

TRIDENT JAGUAR 2017

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ON 29 MARCH, almost on the heels of the conclusion of the first iteration, which certified Rapid Reaction Corps France as Joint Task Force (Land) Headquarters, the second iteration of exercise TRIDENT JAGUAR 2017 began at the Joint Warfare Centre, this time focusing on sharpening the skills of Headquarters 1 (German/Netherlands) Corps.





TRIDENT JAGUAR is a series of JWC-led operational level exercises designed to improve NATO's deployable joint Command and Control (C2) capabilities provided by the NATO Force Structure (NFS) headquarters. The NFS provides the Alliance with rapidly deployable, sustainable and flexible multinational forces and their C2 capabilities in support of multinational contingency operations. Each year, the NFS headquarters execute a large number of training events to maintain their combat edge, and ultimately, to assume Joint Task Force (JTF) headquarters roles. The high-point of these training events is "JAGUAR" at the operational level; the final exercise before a Land Component Command transitions into a NATO JTF headquarters in combination with elements from Land, Air, Maritime and Special Forces, and takes up a NATO alert stance, ready to plan and command a Small Joint Operation (SJO), should NATO ask.

Complex Spectrum of Challenges and Dilemmas

NATO's Joint Warfare Centre (JWC) conducted the first iteration of Exercise TRIDENT JAGUAR 2017 (TRJR17), which ran 8-16 March 2017 at Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, and at Stavanger, Norway, with Rapid Reaction Corps France (RRC FR) as the core Training Audience (TA).

Headquarters 1 (German/Netherlands) Corps (1GNC), meanwhile, already started its deployment to the JWC before the first iteration finished. That is because TRJR17 was two exercises back-to-back and 1GNC was the core TA for the second iteration, 29 March-7 April, making TRJR17 one of the longest exercises ever hosted and directed by the JWC.

"It was the busiest period for us, following an 18-month preparation, but that's what makes it attractive," said Royal Navy Commander (CDR) Chris Haley. "In total, TRJR17 involved almost 3,500 military and civilian per-



ABOVE: World News Today (WNT) Newscasts are an excellent training opportunity for the TA.
BELOW: 1GNC Air Response Cell. Photos by Maj. Stephen Olsen, Norwegian Army, JWC

sonnel. By 7 April, we had delivered challenging exercises to both RRC FR and 1GNC with very comprehensive sets of operational level challenges and dilemmas, all of which triggered military, political and diplomatic engagements."

Sponsored by Headquarters, Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, conducted by Joint Force Command Naples and directed by the JWC, TRJR17 aimed to exercise and assess the joint operational combat readiness of, first, RRC FR, commanded by French Army Lieutenant General Thierry Corbet and, later, 1GNC, commanded by Netherlands Army Lieutenant General Michiel van der Laan.

"These past few weeks truly exemplified teamwork, and demonstrated how much can be achieved through collaboration and mutual support," said U.S. Army Colonel Christopher Engen, JWC's Deputy Chief of Staff of the Exercise, Training and Innovation Directorate. "It has been amazing to experience this culmi-

nation of effort by the Training Audiences, the Exercise Control (EXCON) elements, and the wide range of Support Units and Agencies."

The Non-Article 5 Command Post Exercise (CPX) was based on the fictitious Skolkan 2.0 scenario created by JWC's Scenario Subject Matter Experts across a broad range of disciplines. As the officer responsible for the Main Events List/Main Incidents List (MEL/MIL), CDR Haley explained that the scenario enabled the Training Audiences to explore how they can gain efficiencies and respond to complex spectrum of challenges in today's evolving combat environment, from strategic/policy to tactical levels.

CDR Haley added that the exercise posed very realistic challenges to both the RRC FR and 1GNC, and encouraged interoperability—the unity of command and effort—across the participating NFS headquarters, allowing them to train as they would fight.





Major General Andrzej Reudowicz,
Commander Joint Warfare Centre, and
Director of TRIDENT JAGUAR 2017.
Photo by Maj. Stephen Olsen,
Norwegian Army, JWC

"A formidable joint effort"

Exercise TRJR17 mainly centered on hybrid threats: a mix of conventional warfare and insurgency type warfare, crisis resolution and rule of law, Strategic Communications (StratCom) and information operations, the Comprehensive Approach, humanitarian civil-military coordination, theatre logistics, Cyber as the fifth dimension of modern warfare and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats. More than 3,000 injects were simulated during TRJR17.

StratCom, at times, became the main focus in this hybrid battlefield and the lines between Operational and Tactical were blurred to the point where "words" sometimes mattered more than firepower.

Pete DuBois, JWC's Chief Media for TRJR17, explained that the media platforms, including television and online media, aimed to shape the public perception of the conflict, providing a measure of general public opinion in various crisis situations and also help the TAs to adjust their StratCom strategies

"Cooperation is strong amongst the NATO countries."

and counter-propaganda methods. Referring to the importance of information battlespace, DuBois added that understanding the exercise information environment, especially how to use the Social Media as a hedge against disinformation campaigns injected by the OPFOR media was not an incidental concern for the TAs, but has always been a key Training Objective in all JWC-led exercises.

Canadian Air Force Lieutenant Colonel (Lt Col) Jocelyn Bergeron, JWC's lead planner of the exercise, argued that it was one thing to train, but quite another to effectively work together for accomplishing shared goals. "Although one focus of the exercise was for the JTF HQ to operate jointly, planning the exercise itself was a formidable joint effort," Bergeron said, adding: "Multiple NATO organizations, encom-

passing many nations, came together at multiple locations and continuously worked jointly over the planning cycle, to make this exercise a success. This effort stimulated joint learning and showed me that despite differences in language and cultures, cooperation is strong amongst the NATO countries."

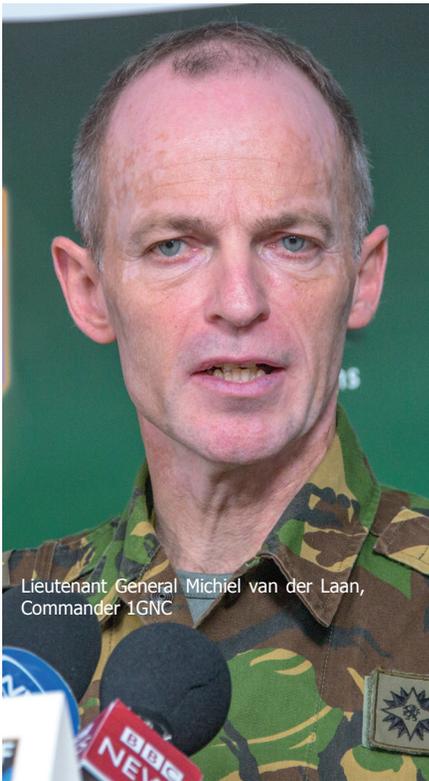
TRIDENT JAGUAR 2017 was directed by Polish Army Major General Andrzej Reudowicz, Commander JWC. Reudowicz concluded the second iteration of the exercise at a closing ceremony on 7 April. In his remarks he noted that JWC exercises focused on a combat environment covering the entire spectrum of warfare, including hybrid warfare, which involved a total multinational approach supported by UN actions and the EU, pointing directly to a Comprehensive Approach.

"I am content with the Training Audiences' achievements and how the exercise was provided by the Exercise Control team," said Reudowicz, adding: "Without the commitment of our staff we would not have achieved the success of this exercise. There are a lot of lessons learned from the TA and from our staff





Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria. Photo by RRC FR PAO



Lieutenant General Michiel van der Laan, Commander 1GNC



The White Cell



Cyber Response Cell



Lieutenant General Thierry Corbet, Commander RRC FR, TRJR17 Opening Ceremony, Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria. Photo by RRC FR PAO



Air Response Cell



Uta Filz, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)





Logistics planning and operational risk assessment briefing. Photo by Maj. Stephen Olsen, Norwegian Army, JWC

on how to continue to improve our performance in creating this complex and very difficult environment in future exercises.”

THE JWC-LED WHITE/GREY CELL is a key element of the complex civil-military environment described by Major General Reudowicz. To effectively simulate it, the White/Grey Cell engages in scenarios ranging from human trafficking at sea to dealing with the host nation into which NATO forces are deployed. The White/Grey Cell participants include a kaleidoscope of Subject Matter Experts and role players who inject realism into the exercise, combining political, civilian and military instruments. Uta Filz, with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), said the exercise scenario had a strong connection to humanitarian issues.

“OCHA’s Civil-Military Coordination Section (CMCS) is the focal point in the UN system for humanitarian civil-military coordination. The dialogue between humanitarians, the military and other uniformed personnel is crucial during any major humanitarian response,” explained Filz. “As CMCS is the custodian of internationally-recognized guidelines

that seek to preserve the impartiality, neutrality and operational independence of humanitarian actors, it is vital for us to participate in NATO exercises so that should the need arise OCHA and NATO are sensitized to effectively interact with each other.”

THE FIRST ITERATION of the exercise included a distinguished visitors and media day at Novo Selo Training Area on 16 March, at which President of the Republic of Bulgaria H.E. Rumen Radev and senior leaders from across NATO Allied and Partner Nations attended. During the press conference, Lieutenant General Thierry Corbet highlighted the importance of NATO’s readiness, deployability and interoperability, saying that TRJR17, led by the JWC, pushed his headquarters’ skills and capacity to the limits in achieving the mission.

Later, Lieutenant General Michiel van der Laan reflected similar thoughts to those of Corbet. In his closing remarks on 7 April, van der Laan expressed his deepest appreciation to JWC’s TRJR17 team and the Exercise Control, saying that TRJR17 was IGNC’s best exercise to date. After all, van der Laan went on to ex-

plain, the biggest challenge of modern warfare was the “complexity of coordinating effects in the joint environment” and “integrating kinetic operations and non-kinetic operations” during which a JTF commander grapples with “leading brigades; coordinating effects of the Air and Maritime component commands, and conducting Special Operations while staying connected to the international community” with well made, clear messages and effective key leader engagement—“not only with the host nation and the Senior EU Special Representative, but also with SACEUR, the Nations and with other important players like the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the OCHA.”

Van der Laan added: “Thank you for the way you enabled us to experience this [military] operation. We can only do this when the headquarters delivers, and I am very proud of my staff. But, you, *the EXCON*, made this happen and I’m very grateful for that. This was the best exercise this headquarters has experienced for years. And, that was only possible because the scenario was good, the MEL/MIL team did a tremendous job and I had good Component Commanders.” ✦



The Netherlands Secretary General of Defence Mr Wim Geerts and the Chief of Defence General Tom Middendorp visited the JWC on 31 March 2017 in order to observe the second iteration for TRJR17 and also to meet with the Centre's leadership. Photo by JWC PAO



CDR Chris Haley,
TRJR17 Chief
MEL/MIL



The Map Room, pre-briefing discussions



Simulated press conference in Bulgaria with Lieutenant General Thierry Corbet, Commander RRC FR



The After Action Review