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21 January 2020

NOTICE

AC/98(EAPC)N(2020)0002
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CIVIL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (CEPC)
CIVIL PROTECTION GROUP (CPG)
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE PLANNING GROUP (FAPG)
CIVIL COMMUNICATIONS PLANNING GROUP (CCPG)
ENERGY PLANNING GROUP (EPG)
JOINT HEALTH GROUP (JHG)
TRANSPORT GROUP (TG)
IN EAPC FORMAT

**INVITATION TO THE MAIN PLANNING CONFERENCE FOR THE
EADRCC CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT EXERCISE
"NORTH MACEDONIA 2020"**

Note by the Acting Chair

1. In accordance with the Civil Emergency Planning Exercise Policy,¹ and following the acceptance² of the offer made by the Republic of North Macedonia, the 19th EADRCC Consequence Management Command Post and Field Exercise "NORTH MACEDONIA 2020" will be jointly organized by the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) and the Crisis Management Center of the Republic of North Macedonia in Ohrid and Struga, Republic of North Macedonia, from 20 until 25 September 2020.

¹ EAPC(SCEPC)D(2004)0003-REV3+AS1

² AC/98-N-(2019)0047-COR1(INV)

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2. The field exercise will be preceded by a training programme, a table-top exercise and a virtual reality command post exercise. These aim to train and exercise procedures for:
 - 2.1. the Local Emergency Management Authority (LEMA);
 - 2.2. the On-site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC);
 - 2.3. the Emergency Medical Team Coordination Cell (EMTCC);
 - 2.4. the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) Operational Guidelines;
 - 2.5. the Non-Binding Guidelines for First Responders Regarding Planning, Training, Procedure and Equipment for Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Incidents;
 - 2.6. safety and security;
 - 2.7. liaison officers;
 - 2.8. on-site commanders; and
 - 2.9. team leaders of participating consequence management teams.
3. The consequence management activities on the ground will be based on a scenario that will include an earthquake and secondary emergencies such as CBRN incidents, cyber and hybrid attacks, mass migration, and floods affecting the population and critical infrastructure in the municipalities of Ohrid and Struga. The lead-in scenario is included at Annex 2.
4. The Exercise Planning Milestones are as follows:
 - 4.1. Main Planning Conference (MPC): 18 to 20 February 2020 at NATO HQ in Brussels, Belgium;
 - 4.2. Final Planning Conference (FPC): 10 to 13 May 2020 in Ohrid, Republic of North Macedonia;
 - 4.3. Exercise: 20 to 25 September 2020 at Lake Ohrid, Republic of North Macedonia; and
 - 4.4. Lessons Learned Conference: end January or early February 2021 in Sofia, Bulgaria.
5. The purpose of this notice is to invite representatives from Allied and partner countries and the NATO Military Authorities (NMAs) to attend the Main Planning Conferences for this exercise.
6. The MPC will develop the exercise scenario and the Draft Exercise Instructions (to be circulated before the conference), and explore host nation support issues, including border crossing procedures.
7. Participants are kindly requested to register for the MPC **not later than Friday, 7 February 2020** by using the following on-line registration form: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/north-macedonia-2020-main-planning-conference-tickets-90110162923?aff=MKD2020MPC>.

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VISA:

8. The Kingdom of Belgium is part of the Schengen Area. Participants must ensure they have a valid visa and corresponding entry document for the duration of the Conference.
9. If needed, EADRCC can provide a support letter to obtain the visa.

ACCOMMODATION:

10. Hotel room reservations will be managed by RoomTrust, NATO HQ's partner for hotel room management, based on the information provided by participants in the RoomTrust on-line registration form (link below).
 - 10.1. Special conference rates were negotiated with the Le Plaza Hotel in Brussels (www.leplaza.be) for the MPC participants;
 - 10.2. The room rate for single occupancy is 175.00 €;
 - 10.3. The room rate for double occupancy is 204.00 € (the above rates are NATO negotiated rates and include room, buffet breakfast, VAT and city tax);
 - 10.4. The current deadline to make your hotel reservation is **31 January 2020**. Please note that room availability is limited and cannot be guaranteed until 7 February;
 - 10.5. Cancellation will be free of charge until 31st January 2020;
 - 10.6. You can make your hotel reservation directly from this link and receive an instant confirmation to the email address you will insert in the booking procedure:
<https://book.roomtrust.com/login/3475PqbjM100G6uX9MCZxd14A>
Access code : **kn1A3cD2**
 - 10.7. Arrival and departure dates can be changed by using the arrow next to the boxes.
 - 10.8. Major credit cards are accepted.
11. Participants wishing to board in other hotels are requested to make their own arrangements.

TRANSPORT:

12. Participants arriving at Brussels International Airport are kindly requested to use the train direct connection between the airport and "*Bruxelles Nord*" (700m, 9 minutes' walk) or "*Bruxelles Centrale*" (1.3km, 15 minutes' walk).
13. On 18 February, NATO EADRCC shall organize transportation between Hotel Le Plaza and NATO Headquarters, free of charge.

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FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:

14. All costs for participation in the MPC will be paid by the participants of the sending nations. In the event that participants from partner countries may not be able to cover the costs for participation in this meeting, limited NATO funds are available to subsidise 100% of costs for visa, travel and accommodation only. Funds are available for **one participant** only from each partner country eligible for NATO financial support. All other expenses (including per diem, meals, transportation to and from airport or train station, hotel incidentals, etc) will not be reimbursed. A policy for financial support of eligible partner participation to CEP-related events has been circulated at reference³.

15. Requests for financial assistance should contain dates and times of departure and return travel, as well as the anticipated travel costs, and should be addressed **not later than 7 February 2020** to this email address: nato.eadrcc@hq.nato.int

16. A core planning team led by the EADRCC and composed of Host Nation experts and EADRCC exercise designers will further develop the exercise instructions based on the lessons identified in previous exercises. Nations will be invited to review the exercise instructions at the two planning conferences.

17. Please find attached 2 annexes with detailed information:

17.1. Annex 1 - Draft Agenda of the MPC.

17.2. Annex 2 - Lead-in scenario

(Signed) H. THANKEY

Annex 1: Agenda of the meeting
Annex 2: Lead-in scenario

2 Annexes

Action Officer: Wim Vanhamme, ext. 4608, EADRCC
Original: English

³ AC/98(EAPC)N(2012)0010 MULTI REF

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ANNEX 1

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**DRAFT AGENDA
MAIN PLANNING CONFERENCE - EXERCISE "NORTH MACEDONIA 2020"
18 – 20 FEBRUARY 2020**

| Time | Subject |
|---|--|
| Monday 17 February 2020 | |
| - | Arrival day |
| Tuesday 18 February 2020 (@ NATO HQ) | |
| 08:00 | Buses depart from Hotel Le Plaza |
| 09:00 | Opening of the Conference in Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opening remarks• Administrative arrangements• Agenda of the meeting |
| 10:00 | Plenary Session 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lead-in scenario• Exercise schedule• Exercise governance• Training programme• Table-top and command post exercise• Introduction on improving resilience through civil preparedness |
| 12:00 | Lunch break (no host) |
| 13:30 | Plenary Session 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planned host nation support (presentation, Q&A)• Border crossing and transportation issues• Base of operations and exercise sites• Exercise instructions• Presentations by nations on their intended participation in the exercise, including host nation support requirements |
| 15:00 | Coffee break |
| 15:30 | Plenary Session 2 (continued) |
| 17:30 | Closing the day remarks |
| 18:00 | Icebreaker reception (hosted by EADRCC) |
| 20:00 | Buses return to Hotel Le Plaza |

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| Wednesday 19 February (@ Hotel Le Plaza) | |
|---|--|
| 09:00 | Administrative arrangements |
| 09:15 | DISTAFF Working Groups Session 1 (parallel tracks) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Main DISTAFF Working Group:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ LEMA – OSOCC – UCC – EMTCC○ Evaluation○ Safety and Security○ Admin / host nation support○ Logistics○ ICT• Civil-military cooperation• CBRN• Emergency Medical Teams• Media and hybrid warfare• Urban search and rescue (including mountain rescue)• Water rescue• Migrants / Internally Displaced Persons• New technologies: NICS, Satellite communications, remote sensing, virtual reality... |
| 11:00 | Coffee break |
| 11:30 | DISTAFF Working Groups Session 1 (continued) |
| 13:00 | Buffet lunch (hosted by EADRCC) |
| 14.30 | DISTAFF Working Groups Session 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Main DISTAFF Working Group:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ LEMA – OSOCC – UCC – EMTCC○ Evaluation○ Safety and Security○ Admin / host nation support○ Logistics○ ICT• Civil-military cooperation• CBRN• Emergency medical teams• Media and hybrid warfare• Urban search and rescue (including mountain rescue)• Water rescue• Migrants / Internally Displaced Persons• New technologies: NICS, Satellite communications, remote sensing, virtual reality. |
| 16:00 | Coffee break |

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| | |
|-------|--|
| 16:30 | DISTAFF Working Group Sessions 2 (continued) |
| 17:30 | Closing the day remarks |
| 19:00 | Official dinner (hosted by North Macedonia) |

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| Thursday 20 February 2020 (@ Hotel Le Plaza) | |
|---|--|
| 09:00 | Plenary Session 3 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working Groups results presentations<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Main DISTAFF Working Group○ Civil-military cooperation○ CBRN○ Emergency medical teams○ Media and hybrid warfare○ Urban search and rescue (& mountain rescue)○ Water rescue○ Migrants / Internally Displaced Persons○ New technologies• Questions and answers• Conclusions of the meeting• Closing remarks |
| 11:00 | Coffee break |
| 11:30 | Plenary Session 3 (continued) |
| 13:00 | Buffet lunch (hosted by EADRCC) |
| 14:30 | End of the Main Planning Conference |
| Friday 21 February 2020 | |
| - | Departure day |

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ANNEX 2

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**EADRCC CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT FIELD EXERCISE "NORTH MACEDONIA 2020"
LEAD-IN SCENARIO**

On 18 September 2020 at 11:03h local time, a powerful 8.2 Richter scale (5 km deep) earthquake struck the wider area of the city of Ohrid in the municipality of Ohrid, Republic of North Macedonia. The epicentre is located in Ohrid Lake (41°02'14"N 20°43'08"E). The effects were felt in the neighbouring municipalities, as well as the capital city of Skopje.

Initial reports indicate that a large number of older residential buildings are heavily damaged or completely collapsed. Many were injured and the number of casualties is still unknown. The population in the affected area refuses to return to their homes in fear of aftershocks.

As a consequence of the earthquake, a dike on Ohrid Lake started to leak. At least one settlement is flooded, and the lake is full of debris. Therefore, there is a risk of contamination. Ohrid Lake is the city's main water supply; rumours of possible contamination are spreading, and thus water quality control activities are necessary.

Electricity and water infrastructures were severely damaged, but road and telecommunication infrastructures suffered only minor damage from the landslides.

Banks had to close their business and Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) are out of order due to power outages in Ohrid and Struga. Some (social) media published fake news of cyber-attacks against the banks and also spread rumours that the entire banking system in the Republic of North Macedonia has collapsed. Large groups of citizens gathered at several locations in Ohrid in front of the banks. ATMs were looted and destroyed.

Heavy damage is reported in the wider area of the city of Struga, located 12 km north of the epicentre. Unofficial reports indicate that the industrial zone in Struga suffered the most severe damage, possibly with a high number of casualties.

News media indicate that the earthquake generated a series of accidents in a large factory located between the two affected cities. As the disaster occurred during working hours, an unknown number of workers are missing or unaccounted for. Furthermore, there are reports of chemical leakages and fires with strange smells spreading in the vicinity of the factory.

Additionally, official representatives of a hydropower plant, at one of the accumulation lakes in the vicinity of the affected municipalities, reported structural damage of a bridge and possible casualties in a fisherman's settlement.

An aircraft on a scouting assignment lost control and crashed in the mountains in the vicinity of Ohrid.

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Part of an international smuggling group from the Republic of North Macedonia have abused the situation in the region to establish a new Balkan route for the illegal transit of migrants, through Ohrid and Struga, having EU-countries as their final destination.

Domestic assets are mainly focused on the rescue activities in the Ohrid residential area.

Due to the severity of the consequences and the situation in the field, Authorities of the Republic of North Macedonia will most likely issue a request for international assistance through the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC).

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MPC
18-20 Feb

Main Planning
Conference

Agenda

| TIME | SUBJECT | VENUE |
|---|---|-------------------|
| TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2020 (@ NATO HQ) | | |
| 07:30 | BUSES DEPART FROM HOTEL LE PLAZA | |
| 08:30 | REGISTRATION AT NATO HQ (GUARD HOUSE) | Guard House South |
| 09:00 | OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE IN PLENARY SESSION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Opening remarks by Mr. Jonathan Parish, Deputy Assistant Secretary General Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Opening remarks by Mr. Agron Buchaku, Director Crisis Management Center of the Republic of North Macedonia <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative arrangements <input type="checkbox"/> Agenda of the Meeting | Public Press Room |
| 10:00 | PLENARY SESSION 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Lead-in scenario <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise schedule | |
| 10:30 | COFFEE BREAK (HOSTED) | Public Square |
| 11:00 | PLENARY SESSION 1 (CONTINUED) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise governance <input type="checkbox"/> Training programme <input type="checkbox"/> Table-top and command post exercise <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction on improving resilience through civil preparedness | Public Press Room |
| 12:00 | LUNCH BREAK (NO HOST) | Cafeteria |
| 13:15 | PLENARY SESSION 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Planned host nation support <input type="checkbox"/> Border crossing and transportation issues <input type="checkbox"/> Base of operations and potential exercise sites <input type="checkbox"/> Next-Generation Incident Command System | Public Press Room |
| 14:50 | NATO HEADQUARTERS TOUR INTRODUCTION | |
| 15:00 | COFFEE BREAK (HOSTED) | Public Square |
| 15:15 | NATO HQ AND NATO'S HISTORY | |
| 16:15 | PLENARY SESSION 2 (CONTINUED) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise Instructions (first draft) <input type="checkbox"/> Presentations by nations on their intended participation in the exercise, including host nation support requirements | Public Press Room |
| 17:30 | CLOSING REMARKS FOR THE DAY | |
| 18:00 | ICEBREAKER RECEPTION (HOSTED BY EADRCC) | Staff Centre |
| 20:00 | BUSES DEPART TO HOTEL LE PLAZA | |

| TIME | SUBJECT | VENUE |
|---|---|--|
| WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY (@ HOTEL LE PLAZA) | | |
| 09:00 | ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS | Theater |
| 09:15 | WORKING GROUPS SESSION 1 (PARALLEL TRACKS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Organisational Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> LEMA-OSOCC-UCC-EMTCC <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Safety and Security <input type="checkbox"/> Administration <input type="checkbox"/> Host nation support <input type="checkbox"/> Information and Communications Technology <input type="checkbox"/> Training <input type="checkbox"/> Chemical - Biological - Radiological (CBRn) <input type="checkbox"/> New technologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Next-Generation Incident Command System <input type="checkbox"/> Satellite communications <input type="checkbox"/> Remote sensing <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality <input type="checkbox"/> Water, Urban and Mountain Search and Rescue <input type="checkbox"/> Media and hybrid warfare | Theater Elisabeth Astrid Marie-Henriette Paola |
| 11:00 | COFFEE BREAK (HOSTED) | Exhibition room |
| 11:30 | WORKING GROUPS SESSION 1 (CONTINUED) | Multiple |
| 13:00 | LUNCH (HOSTED) | Exhibition room |
| 14:30 | WORKING GROUPS SESSION 2 (PARALLEL TRACKS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Organisational Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> LEMA-OSOCC-UCC-EMTCC <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Safety and Security <input type="checkbox"/> Administration <input type="checkbox"/> Host nation support <input type="checkbox"/> Information and Communications Technology <input type="checkbox"/> Training <input type="checkbox"/> Civil-Military cooperation <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Medical Teams <input type="checkbox"/> Migrants / Illegal migration <input type="checkbox"/> Logistics (including cargo, cross-border, ...) | Theater Paola Elisabeth Astrid Marie-Henriette |
| 16:00 | COFFEE BREAK (HOSTED) | Exhibition room |
| 16:30 | WORKING GROUP SESSIONS 2 (CONTINUED) | Multiple |
| 17:30 | CLOSING REMARKS FOR THE DAY | Theater |
| 19:00 | OFFICIAL DINNER (HOSTED BY THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA) | Adophe Max |

| TIME | SUBJECT | VENUE |
|--|--|-----------------|
| THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY (@ HOTEL LE PLAZA) | | |
| 09:00 | PLENARY SESSION 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Working Groups Sessions results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Organisational working group <input type="checkbox"/> Logistics <input type="checkbox"/> New technologies <input type="checkbox"/> Migrants / illegal migration <input type="checkbox"/> Media and hybrid warfare <input type="checkbox"/> Civil-military cooperation <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Medical Teams <input type="checkbox"/> Water, Urban and Mountain Search and Rescue <input type="checkbox"/> Chemical - Biological - Radiological (CBRn) <input type="checkbox"/> Questions and answers <input type="checkbox"/> Conclusions of the Conference <input type="checkbox"/> Closing remarks by North Macedonia <input type="checkbox"/> Closing remarks by NATO | Theater |
| 11:00 | COFFEE BREAK (HOSTED) | Exhibition room |
| 11:30 | PLENARY SESSION 3 (CONTINUED) | Theater |
| 13:00 | LUNCH (HOSTED) | Exhibition room |
| 14:30 | END OF THE MAIN PLANNING CONFERENCE | |