

STARS INFORMER

DEC
2017

SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE BRIGADE REVIEW



SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE BRIGADE REVIEW // DEC 2017 // ISSUE IX



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“ONE TEAM, ONE MISSION”

SEEBRIG
Member Nations



NATION 1



NATION 2



NATION 3



NATION 5



NATION 6



NATION 7



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STARS INFORMER

DEC 2017 - ISSUE IX
www.seebrig.org

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Brigadier General **Tudorică PETRACHE** (Na-6)
Commander of SEEBRIG



Dear Readers,

I am very pleased to welcome the 9th issue of “Stars Informer”, the annual publication that presents the mission and activities of South Eastern Europe Brigade to the wider public. The “Stars Informer” magazine is a media tool, and within its pages you will find comprehensive information on all SEEBRIG HQ activities such as SEEBRIG Command Handover-Takeover, evaluation visits to the affiliated units of SEEBRIG, exercises, courses and articles on different topics.

SEEBRIG represents today an outstanding outcome of South Eastern Europe Strategic Security Environment. This is exactly what our Nations wished to have, a military structure capable to assure peace and stability within our region and beyond that. In this spirit of transparency and interoperability, “Stars Informer” is a window to what we have achieved so far, what we are dealing with and where we are heading in the future.

On the 23rd of August 2017 I had the honor and privilege to take-over the responsibilities as the Commander of SEEBRIG and together with Host Nation authorities successfully conducted the Handover-Takeover Ceremony of SEEBRIG Commandership as well as for Chairmanship of SEDM-CC/PMSC. For me this is more than just a career achievement, it is a great responsibility and also a challenge. I am convinced that being in command will definitely contribute to build an effective military cooperation and create a spirit of trust among our respective militaries.

Much of the work being done over the last few months has contributed greatly to our Brigade. From 18 to 22 Sept 2017 a delegation from SEEBRIG participated in the 38th PMSC and 37th SEDM-CC Meetings that were held in Athens on the framework of the South East Europe Defense Ministerial initiative, under auspices of the new Athens Chairmanship.

During the South-Eastern Defence Ministerial (SEDM) meeting held in Batumi, Georgia, on 11th of October 2017, I had the opportunity to inform the high level participants with all current and planned activities and to express SEEBRIG's future perspectives. During the meeting, Ministers from member nations of SEEBRIG approved, among other issues, SEEBRIG's Annual Plan and Budget Plan for 2018.

Three evaluation visits to the units allocated to SEEBRIG were conducted with the aim of verifying the personnel, equipment, procedures and maintaining overall PSO capabilities. The evaluation were also a great opportunity for SEEBRIG personnel to familiarize themselves with the capabilities, capacities, training standards, facilities, equipments, vehicles and weaponry systems of affiliated units from Nation 3, 5 and 7 and to meet their personnel and key leaders. All these evaluations showed us that the units are capable of and ready to take part in any PSO and achieve all its objectives.

Apart from the meetings and visits, the exercises we conduct and participate make us well-trained and ready for future operations. SEEBRIG personnel participated in the field exercise "BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA 2017", from 25th to 29th of September 2017, in the city of Tuzla, organized by the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) and the Ministry of the Security (MoS) of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Two observers from SEEBRIG were invited to take part in the exercise MAPLE ARCH 2017 organized in Poland, by LITPOLUKRBRIG from 13th to 16th of November. During the Exercise, participating Nations trained headquarters (HQs) staff in commanding and controlling troops in simulated realistic scenarios, such as Peace Support Operations (PSOs), Humanitarian Assistance (HA) and Crisis Response (CR). SEEBRIG's participation in this exercise enhanced the cooperation with LITPOLUKRBRIG and the two Brigades are looking for possible upcoming collaboration in common areas.

Moreover, SEEBRIG participated with a response cell in the GORDIAN KNOT 2017 Command Post Exercise, organized by NRDC-GR and EURASIAN STAR 2017, organized by NRDC-TR.

The overall aim of these exercises was to enhance interoperability, cooperation and contribute to enhancing national capabilities of NATO allies and partners.

Other than these meetings and exercises and in order to increase friendship among the members of SEEBRIG from different nations, some cultural events and activities were organized, like cultural visits to Thessaloniki, Katerini, Larissa and Saint Athos (Agio Oros), as well as trekking trips on Mount Olympus.

As we prepare to end 2017 and begin 2018, we are entering a period of evaluation and transition. For the next year and on long term, the main effort will be focused on increasing the interoperability among the six nations, NATO allies and other partners in order to be ready to fulfill our mission and build a culture within which people feel comfortable and motivated to share knowledge in a productive way. I look forward to our future, continuing to tackle significant challenges together, increasing our involvement, dialogue and joint training, all in order to improve our mutual interoperability and individual capabilities.

At the end, I would like to convey recognitions to the integral SEEBRIG HQ on their achievements and at the same time express my sincere gratitude to the Host Nation for their full cooperation and support, providing for us an excellent infrastructure and all facilities needed.

I am convinced that all capabilities and efforts directed towards achieving cooperation and harmony between nations will definitely set SEEBRIG as an example in ensuring regional peace and advancing mutual understanding. In the end, we must not forget our motto: "One team, one mission!"

SEEBRIG Command and SEDM/CC-PMSC Chairmanship Handover-Takeover Ceremony



Lieutenant Colonel **Dobril Radoslavov** (Na-2)
Chief G1

SEEBRIG added another significant date in its history on 23 August 2017 when the 10th official change of command took place. Brigadier General Faruk METIN (NA-7) handed over the command of SEEBRIG to Brigadier General Tudorică PETRACHE (NA-6) along with the SEEBRIG Flag as symbol of the Multinational Peace Force in South-Eastern Europe.



During the ceremony the PMSC and SEDM-CC chairmanship was also exchanged between Ambassadors Huseyin MUFTUOGLU (NA-7) as outgoing chairman and Ambassador Eleftherios ANGHELOPOULOS (NA-3) as the new chairman until year 2019. All outgoing NA-7 SEDM-CC and PMSC Secretariat personnel and BG Faruk Metin were rewarded with SEEBRIG Accomplishment Medal.

The change of command was performed with traditional military ceremony in the presence of high-level political and military representatives from 11 member nations of SEDM and SEEBRIG. Deputy Ministers of Defense from NA-2, NA-3, NA-5, NA-7 and Sarajevo, Deputy Chiefs of Defense from NA-2, NA-3, NA-6, diplomats and senior and higher ranked officers and personnel from NA-1, Podgorica,



Rome, Washington, Zagreb, and LITPOLUKRBRIG attended the event. Flag Parties from the six SEEBRIG member nations participated in the ceremony, symbolizing the good neighborly relations, the regional peace, security and stability among the countries.

In his speech the alternate Minister of Defense of the host nation (NA-3) Mr. Dimitrios VITSAS accentuated the importance of neighborly cooperation between the South Eastern European countries for the regional stability and for coping with consequences from disasters.

The outgoing commander, Brigadier General Faruk METIN highlighted the achievements of his 9 months long tour of duty, while the incoming commander Brigadier Gen-



eral Tudorică PETRACHE spoke of his aim to make SEEBRIG “grow while always remaining adaptable, motivated, responsive and open to new ideas.” Further in his speech the new commander highlighted one of SEEBRIG’s roles to bring multiculturalism and enhance multinational friendship and contemporary political and military cooperation in the region. He affirmed that SEEBRIG builds an effective military cooperation and creates a spirit of trust among the respective militaries. BG PETRACHE congratulated BG METIN and all the commanders of the affiliated units for the results achieved so far and stated his intentions to focus his efforts on increasing the interoperability among the six nations, in order to be ready to fulfill the mission of SEEBRIG.



The military ceremony went on with a parade of the SEE-BRIG personnel, flag parties from the six Member Nations and the rest of the troops.

The Handover-Takeover of command and the 18th SEE-BRIG Anniversary were further celebrated with an official dinner at a hotel in Larissa, attended by all the distinguished guests, SEEBRIG nucleus staff and their families.





Athens SEDM/CC- PMSC Chairmanship

Ambassador a.h. **Eleftherios ANGHELOPOULOS**,
PMSC/SEDM CC Chairman

“Friendship is essentially a partnership”

Athens SEDM-CC/PMSC Chairmanship which began its term on July 1st 2017 will focus on the close cooperation of all the member nations of our initiative, based on our fundamental principles, in full respect of International Law and good neighborly relations, with a view to strengthening stability and security in the region of Southeastern Europe.

Despite the initial forecasts for long period of peace after the end of cold war, we entered in the new millennium confronted with new security threats. The future of our region requires that we meet the challenges and uncertainty by increasing also the understanding of both the strategic issues and the economic goals.

In this context the value of our initiative is of the utmost importance for all the region of South East Europe and beyond. SEDM is the initiative with the largest membership in our region. It is up to us to use its potential to the benefit of our people, and our region. SEDM is the proof that our region is no longer a consumer of safety but a safety producer and this should be visible beyond our region. Our Brigade SEEBRIG along with our projects will act as the spearhead for this effort.

We live in the era of the rapid communication which is offered by the technology and in particular the information technology and we must exploit it. On this regards the Establishment of “SEDM Information and Communication Services” along with the “SEDM Internet and Social Media Policy” which both were approved by our Ministers in Batumi Ministerial meeting in October 2017, aim towards enhancing visibility of SEDM Process and SEEBRIG, and both of them are a big step to this direction to increase public awareness and reinforce the image of SEDM as an initiative addressing regional challenges and fostering collaboration among nations.

I strongly believe that the current projects and activities of SEDM Process and more concretely the Interconnection of Military Hospitals (IMIHO), SEDM Official Portal, Female Leaders in Security and Defence (FLSD), Building Integrity (BI), as well as the South Eastern Europe Simulation Exercise (SEESIM), are important steps and accomplishments in our regional cooperation.

We have to optimize cost-effectiveness of all the projects, initiatives and activities of SEDM Process and explore ways of enhancing them. They have to involve available technologies, imagination and initiative in deriving greater value from resources, and include all processes by which new ideas are generated and converted into useful results for our initiative.

In this context we would like to welcome the establishment of “SEDM Information and Communication systems” and “Social Media Policy” that would increase visibility of our initiative as well as the “IMIHO Guidance and Framework” which will foster cooperation among military hospitals.

Furthermore, Athens, during its Chairmanship, will continue the work to finalize the drafting of 6th Additional Protocol of the Multinational Peace Force South Eastern Europe Agreement and explore ways which will help our initiative increase its efforts in addressing the security challenges in our region.

Last but not least, all our actions and endeavors over the next two years will be governed by the words of Aristotle “*friendship is essentially a partnership*”, which are also the motto of Athens Chairmanship.

Interoperability - to play the same game together



Brigadier General **Tudorică PETRACHE** (Na-6)
Commander of SEEBRIG

Why interoperability?

Interoperability would seem to be a very complex concept. In a simple way, is a measure of the degree to which various organizations or individuals are able to operate together to achieve a common goal. From this perspective, interoperability is a good thing, which involves standardization, integration, cooperation, and even synergy.

In a military multinational environment interoperability is the ability of the forces of two or more nations to train, exercise, and operate effectively, given the nature of the forces and the combined military organizational structure, C3 (command, control and communications) structure, the degree of similarity of technical capabilities, common procedures and cultural diversity, in order to carry out military actions and achieve the common goal.

Today's global security environment is growing more complicated than ever, including a greater number of influential state actors, the emergence of multiple types of strategic capabilities and a complex range of threats. Conventional warfare looks to be more and more outdated.

Nowadays, the main threat is the hybrid warfare which blends **conventional warfare, irregular warfare and cyberwarfare**. President John F. Kennedy predicted this new type of war, addressing the West Point Class of 1962: "this is another type of war, new in its intensity, ancient in its origin - war by guerrillas, subversives, insurgents, assassins, war by ambush instead of by combat; by infiltration, instead of aggression, seeking victory by eroding and exhausting the enemy instead of engaging him. It preys on economic unrest and ethnic conflicts. It requires in those situations where we must counter it, and these are the kinds of challenges that will be before us in the next decade if freedom is to be saved, a whole new kind of strategy, a wholly different kind of force, and therefore a new and wholly different kind of military training."

These kind of threats and challenges require an interoperable joint integrated multinational force able to operate effectively, efficiently and sustain a full spectrum of military missions.



Levels of interoperability

As I mentioned right at the beginning, the interoperability is a very complex concept, which comes in various forms, degrees, multiple dimensions and can occur at various levels: **structural, communication, capabilities, procedures and cultural.**

A well-structured and staffed **headquarters** is essential to any multinational force. It is from the headquarters that an operation is conducted, courses of action considered, plans drawn up and directives, orders and instruction issued.

There must be good **communication** within the headquarters and the technical means to communicate outside and among dedicated units, as well as a basic understanding within about its function and how it needs to work.

A key factor is **capabilities** interoperability, which means that the units are compatible, can talk to each other and provide mutual combat and logistic support.

Common **procedures**, practices and standards must be established, revised or updated in order to build a viable interoperable multinational force, so that the staff can focus on the multinational task, with minimum distraction from parent nations, policy being determined at a level above the operational headquarters.

The last but not the least, cultural interoperability provide a stable and fruitful environment in which nations can develop an understanding about each other's sensitivities, cultural differences and achieve the high degree of harmony, so essential for an effective multinational force.



South-Eastern Europe Brigade Interoperability

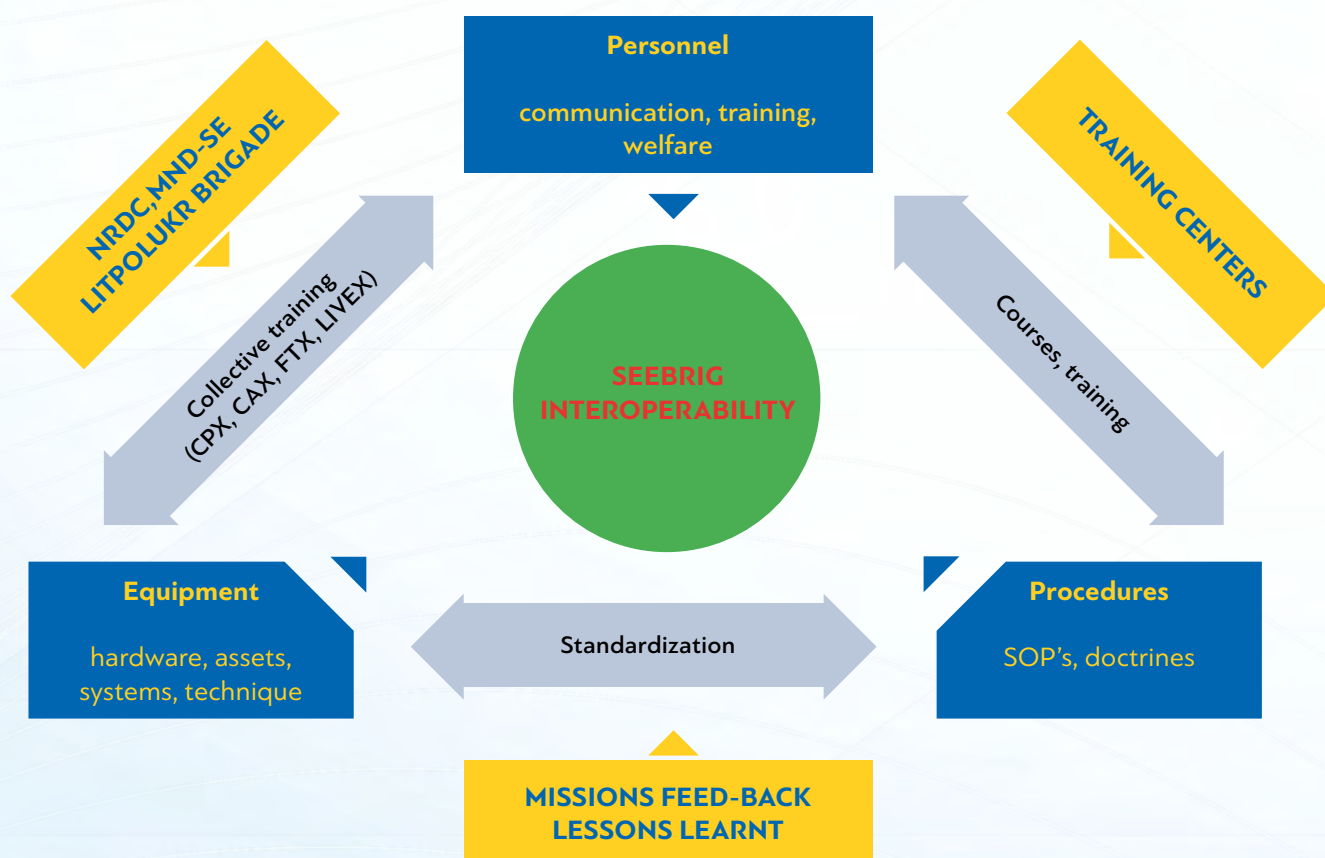
SEEBRIG is a multinational force that brings together six different nations to promote peace and stability and foster good relations in the region. This brigade was developed amongst turbulent times in our region, aiming to promote regional security, stability and further enhance cooperation in the conduct of Peace Support and Disaster Relief Operations.

Bringing six countries as partners in a multinational force

was not an easy thing but it has been proved not to be impossible. After 18 years of commitment and working together, SEEBRIG HQ has become a melting pot of different cultures and mentalities. In terms of interoperability, there is always room to improve. Interoperability is not a static process, it is continuously and the ability to operate together coherently, effectively and efficiently takes a lot of effort, commitment, resources and time.

Interoperability of formations and units of a joint and multinational structure has three dimensions, technical (hardware, systems, equipment, assets), procedural (doctrines, procedures) and human (language, terminology, training,

welfare). To become and to work as a team, a leader or a commander must mitigate the complexity of a multinational tactical formation by combining these three key aspects in an efficient way.



Apart from these three dimensions, SEEBRIG's internal interoperability goes hand in hand with external interoperability, with NATO allies and other partners. During the last SEDM meeting, PMSC has approved our intention to develop, organize and participate in common exercises with other structures as NRDC's and MND-SE.

In my vision, in order to achieve the interoperability, the main effort will be collective training, by organizing and participating to different types of military exercises as CPX, CAX, FTX, LIVEX, etc. My intention is to increase the number of exercises and to focus especially on field exercises. Having units/subunits from the all six nations on the field and training together is more efficient than map exercises. In this way we can create a team, we can learn how to fight as a multinational unit, to foster dialogue about units capabilities and limitations, despite of different military equipment and assets. Any leader must spend the time to build relationships and trust, as well as common understanding through the depth of the formation.

If you don't know your units, how do you know how effective the multinational force will be? One evaluation visit in a three years mandate, as a commander of SEEBRIG, is not enough. Every commander must understand the role of his unit/subunit in the multinational force task organization in

order to assign appropriate tactical tasks, make correct decisions and act in the spirit of SEEBRIG, as the motto says: One team, one mission! Moreover, according with SEEBRIG proposal submitted to PMSC, all key leaders from the affiliated units will be invited to participate at every exercise MPC for a better and common understanding of the mission. With these occasions a key leader training will be conducted, in order to improve the communication, to think in the spirit of the same philosophy or in an informal way: **to sing and dance on the same song.**

From the procedural perspective, all SOP's will be updated and modified in order to support the main effort: collective training. A key factor to achieve interoperability is standardization. This provides a common language and vision over the planning, conducting and synchronizing of any operation. For a better and effective communication the process of SOP's reviewing will be conducted in both ways: top to bottom and bottom to top approach. Every nation members affiliated unit has valuable and key personnel who participated in PSO, in different areas. From the operational point of view the feedback is helpful and improves the quality of procedures, policies and doctrines. They will be invited to brief SEEBRIG HQ staff and also to participate in drafting new SOP's or reviewing the actual ones.

The technical interoperability I expect to be a hot spot, especially in the communication field. Not every country brings compatible radios, FFT devices or command information system. It is very important to identify solutions to

create a proper communication architecture which can result in interoperability between SEEBRIG HQ and affiliated units or among the units.



Hasty Planning Process (HPP)



Colonel **Ioannis INTZES** (Na-3)
Chief of Staff

“Plans are nothing, but planning is everything”

In every operation the Commander and his staff continuously monitor the situation in order to be able to intervene appropriately. There are a lot of reasons that forcing a Unit to change its existing plan and issue a new Operational Order. Such reasons are new orders coming from higher echelon, new assessments from the staff, hostile actions, weather conditions or natural disasters and the state of our forces. The decisions of the Commander should be based on a process similar to the Operational Planning but tailored to the existing timeframe. The staff, having participated in the OPP, is able to have a continuous and comprehensive assessment of the current situation and, by applying a “Hasty Planning Process-HPP”, can support Commander’s decision-making in the conduct of the operations.

Upon receiving the relevant order the planning team shall take the following actions:

Assignment of Tasks

Within the HQs is defined the specific group (Planning Team) that will take over the specific HPP. Then the team leader sends an invitation with specific requirements to staff officers defining the workplace. Participants should be prepared to discuss and propose actions, in order the OPORDER or FRAGO that will be issued to be complete, explicit, and accurate.

Setting an Action Schedule

The schedule of the different activities and actions should be based on the given available time. As a generic rule, one-third of the available time is allocated to the Brigade and the remaining 2/3 for the planning and preparation of the actions of the subordinate units and their forces. The above rule in a multinational environment could change to ¼ and ¾ respectively.

Mission Analysis

In the given time the mission analysis begins by the members of the group (DCOSOPS usually coordinates the meeting). Very shortly a briefing is given to the COM or COS and the following are issued:

- The necessary warnings Orders to subordinates for warning and parallel planning-preparation.
- Any Directions by the Commander about the course of action and the type of forces to be used.
- Information Requirements to support the planning.

COA Development

The next step is to develop the possible COAs. After a brief assessment of the situation, the potential COA are developed, evaluation criteria are defined and the basic conclusions are drawn through a war game (depending on the available time) in order to choose the most appropriate COA. At the end of this phase a decision briefing is prepared for a decision from the Commander. The decision should give clear and categorical answers to the WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, HOW, and WHY questions.

Draft of Order –Transmission to Units

After taking a decision on the most appropriate COA, additional directions are given by the Commander and the drafting of the FRAGO or the OPORDER starts. The Order should be sent to the subordinates at the time set, in order to give them time to plan their actions in a timely and correct manner.

Hand Over of the authority to control the Operation

Following the drafting, approval and transmission of the OPORDER, the PT prepares a briefing to the personnel in Current Ops Cell in TOC, which will assume responsibility for monitoring and controlling the operation.

Example of a HPP

- On 20 1200 Jun, SEEBRIG staff receives an order from LCC to conduct a specific operation NLT 21 2200 Jun. For this reason a HPP starts.

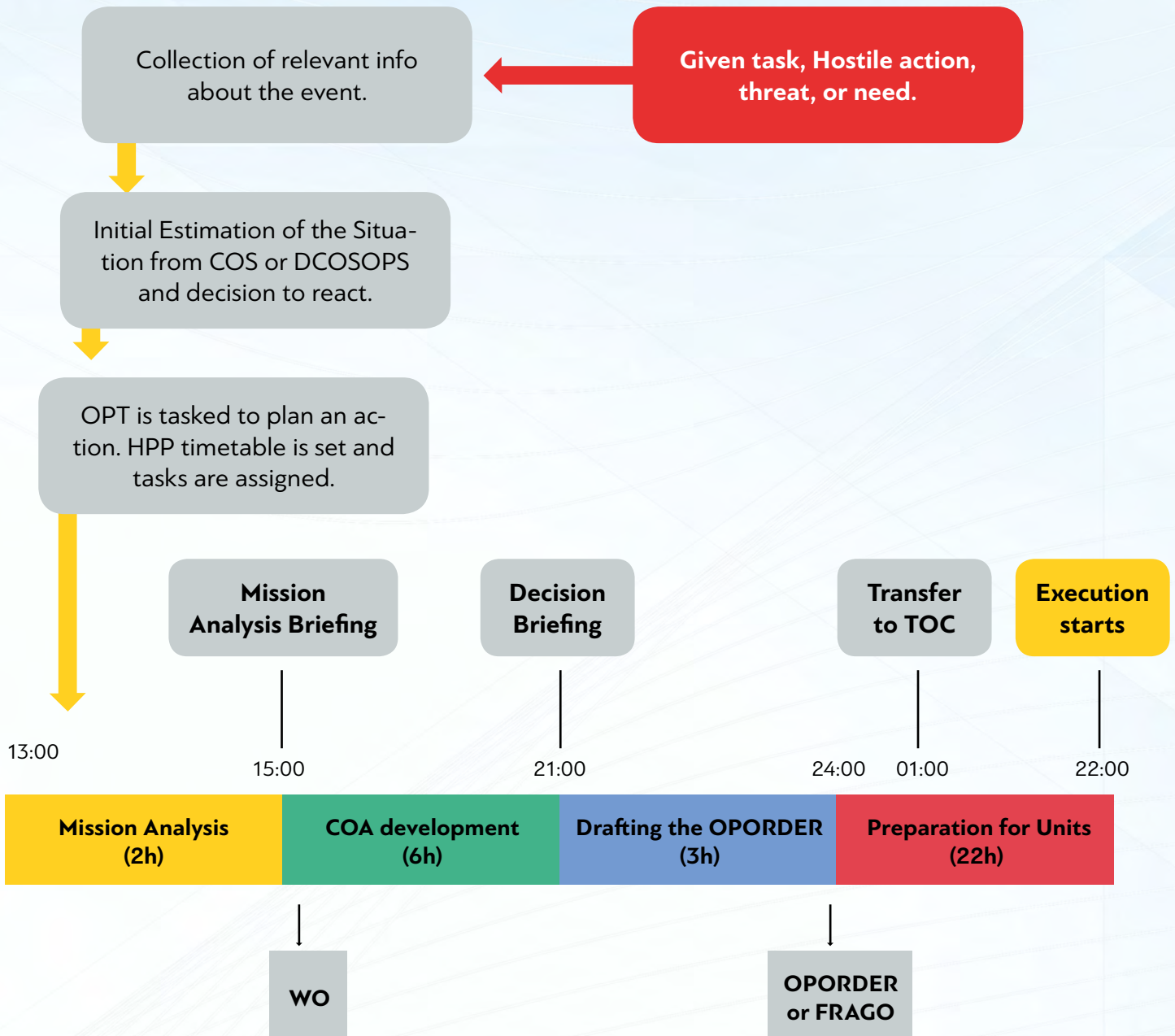
- On 20, 1230 Jun, DCOSOPS instructs the head of a PT to work on the issue of an ORDER for the execution of the mission set by the Commander, giving all the available data. The "H" time is 21 2200 Jun 10 (scheduled start time of the action).

- On 20 1300 Jun, the leader of the PT sets the timetable for the HPP. Initially he calculates the time available from the time the order was received to the time "H". This time is 33 hours. Therefore, the time available up to the issuance of the order should be 11 hours, while 22 hours should be allocated to the subordinates and their troops that will ex-

ecute the operation. Subsequently, taking into account the existing "Battle Rhythm", he distributes the various actions as below, completing the relevant table (icon 1), which is posted in the working place:

- » 20 1300 Jun: OPT mission analysis (1h 45')
- » 20 1415 Jun: Mission analysis Briefing to COM (up to 30').
- » 20 1600 Jun: Warning Order, Commander's Guidance, and Intelligence Requirements.
- » From 1500-2100 Jun: Developing COA (6h)
- » 20 2100 Jun: Decision Briefing (up to 45').
- » Up to 20 2400 Jun: Drafting-transmission of the ORDER (3h)
- » 21 0100 Jun: Transfer of ORDER to TOC (30').
- » 21 2200 Jun: The operation starts

Hasty Planning Process-HPP



New Military Challenges to Peace Support Operations



Colonel **Ljupcho SPASEVSKI** (Na-5)
DCOS OPS

The 21st Century brings enormous challenges to the international community's peace and security – and Peace Support Operations (PSOs) will have to address many of these challenges.

The conflicts of today are driven by a complex mix of factors including failing or incapable states, flare-ups of ethnic strife, transnational criminal, terrorist threats, and serious humanitarian and public health crises. Today's world, (with changing patterns of conflict and threats to UN interest) presents new political and military challenges. In (the conduct of complex) PSOs, military activities should be viewed as only one of several lines of operation within a wider strategy directed towards an agreed end-state. Military activities will be, without exception, part of a wider strategy in support of political goals. The military units are operating in very dangerous environments with significant levels of ongoing violence. This greatly impacts ability both to start up new missions and to operate effectively and safely once we are deployed.

Progress has been made in developing guidance, training materials, and operational concepts. The base of major contributors to PSOs must be expanded, while deepening the engagement of current contributors. Only in this way can PSOs retain its universal character and draw effectively upon the full array of capabilities. Without this full participation, there is a growing gap between the capabilities required and the capabilities provided. However, full potential cannot be reached if those with the most significant capabilities choose not to participate. Cooperation with regional actors in PSOs today, is a

more crowded playing field, with regional actors and parallel missions playing an active role in crisis response. A common thread across all missions is that we are one among multiple actors, missions, and envoys. There is a greater demand for coherence and inter-operability and, if strong strategic partnerships can be built, there is the possibility of improving our collective impact. The challenge is to build strategic partnerships with key stakeholders and translating partnerships into political and operational results.

A first priority is achieving more rapid deployment. When a crisis erupts, a race against time begins where we endeavor to deploy units to stabilize a country before the situation spirals further into cycles of violence. This is particularly true when we are mandated to deploy into situations where conflicts are ongoing, in which each day we are not on the ground is another day of violence, destruction and suffering.





How a mission deploys is tremendously important for how it is perceived by the local population, the confidence it enjoys with the government and its capacity to effectively respond to security threats, and enable the wider array of post-conflict civilian tasks. The most important is to deploy units in a timely manner. The solution must come collectively and cut across force generation, logistics planning and military planning, legal negotiations, strategic sea and airlift, and global supply chain management. Enabling capacities such as engineering, air and ground transport and medical support remain critical chokepoints.

This process is shortened as much as possible. Today, regional organizations are playing a vital bridging role in many cases; building more predictable stand-by arrangements with them is key.

The capabilities of our peacekeepers must be modernized. For the new environments in which we operate, appropriate duty of care needs to be ensured and the capacities of military need to be enhanced to confront new threats. Once in theatre, there will be a requirement for robust, highly mobile capabilities and/or an ongoing need for reserve capabilities to enable the rapid adjustment of posture. The

ability to operate safely in an environment of asymmetric threat will require improved training, detection capabilities, proper equipment, better access to information, and improved contingency planning. To address this, we need to modernize our capabilities to ensure we can achieve our mandated tasks while safeguarding our personnel. Looking to future PSOs, we will see highly technological operations whereby a range of sensors are used to do verification, where the military units have much better situational awareness, where they could even use advanced technologies for better power generation in remote areas – like solar and wind power.



By using unmanned armed aerial vehicles (UAVs), we are able to use the latest technologies to monitor movements of armed groups and allow us to better protect vulnerable populations. So there are such great possibilities for PSOs in the future, especially combined with the steady advance of technology. We can start to consider things like the robo-peacekeeper, which can go places where it's too dangerous to put human beings.



Finally, the protection of civilians, which is arguably our most challenging mandate. Peacekeepers are deployed in vast areas, often without the necessary means to reach those who look to them for protection. Absent a viable peace, amidst swirling conflict, it will never be possible for

peacekeepers to protect everyone. But still, they must do their utmost to protect civilians. Our missions must analyze the threats, prioritise the resources, and use all their means to protect the most vulnerable.

SEEBRIG Logistics during Peace Support Operations



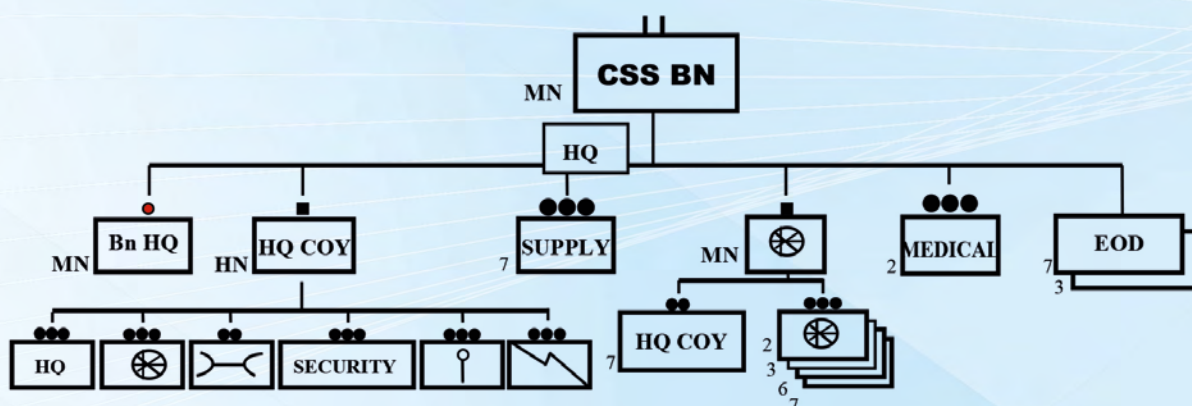
Colonel **Nikolay NIKOLOV** (Na-2)
DCOSSUP

The main mission of SEEBRIG is to conduct Peace Support Operations (PSOs). The logistics is of vital importance for fulfilling its mission in the best possible way. Transportation of people and materiel, acquisition and procurement, storage, distribution, maintenance, evacuation and disposition of equipment, medical service, etc. are just a few pieces of the big logistics picture in a PSO. Without well organized and functional supply chain and logistics as a whole, the operation could not be carried out and sustained. This is especially evident and lesson learned from SEEBRIG participation in International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission in Afghanistan in 2006.

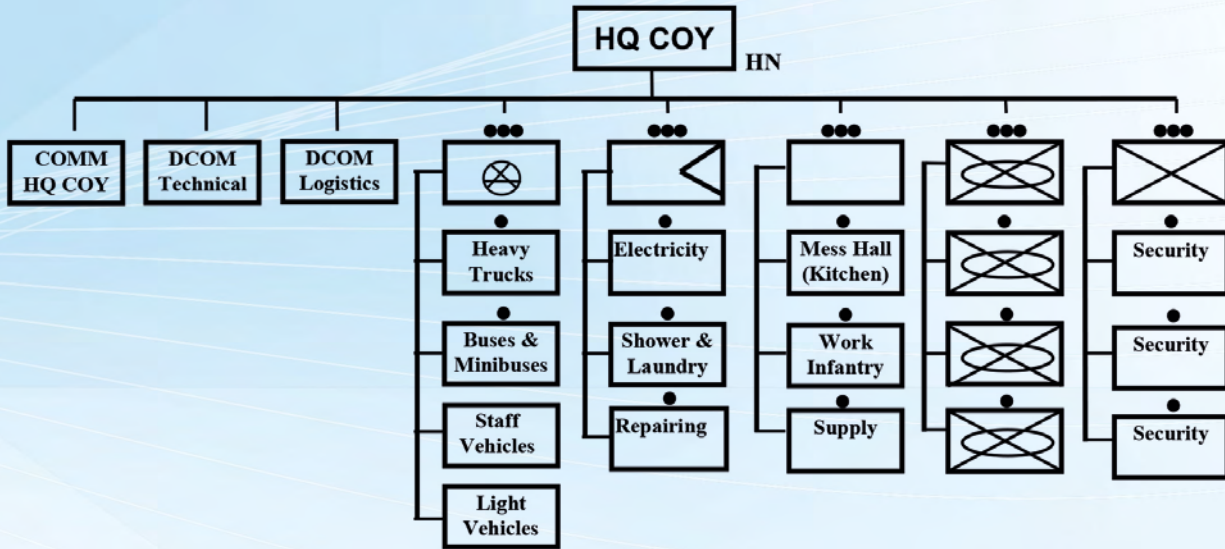
The concept of support for the SEEBRIG's Forces is that national units will be selfsustaining. Specifically, during the deployment, execution and redeployment phases the Nations are responsible for the movement and sustainment of their own national contingents, equipment and stocks. SEEBRIG Commander will have the coordinating authority to plan logistic support for the SEEBRIG's Area Of Responsibility (AOR). The SEEBRIG logistics staff, through coordi-

nation and procedures will assist in the actual implementation of logistic support and will recommend to the SEEBRIG Commander the relevant courses of action (COAs). It will be managed in accordance with the Operational Plan (OPLAN) and with the tools provided to COMSEEBRIG. Which are they? According the MPFSEE Agreement during PSO the following units will be under his command:

1. A multinational Combat Service Support Battalion (CSS BN).



2. HQ Coy from the SEEBRIG HQ Host Nation.



These units could be very strong tools if the positions in their structures are manned, the staff is trained and all capabilities are very clearly defined and available. Going back to the reality of 2006, when SEEBRIG was involved in its only mission up to now, we see that all assets from the airlift for the deployment, to the single container/piece of equipment related with logistics and real life support, was rented or purchased, with a huge use of the common budget. Because of the specifics of the mission, such as: presence of units from other Nations, long lines of communication inside the country hampered by rough terrain, unpaved roads and security threats, CSS BN was not activated. We don't know how CSS BN, which supposed to be the logistics back bone of every operation, will be established during the force generation process and will operate during the mission time. Actually we have CSS BN only on paper! CSS BN is just a theoretical asset presented on documents, never tested in real PSO training or field training exercises.

It is clear that SEEBRIG does not have any Logistics Capabilities with the actual structure and manning. The logistics services will be provided by National Support Elements (NSE). Their structure, equipment and manning will remain under each Nation's operational Command and Control (C2). NSE will be the main hubs collecting all information in terms of logistics support for the national units. All logistic capabilities will be based on contracting and purchasing basis. With the actual logistics capabilities like HQ Coy only, would be unrealistic to consider that SEEBRIG would be ready to be deployed in a high/medium threat environment without any logistics support from the local Nation where the operation might take place.

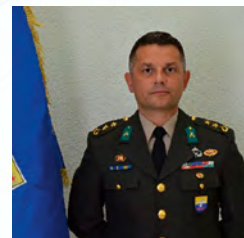
Every operation is different and has its own specifics that require to be taken into consideration. This six months precious experience in Afghanistan poses obvious logistic challenges and requires evolving of SEEBRIG Logistics Concept accordingly. It would be more realistic to consider that from a logistics point of view, SEEBRIG could be deployed in a

theatre where basic logistics support through contracting services would be available, and the logistics infrastructure would be in place (buildings, appropriate ports of debarkation, materiel handling equipment, transportation means etc).

Furthermore, it would be appropriate to consider that the most probable scenario would be SEEBRIG to be used as a pool of forces, from where the necessary units would be selected by Nations, through force generation process, to accomplish the mission. In this case it would be more effective, Nations to take over specific logistics functions (implementation of framework Nation, and Lead Nation concept of support). This would cost less than trying to establish the multinational CSS BN for a short period of time.

In conclusion, Nations should consider the one of the main factors limiting the sustainability of Peace Support Operations is putting on NSE the whole logistics burden of the operation and them to become key players for the successful logistics support. SEEBRIG Logistics Concept foresees cooperation on different levels. Following the NATO Logistics Doctrine other possible pillar for successful implementation of the mission, could be the creation of Multinational Integrated Logistic Units (MILUs) formed by two or more nations, instead of the SEEBRIG CSS BN.

SEEBRIG's Participation in Exercises in 2017



Lieutenant Colonel **Burgehan TASKOYAN** (Na-7)
Chief G3

Exercises as a part of SEEBRIG Training aspects prepare Nucleus Staff and assigned units for Peace Support Operations (PSO) in a multinational PSO environment. The main goal of the exercises is to train SEEBRIG HQ NS Staff and Units in peacetime, in order to help them achieve the appropriate standard of proficiency, as well as to be ready to execute all military tasks in PSOs.

During the year 2017 SEEBRIG took part in the following training activities:

Exercise “BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA 2017”

SEEBRIG personnel participated in the field exercise “BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA 2017”, from 25th to 29th September 2017, in the city of Tuzla. The exercise was organized by the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) and the Ministry of the Security (Mos) of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

SEEBRIG participated with 5 staff officers. The exercise was based on a combined flood and earthquake scenario,

linked to the type of geological and environmental challenges faced by Bosnia and Herzegovina. SEEBRIG Response Cell participated in the Virtual Reality Command Post exercise by training its disaster response capabilities with a variety of tasks, such as water purification, power supply, debris removal, bridge construction, earth moving and establishing check points. The overall aim of the exercise was to enhance interoperability, exercise cooperation and contribute to enhancing national capabilities of NATO Allies and partners.



Exercise “GORDIAN KNOT 17”

Exercise GORDIAN KNOT 17 was conducted from 27 Nov to 07 Dec 2017 at the training areas of “PROKOPIDI” and “LEVANTI” camps in ASSIROS and SINDOS respectively in Thessaloniki area and it was the main training activity of NATO Rapid Deployable Corps-Greece for 2017.

SEEBRIG HQ participated in this training activity as Response Cell, composed by nine officers and one NCO, together with four other brigades from Na-2, Na-3, Na-6 and Spain.

GOKT-17 was a Command Post Exercise (CPX) that trained NRDC-GR HQ with associated Joint Logistic Support Group in planning and conducting a Non Article 5 Crisis Response SJO (L) of limited complexity, under direct command of SACEUR, in a military, civilian and not failed state environment involving combat incidents with High Intensity moments.

This exercise provided a good opportunity to SEEBRIG to increase visibility among NATO countries and to train and prove its capabilities in a complex and challenging operational framework.



Exercise “EURASIAN STAR 17”

Another big exercise that SEEBRIG participated in the Execution Phase was Exercise Eurasian Star 17 (EAST 17), conducted from 8-15 Dec 2017 in NRDC-TUR HQ in Istanbul, Na-7. SEEBRIG HQ participated with 2 staff officers as augmentees in J2 and JLSG.

EX EAST17 exercised HQ NRDC-T in planning and conducting an Article V operation under direct command of SACEUR, in order to maintain and improve NRDC-TUR's and its JLSG's Joint Processes. The SKOLKAN 1 Scenario was used in Ex EAST17 to meet the approved training objectives for the training audience.



Training Courses and Seminars

Crisis Communication Course

A Crisis Communication Course took place in SEEBRIG HQ, Tyrnavos/Larissa (Na 3), from 6 to 8 June 2017. All SEEBRIG HQ personnel participated in the Crisis Communication Course, that was conducted by a team of 4 certified media trainers from the Public Affairs Regional Centre (PARC), Na-

5. SEEBRIG HQ's nucleus staff had the fruitful experience to get acquainted with the quite interesting issues of preparing and conducting an interview, as well as preparing, organizing and conducting a news conference, in the framework of a fictitious scenario that was provided by the instructors.



Cultural Awareness and Public Affair Officer Course

Cultural Awareness and Public Affairs Officer (CAPA) courses took place in SEEBRIG HQ, Tyrnavos/Larissa (Na 3), from 20 to 22 March 2017. The aim of the course for SEEBRIG HQ's nucleus staff was to get acquainted with the quite interesting issues of cultural awareness's procedures along with the duties of a public affairs officer, aligned with SEEBRIG's mission.

All SEEBRIG HQ personnel participated in the CAPA courses, that were instructed by 2 officers from the Multinational Peace Support Operations Training Centre (MPSOTC, Kilkis, Na 3). SEEBRIG HQ's nucleus staff had a fruitful experience to get acquainted with the quite interesting issues of cultural awareness's procedures along with the duties of a public affairs officer, aligned with SEEBRIG's mission.



Disaster Relief Operations Course

While disasters are by definition tragic, resulting in great loss of material goods and property, as well as injury and loss of life, disaster relief is a truly human response meaning that when people see those in need, human consciousness has developed the desire and ability to help others, crossing geographical distance and cultural boundaries.

According to Annual Plan 2017 and for second consecutive year a Mobile Education Training Team (METT) from Crisis Management and Disaster Response Centre of Excellence (CMDR COE) located in Sofia, Na 2 conducted a three days Disaster Relief Operations (DRO) Course between 25 and 27 of April 2017, in Camp Schina, Tyrnavos, Na 3 for SEE-

BRIG HQ Nucleus Staff.

The aim of the course was acquisition of basic knowledge related to disasters as phenomenon, as well as the main players and mechanisms in disaster relief in order to facilitate the use of SEEBRIG tool Engineer Task Force – ETF in such operations.

Disaster Relief Operation Course was considered a great success both by instructors and students which improved their knowledge related to the topics presented by Mobile Training Team.



Building Integrity Seminar

According to Annual Plan 2017, a Mobile Training Team from NATO HQ and Peace Operation Training Center (PSOTC) located in Bosnia-Herzegovina, conducted a four days Building Integrity Course from 6 to 9 November 2017, in Camp Schina, Tyrnavos, Na3 for SEEBRIG HQ nucleus staff.

The aim of this workshop was to provide general information about the risk of corruption in the defence sector and in peace support operations. Additionally, to train nucleus staff in practices and procedures in order to encounter the various types of corruption that undermines the mission success in PSOs.

The NATO Building Integrity (BI) Program was launched in the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) in November 2007 in support of the implementation of the Partnership Action Plan on Defense Institution Building (PAP-

DIB), agreed at the NATO Summit in Istanbul in 2004. The Program is funded through voluntary contributions to the NATO Building Integrity Trust Fund, led by six nations - Belgium, NA-2, Norway, Poland, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The Program is implemented by NATO's International Staff within the Political and Security Policy Division, the Program's Implementing Partners, and individual nations on a bilateral basis.

The Building Integrity Tailored Program for South Eastern Europe (SEE) was launched by NATO in December 2012 following the approval of the SEDM Building Integrity Project by SEDM Ministers of Defense at their meeting at Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina in October 2012. NATO and SEDM have thus established cooperation in an area of common interest. This collaborative approach translates into sharing of knowledge and expertise, with resources made available through the NATO Building Integrity Trust Fund".





Evaluation Visits

Captain **Octavian CISMARU** (Na-6)
G7 Operations Officer

SEEBRIG Evaluation Visits are based on SEEBRIG Evaluation Standards and Procedures (SESAP). This document provides both general guidance and detailed instructions on how to schedule, conduct and report the results of the SEEBRIG Units Evaluation Program.

The aim of this program is to identify and maintain the overall PSO capability of our affiliated units by accomplishing the following objectives:

- a. Evaluating the ability of units to achieve the appropriate Training and Operational level for PSO, in accordance with SEEBRIG Directives, SOPs and Generic Operations Plans (GOPs).
- b. Identifying deficiencies, which limit the capability of units to meet this requirement within the appropriate time-frame of their readiness.
- c. Providing COMSEEBRIG and PMSC with the overall assessment of the units.
- d. Attaining the highest possible degree of standardization in evaluation procedures and criteria throughout SEEBRIG.

Eligible units to be included in the program are all types of Battalion, and independent Company and Platoon sized land force elements, subordinate to SEEBRIG. Units are evaluated in the areas of Organization, Personnel, Operations/Training, Equipment, Logistics, Communications, and Medical.

COMSEEBRIG conducted in the year 2017 the following Evaluation Visits:

Na-7 Evaluation Visit

One SEEBRIG delegation headed by its Commander, BG Tudorica PETRACHE, conducted an evaluation visit to Na-7 affiliated units from 16 to 20 October 2017. Members of this delegation were COS COL Ioannis INTZES, DCOSOPS COL Ljupcho SPASEVSKI, DCOSSUP COL Nikolay NIKOLOV, CG7 LTC Leonard ZHUPA, SECCOS/NA-7 SNR LTC Abdullah GÜNDÜZ, CG6 MAJ Daniel MOROSANU, ADC MAJ Radu AMARIE and G3 TRNG OFF MAJ Ioannis RAVANOS.

SEEBRIG delegation started the evaluation visit on 16 October 2017 with Reconnaissance Company which is located in Beşiktepe/Tekirdağ, a subunit of 8th Mechanized Infantry Brigade.

The next day, on 17 October 2017, the delegation moved to Çerkezköy/Tekirdağ for the evaluation of Mechanized Infantry Battalion and Engineering Company and Saray/Tekirdağ for the evaluation of Artillery Battery, subunits of 3rd Armoured Brigade.

SEEBRIG delegation continued its conduct of the evaluation on 18 October 2017 with Transportation Company in Metris/İstanbul, a subunit of Transportation Management Center.

Also SEEBRIG's personnel had the chance to visit NRDC-T HQs which is located in Ayazağa/İstanbul.

The delegation was briefed about organization, personnel, training & exercising policies, latest developments inside NATO environment and possible ways of working together with SEEBRIG. At the end of the briefing, COMSEEBRIG

stated his intent and willingness to work and cooperate together with all NATO entities including NRDC-T (Na-7), NRDC-GR (Na-3) and MND-SE (Na-6) in order to contribute to the stability and peace in the region.



Na-5 Evaluation Visit

A SEEBRIG delegation headed by COMSEEBRIG, BG Tudorica PETRACHE, conducted an evaluation visit to Na-5 affiliated units from 01 to 02 November 2017. Members of this delegation were: COS COL Ioannis INTZES, DCOSOPS COL Ljupcho SPASEVSKI, DCOSSUP COL Nikolay NIKOLOV, CG1 LTC Dobril RADOSLAVOV, CG3 LTC Burgehan TASKOYAN, G4 P&C OFF. MAJ Nikolaos POULIOS, G6 Frequency MGMT OFF. MAJ Emil PANDOV, ADC MAJ Radu AMARIE and G7 Ops OFF. CPT Octavian CISMARU.

SEEBRIG delegation started the evaluation visit on 01 November 2017 with Engineering Platoon which is located in Skopje, a subunit of Engineering Battalion/1st Mechanized Infantry Brigade.

The next day, on 02 November 2017, the delegation moved to Shtip for the evaluation of Mechanized Infantry Company, a subunit of 2nd Mechanized Infantry Battalion/1st Mechanized Infantry Brigade. Also SEEBRIG delegation had the chance to visit Joint Operations Command (JOC) HQs which is located in Kumanovo.





Na-3 Evaluation Visit

A SEEBRIG delegation headed by COMSEEBRIG, BG Tudorica PETRACHE, conducted an evaluation visit to Na-3 affiliated units from 23 to 24 November 2017. Members of this delegation were: COS COL Ioannis INTZES, DCOSOPS COL Ljupcho SPASEVSKI, G7 PLANS OFF MAJ Sotirios MAMALIS, G4 P&C OFF MAJ Nikolaos POULIOS, G6 Frequency MGMT OFF MAJ Emil PANDOV and ADC MAJ Radu AMARIE.

SEEBRIG delegation started the evaluation visit on 23 November 2017 with Engineer COY which is located in Sindos,

a subunit of 723 Engineer Battalion.

The next day, on 24 November 2017, the delegation moved to Polikastro for the evaluation of 525 Mechanized Infantry Battalion, a subunit of 33 Mechanized Infantry Brigade.

This evaluation were a great opportunity for SEEBRIG personnel to familiarize themselves with the capabilities, capacities, training standards, facilities, equipments, vehicles and weaponry systems of affiliated units and to meet their personnel and key leaders.



For the year 2018 are planned evaluation visits in Na1 between 26 to 30 March, Na6 between 21 to 25 May and Na2 between 25 to 29 June.

SEEBRIG's visits



Major **Ioannis RAVANOS** (Na-3)
G3 Training Officer

SEEBRIG believes that that cooperation and dialog among the countries of South Eastern Europe should be further developed considering their commitment to contribute to regional stability and to foster good neighborly relations. Having this in mind SEEBRIG conducted various visits, inside and outside the HQ, to increase its visibility with the basic aim to continue the successful liaison already established with different organizations and also to create new relations.

Visit of the PMSC Chairman to SEEBRIG HQ

Tyrnavos, 23rd February 2017

An official visit to SEEBRIG HQ in Tyrnavos was paid by H.E. Ambassador M. Levent BİLGİN the Chairman of SEDM CC and PMSC, on 23rd of February 2017.

During his visit, the Chairman was briefed on SEEBRIG mission, structure, and capabilities and used the opportunity to meet the SEEBRIG Nucleus staff when visiting Camp Schina facilities. An official dinner was also organized by

commander of SEEBRIG Brigadier General Faruk METİN to honor the distinguished guest.

This event was an excellent opportunity to build a strong cohesion among SEEBRIG HQ and PMSC body, the latter being the higher echelon of SEEBRIG from the perspective of command and control during peace time.



Visit of the COM NRDC-T to SEEBRIG HQ

Tyrnavos, 04 May 2017

Lieutenant General (LTG) Mehmet DAYSAL, COM NRDC-T, paid an official visit to SEEBRIG HQ in Tyrnavos on the 04th of May 2017.

BG Faruk METİN, Commander of SEEBRIG, welcomed LTG DAYSAL together with COL Ioannis INTZES, Chief of Staff of SEEBRIG, Senior National Representatives (SNRs) of the member nations, and honor squad of HQ COY.

LTG DAYSAL was briefed on SEEBRIG history, mission, structure, capabilities, exercises and trainings, after the office call to the Commander.

He signed the Guest Book before having a family photo with the Commander, Chief of Staff, POLAD, LEGAD, SNRs and Chiefs of Sections.



Visit of the COS NRDC-T to SEEBRIG HQ

Tyrnavos, 20 March 2017

Brigadier General (BG) Recep ÖZDEMİR, COS NRDC-T, paid an official visit to SEEBRIG HQ in Tyrnavos on the 20th of March 2017.

BG Faruk METİN, Commander of SEEBRIG, welcomed BG ÖZDEMİR together with COL Dimitrios TONAS, Chief of Staff of SEEBRIG, Senior National Representatives (SNRs) of the member nations, and honor squad of HQ COY.

BG ÖZDEMİR was briefed on SEEBRIG history, mission, structure, capabilities, exercises and trainings, after the office call to the Commander.

He signed the Guest Book before having a family photo with the Commander, Chief of Staff, SNRs and Chief of G3 Section. This visit was an excellent opportunity to enhance the cooperation between SEEBRIG and NRDC-T.



COMSEEBRIG official visit to Lithuanian-Polish-Ukrainian Brigade Command

16 May 2017

Upon an invitation extended by Lithuanian-Polish-Ukrainian Brigade Commander Colonel Zenon BRZUSZKO, South-Eastern Europe Brigade Commander Brigadier General Faruk METİN paid a visit to Lithuanian-Polish-Ukrainian Brigade Command in Lublin-Poland, on May 16, 2017.

SEEBRIG delegation consisted of DCOS OPS COL Ljupcho SPASEVSKI, CG3 LTC Oktay KIRAZOLUGU and CG1 LTC Dobril RADOSLAVOV.

LITPOLUKRBRIG Commander welcomed SEEBRIG delegation in the HQ. After the Office Call, a briefing regarding the LITPOLUKRBRIG was given to delegation. Certain aspects of the bilateral cooperation were discussed during the briefing.

South-Eastern Europe Brigade Commander with his delegation had a chance to visit the deployed Command Post during the battle staff training conducted by Brigade staff. Then the delegation visited Battalion HQ of the Brigade for the display of sample military equipment and met the well trained personnel.

During the visit, COMSEEBRIG Brigadier General Faruk METİN stated, "It is the 5th working contact between our organizations and it can be inferred that we are good examples of multinational unity of efforts aimed at peace. SEEBRIG and LITPOLUKRBRIG look forward to fostering bilateral friendship, strengthen bonds and continue deep cooperation."



Visit of COMSEEBRIG to Commanders of Neighboring Commands in Larisa and Thessaloniki

08-12 September 2017

Commander of SEEBRIG, BG Tudorică PETRACHE, accompanied by Chief of Staff of SEEBRIG COL Ioannis INTZES paid official visits to Commanders of neighboring Commands in the area of Larisa and Thessaloniki between 8 and 12 of September 2017.

During these visits COMSEEBRIG met with Commander of Na-3 1st Army, LTG Dimokritos Zervakis on 08th of Sep-

tember 2017, with the Chief of Na-3 Tactical Air Force LTG Georgios BLIOUMIS on 11th of September 2017, and with the Na-3 MG Christos DRIVAS, Chief of Staff of NRDC-GR in Thessaloniki on 12th of September 2017.

During the visits, COMSEEBRIG had the chance to discuss topics of mutual interest, Host Nation support, and training cooperation.



Participation of COMSEEBRIG and Chief of Staff of SEEBRIG in DV day of LIVEX “PARMENION 2017”

Didymoteicho, Na3, 6 October 2017

On 6th October 2017, Commander of SEEBRIG, BG Tudorică PETRACHE, accompanied by Chief of Staff of SEEBRIG COL Ioannis INTZES participated in the distinguished visitors day (DV day) of Na 3's LIVEX “PARMENION 2017”, in Didymoteicho.

The final phase of this field training exercise was conducted at the “PSILOS STALOS” firing range, by the XVI Mechanised Infantry Division.



Official visit of SEDM/CC-PMSC Chairman



On 15 Dec 17 the Chairman of SEDM/CC-PMSC Ambassador Mr Eleftherios ANGHELOPOULOS paid an official visit to SEEBRIG HQ. He was accompanied by the Director of his secretariat BG Achilles TAOUXIS. The ambassador was received by the Commander of SEEBRIG, COS all Senior National Representatives, LEGAD, POLAD and by a representative from Host Nation (OPR).

This was the second time that the Ambassador is visiting SEEBRIG, as he also participated in the Hand Over Ceremony (HOTO) of SEEBRIG's Command and PMSC Chairmanship, last Aug 17. The visit was a very good opportunity for the Chairman to be informed about SEEBRIG's activities, its training program and the future prospective.

He had the chance to visit all the working places of SEEBRIG's nucleus staff and he realized that they work in a very convenient and pleasant environment with all the facilities to make them more productive and effective in their staff work.

He also made a small tour inside the Camp Schina, which is a camp with a long history back to 1881, and visited some of the buildings and places where the SEVEN STARS-18 exercise will take place next November.

The Chairman of SEDM/CC-PMSC addressing to the personnel, among others things he outlined the following:



"I was very pleased to listen to your activities, to your exercises, to the different training programs you have and all these are very satisfactory for us. I as a chairman and the Brigadier General as Chief of Secretariat of SEDM for the next two years what we will try to do is to add value to our initiative. To see what it can be done and do it. We know that things are not always easy but we need to work together to identify the areas of possible cooperation.

Since last August we had the ministerial meeting in Batumi in which we worked with all your nations and the other nations that are not part of SEEBRIG and we identified several priorities. We need to work these priorities. So together we can make the next steps.

I was listening to your briefing that SEEBRIG celebrated its 18 anniversary of its establishment. I think that for someone, a third person from outside, when he visits SEEBRIG and see all the parts of SEEBRIG, see the participating nations working together, acquiring new skills together, he thinks this is a picture that shows that together we can advance our agenda. And our agenda has two main pillars two main goals, Peace and stability in the region.

And I think this is the goal we are serving, to promote peace and stability in the region. To provide an example, perhaps for other regions also, to make sure that if

among us we can give a sign that first we set the goals we try to be aware of the different threats, new and old, and then we work together combing our forces in order to address them effectively and successfully.

So what I would like to say is that I was really very impressed from my first visit here in SEEBRIG last Aug 17, also today I am very impressed from listening to the detail presentation of your work. I will invite all of you to continue with the same high motivation. I would like to congratulate one more time your Commander BG Tudorica PETRACHE for his successful work so far and what I would like to say is that it is very important the spirit that he emerges, a spirit of close cooperation, a spirit that is not only activities in the camp, but activities outside the camp.

I had the pleasure to be with some of you during a recent activity when we visited the Mount ATHOS. I told also the General that I will be ready to march with you in Mount OLYMPOUS. I was hearted by the fact that the Chief of Staff said that people who are over fifty can join, so I will be delighted to join and I hope that I can meet the requirements in terms of physical fitness.

I would like to wish SEEBRIG and to you General success in your mission and I hope next time that I visit we will have more interesting news about your accomplishments and last but not least I would like to wish you and your families, happiness and personal fulfillment"



Official visit to EL EU Operational HQs



On 19 Dec 17 a SEEBRIG delegation composed of 15 staff officers and led by Brigadier General Tudorica PETRACHE paid an official visit to the Na-3 EU Operational HQs in Larisa.

The delegation welcomed by the COS of the HQs, MG Petros DEMESTICHAS.

During the visit SEEBRIG personnel had the chance to be informed about EL EU OHQ's mission, structure, activities and future prospective. This HQ is one of the six activated HQs in the whole Europe that can assume an operational mission. The last major mission that this HQs accomplished with success was the mission in Republic of Central Africa

in 2014-2015.

In the short discussion that followed it was stressed that SEEBRIG and EL EU OHQ should establish a closer cooperation in order to facilitate their training purposes, as their spectrum of anticipated missions are almost the same and both can operate under a EU Command. Also the mutual support in their major exercises can be with a minimum costs which is a factor with great importance in the era of reduced Defense budgets that all nations face.

Also SEEBRIG personnel had the chance to visit the various places of the HQ its Joint Operation Center (JOC) and have a family photo with EL EU OHQ personnel.





SEEBRIG's Political and Military Activities in 2017

Mr. **Antonijo TODOROVSKI** (Na-5)
Political Adviser

1. Objectives

During 2017 SEEBRIG continued its activities focused on the enhancement and improvement of the cooperation with International Organizations (IO's) and NON-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) aimed at feeding back information and experience and maintaining basic operational capabilities in view of a possible future deployment.

Also, the participation of SEEBRIG in NATO and regional training and exercises, academics activities during the 2017, has been a good opportunity for improving the cooperation and interoperability with international military entities and increasing SEEBRIG's operational effectiveness.

2. SEDM meeting

South-Eastern Defense Ministerial (SEDM) meeting was held in Batumi, Georgia, on 11th of October 2017 with the representatives of all SEDM countries, which strongly determined to promote enduring peace, stability and security in the region of Southeastern Europe through the SEDM process. SEEBRIG participated in the meeting with the delegation headed by the Commander of SEEBRIG, Brigadier General Tudorica PETRACHE.

SEDM Ministers welcomed and expressed good wishes to Athens Chairmanship, and to the new Chairman of SEDM-CC/PMSC Ambassador Mr Eleftherios ANGHELOPOULOS. They also welcomed the new Commander of SEEBRIG, Brigadier General Tudorica PETRACHE wishing every success in his tour of duty. They expressed their deepest ap-

preciation to Ambassador Levent BİLGEN and Ambassador Hüseyin MÜFTÜOĞLU, former Chairmen of the SEDM-CC/PMSC and thanked Brigadier General Faruk METİN, former Commander of SEEBRIG, for their valuable contributions in promoting the goals of SEDM process.

It was emphasized the importance of the efforts to enhance SEEBRIG effectiveness as a mechanism to actively contribute to security, cooperation and stability within the SEDM Process in general, and seeking the most appropriate ways for SEEBRIG engagement in various activities, including training and in particular, operations. He underlined the necessity of consolidation and optimization of SEEBRIG relationship with NATO and other international organizations like OSCE or UN.



The MPFSEE Ministers welcomed the report presented by COMSEEBRIG on SEEBRIG activities and achievements since the last SEDM Meeting and also welcomed COMSEEBRIG's intention to further enhance cooperation for training activities with the affiliated units and to conduct annual meetings with their Commanders.

The Chairman of the SEDM-CC/PMSC provided an update on the status of the following SEDM projects:

- Southeastern Europe Simulation Network Exercise (SEESIM -18),
- Interconnection of Military Hospitals (IMIHO),

- SEDM Permanent Portal,
- Building Integrity (BI) Project,
- Female Leaders in Security and Defence (FLSD) Project

It was noted satisfaction with the achievements obtained and the progress accomplished in all current projects and in the MPFSEE Nations efforts to revise the MPFSEE Agreement. The Secretariat was asked to continue working on the completion of the 6th Additional Protocol in cooperation with the MPFSEE Nations, with the intention of signing the above mentioned document by the MPFSEE Ministers at the Ministerial meeting in 2018, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the signing of MPFSEE Agreement.

The MPFSEE Ministers noted with satisfaction the member nations' and SEEBRIG HQ's willingness to work together on developing options to streamline exercise policy for SEEBRIG and practical solutions for cooperation between SEEBRIG HQ and relevant NATO HQ's of our region in order to

allow a coordinated long-term approach to SEEBRIG exercise programme and better access of SEEBRIG to opportunities for training at NATO standards. A progress report is expected to the next ministerial meeting. Approved the Standing Operating Procedures (SOP) regarding "SEDM Guidelines for Meetings and Activities".

Also they strongly encouraged Sarajevo to finalize their national procedure for the ratification of MPFSEE Agreement, in order to greet Sarajevo as a new member.

Especially the Ministers of SEEBRIG Nations:

- Approved SEEBRIG's Annual Plan 2018, its Budget for 2018, the Action Plan regarding Auditors Observations, as well as COMSEEBRIG's authorization to re-allocate funds up to 20% of the budget among chapters.

- Signed the "HQ SEEBRIG Location and Critical Slots Table after the Year 2015" document. This Agreement establishes the basis for implementing the rotation of the SEEBRIG HQ, Chairmanship and Critical Slots until the year 2038.

3. DCHOD Meetings

The annual Deputy Chiefs of Defense (DCHODs) Meeting was held in Podgorica, Montenegro on 09th June 2017 with the primary goal of fostering military cooperation in South-Eastern Europe in order to strengthen stability, security and prosperity in the region of Southeastern Europe through the SEDM process. SEEBRIG participated in the meeting with a delegation led by the Commander of SEEBRIG, Brigadier General Faruk METIN.

The Chairman of SEDM-CC and PMSC updated the DCHODs on the SEDM-CC and PMSC activities indicating that the member nations' commitment to fundamental goal to intensify understanding and military cooperation in South-Eastern Europe should be preserved for the purpose of strengthening stability and security in the region.

During the DCHOD Meeting, COMSEEBRIG BG Faruk METIN gave a presentation about the main activities of SEEBRIG since the last DCHOD meeting and briefed the respectable delegates on the exercises that SEEBRIG plans to participate in 2017. Also, PMSC/SEDM-CC Chairmanship extended their invitation for Hand Over-Take Over (HOTO) Ceremony of PMSC/SEDM-CC Chairmanship and the Change-of-Command of COMSEEBRIG which is scheduled to take place on 23 August 2017.

The Chairman of SEDM-CC/PMSC extended his sincere thanks to COMSEEBRIG BG Faruk METIN for his tireless work to enhance the effectiveness of SEEBRIG as a tool to actively contribute to peace, security, stability and cooperation in South Eastern Europe and beyond.



4. PMSC and SEDM-CC Meetings.

37th Politico-Military Steering Committee (PMSC) Meeting and 36th South-Eastern Europe Defense Ministerial-Coordination Committee (SEDM-CC) Meeting were held in Izmir, Na-7 on 28-29 March 2017.

Amendment of Multinational Peace Force South Eastern Europe (MPFSEE) Agreement and 6th Additional Protocol to the Agreement were discussed during the 4th Experts Working Group (EWG) Meeting in which SEEBRIG HQ was represented by DCOSSUP COL Nikolay NIKOLOV, LEGAD CPT Sofia RAPTI and CG3 LTC Oktay KIRAZOLUGU.

At this meeting SEEBRIG HQ, led by COMSEEBRIG BG Faruk METIN, was represented by COS COL Dimitrios TONAS, POLAD Mr. Antonijo TODOROVSKI and CG3 LTC Oktay KIRAZOLUGU.

During the 37th PMSC Meeting, COMSEEBRIG BG Faruk METIN gave a presentation about main activities of SEEBRIG and COS COL Dimitrios TONAS briefed about Hand Over-Take Over (HOTO) Ceremony of PMSC/SEDM-CC Chairmanship and SEEBRIG Command which was scheduled to take place on 23 August 2017.

During 36th SEDM-CC meeting there was an update of SEDM projects:

- a. Building Integrity - BI
- b. Female Leaders in Security and Defence - FLSD
- c. Interconnection of the Military Hospitals - IMIHO
- d. SEESIM-18 Exercise
- e. SEDM Permanent Portal
- f. SEDM STRATEGIC REVIEW

On 30 March 2017, the participants joined a cultural tour to the ancient city of Ephesus and the village of Sirince.

From 18 to 22 Sept 2017 a delegation from SEEBRIG, led

by its Commander Brigadier General Tudorica PETRACHE participated in the 38th PMSC and 37th SEDM-CC Meetings that were held in Athens on the framework of the South East Europe Defense Ministerial initiative. The meetings were under the auspices of the new Athens Chairmanship.

During the 5th Experts Working Group (EWG) Meeting it was discussed the amendment of the 6th Additional Protocol to the MPFSEE Agreement, and the allocation of posts that are vacant after Italy's denunciation from the treaty in 2015. From SEEBRIG HQ participated COS Col Ioannis INTZES and LEGAD Cpt Sofia RAPTI.

Representatives from 16 SEDM Nations, SEEBRIG and observers from UNDP/SEESAC, NATO, UNDP/SEESAC, RACVIAC participated in the Meetings, chaired by H.E. Amb. Eleftherios ANGHELOPOULOS. The Meetings were conducted in a friendly spirit and mutual understanding. Various programs and initiatives were discussed, aiming at fostering international collaboration. Also in these meetings SEEBRIG's annual plan and Budget Plan for 2018 were endorsed.

During the 37th SEDM-CC meeting, the leading nations updated the SEDM on the latest development of projects like Building Integrity program, Female Leadership in Security and Defense, Interconnection of Military Hospitals and the South Eastern Europe Simulation Exercise-18 (SEESIM).

Among the updates on the latest development of various ongoing programs and projects under SEDM, the UNDP SEESAC representative gave a statement regarding the activities in supporting defense system to strengthen safety and security in integrating gender perspective in defense, through the regional cooperation in South Eastern Europe.



The Geneva Convention



Captain **Sophia RAPTI** (Na-3)
Legal Adviser

“Imagine being forced to flee your country in order to escape to safety. If you were lucky you had time to pack a bag. If not, you simply dropped everything and ran. Life as a refugee can be difficult to imagine. But, for nearly 20 million people around the world, it is a terrifying reality.” (UNHCR)

In the last years the number of refugees is increasing dramatically. SEEBRIG is available for possible employment in humanitarian operations. In this sense could be involved in operations conducted to alleviate people who flee violence and usually have nothing but need everything. Therefore it is crucial to know the legal status of the refugees.

The 1951 Convention concerning the Status of Refugees is the key legal document in defining who is a refugee, their rights and the legal obligations of the states. The additional Protocol signed in 1967 removed geographical and temporal restrictions and thus gave the Convention universal coverage. (These limits initially restricted the implementation of the Convention to persons who became refugees due to events occurring in Europe before 1 January 1951.) In addition to the 1951 Convention, there are several conventions and declarations applicable in specific regions, though, the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol are the only global legal instruments explicitly covering the most important aspects of a refugee's life and have shown remarkable endurance over the last 60 years and more.

The definition of the refugee is given in Article 1A(2) of the Convention. According to that, refugee is as a person who is outside of his or her country of nationality or habitual residence (for those who don't have a nationality), has a well-founded fear of being persecuted because of his or her race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, and is unable or unwilling to avail him or herself of the protection of that country, or to return there, for fear of persecution. People who fulfil the terms of this definition are entitled to the rights and bound by the duties contained in the 1951 Convention.

Contrary to the refugees, migrants, choose to move not because of a direct threat of persecution or death, but mainly in order to improve their lives by finding work, or, in some cases, for education, family reunion or other reasons. It is

important to underline that migrants continue to enjoy the protection of their own government, even when abroad.

According to the Convention, certain categories of people are considered not to deserve refugee protection, even if they satisfy the definition of a refugee. It's about persons for whom there are serious reasons for considering that they have committed a war crime, a crime against humanity or a serious non-political crime outside their country of refuge (prior to his admission to that country as a refugee) as well as persons who are guilty of acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

The 1951 Convention contains a number of rights and also highlights the obligations of refugees towards their host country. The cornerstone of the 1951 Convention is the principle of non-refoulement contained in Article 33.

According to this principle, a refugee should not be returned to a country where he or she faces serious threats to his or her life or freedom. Additionally, the principle of non-refoulement means that a refugee seeking protection must not be prevented from entering a country as this would amount to expulsion. However, the above principle cannot be claimed by a refugee for whom there are reasonable grounds for regarding as a danger to the security of the country in which he is, or who, having been convicted by a final judgment of a particularly serious crime, constitutes a danger to the community of that country. The principle of non-refoulement, is considered as a rule of customary international law. As such, it is binding all States, regardless of whether they have acceded to the 1951 Convention or 1967 Protocol.

Except from the above principle, the most notable principles are those of non-discrimination and non-penalization. So, convention provisions are to be applied without any discrimination based on race, religion or country of origin.

As far as the principle of non-penalization is concerned, the Convention stipulates that, subject to specific provisions, refugees should not be punished for illegal entry into the territory of a contracting State when coming directly from a territory where their life or freedom was threatened (Article 31). This principle recognizes that the seeking of asylum can require refugees to breach immigration rules. Furthermore, the Convention institutes basic minimum standards for the treatment of refugees. Such rights include access to the courts, to primary education, to work, to public relief and assistance, as well as freedom of religion and the provision for documentation, including a refugee travel document in passport form.

The Geneva Convention, though, does not only lay down rights for the refugees. In article 2, general obligations are introduced, according to which, “every refugee has duties to the country in which he finds himself, which require in particular that he conforms to its laws and regulations as well as to measures taken for the maintenance of public order”.

Finally, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), serves as the ‘guardian’ of the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol. UNHCR is tasked with promoting international instruments for the protection of refugees and supervising their application. The States, on the other side, are expected to cooperate with UNHCR in ensuring that the rights of refugees are respected and protected.



KIDS4NET, definitions and key statistics information guide



Lieutenant Colonel **Nikolaos KARAGEORGOS** (Na-3)
Chief G2



Identifying the danger(s)

When the World Wide Web first weaved its way into our lives, many were dubious about whether or not it was here to stay. Nowadays, with the average workplace, university, household, and school heavily relying on the internet, it's fairly safe to say that the answer is yes. While many of us still have fond memories of life before the popularization of digital media, modern children are growing up with no other frame of reference, which places great significance on

breeding a safe and informed cyberculture.

Oftentimes, efforts made to keep loved ones safe are met with resentment, and can be quickly undermined. Nevertheless, vigilant risk management and appropriate parental intervention is essential in order to manage the increasingly pervasive dangers of the digital world, such as:

- Unwanted Sexual Solicitation: Online predators, grooming, sexting and sextortion
- Cyberbullying: Harassment and trolling
- Social Media & Apps: Digital addiction, self-esteem implications, sleep deprivation, distraction from homework, and privacy
- Offensive & Illegal: Content Graphic or violent images, pornography, and illegal material

Cyber safety is a formidable topic, and while the above list does identify some of the most prevalent cyber safety risks that modern-day children and teens face, it is not an exhaustive one. The harrowing reality is that young digital

citizens are not always able to fully comprehend the consequences of their actions, and can find themselves in some pretty perilous circumstances as a result.

Definitions

Online Grooming refers to the process used by online sex offenders whereby they attempt to gain a child's trust online by saying nice things and feigning similar interests in order to take advantage of that trust for sexual purposes

Online Sex Crimes refers to unwanted sexual contact or sexual contact with a minor that takes place online

Sexting refers to the sending or sharing of sexually explicit content such as nude photos or videos, or provocative messages

Sextortion refers to the non-consensual distribution of sexually explicit images or information, and is also commonly referred to as revenge porn or image-based abuse

Unwanted Sexual Solicitation refers to the act of attempting to engage or actively engaging in sexual activities or conversation that is either unwanted, or involves a minor

KEY statistics

- 1 Most victims of cybersex-crimes are aged between 13 and 17
- 2 Most unwanted online sexual solicitations take place whilst the victim is at home on a desktop or laptop computer
- 3 1 in 5 have experienced sextortion or image-based abuse
- 4 The vast majority of online predators/online sex crime offenders are male
- 5 Perpetrators of sextortion tend to be male and known by the victim
- 6 The majority of online sexual solicitation victims are young females
- 7 The second-most targeted group for online sexual solicitation are young males who are either gay or questioning their sexuality; often as a result of feeling unable to discuss homosexuality freely with family or friends

What can I do?

If your child tells you that they have been involved in an online sexual solicitation, or if you have seen evidence of this on their device, here is what you should do next:

- Gather evidence - take screenshots/ save images & messages
- Report it on the applicable apps or platform(s) (i.e STEAM game administrators) and block the person
- Talk with your child about the details (without being accusatory)
- Contact the police - even if the interaction never escalated, it's worth notifying the police so that they can monitor the offender and prevent any harm coming to other child

CyberBullying

Definitions

Cyberbullying refers to the deliberate act of harassing, threatening, or humiliating another person through the internet or other electronic mediums

Trolling refers to the act of anonymously posting antagonizing or insensitive comments purely to watch the way that people react

Netiquette is an amalgamation of net and etiquette, and refers to online etiquette

KEY statistics

- 1 As little as 10% of parents claim to have been aware that their child was being cyberbullied
- 2 Traditional bullying and cyberbullying are closely related: children that are bullied at school are bullied online, and children who bully at school bully online
- 3 Young people who experience cyberbullying are less likely to maintain healthy friendships

What can I do?

Most importantly, we need to teach our children that they can and should come to us if they are being bullied by someone online; or indeed, if they have participated in bullying someone themselves.



Social Media & Apps

Definitions

Offensive/Illegal Content refers to images of child sexual abuse, footage that advocates terrorist activities, instructions that promote harm to self or others, or criminal activity

Graphic & Violent Images includes - but is not limited to - real or simulated violence, and sexually explicit content

KEY statistics

- 1 Continual exposure to pornography can contribute to condoned violence against women
- 2 Teens and pre-teens report to having no clear distinction between the online world and real world
- 3 While 80% of young male reported to having been inadvertently exposed to explicit sexual content online, 38% admitted to actively seeking it out

What can I do?

- Ask kids if they've ever seen something online that made them feel upset.
- Tell them to click exit or minimize the browser if they see something inappropriate. Sometimes sites will make it difficult to close the browser; in this instance hit control+alt+delete (Windows) or command+option+escape (Mac) and go to task manager/forced quit.
- Encourage them to tell a trusted adult if they see something disturbing. Most children do not tell their parents when they are exposed to pornographic material due to feeling embarrassed, and fearing punishment. They may prefer to tell a teacher, sibling, or parent of a close friend. Teach them about not trusting spam, pop-ups, or dodgy email offers.
- Report dangerous or illegal content to police.



Conclusion ((or ... an exhortation message 4 us and 2 kids :))

"What works in prevention education is simple, clear cut messages about easily enacted kinds of behaviors; wear a bicycle helmet, put on your seatbelt, don't smoke cigarettes... the relationship between engaging in [the recommended] behavior and being safe is clear-cut"

- **David Finkelhor**, Director of the Crimes Against Children

525 Mechanized Infantry Battalion (Na-3)

The 525 Mechanized infantry Battalion is a tactical level Unit, directly subordinate to the 33 Mechanized Infantry Brigade.

From a historical point of view, the Battalion was formed in Athens on June 1945, as 525 Infantry Battalion. On May 1950 the Unit was relocated to Katerini. Finally, on the 3rd of July 1963 the Unit was again relocated to Polykastro, in the "ALESTA LOUKA" camp. In 1976 the Battalion was reorganized, as Mechanized Infantry Battalion.

The battalion's battle banner has been awarded with the medal of Excellence by the President of the U.S.A., as well as with the medal of Peace Support Operations (PSO) by the Na-3 Government.

During its modern history, the 525 Mechanized Infantry Battalion has participated in a long list, of both NATO and UN framework operations, in the Balkan Peninsula.

Everything started on the 25th of August 2001, in Na-5, where the Battalion took part to the "ESSENTIAL HARVEST" operation, which lasted until the 10th of October 2001. During this operation, an arsenal over 3500 of different types of weapons, was collected and destroyed.

From March 2004 to November 2011, the Battalion was deployed 5 times in Kosovo, near the city of Urosevach and under the Operational Command of an American Brigade (MNTF-E), participated in the operation "JOINT ENTERPRISE", which later was renamed in "JOINT GUARDIAN".

Furthermore, in June 2011 the Battalion was deployed again in Kosovo, under the Operational Command of COM KFOR, for ensuring secure environment across the Area of Responsibility, by conducting:

- a. Vehicle check patrols
- b. Patrols (mounted or dismounted)
- c. Security Operations
- d. Operational Training
- e. CIMIC operations and Humanitarian Aid.

From September 2013 to March 2015, the Battalion was deployed at KFOR Headquarters (HQ) in Pristina (FILM CITY Camp), where it had been assigned with guarding duties at the HQ.

Nowadays, a Coy (+) of the Battalion is deployed at KFOR HQ, to provide guarding and security.

Therefore, 85% of the personnel are well experienced, as they have participated more than once in PSOs and also

they are well trained, with the right skills needed to act in all operational environments.

This was achieved thanks to a consolidated experience and hard training, that the Battalion went through, since 2001. Every deployment comes after a long process that faces all different aspects, from the anti-riot training to the physical training and from the shooting training to the Improved Explosive Devices (IOD) training. All the above mentioned training activities, combined with the fully understanding of the cultural and historical background of the Area of Deployment, make our personnel ready to face challenges and accomplish tasks and missions in an exceptionally successful manner.

The personnel of the 525 Mechanized Infantry Battalion is highly motivated and always able to achieve whatever planned in advance. The large experience gained, during training Exercises and PSO's operations, is giving the opportunity to carry out the current, as well as the future engagements, with the maximum professionalism and devotion.



Mechanized Infantry Company and Engineer Platoon (Na-5)



Common Action as Motive for Further Success

The feeling that you belong to an organization of partner armies, where each separate success is considered as your own, is the criterion that generates greater efficiency of every organization of multinational forces.

Led by such a motive, the declared units, Mechanized Infantry Company and Engineers Platoon consider every engagement as a success of all six participating nations of SEEBRIG.

Therefore, in almost 20 years since the establishing of these international peace forces, all engagements of these units as part of the fifth structure partner nation of SEEBRIG are directed that way.

The Mechanized Infantry Company began its story on 19.11.1999 as a declared unit under the name of "Scorpions", as part of the 2nd Mechanized Infantry Battalion, as well as, part of SEEBRIG and they constantly reaffirm their dedication to be a worthy member of this organization.

With their participation in two rotations in the mission "ISAF" in Afghanistan (2006 and 2011), with dedication in the realization of their tasks together with the coalition partners in different situations, they confirm their significant role as a declared unit in SEEBRIG.

The unit played an important role and it was one of the key participants in the activities for dealing with the migrant crisis, especially at the beginning, in 2015, when they definitely showed their capability to act in critical situations which could be a threat to the security of our country, as well as the security

of the region.

Furthermore, they constantly help the local population and the institutions by dealing with the aftermaths of natural disasters, which again confirm the public trust in this unit.

Their readiness and alertness is a result of the constant training which can be confirmed by the results from the participation in 23 international military exercises, beginning with "Peaceful Eagle" in 1996 in Na-1 and ending with "Seven Stars" in 2014 in Na-3 and "Platinum Wolf" in Serbia.

The declared Engineers Platoon, in its formation period in March 2000, was part of the 1st Engineers Regiment, and since 2003 it has been part of the 1st Mechanized Infantry Brigade. It further continues to contribute to the cohesion of these two declared units.

The mission of this unit is to perform all types of peace support operations as part of SEEBRIG and to provide movement of the units that perform operations in peacekeeping missions. This has been confirmed on several occasions.

The accomplished missions during the international exercises "Cornerstone" in 2002 and 2003, as well as "Adriatic Phiblex" in 2004, such as reconstructing of road sections, pipeline installations, heliports and constructing and repairing buildings are only one part of the success which demonstrates the readiness of this declared unit.

The military activities that these units have conducted out of Na-5, as well as the activities in their own units in peacetime, including the activities in dealing with the aftermaths of natural disasters, increase the confidence in this military unit in South-Eastern Europe and confirm the objectives of the defense regional cooperation.





341st Infantry Battalion “CONSTANȚA” (Na-6)

Believing that cooperation and dialogue among Eastern European countries need to be developed further and taking into consideration their engagement and contributions to regional security and stability, on 26 September 1998 in Skopje, Na-5, the Defence Ministers of 7 Countries signed the Agreement for the establishment of the multinational Peace Force Southeastern Europe. Na-6 joined this initiative and active contributed to regional security and stability, mutual trust, strengthen good neighborly relation between the countries.

As part of SEEBRIG, 341st Infantry Battalion “CONSTANȚA”, part of Na-6 9th Mechanized Brigade “MĂRĂȘEȘTI” is available for employment within SEEBRIG in conflict prevention and other Peace Support Operations, including peacekeeping, Peace Making, Peace Building and Humanitarian Operations, but Peace Enforcement. The unit is able to conduct Peace Support Operations day and night, in any season and climate conditions, on plain and rough terrain and also in built-up areas.

The MEDEVAC system consists of only one ambulance, which is capable of transporting up to three wounded. On the other hand the Battalion is able to notify the next of kin by radios, electronic mail and telephone.

We also have officers, NCOs and enlisted who have participated in multinational operations in KOSOVO, IRAQ and AFGHANISTAN. Out of the time planned for training troops 70% is for combat training and 30% for PSO missions.

Regarding mine awareness training, all personnel are able to identify, mark and protect the minefields in accordance with NATO/SEEBRIG procedures.

We conduct all PSO exercises using English language and national defense exercises using NATO procedures. We develop planning and training processes and documents in order to act within 30 days in a multinational environment, abroad, within SEEBRIG.



MULTINATIONAL EXERCISES

- FTX “SEA BREEZE – 1998” - Ukraine;
- FTX “RESCUE EAGLE – 1998, 2000” – Na-6;
- FTX “COOPERATIVE PARTNER – 1999” – Na-6;
- CPX “SEEBRIG – 1999” – Na-2;
- “SEVEN STARS – 2000, 2001, 2002” – Na-2;
- “CAX – 2001” – Bulgaria;
- FTX “COOPERATIVE PARTNER – 2002” - Na-6;
- FTX “VIKING – 2003” – Na-6;
- CPX “SEVEN STARS – 2004 / Na-6, 2007 / Na-7;
- FTX “PROOF OF PRINCIPLE” – 2007 – Na-6.
- FTX “SEEBA – 2015” – Na-6.

Training goals for Battalion staff:

- to train the skills and NATO/SEEBRIG staff working procedures, the specific terminology and the concept of using forces according to national doctrine, improving the knowledge about NATO official languages;
- to reach the leading capabilities in according with SEEBRIG and NATO specific procedures and to develop the operational planning process.

Training goals for all personnel:

- to encourage the personnel in the spirit of multinational activities and to develop the necessary skills for PSO;
- to develop the physical capabilities, the theoretical knowledge compatible with NATO and also in English language;
- to achieve the necessary knowledge regarding the understanding of structure, functioning and using units and sub-units, the specific NATO – SEEBRIG objectives and standards and CIS reporting system;
- to train the skills and capabilities regarding wartime actions and PSO at soldier level, squad, platoon, company and battalion level.

The Battalion is trained to conduct defensive and offensive operations according to NATO procedures. Within the conventional training, live fire exercises and field-training exercises have been performed at team, platoon, company, and battalion level.

Regarding training under winter conditions we have no special training program, but conducting the training all over the year, we have 3-4 months of training in such kind of weather. The battalion has no special training program in mountainous terrain for infantry companies. The only units conducting such kind of training are the reconnaissance sub-units.

The unit has personnel trained in first aid, MEDEVAC and CBRN. Concerning the first aid, all personnel conducts this type of training and each squad has 1 soldier specialized in CLS. For CBRN there is specialized personnel at company level.

The personnel has adequately proficiency for night operations. 25% of training is designated to improve skills and abilities for night operations. Several live fire exercises are conducted in night time conditions every training year.





Social, Cultural and Recreational Activities

Major **Kleantlis PARASKEVOPOULOS** (Na-3)
G9 Plans Officer

SEEBRIG HQ Study Trip

In accordance with Annual Plan 2017, SEEBRIG HQ conducted a Study Trip to the island of Crete/Na 3, from 2 to 8 of July 2017.

23 military personnel with 56 family members - in total 79, had the opportunity to visit the island of Crete.

The military personnel visited two military installations, NATO Maritime Interdiction Operational Training Centre (NMIOTC) and NATO Missile Firing Installation (NAMFI) in Chania.

The Study trip also included visits to the archaeological site of Knossos, the archaeological museums in Heraklion and Chania, Eleftherios Venizelos's tomb, the cave of Melidonio, the monastery of Arkadi, the city of Rethymno and the island of Spinalonga along with the city of Agios Nikolaos.

This Study trip achieved its goals, was very educational, beneficial and pleasant for all participants.





During 2017, SEEBRIG nucleus staff and their family members participated in many significant activities, which included not only, social trips and cultural visits to local touristic objectives but also, recreational events which provided them with the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the host nation's environment and culture, as well as to strengthen the SEEBRIG community relations.

A social trip, took place from 27th till 29th of January 2017, in the city of Athens. The tour objectives were visiting museums and historical - touristic places, on the way to Athens and mostly within the historical centre of Athens, such as the Monument of Leonidas in Thermopyles, the Greek Parliament, Kallimarmaro Stadium, Lycabettus Hill, the new Archaeological Museum and the famous sacred rock of Acropolis.



Trekking activity on Mount Olympus

On 26th September 2017, SEEBRIG HQ carried out the 2nd trekking activity (the first one took place on 9th September 17) on mountain Olympus for nucleus staff and their families. All participants had the opportunity to enjoy the flora

of mountain Olympus and to get closer in their relationship. Moreover, this activity offered new perspectives, drained stress and restored vitality of the participants.



Newcomers tour in Larissa

On 30th September 2017, SEEBRIG HQ organized a visit in the city of Larissa for the newly appointed personnel.

Creating the conditions for better understanding the culture of the country where SEEBRIG is deployed and increasing the awareness of the staff toward the values and traditions of the Host Nations, is part of SEEBRIG mission.



Cultural trip to Thessaloniki

On 7th October 2017, SEEBRIG HQ organized a cultural trip to Thessaloniki for its nucleus staff and their families. All participants had the chance to visit the city of Thessaloniki (Na 3) by a private bus, along with an experienced tour guide. Initially, a short city tour took place, where everybody had an overall view of the city and its most sig-

nificant sights and got general information about its history, provided by the guide. Afterwards, a visit to the Byzantine museum of Thessaloniki took place, where some very interesting exhibits of byzantine era were on display. The trip continued with a visit to the White Tower, a place which is the characteristic symbol of the town.



Social trip to Katerini

On 11th November 2017, SEEBRIG HQ carried out a social trip to Katerini and Pieria region for its nucleus staff and their families. The participants visited the Public Information Agency of Olympus National Park in Litochoro and were in-

formed about the history and natural treasures of the Olympus mountain. Afterwards, they had the opportunity to visit the town of Katerini and to enjoy a few moments at the seaside in Paralia Panteleimonas.



Cultural trip to Saint Athos

From 18 to 19 November 2017, SEEBRIG HQ organized a cultural trip to Saint Athos (Agio Oros) for its male nucleus staff. In total 26 SEEBRIG members participated in the visit. The whole activity was a great opportunity for everyone to get familiarized with the ascetic life of monks, to admire the unique architecture of the monasteries and live for a short time in a spiritual and revitalizing environment, that its main characteristics are order, peace and communication with the divine.



International Community School of Larissa (ICSL) Winter Festival

On 20 December 2017, COMSEEBRIG, BG Tudorică PETRACHE, accompanied by COS, COL Ioannis INTZES and staff members participated in the ICSL Winter Festival at the school premises in Tyrnavos.

The participants enjoyed an outstanding performance of SEEBRIG's children in the "Mythology Olympiaganza" play that humorously told everybody everything about they ever wanted to know about the Host Nation Myths and never dared to ask.

ICSL is the school where all the children of foreign military personnel of SEEBRIG attend. The School provides high quality education in elementary and high school classes in English and in the language of Host Nation.

SEEBRIG HQ is committed to support ICSL in every possible way and participate in its activities.



SEEBRIG HQ New Year Dinner/Ball

On 21 December 2017 took place the traditional SEEBRIG's New Year Dinner /Ball, with the participation of all its Nucleus Staff, their families and some distinguished guests which by one or another mean support and cooperate with SEEBRIG.

Among them there were the Commander of 1st Army LTG Dimocritos ZERVAKIS, the Director of 404 Military Hospital and the Director of International Community School of Larissa (ICSL).

Commander of SEEBRIG BG Tudorica PETRACHE welcomed everybody, and expressed his joy and pleasure about the whole event. He thanked and congratulated the staff of SEEBRIG about their outstanding performance in the last year. He also thanked the families that support SEEBRIG's military personnel in order to be focused on their military tasks. Also he thanked the several guests that support SEEBRIG and provide the basics to work and train in a friendly and pleasant environment.

The event was a perfect opportunity for all the participants to meet together outside of the daily military routine, to enjoy with traditional music from SEEBRIG Member Nations, to taste the cuisine and the hospitality of the Host Nation.

The SEEBRIG's motto "one team one mission" was very applicable to this event as all the participants celebrated in a very good mood like a big family.

This was the best occasion to close a very productive year, and just before the Christmas and New Year Holidays.

At the end of the celebration all the children and their parents received gifts by the Command Group of SEEBRIG.







South-Eastern Europe Brigade “SEEBRIG”



Believing that cooperation and dialog among the countries of South-Eastern Europe must be further developed and considering their commitment to contribute to regional security and stability, and to foster good neighborly relations, among the countries, an Agreement on Multinational Peace Force South-Eastern Europe (MPF-SEE) was signed by the Ministers of Defense of the seven participating countries in Skopje on 26 September 1998.

In accordance with MPFSEE Agreement, the South-Eastern Europe Brigade (SEEBRIG) was established and activated by seven participating Nations, on 31st of August 1999 in Plovdiv, Na-2 and was then hosted in Constanta, Na-6, then in Istanbul, Na-7 and is currently located in Tyrnavos (Larissa), Na-3.

The current structure of the MPFSEE is a brigade-sized force of about 5000 troops and is known as South-Eastern Europe Brigade (SEEBRIG).

Units allocated to the SEEBRIG will remain at their permanent home base locations and will be committed under a task force principle for exercises and operations upon the decisions of the participating Nations and appropriate joint direction and coordination of the “Politico-Military Steering Committee (PMSC)”.

In accordance of the provisions of the Agreement :

The Brigade will be declared to UN and OSCE. It will be available, commensurate with its capabilities, for employment in conflict prevention and in other peace support operations, including peace-keeping, peace-making, peace-building and humanitarian operations.

The force will be available for possible employment in UN or OSCE-mandated NATO-led or EU-led conflict prevention and other peace support operations. It could also participate in “coalition of the willing” type international initiatives. The Force will also function “within the spirit” of PFP.



STARS INFORMER

SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE BRIGADE REVIEW



FRIENDSHIP IS ESSENTIALLY A PARTNERSHIP



SEEBRIG HQ Address:

Camp Schina: 2nd km Tyrnavos - Larissa, 401 00 Tyrnavos, Greece

Telephone (0030) 2410 932311 • Fax (0030) 2410 932600 • Email hq@seebrig.org & seebrig@gmail.com

www.seebrig.org

SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE BRIGADE REVIEW // DEC 2017 // ISSUE IX

“ONE TEAM, ONE MISSION”