

secured, a Role 1 medical facility was established to give initial treatment to the injured. Medevac helicopters, including the Italian AB 212AM and Hungarian Mi-17s, flew the wounded out to the field hospital at Krumovo. After treatment, they were lifted out of the area by fixed-wing transports.

New Ck Exercise Elements

Following the first steps towards an assessment programme during CO-OPERATIVE KEY 2000 in Romania, the first true assessment of the exercise came during the 2001 exercise within the framework of the Assessment and Feedback Operational Capabilities Concept (A&FOCC) Program. The OCC is designed to establish new means and mechanisms to reinforce PIP's operational capabilities through enhanced and closer military co-operation.

The A&FOCC's two specific aims are to improve the ability of Partner forces to contribute to NATO-led PIP operations and give increased flexibility, predict potential contributions, and to provide the capability to put together tailored force packages to mount and sustain such operations in the future. It identifies 'Pool(s) of Partner Forces and Capabilities' as declared by the nations, and potentially available for NATO-led PIP operations. This declared Pool(s) might include multi-national Ally/Partner formations as well as Partner units and multi-national formations involving Partners alone.

The primary need is to provide adequate opportunities for Partner units to train and exercise together with NATO and to prepare specific national contingents to sustain NATO-led multi-national forces. A central element of the concept for the Alliance is to assess and provide feedback on the operational capabilities of declared Partner forces.

This will facilitate the force generation and tailoring process and enhance the Alliance's capability to sustain long duration operations.

Since the ratification of the programme is still in progress, participation in 2001's assessment should not be taken as a test resulting in either a 'pass or fail', and will not result in a declaration that forces – as declared in the database 'Pool of Forces and Capabilities' – are ready for operations.

The assessment was conducted as follows:

Exercise Assessment: The overall exercise was assessed against the achievements of the exercise objectives and planned goals. Plans, procedures, equipment and tactics employed during the exercise were all verified.

Assessment of the Host Nation (HN): Bulgaria's capability to support deployed forces, its provision of general resources (such as adequate communication equipment and ground support facilities), familiarity and compliance with communication and navigation procedures, capacity to support the missions safely, and proven proficiency in English was assessed. This adhered to the agreed Memorandum of Understanding and consequent Technical Arrangements which reflect the agreed support of the host nation.

Assessment of the Participating Elements (PE): All the deployed forces (Air, Medical, Land & Logistic Support) from the nations which requested assessment were assessed against prior agreed standards. This included

the capability to carry out the tasks as instructed, performance and level of interoperability achieved, and adherence to safety regulations during the exercise.

The goal was to assess command control and communication (C²), flying operations, logistical support, medical operations, and land operations by following each event in full. An airborne assessor, for instance, would observe and check the participating crew from the moment they received their Air Tasking Order (ATO) from the Multi-National Air Operations Centre (AOC), looking at everything from the planning of their mission and the briefing of the crew down to the execution of the ATO and the final debriefing.

In order to monitor the complete process, the Bulgarian Air Force made twin-stick aircraft available to the airborne assessors on every mission type flown. Their target was to assess a minimum of 60% of all the sorties scheduled. For every mission going out, a single MiG-29B, Su-22UM or Su-25UB followed, providing the airborne assessor in the back seat with a on-the-spot real-time insight into events. The multi-national Exercise

Assessment Team (EAT), made up of a core team from NATO HQs, the host nation and the participating nations, was instructed on the evaluation procedures and criteria through training lectures and seminars.

Another major new element of the exercise was the introduction of fast-jet reconnaissance missions. Sweden and Bulgaria provided recon aircraft and mobile photo-laboratories. Sweden sent six AJ37 Viggens from its Rapid Reaction Force SVAFRAP, a force intended for deployment during international peace support operations which draws its recon Viggens from the Luleå-based 1st division of F21. The Viggens camera nose holds seven cameras; two Ska 31 cameras with 600mm lenses for high level recon, four Ska 24 57-120mm lenses for medium and low level recon, and a Vka702 infra-red camera, leaving no space for a radar system. Bulgaria contributed a single Jambol/Bezmer-based Su-22M-4 Fitter-K equipped with the enourmous KKR photo/ELINT pod fitted on the centreline. The choice of sensor (camera), degree of interpretability required (scale, resolution, stereoscopic, optical), political/



Above: As was its role during the CK'00 exercise in Romania, Bulgarian Air Force's Su-25UBK was mainly used to provide the assessment team with the ability to assess the close air support missions from the air. CARLO BRUMMER/NIAS

Below: The pictures taken by the six Swedish AJ37 F37 Viggens from F21 and the Bulgarian Air Force Su-22M-4 were processed in two mobile photo-laboratories (located behind the Viggen). CARLO BRUMMER/NIAS

