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OPERATIONAL PREPARATION DIRECTORATE CORE BUSINESS – NATO RESPONSE FORCE

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The Operational Preparation Directorate (OPD) was formed based on a Military Committee decision on 23 September 2005. In 2005, NATO's major concerns with the NATO Response Force's (NRF) development were linked with NRF Training and Certification. After Chief of Defenses (CHODs) meeting, the Military Committee (MC) decided to establish the Operational Preparation Directorate (OPD) at Joint Command Lisbon (JCL) on 1 Jul 06 to be responsible for the training coordination and the evaluation/certification of the NRF. The OPD receives real life and administrative support from Joint Command Lisbon.



1. OPD MISSION AND ACTIVITIES

The OPD is a small organization manned by 29 NATO military personnel, with a line of command directly to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE). The organizational structure of the OPD is designed to meet the challenging demands and requirements of each NRF life cycle.

The OPD provides training coordination and certification/evaluation support to the Operational Commanders, in accordance with SACEUR's strategic guidance and the Operational Commander's intent and requirements in order to achieve coherent preparation and development of NATO Response Forces.

The past year exemplified the OPD's importance, with the different NRF actors - Operational Commanders, Component Commanders and other NATO agencies, including Nations - grateful for an independent entity inside of the NRF Certification process, to support the achievement of a coherent preparation of NRF. The OPD provides to NATO with a focus for the preparation of NRF Joint Force Command (JFC) and Component Command (CC) HQs, and enable further development of NRF policy on training and certification. The OPD programs, plans and organizes appropriate portions of NRF training and certification/evaluation increasing the efficiency and continuity of preparing NRF components and staffs in close coordination and cooperation with the responsible JFC HQ.

In 2007, the OPD was actively involved with the planning and execution of two major joint exercises and supported Component exercise evaluations upon Force Commanders request.

The OPD also produced several important documents during 2007 including: the NRF Joint HQs Criteria Manual which contributes to the development of Allied Command Operations Vol IX - Joint Headquarters Criteria Manual and the OPD Evaluation Handbook which provides guidance and an overview of the roles, responsibilities and key activities of the OPD in support of NRF training and evaluation. The OPD also co-chaired the Rolling Certification Program Working Group which with all NRF actors, developed standardized procedures concerning the NRF certification process. To further support that purpose, the OPD produced the NRF Generic Certification Plan in order to have in one document the essential and standardized information about the NRF certification process.

The OPD is also active in its training coordination role, developing a pro-active approach in order to reinforce the coordination on Joint Training opportunities and pushing further coordination among the use of ACO FS - for HQs and Forces at the tactical level - with the different NRF certifications. The OPD is also inside of the NATO exercise planning loop in order to be able to propose adjustments which are considered essential to achieve NRF full mission capability.

All of this is being achieved through a planned and detailed coordination with different NATO agencies promoting and reinforcing the linkage between the ACO and ACT (i.e Joint Warfare Centre (JWC), Joint Allied Lessons Learned Centre (JALLC), Joint forces Training Centre (JFTC), and other Centers of Excellence)

2. NRF WAYAHEAD

The establishment of the NATO Response Force (NRF) which today is at full operational capability has been a key development. It plays a vital part in the Alliance's response to a rapidly emerging crisis. It also serves as a catalyst for transformation and interoperability and will enhance the overall

quality of our armed forces, not only for NATO, but also for EU, UN or national purposes. The OPD supports the improved implementation of the agreed NRF concept through mechanisms to enhance long term force generation, and steps to allow for a more sustainable and transparent approach to maintain the capability of the force in the future.

Today NATO's high operational tempo – current operations, doctrine development, and experimentation – challenges the NRF more than ever. In each NRF life cycle, besides the transformational effects which are in place (e.g Effect Based Approach to Operations, Combined Joint Operational Picture; Joint Urban Warfare, Time sensitive targeting), the NRF is producing READINESS and INTEROPERABILITY among NRF actors.

READINESS: NRF Certification process is the one which is bringing to all of NATO a transparent and coherent training and preparation of military forces within a Multinational environment. It's a process of empowerment at all command levels, but it is also a process of Commanders responsibility.

Beyond the specific and qualitative aspects of the NRF Certification are the INTEROPERABILITY achievements in which 27 Nations become familiar, allowing them to achieve and pursue in a much easier and practical manner common working procedures. In addition to the more tangible aspects, the 27 nations also experience the NATO cultural environment. However the real consequence of NATO existence is that after almost 60 years of existence, NATO is recognized as the world's best security provider and is the major driver behind today's European development.

The NRF away ahead is linked to NATO's mission requiring the availability of coherent deployable forces. The NRF is a tool which reinforces NATO in its entirety through the deliverance of Security, Knowledge, Transformation and a transatlantic linkage.

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10 TEXTOS RELACIONADOS:

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OPERAÇÕES EM REDE: DA PROMESSA À REALIDADE (II PARTE)[1]

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