
CBRN Defence Brigade Headquarters

Štefánikovo náměstí 1  
461 24 Liberec  
Czech Republic

Czech Mil: 00420 973 261 211  
IVSN: 925 4200 261 211

NS: arrc.cbrn@mod.cze



# YELLOW CROSS 2021

## Final Evaluation Report

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### 1. Exercise Abstract.

- a) Identification of the Exercise
- I. Name: YELLOW CROSS 2022
  - II. Serial Number: YC22
  - III. Category: ARTICLE 5 Exercise
  - IV. Level: Tactical
  - V. Form: CAX (Computer Assisted Exercise)
  - VI. Type: CPX (Command Post Exercise)
  - VII. Area: Liberec (CZE) / 31<sup>st</sup> CBRND Rgt Barracks
  - VIII. Dates:
    - 1) BST I: 25 – 29 JAN 2021
    - 2) BST II:01 – 05 MAR 2021
    - 3) BST III: APR- MAY 2021  
(Distributed via Networking)
    - 4) Execution: 13 – 24 SEP 2021
- b) OSE: COM ARRC CBRN Def Bde HQ
- c) OCE/ODE: DCOM 31 CBRN Def Rgt
- d) Participating HQs and Forces:
- I. ARRC CBRND Bde HQ supported by CJ-CBRND-TF HQ (PTA)
  - II. CJ-CBRND-TF Units (STA / LOCON RCs):
    - 1) CBRN MF Coy (ESP)
    - 2) CBRN MF Plt (ITA)
    - 3) Decon Plt (POL)
    - 4) SIBCRA (DEU)
  - III. 31 CBRN Def Rgt Units (deployed on FTX):
    - 1) 87 CBRN MF Coy (Week 1)
    - 2) 94 CBRN MF Coy (Week 2)

2. **Exercise Aim and Objectives:**

a) Aim:

The exercise is aimed to enhance team building, cohesion and interoperability within ARRC CBRN Def Bde. Furthermore, 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 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 YC21 has tested the CBRN Def Bde HQ capabilities in support to HQ ARRC operations. The exercise also provided a training opportunity for the CJ-CBRND TF staff (eNRF 21), whose personnel has augmented the CBRN Def Bde HQ.

The exercise utilized the OCASSUS-N Scenario with Corps-level Maneuvre and operational documentation from Ex LOLE20, which improved the quality of the exercise by providing a detailed operational environment portraying an Article 5 Warfiting Ops on MJO+ scale incorporating both symmetric and asymmetric threats. YC21 MEL-MIL scripting focused on adding multiple CBRN focused storylines IAW TOs of the exercise.

The portrayal of HQ ARRC by HQ ARRC personnel in HICON and of multiple subordinate units by CZE, POL, DEU, ITA and ESP personnel in LOCON RCs has provided realistic operational interactions and a focus on interoperability.

The addition of two CBRN MF Coys deployed in FTX mode under OPCON to the CBRN Def Bde HQ has added further realism and provided a opportunity for real-life testing of CIS assets as well.

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

All YC21 Training Objectives 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 developed a detailed OPORD during the BSTs and the capability to conduct C3 of CBRN Def tasks during the Execution Phase of the Exercise (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 previous years (Obj 3).

Participation of HQ ARRC personnel in HICON has greatly improved the quality of the simulated interaction with the higher command (Obj 4).

A multi-leveled CBRN W&R System has been set-up and tested in a high

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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 exercise play put high pressure on the information flow within the HQ which was lacking in effectiveness and timeliness in the early phase of the exercise and improved over time (Obj 8).

### 5. Summary.

Exercise YC21 has provided an intense training opportunity for CBRN Def Bde HQ and CJ-CBRND TF personnel focusing on multinational and multilevel interaction and interoperability (supported by participation from HQ ARRC and from CZE, POL, ESP and ITA CBRN units) in a high intensity Warfighting Ops; building on 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.

As for exercise YC22, 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 assessments and evaluation.

In terms of EXCON, more attention will be paid to EXCON (particularly) LOCON training in preparation for the exercise.

### 7. Point of Contact.

Vladimir KALMAN

Lt Col, CZE A

COS, ARRC CBRN Def Bde HQ

Office Tel: 00420 973 261 211

Mobile: 00420 725 862 879

E-mail (Unclassified): kalmanv@army.cz

E-mail (NATO Secret): arrc.cbrn@mod.cze

### 8. Annexes.

- a) Annex A YC21 AAR

## Exercise YELLOW CROSS 2021 AFTER ACTION REVIEW

### SUSTAIN

- **Situational awareness portrayed by COP**  
(BC/Wkpr keep, maintain & update OP)
- **High operational tempo**  
(WF operation, challenge for Bde HQ staff)
- **International working environment**  
(integration of CBRN TF TCNs, testing of interoperability)
- **Positive attitude of all Ex participants to accomplish tasks**  
(Enthusiasm and willingness to learn)  
CIS support

### IMPROVE

- **Cross-FA/staff interaction**  
(improve communication within HQ staff )
- **Tasking of subordinated units**  
(co-ordination / release of OSW)
- **Info flow within Bde HQ**  
(info dissemination, analysis, evaluation)
- **English speaking ability**  
(briefers)
- **JCHAT – maintain communication rules**  
(short, clear & simple messaging, less abbreviations, Ex issues only)

## SUSTAIN

- Battle Rhythm
- High intensity of incidents
- MiniEx / Warm Up prior to Execution Phase
- SubUnit LOs presence during Hasty Planning
- FRAGO Back Briefs
- Scenario from Corps-level Ex
- Complexity of injects

## IMPROVE

- **Analysis and assessment**  
When reporting on sub-units do not just quote data but include an assessment of the impact of this on the Bde
- **Communication**  
Improve internal communication; ensure LOCONs have the opportunity to digest initial FRAGO before formally delivering as orders
- **Reference Data**  
Ensure ARRC provide relevant SOIs / SOPs for the Ex. (action ARRC)



## SUSTAIN

- Quality of mapping, GEO products and COP visualization
- Cooperation G2 - W&R Cell
- iHub / Bde HQ Registry Service
- On-demand production of Assessments & Evaluations
- RFI process
- Regular feedback from EXCON to TA
- Use of OTS, COP, OAIG & MIP Database

## IMPROVE

- SubUnits capability lists to be clarified in detail in advance
- Adherence to JChat communication rules
- Additional LOCON Training for use of OTS, COP, MIP Database
- Additional LOCON Training Bde HQ procedures