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Photograph by JWC PAO



Exercises ***STEADFAST JAZZ 13*** and
TRIDENT JUNCTURE 15

Steps to Connected Forces

"SFJZ 13 was only the first step of a process that will continue throughout this and next year with TRJE 15 on the path to full implementation of NATO's latest Command Structure."

NOWADAYS NATO IS GRADUALLY reducing its presence on deployed operations, therefore, the enduring priority is to ensure this organisation remains vigilant and prepared to meet future challenges and threats with agile, capable and interoperable military forces. In February 2013, NATO Defence Ministers endorsed the project to enhance NATO's training and exercise programme in order to preserve the high-level of training and cohesiveness NATO and Partner countries achieved in the past decade of combat operations. This project has set the standards of the future NATO training activities with the aim to work efficiently together.

Multinational harmonisation is undoubtedly a challenge. It represents a long term effort, but many modern defence capabilities and training activities required to deal with today's challenges are extremely expensive to acquire and execute. Only by involving national contributions can NATO be successful, credible



and satisfy national requests to use money in a smarter way, at a time of severe budgetary restrictions. Put simply, we have got to get more "bang for the buck". Exercise STEADFAST JAZZ 2013 (SFJZ 13) was the direct consequence of this new way of thinking in NATO. In November 2013, about 6,000 personnel from 28 NATO Member Nations as well as three Partner Nations (Sweden, Finland and Ukraine) trained and exercised together in a number of Alliance Nations, including the Baltic States and Poland. It was the first time since 2006 that, in the STEADFAST exercise series, a live exercise (LIVEX) serial was included in a Collective Defence scenario.

THE AIM OF the exercise was to certify Joint Force Command Brunssum for its standby command role of NATO Response Force (NRF) 2014. This is a very important task as the NRF is a technologically advanced multinational force made up of land, air, maritime and Special Forces Components that the Alliance can deploy quickly wherever needed. As such it is the "tip of the spear" in terms of NATO's ability to respond to an emerging crisis and is often referred to as the Alliance's "Fire Brigade". Exercise objectives included a desire to promote transparency of the NRF's military capabilities; emphasize its high-readiness posture that allows swift response to short notice operations; exercise joint coordination, planning and preparation procedures; and practice

close cooperation, coordination and liaison with Host Nations, IOs/NGOs and local authorities. A very proactive approach was applied to involve Partner Countries. These Nations were embedded in both the live and the command post exercise serials to enable observation of NATO's operational decision-making process.

As always, an exercise of this scale embraced a number of new threats, cyber, for example, and a range of lessons identified. Of note, throughout the exercise the deployed Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF) HQ worked in a tented structure drawn from, what NATO labels "Capability Package 156". Command Post 156 is an innovative deployable structure conceived to house a headquarters even in the most extreme conditions.

Additionally, the Training Audience was challenged by the SKOLKAN scenario, developed by the Joint Warfare Centre (JWC) Stavanger, after two years of a very involved process shared between NATO leadership, NATO Force and Command structures. Thanks to this scenario, the participants stepped forward towards exercising NATO self-defence operations. SFJZ 13 was a real challenge, but on 8 November 2013, after two weeks of intense, multinational joint military training, the exercise successfully concluded and some weeks later, Joint Force Command Brunssum was certified ready to assume command of the NRF 2014. However, exercise SFJZ 13 was

only the first step of a process that will continue throughout this and next year with exercise TRIDENT JUNCTURE 2015 (TRJE 15), on the path to full implementation of NATO's latest Command Structure.

EXERCISE TRJE 15 will be a milestone event for NATO and will represent the largest test ever for the NRF. A high-visibility event (planned to incorporate more than 20,000 troops supported by large numbers of aircraft and ships), it will demonstrate that the end of ISAF and the operational benefits derived from that mission does not herald the end of NATO. Exercise TRJE 15 will be on an almost unprecedented scale, involve both Allies and Partners, embrace a so-called "plug and play" capability that will allow Nations to participate as briefly or long as they wish and provide a first-class platform in support of the Connected Forces Initiative (CFI).

With TRJE 15, all Allied Command Operations (ACO) and Allied Command Transformation (ACT) entities will be given a golden opportunity to train together with NATO, Partner Nations and the larger civilian environment, to test the new NATO Command Structure like never before, and to challenge the NRF concept.

In conclusion, the task will not be easy but it will demonstrate and underpin the cohesion that sits at the heart of the Alliance itself. At our HQ we are grateful for this opportunity! ✦



Above: General Philip M. Breedlove, SACEUR; General Hans-Lothar Domröse and General Knud Bartels, the Chairman of the Military Committee. **Middle:** Camp Adazi (Latvia), photograph by JWC PAO. **Left:** Guests attending the exercise DV Day on 7 November view an information display about some nations participating in the multinational exercise.

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 * NATO Defence Ministers move forward with Connected Forces agenda, www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/news_104241.htm