

http://www. |

# JWC

For more stories, visit [jwc.nato.int](http://jwc.nato.int)



ISTANBUL / STAVANGER





<EXERCISE REVIEW>

# TRIDENT JAGUAR 16

*TRIDENT JAGUAR 16 certifies NATO Rapid Deployable Corps-Turkey as a Joint Task Force Headquarters*

By Inci Kucukaksoy, Public Affairs Officer, Joint Warfare Centre

*Directed by the Joint Warfare Centre (JWC), exercise TRIDENT JAGUAR 16 (TRJR16) fully tested NATO Rapid Deployable Corps-Turkey's (NRDC-TUR) ability to plan and undertake a land-heavy non-Article 5 Crisis Response Small Joint Operation based on the "Skolkan 2.0" training scenario.*

TRJR16 concluded on 14 May 2016 with the After Action Review (AAR) facilitated by the Exercise Director German Army Major General Reinhard Wolski, Commander JWC. With the completion of the 10-day Computer Assisted/Command Post Exercise (CAX/CPX), NRDC-TUR was certified as a NATO Force Structure stand-by Joint Task Force (JTF) Headquarters for the next two years. This means that, under the command of Turkish Army Lieutenant General Erdal Öztürk, NRDC-TUR has now been confirmed ready to serve as an operational level JTF HQ of a land-heavy Small Joint Operation, ready to deploy throughout SACEUR's Area of Responsibility (AOR) and beyond, providing the commanding and controlling headquarters for combined operations including land, air, and maritime components, if there is a requirement by NATO.

TRJR16 ran from 4-14 May and was split between two sites: the exercising headquarters, namely the Primary and Secondary Training

Audience, as well as JWC's Training Team were located at the "General Mazlum Işkora" base in Istanbul, while the bulk of the Exercise Control (EXCON) structure was based at JWC's training facility in Stavanger. Overall, the exercise involved nearly 1,800 military and civilian personnel from 25 NATO Member and Partner Nations. Also involved in the training event were a total of 38 organizations from within and outside of Turkey.

Sponsored by NATO's Strategic Command Allied Command Transformation (ACT), TRJR16 served as the final step to test NRDC-TUR's readiness and interoperability as a JTF HQ. It also allowed for NRDC-TUR to improve and fine-tune its staff procedures. The exercise itself was built on a challenging exercise script—a set of the Main Events List/Main Incidents List (MEL/MIL)—which is carved from the fictitious "Skolkan 2.0" training scenario created by the scenario team at JWC for NATO's expeditionary/contingency type of missions. At the core of Skolkan 2.0 lies the failing state of "Arnland" which is struggling both politically and financially. The tension gradually turns into a full-scale regional crisis on the doorstep of NATO. NATO's ensuing mission upon the request of the made-up "Government of Arnland" aims to secure the stability of the country as well as the sea lanes of communication in the Baltic Sea.

The mission has had it all; from high-intensity warfare—involving strategic air strikes

and an amphibious operation—to counterterrorism and humanitarian relief operations. Indeed, for 10 intense days, the exercise participants feel like living in a computer-simulated world. This high degree of realism was accomplished by the JWC-led EXCON through the MEL/MIL process in which the CAX experts, Opposing Forces (OPFOR) and the Media team, with their daily newscasts, breaking news and articles all played an important role. Train as you would fight. That's exactly what NRDC-TUR did as they demonstrated NATO's commitment and backing to Arnland.

"During the Execution phase, the Training Audience was exposed to almost 1,000 injects, which challenged the land, air and maritime components. JWC created a set of great training opportunities in the fields of JISR, Joint Targeting, Interoperability, Comprehensive Approach, StratCom, Cyber, Gender and Force Protection," said German Army Lieutenant Colonel Peter Mientus, the exercise Chief MEL/MIL.

He added: "Overall, we have created sufficient content for the Training Audience to reach their Training Objectives and the script

**Opposite (clockwise):** Training Team with the Training Audience in Istanbul; media training; a discussion between the OPR, Chief SITCEN and other EXCON personnel; Chief MEL/MIL daily briefing; media training with Lieutenant General Erdal Öztürk; daily wrap-up meeting at JWC's map room. PHOTOS: JWC AND NRDC-TUR PAO.





reflects both the intent of Commander NRDC-TUR and challenges the overall Training Audience on the operational level."

Royal Norwegian Navy Commander Tom Robertsen, JWC's Officer of Primary Responsibility (OPR) for TRJR16, noted: "As the JWC Training Team, we are impressed by progress of the Training Audience, but also equally important was the cohesion amongst

the Planning Team, which made it easier to execute the exercise as one team in two locations. Overall, I would say that the professionalism and experience in the whole EXCON structure—internals as well as externals—allowed for good solutions to be developed in a very challenging exercise design. As the JWC team, our aim has been to provide the most realistic training for NRDC-TUR and to see how they react to situations they could encounter in a real combat operation."

NRDC-TUR is one of SACEUR's nine Graduated Readiness Forces (Land) Headquarters under Allied Command Operations (ACO). TRJR16, as it was presented by Lieutenant General Öztürk, is the zenith exercise

of a two-year period of training events, including exercise EURASIAN STAR 15. "These two years of exercising with external significant collaborations allowed NRDC-TUR to develop its joint mindset," an exercise press release said.

Other participating HQs to TRJR16 included the Joint Logistics Support Group (JLSG) and NATO Special Operations Headquarters (NSHQ). Also directed by the JWC, the previous TRIDENT JAGUAR exercise series include the certification of NATO Rapid Deployable Corps-Spain (NRDC-ESP) and Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO (SFN) in 2014, and NATO Rapid Deployable Corps-Italy (NRDC-ITA) and Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) in 2015. †

**Above (clockwise):** A White Cell meeting in Istanbul; Lieutenant General Öztürk with General Sir Adrian Bradshaw KCB OBE, DSACEUR; the exercise simulation media team with Lieutenant Colonel Kuehling, JWC Chief PAO, at the so-called "Arnlund Security Assistance Force" HQ; Chief Media briefing on media issues. PHOTOS: JWC AND NRDC-TUR PAO





**Clockwise:** An OPFOR briefing; TRJR16 Gender team (JWC GENAD Maj. A.J. Sullivan, SHAPE GENAD Ms Charlotte Isaksson and NRDC-TUR GENAD 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Cansin Yalçın); media training, Major General Wolski speaking at the exercise DV Day; the White Cell tent in Istanbul and exercise welcome address in Stavanger.

