

NATO's new deployability concept tested during Exercise SFJT 12 - Joint Warfare Centre

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Tuesday, 12 June 2012 10:00



Exercise STEADFAST JOIST 12 (SFJT 12) took place from 02 to 16 May 2012 and tested NATO's new Deployable Joint Headquarters (DJHQ) concept while training Allied Joint Force Command Lisbon (JFC Lisbon) as a DJHQ in a NATO-led Crisis Response Operation.

Exercise SFJT 12 was also the first training event ever to be conducted in the new JWC training facility, which provided state-of-the-art capabilities to train a NATO JFC HQ. Conducted by French Army Lieutenant General Philippe Stoltz, Commander JFC Lisbon, and directed by French Army Major General Jean Fred Berger, Commander Joint Warfare Centre (JWC), the two-level (operational and tactical) exercise differed from its predecessors as it aimed on concept development of the JHQ deployability instead of NATO Response Force (NRF) certification.

Since the Lisbon Summit in November 2010, JFC Lisbon has played a critical role in shaping NATO's new deployability concept in close liaison with Joint Force Command Brunssum and Naples, under the leadership of Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE). Being the test-bed for the deployability concept, SFJT 12 aimed to enhance the military expertise of the personnel in effective command and control of NRF during multinational operations. The current requirement is to improve mobility, deployability and sustainability capabilities of NATO.

Lieutenant General Philippe Stoltz said: "From my perspective, the Forward Coordination Element (FCE) achieved great results with a highly trained small core of select individuals. During SFJT12 we were able to fully test the FCE's ability to 'connect' and 'understand'. In the next exercise, the 'prepare' task should receive more focus. For this purpose, the FCE needs

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Component Command Advanced Party counterparts to test its ability to prepare for the arrival of the main body and component forces."

Tailoring the structure

"The DJHQ concept is based upon a stepped and scalable model that provides options for progressive deployment of capability 'blocks', each of which combines the qualities of operational functions that can be tailored to the mission and situation. Each capability block of the DJHQ will require a pool of trained personnel from which to draw the operational functions required by the mission and situation. The capability blocks will provide different functions to address evolving needs. The requirement for Joint Force Headquarters personnel to be prepared and held at various states of readiness, available to form each mission-tailored capability block, lies at the heart of the DJHQ concept," a JFC Lisbon spokesman said.

High Level of Engagement

Defined by Lieutenant General Stoltz as JFC Lisbon's "lasting legacy to the Alliance", the concept was successfully tested at the JWC training facility with 631 personnel from NATO's JWC, JFC Lisbon and Force Command Heidelberg as well as 1st German-Netherlands Corps, Air Component Command Izmir, Maritime Component Command Northwood, NATO Special Operations Headquarters in Mons, Multinational CIMIC Group Italy, NATO Multinational CBRN Defence Battalion Czech Republic, and PSYOPS Task Force from the German and Polish Ministries of Defence. The high level of engagement between disparate organizations contributed significantly to the success of the exercise.

An extensive coverage of Exercise SFJT 12 will be provided in the upcoming issue of the JWC's "The Three Swords" magazine.