

SEEBRIG





South-Eastern Europe Defence Ministerial Process (SEDM) Process Chairperson's message on the occasion of SEEBRIG's anniversary

Happy Anniversary, SEEBRIG!

The South-Eastern Europe Defence Ministerial Process is one of the fundamental regional efforts setup to boost our common security and cooperation. As the military component of the Process, SEEBRIG has, for the last 25 years, proven itself as one of the more relevant regional cooperation outcomes in the realm of military security, under the Agreement on Multinational Peace Force South-Eastern Europe (MPFSEE), underscoring the practical and operational dimension of SEDM's objectives.

Under this Chairmanship, Romania has consistently demonstrated its commitment to fostering regional security and working under the SEEBRIG umbrella for the greater, common good. Together with the current COMSEEBRIG, Brigadier-General Bilbil Bitri, we hope to continue the good work that we have done so far. We had the honor of hosting the SEEBRIG Headquarters between 2003 and 2007, and it was during that time that SEEBRIG's motto engraved itself in our hearts and minds: One team, One Mission!

Happy Anniversary, SEEBRIG! May the next 25 years prove even more successful and fruitful, and may the Brigade consolidate its role as a pivotal regional actor, in complete interoperability with NATO and EU initiatives in the region.

Happy Anniversary, SEEBRIG! Happy Anniversary, SEDM!



*Ms. Simona COJOCARU
Chairperson of SEDM-CC and PMSC*





*Brigadier General Bilbil BITRI
Commander of SEEBRIG*

Actions of today are counted as history tomorrow, and actions of yesterday are already history today. The history of SEEBRIG started to be written 25 years ago and today it is time that we reflect on a quarter-century of great achievements and profound impact.

In 1998, Defense Ministers of seven South-East Europe countries “planted the seed” of what came to be known in 1999 - the South-Eastern Europe Brigade – SEEBRIG, with the great purpose and mission of promoting regional security, stability and further enhancing cooperation while standing ready to conduct Peace Support Operations, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Operations. From its inception, SEEBRIG, the military Instrument of Power of SEDM, has stood strong to his motto – “One Team, One Mission”.

Over the past 25 years, SEEBRIG has demonstrated strong commitment and dedication, and professionalism of its personnel and skilled leadership of its leaders. Whether with its deployment in Kabul, Afghanistan in the ISAF mission/operation or cooperation with member nations, NATO structures, international and regional organizations, and local communities it has proved to be a success story in safeguarding freedom and promoting security and stability.

Behind all the achievements made by SEEBRIG this past quarter century are the men and women who proudly wear the uniform of the armed forces of contributing nations, and in one way or the other have their undeniable contribution. Close to 300 Non Commissioned Officers and Officers have contributed directly as members of SEEBRIG HQ Nucleus Staff. More than 700 hundred have joined for 13 iterations of Seven Stars Exercise while the number of soldiers, NCOs and Officers of the SEEBRIG affiliated units from the Nations is more than ten thousand. We are grateful to each and every one of them, to commanders for their leadership and mentorship and to all our brothers and sisters in arms for their commitment and dedication and their families for the great support.





The future is today. Security environment it is not as it was 25 years ago. It is changing at fast speed. SEEBRIG remains steadfast in its mission and ready to adopt and transform to answer the call of the Nations, and continue promoting regional security, stability and further enhancing cooperation while upholding the common values that define us all.

Let us celebrate past 25 years of SEEBRIG but at the same time demonstrate our strong commitment to honor, duty, and service to SEEBRIG and our countries.

SEEBRIG – One Team, One Mission.





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 (MPFSEE) was signed by the Ministers of Defense of the seven participating countries in Skopje on 26 September 1998.

SEEBRIG as a regional, multinational military formation is dedicated for participation in conflict prevention, peace support and humanitarian assistance. From the regional point of view, SEDM process and SEEBRIG is a politico-military instrument, but also a symbol. They were created to promote regional stability and security, to foster political and military trust, as well as to develop the military cooperation in the area.

This initiative, consistent with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter:

- is neither directed against any third state nor intended to form a military alliance of any form against any country or a group of countries,
- is transparent and open to the NATO and Partnership for Peace (PfP) Nations in the region, “able and willing” to contribute constructively, at any later stage,
- will be in line with and supportive of PfP programs which aim at the improvement of the regional cooperation within PfP and shall allow essential cooperation within the framework of the UN, NATO, OSCE and EU.

The units allocated to SEEBRIG 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).

SEEBRIG is a brigade-size force of about 4.800 troops in units allocated to SEEBRIG by the participating nations. Signal Company and HQ Company support HQ SEEBRIG and they are provided by the Host Nation. An Engineer Task Force was established in accordance with the Protocol signed in Bucharest on 30 November 1999.

Operational control over these units is to be transferred to COMSEEBRIG in case of deployment for operation after the transfer of authority in the Area of operation.



SEEBRIG official opening ceremony, 1999 Plovdiv Na-2





SEEBRIG first anniversary ceremony, 2000 Plovdiv Na-2

Nations are responsible for the training of their own units in their permanent home base locations and in national training facilities in accordance with jointly established standards as well as for Deployment and redeployment.

The location of HQ SEEBRIG is on rotational bases and was hosted so far by the following cities: Plovdiv, Na-2 (1999-2003), Constanta, Na-6 (2003-2007), Istanbul Na-7 (2007-2011), Tyrnavos, Na-3 (2011-2020). Since August 2020 and after last relocation, SEEBRIG HQ has been located in Kumanovo, Na-5 and it will stay there till 2026 when the journey will continue.

The symbols in the flag are sending messages by them self. The Star is considered a symbol of truth, of the spirit and hope. The White Dove is symbol of peace and shared vision of building a peaceful society in the peaceful world. The Dove is visionary, flying and looking forward for a better and more peaceful future. The last symbol, the olive branch is a heraldic emblem of peace.



SEEBRIG official opening ceremony, 2020 Kumanovo Na-5





SEEBRIG most important events from political and military point of view are:

- Set up and activation - HQ SEEBRIG was set up and activated with a permanent Nucleus Staff on 31 August 1999, in Plovdiv, Na-2.
- Operational readiness - On 1st of May 2001 PMSC Chairman declared to UN, OSCE, NATO and EU that SEEBRIG is operationally ready to be deployed for operations.
- NATO Evaluation process - Initial Operational Capability was declared on 30 April 2004 and Full Operational Capability on 29 October 2004, respectively.
- Relocations - HQ SEEBRIG conducted 4 relocations, not only from one city to another but also from one country to another.
- Mission in Kabul, Afghanistan - SEEBRIG as Kabul Multinational Brigade IX (KMNb IX) took over the mission in Kabul for a period of 6 months, from February to August 2006. In political point of view this mission increased the role and reputation of SEEBRIG contributing for peace and stability in the world.
- Exercise "Seven Stars" – SEEBRIG HQ conducted thirteen iterations of this exercise in different format with participation of more than 10.000 personnel from members nations as well as from the other nations and different international organisations and military headquarters.



SEEBRIG official opening ceremony, 2020 Kumanovo Na-5





Mr. Nikolaos DIMADIS
Chairman of PMSC
1999 – 2001
Nation-3



Mr. Ovidiu Daranga
Chairman of PMSC
2001 – 2003
Nation-6



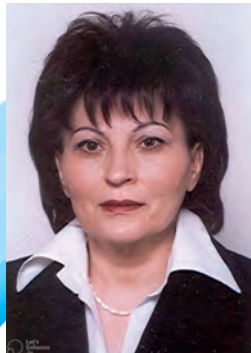
Ambassador Ugur ERGUN
Chairman of PMSC
2003 – 2005
Nation-7



Ambassador Besnik BARAJ
Chairman of PMSC
2005 – 2006
Nation-1



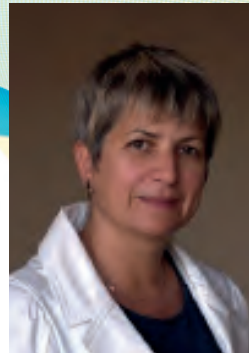
Mr. Petrit KARABINA
Chairman of PMSC
2006 - 2007
Nation-1



Ms. Radica GAREVA
Chairperson of PMSC
2007 – 2009
Nation-5



Mr. Anyu ANGELOV Lt. Gen (Ret.)
Chairman of PMSC
2009 – 2010
Nation-2



Ms. Avgustina TZVETKOVA
Chairperson of PMSC
2010 – 2011
Nation-2




Dott. Gianluigi MAGRI
Chairman of PMSC
2011 – 2013
Nation-4



Mr. Giuseppe COSSIGA
Chairman of PMSC 2013
Nation-4






Mr. Gioacchino ALFANO
Chairman of PMSC 2013
Nation-4 



Mr. Sebastian HULUBAN
Chairman of PMSC
2013-2014
Nation-6 



Mr. Valeriu NICUT
Chairman of PMSC
2014 – 2015
Nation-6 



H.E. Hüseyin MÜFTÜOĞLU
Chairman of PMSC
2015 – 2016
Nation-7 



H.E. M. Levent BİLGEN
Chairman of PMSC
2016 – 2017
Nation-7 




**Ambassador ELEFTHERIOS
ANGHELOPOULOS**
Chairman of PMSC
2017 – 2019
Nation-3 



Mr. Petro KOÇI
Chairman of PMSC
2019 – 2021
Nation-1 



Ms. Teodora GENCHOVSKA
Chairperson of PMSC
2021 – 2023
Nation-2 



Ms. Simona COJOCARU
Chairperson of PMSC
2023 – present
Nation-6 





SEEBRIG COMMANDERS

INTRODUCTION




*Brigadier General
Hilmi Akin ZORLU
Nation-7* 



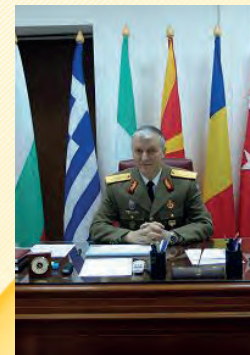
*Brigadier General
Andreas KOUZELIS
Nation-3* 




*Brigadier General
Giovanni SULIS
Nation-4* 



*Brigadier General
Neyko NENOV
Nation-2* 



*Brigadier General
Virgil BALACEANU
Nation-6* 



*Brigadier General
Zyber DUSHKU
Nation-1* 



*Brigadier General
Zdravko POPOVSKI
Nation-5* 



*Brigadier General
Alptekin TARTICI
Nation-7* 



*Brigadier General
Faruk METIN
Nation-7* 



*Brigadier General
Tudorica PETRACHE
Nation-6* 





Brigadier General
Aristeidis ILIOPOULOS
Nation-3 



Brigadier General
Evangelos MITROUTSIKOS
Nation-3 



Brigadier General
Bilbil BITRI
Nation-1 

This is what the MPFSEE Nations committed and has been training for the purpose of SEEBRIG and how the units are organized in a solid structure, according to the MPFSEE Agreement and its additional protocols.

The South-Eastern Europe Brigade is composed of the ground units and subunits from 6 countries, located at their permanent home bases.

The basic maneuver unit for the force is a battalion size formation with 2 or 3 companies each.

There are other national and multinational Combat Support and Combat Service Support units and subunits. With the Second Additional Protocol to MPFSEE Agreement a multinational Engineer Task Force is established and added to the SEEBRIG Structure.

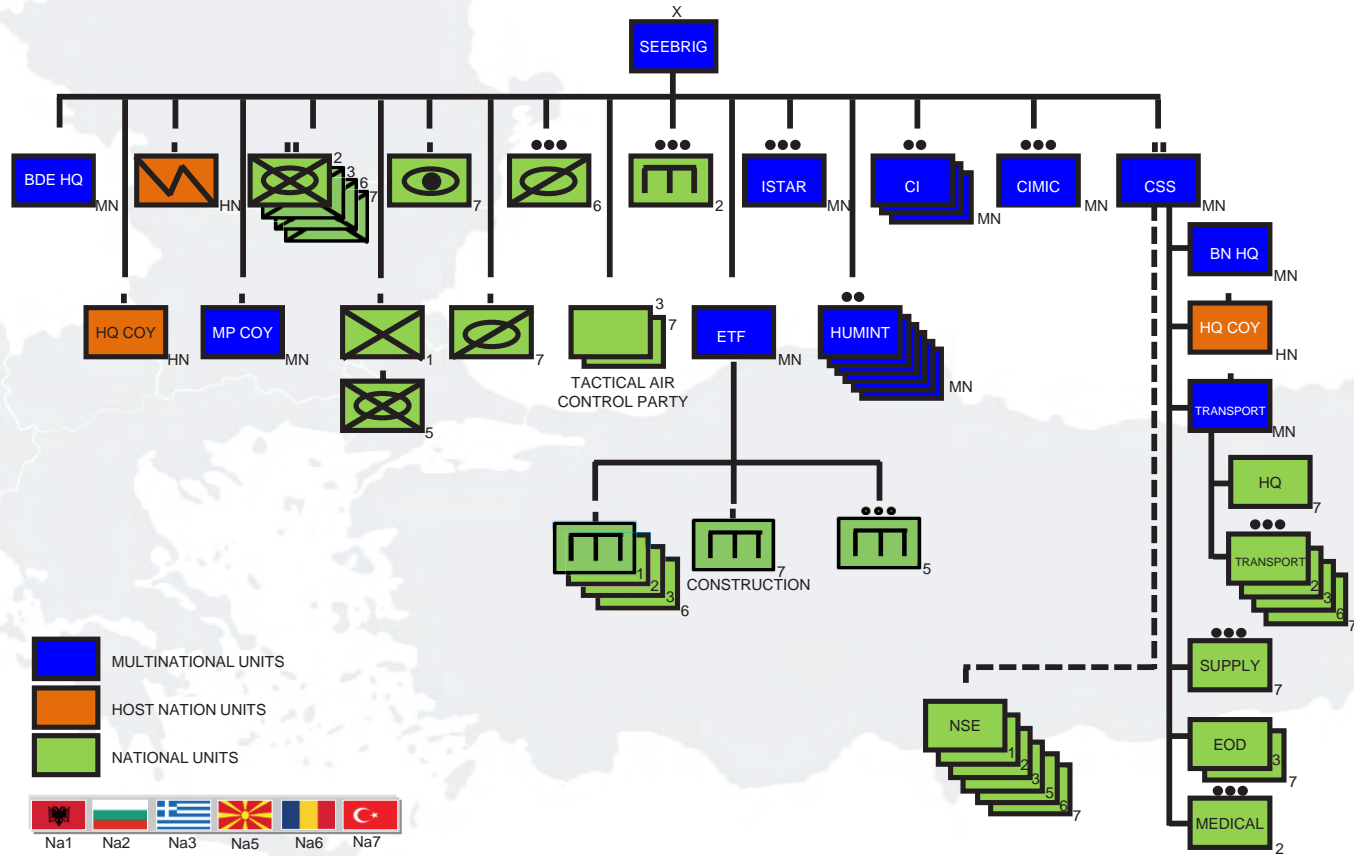
There are units (Signal Coy and HQ Coy) which are considered Host Nation Units, assigned by the Nation with the latest HQ location.

In order to support the Commander of SEEBRIG while administering the forces, controlling the current operations, conducting detailed analysis, and planning future operations the Brigade is composed of multinational HQ which location is rotated among the Nations.





SEEBRIG Structure



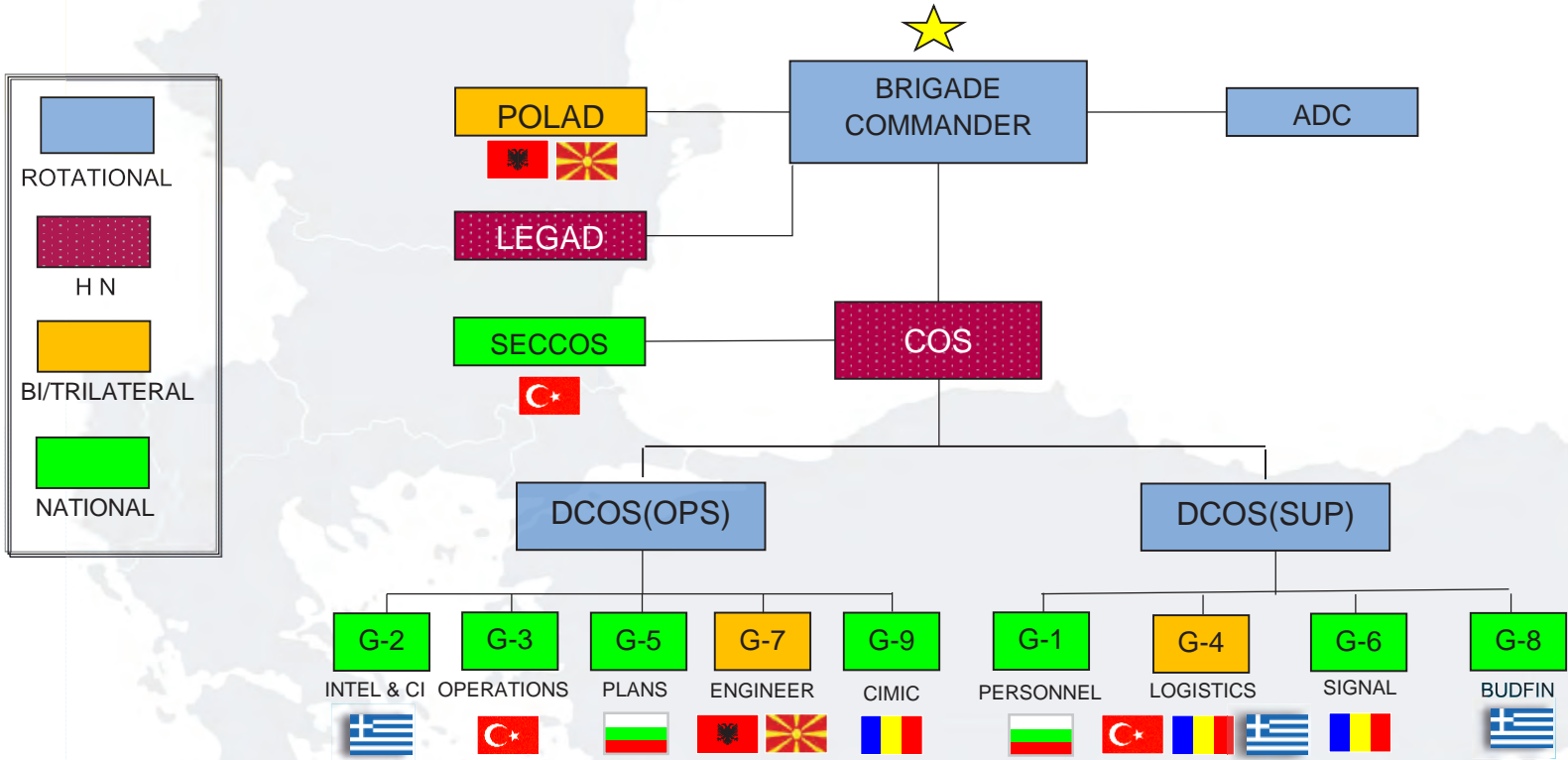
MULTINATIONAL UNITS
 HOST NATION UNITS
 NATIONAL UNITS

Na1 Na2 Na3 Na5 Na6 Na7





SEEBRIG HQ Structure





Location





SEEBRIG HQ LOCATIONS

CONSTANTA



2003 - 2007

TYRNAVOS



2011 - 2020

SEEBRIG
Activation
31 Aug 1999



1999 - 2003



PLOVDIV

2007 - 2011



ISTANBUL

2020 -



KUMANOVO





CONTRIBUTING NATIONS





Integration through cooperation – is the driving motto that Albania has embraced and pursued since the end of Cold War.

And as we mark the 25th Anniversary of South-Eastern Europe Brigade (SEEBRIG), we are reminded of the great importance of multifaceted international cooperation. Certainly the military cooperation is of paramount importance for a peaceful and prosper world.

Coming together with six other nations from the region 25 years ago is a testimony of a great vision demonstrated through the strong will to establish SEEBRIG. Since then Albania remains a staunch supporter of the “project” that has served “to promote regional security, stability, and further enhance cooperation...” .

It has chaired the SEDM-CC and the PMSC twice (2007-2009 and 2019-2021), it has commanded the SEEBRIG twice. Brigadier General Dushku

in 2009-2011 and the current commander. More importantly as all the other member nations it has contributed with personnel to the SEEBRIG HQ NS and has committed an Infantry Company (Lion Heart Coy, since 2006) as an affiliated unit since SEEBRIG was established. It has also committed an Engineering Coy as part of the Engineering Task Force (ETF) which stood up as a capability to support nations in the region in case of disasters or humanitarian crisis.

Dozens of military professional (officers and non-commission officers) have, directly or indirectly, contributed to SEEBRIG HQ NS during this past quarter century. And there can be counted more than a thousand of military personnel and civilians serving in the SEEBRIG affiliated units, the infantry coy and engineering coy, during this years.





On behalf of the Ministry of Defence of Albania, I would like to congratulate the South Eastern Europe Brigade (SEEBRIG) on its 25th anniversary, a milestone for the military instrument of the SEDM Process, the largest regional security initiative launched in Tirana, back in 1996 with a vision to build trust and reinforce regional cooperation.

In this quarter of a century, the Brigade has embarked on a challenging journey to build and strengthen its pool of capabilities. While its achievements to date are commendable, we should all reconsider its role and contribution in facing the current and future strategic security environment.

Indeed, SEEBRIG has the potential to adapt and transform in order to remain relevant against the challenges that we all together face as allies. In the broader context of multiplying threats, it is essential for SEEBRIG to align its core mission with the dynamics, developments and recent decisions of NATO. In doing so, SEEBRIG can count on Albania's ironclad commitment and military engagement to keep the Brigade fit for purpose.

As Albania chairs a series of regional security and defense cooperation initiatives this year, we understand the importance and the role of the human capital that keeps our organizations running. I therefore take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have served and to thank each and every one of you for your service and contribution to the Brigade.

In upholding your own motto: "One Team - One Mission" - for a better and safer region for the generations to come, let me wish you all the best and once again Happy 25th Birthday, SEEBRIG!

Tirana, 09 August 2024.



*Address by the Minister
of Defense of the
Republic of Albania*

Mr. Pirro VENGU





*Greeting message by
Deputy Chief of General Staff of
the Albanian Armed Forces*

**Major General
Manushaqe SHEHU**

It is my distinct pleasure, to greet all SEEBRIG personnel and congratulate them on behalf of Albanian Armed Forces, on the 25th anniversary of this great organization, member of which since 1999 is Albania with real contribution to peace and security and stability.

SEEBRIG is an important military organization with great contribution to peace and cooperation in the region. Albania, along with the other member countries has contributed with affiliated units and also with qualified military personnel to SEEBRIG HQ. Albania is also proud to have provided twice the commanding officer for SEEBRIG, including current commander.

SEEBRIG achievements are visible, its performance has increased continuously, and there is strong determination and persistence to further increase capabilities and interoperability as a unique military structure in South-East Europe region. This was stated once again by SEEBRIG during latest SEM-DCHODs (Deputy Chiefs of Staffs) meeting, held in Istanbul in June 2024.

On this 25th anniversary I wish success to all current SEEBRIG personnel in fulfilling their mission on the interest of peace and security in the region and beyond. A special wish to all former SEEBRIG members of the contributing nations, who have been an important part of these 25 years of SEEBRIG and have made an immense contribution to the cause.

In closing, I want to assure you all that Albanian Armed Forces will continue to be an integral part of this regional initiative by providing best qualified military personnel and with a high sense of duty to SEEBRIG HQ and well trained and well equipped units to SEEBRIG structure.

Best of Success to SEEBRIG!

Thank You

Tirana, 17 July 2024.





On this special occasion, as we celebrate a remarkable milestone - the 25th anniversary of SEEBRIG, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations, to everyone involved, for their vision, dedication, contribution and hard work.

From humble beginnings to significant achievements, each step has been a testament to our collective dedication and unwavering commitment. Together, we have overcome challenges, embraced opportunities, and built a legacy that inspires and affects our lives.

As we reflect on our accomplishments, and cherish our memories, we also look forward with optimism to the exciting possibilities that lie ahead.

It is hard to believe, it has been 25 years, since I joined SEEBRIG. I consider myself privileged having the opportunity to serve twice under SEEBRIG flag, and working with so many wonderful friends and colleagues from different nations. At the very beginning (1999), I found myself part of SEEBRIG HQ nucleus staff, in Plovdiv, as a staff officer (military engineer), starting from scratch, while a decade later (2009), I turned back to SEEBRIG, as commander of an already consolidated organization, spending two splendid years in Istanbul, before moving to Tyrnavos, where I handed over my duty.

Working together, discussing openly, sharing ideas, and learning from each other's experience, not only shaped our personal and professional growth, but also deepened our appreciation for the collective efforts. Without a doubt, the time spent working together for SEEBRIG, represents an unforgettable part of our life.

The accomplishments of SEEBRIG during a quarter of a century have been truly commendable. That is why, the authorities of our nations have always been convinced to preserve and support this regional organization, which undoubtedly, represents today a success story of our military cooperation.



*Greeting message by
former SEEBRIG Commander
(2009-2011)*

By MG (R) Zyber DUSHKU





As we celebrate this important event, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone, with no distinction to the ranks, for their unwavering commitment, contribution and support throughout the years. Their passion, dedication, hard work and professionalism, have made SEEBRIG a respected institution it is today.

My special greetings go to the current HQ SEEBRIG personnel and COMSEEBRIG, wishing them the best and success in their future endeavors. Having a strong base and a long experience, I am confident that you will make SEEBRIG castle higher, stronger and much more valuable, with a profound impact to peace and stability of our region and beyond that.

Wishing many years of success, once again, congratulations for your excellence and achievement!

Happy SEEBRIG 25th anniversary!





While always ready to answer the call, they have actively participated in training and exercises to test their ability and increase interoperability and also deployed in mission/operations, thus effectively contributing to peace and stability and at the same time enhancing their operational experience. “Lion Hearts” Coy carries as its’ badges of honor participation in a number of exercises and deployments:

Exercises:

- KFOR Rotation, Hohenfels-Germany
- Defender Europe 21, 23
- Seven Stars-22 CPX,
- “Positional Defense-24”

Deployments in Mission/Operations:

- PSO Mission in B&H
- ISAF Afghanistan
- RSM, Herat, Afghanistan
- RSM, Kabul, Afghanistan

Deployment in Disaster Relief Operations:

- Earthquake Turkey, 2023

Engineering Coy on the other hand, carries as its “badges of honor” participation in multiple rotations in the enhanced Forward Presence (NATO eFP) in Latvia, numerous mine clearing missions and operation inside the country and responding to calls for UXOs.

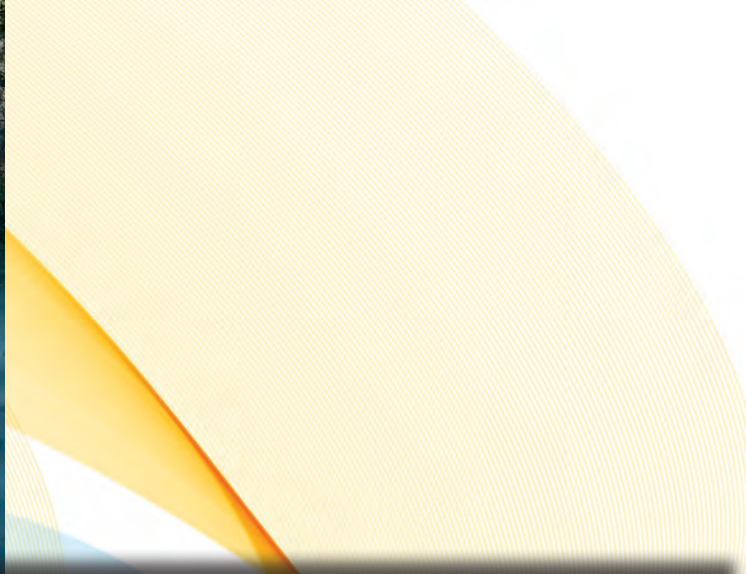
With their dedication and professionalism, they have made a valuable contribution to the SEEBRIG cause and remain always ready to continue to make their contribution to preserve peace and stability in the South-East Europe and beyond.







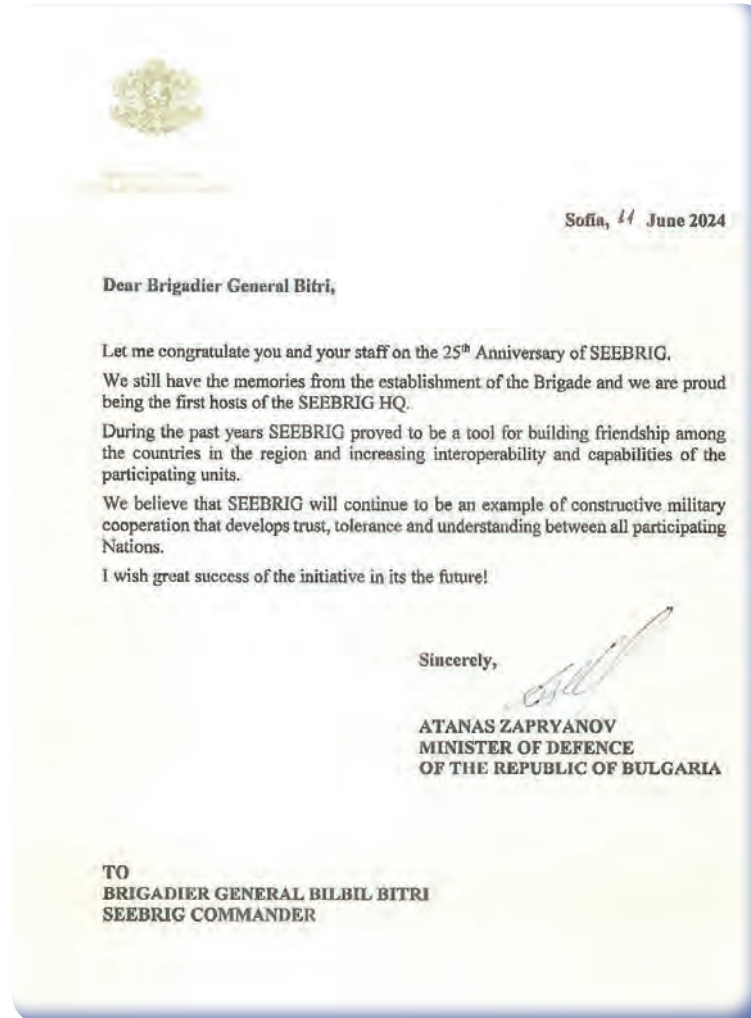






Address
by the Minister of Defence of the
Republic of Bulgaria

Mr. Atanas ZAPRYANOV





Sofia, 11 June 2024

Dear Brigadier General Bitri,

Let me congratulate you and your staff on the 25th Anniversary of SEEBRIG.

We have closely followed the development of the initiative as an organisation of representatives of South-Eastern Europe, some of which were NATO members and the others candidates for full NATO membership till the moment when all participating Nations had become NATO members.

We strongly believe that we should continue our efforts and joint endeavours to face all challenges together, and thus promote security and stability in South-Eastern Europe.

I wish every success to SEEBRIG!

Sincerely,

RADOSTIN ILIEV
DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

TO
BRIGADIER GENERAL BILBIL BITRI
SEEBRIG COMMANDER



Address by
the Deputy Minister of Defence
of the Republic of Bulgaria

Mr. Radostin ILIEV





Address by
the Deputy Chief of Defence

**Lieutenant General
Mihail POPOV**



Lieutenant General
MIHAIL POPOV
Deputy Chief of Defence

Sofia, 11 June 2024

Dear Brigadier General Bitri,

Let me congratulate you and your staff on the 25th Anniversary of SEEBRIG.

During the past years SEEBRIG proved to be the tool for promoting peace and stability in the South-Eastern Europe and also during the participation of the SEEBRIG HQ in the operation in Afghanistan.

We value SEEBRIG as a tool for developing and increasing the capabilities of the participating units.

I wish every success to SEEBRIG!

SINCERELY,

LIEUTENANT GENERAL MIHAIL POPOV
DEPUTY CHIEF OF DEFENCE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

TO
BRIGADIER GENERAL BILBIL BITRI
SEEBRIG COMMANDER





Affiliated Units

Republic of Bulgaria has been an active member of the SEEBRIG since its establishment in 1999. As one of the founding Nations, Republic of Bulgaria has played a crucial role in promoting regional stability and cooperation in the Balkans. The first location of SEEBRIG was in Plovdiv, Republic of Bulgaria.

Republic of Bulgaria contributes to SEEBRIG with positions in SEEBRIG HQ during peace time as well as positions in crisis time.

In addition, Republic of Bulgaria contributes to SEEBRIG with 38th Mechanized Battalion, which has been deployed several times, participating in various Peace Support and Peace Keeping Operations in the last 20 years.

Republic of Bulgaria also provides to SEEBRIG Engineer Company, Engineer Platoon, Transportation Platoon and Medical Platoon.













Address by
the Minister of the Hellenic
Ministry of National Defence

Mr. Nikolaos DENDIAS

We are very satisfied to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the South-eastern Europe Brigade. For the past 25 years, SEEBRIG has been a symbol of team work, dedication and peace, representing the cooperation among the countries of South-Eastern Europe.

Since we started in 1999, SEEBRIG has played a key role in promoting regional stability and building trust. Our journey over these 25 years has been filled with many achievements, thanks to the hard work and professionalism of our member nations and their people.

Back in the 90s, the geopolitical situation in South-eastern Europe was very different. The region was marked by political instability and conflict. Many countries were undergoing significant political and economic transitions, and the future was uncertain. When SEEBRIG was formed, Tirana, Sofia, Skopje and Bucharest, were not yet part of NATO. Today, we are proud to say that these countries are important members of the NATO alliance. This change shows the significant progress we have made together towards greater security and cooperation in the region.

This anniversary is not just about looking back at what we've accomplished but also about looking forward to our shared future. We have grown stronger through challenges and successes we've faced as a team, always striving to uphold the values of unity, respect and cooperation.

As we celebrate this special occasion, we want to thank everyone who has been part of SEEBRIG's journey. Your hard work and dedication have been the foundation of our success. Together, we have shown that working together is the key to building a safer and more prosperous region.

Here's to the next 25 years of continued partnership and progress.

Happy 25th Anniversary, SEEBRIG!





SEEBRIG is a structure able to deploy and participate in Peace Support Operations, as well as in Operations concerning prevention of Natural and Human-Made disasters, led by NATO or EU.

For a quarter of a century, it has been a valuable and constructive initiative, contributing to regional security and stability in SE Europe. By promoting good neighborly relations and providing realistic training opportunities, it has become an important mechanism, offering added value to our armed forces capabilities. As the main military tool of the Southeastern Defense Ministerial Initiative (SEDM), it represents a source of assurance to safeguard peace and stability in the region and beyond, wherever the need might be.

Beyond the above, it establishes several channels of communication among the countries, encourages military staffs to train together and address interoperability problems, teaches non-NATO members in fundamental concepts concerning the Alliance and transforms the Balkans to an area of cooperation, not confrontation. Lasting peace and stability in the Balkans will ultimately require economic integration, as well as political and military cooperation. SEEBRIG is a positive step in this direction and deserves the support of all interested parties.

Dedication, professionalism, and commitment are the core elements of SEEBRIG. It maintains high standards of work ethics and acts in full compliance with military code of conduct.

SEEBRIG was present in Afghanistan, as part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), in 2006 and has successfully accomplished its task to assist the Government of Afghanistan in providing and strengthening security. This operation, as well as the biannual Exercise “Seven Stars”, which is the major exercise conducted by SEEBRIG, are the indisputable proofs of the organization’s effectiveness and capability.



Address by
the Deputy Minister of the Hellenic
Ministry of National Defence

Mr. Ioannis KEFALOGIANNIS





SEEBRIG can be further developed and reform into a more active contributor to security and stability in the extended southeastern European region. Toward this direction, it is important to continue the cooperation with regional security organization and training centers and identify new training opportunities.

The Brigade role is expected to upgrade in the future, as new security challenges have emerged. Among them, energy security, directly related to our region, will define Europe's future and strategic autonomy in the long term. Regardless the security challenges, SEEBRIG will continue to safeguard its core values and cooperate towards regional stability and security.

I am certain that SEEBRIG, whenever required, whether in peace support or humanitarian operations, will successfully and effectively accomplish its mission.





Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed partners, and colleagues,

As we commemorate the 25th anniversary of SEEBRIG, we reflect on a quarter-century dedicated to strengthening cooperation and safety in South-Eastern Europe. This milestone is a testament to the pivotal role SEEBRIG has played in fostering stability and security in a region marked by historical complexities and challenges.

Founded during the turbulent 1990s, when many countries in the Balkans aspired to join NATO and the EU, SEEBRIG emerged as a beacon of hope and collaboration. Over the years, through joint efforts and unwavering commitment, SEEBRIG has been instrumental in shaping a more secure and interconnected South-Eastern Europe.

Today, we face new and evolving challenges. The ongoing war in Ukraine has profound implications for the security landscape of our region. This conflict underscores the urgency of our mission and the need for continued vigilance and cooperation. The destabilizing effects of the war pose a direct challenge to the security of South-Eastern Europe, reminding us that our work is far from over.

As we look to the future, we are met with both opportunities and challenges. Let us reaffirm our shared commitment to advancing peace, cooperation, and mutual understanding in the region. SEEBRIG's future endeavors will undoubtedly build upon the strong foundation laid over the past 25 years, further contributing to the stability and prosperity of our interconnected world.

In celebrating this remarkable journey, we honor the dedication of all those involved and embrace the promise of a future built on cooperation and shared goals. Together, we can continue to make a meaningful difference in the ever-evolving landscape of South-Eastern Europe, particularly in these challenging times.

Thank you.



Address by
the Deputy Chief of Defence
Vice Admiral

Christos SASIAKOS GRC N





Address by
the Former Commander
of SEEBRIG

**Major General
Aristeidis ILIOPOULOS**

Today marks a significant milestone as we celebrate 25 years since the establishment of SEEBRIG. As a former commander, I am filled with pride reflecting on the journey we have undertaken together. Over the past quarter-century, SEEBRIG has stood as a beacon of regional cooperation, and mutual understanding in Southeastern Europe.

Our collective efforts have not only enhanced the operational readiness and capabilities of our forces but have also fostered lasting bonds of friendship and camaraderie among member nations. Through countless exercises, missions, and engagements, we have demonstrated our unwavering commitment to the principles of unity, solidarity and shared responsibility.

As we commemorate this milestone, let us reaffirm our dedication to the mission of SEEBRIG and our resolve to confront the challenges that lie ahead. May the spirit of collaboration and cooperation continue to guide us as we strive for a more peaceful and prosperous future for all nations in the region.

Here's to 25 years of SEEBRIG, and to many more years of partnership, friendship, and success!

Major General Aristeidis Iliopoulos

Director of Infantry Directorate

Hellenic Army General Staff





Affiliated Units

Greece has been an active member of the SEEBRIG since its establishment in 1999. As one of the founding Nations, Greece has played a crucial role in promoting regional stability and cooperation in the Balkans. The Greek Armed Forces contribute significantly to SEEBRIG's capabilities, providing personnel, training, and logistical support.

Greece's involvement in SEEBRIG underscores its commitment to international peacekeeping efforts and regional security. The country's participation includes engagement in joint military exercises, humanitarian missions, and peacekeeping operations under the auspices of international organizations such as the UN and NATO. By fostering strong military ties with its neighbors, Greece helps enhance the collective security and operational readiness of the Brigade, reinforcing the principles of peace and cooperation in Southeastern Europe.

In this context, Greece contributes to SEEBRIG with 525 Mech Infantry Battalion and Hellenic Peace Support Engineer Company (HEPSEC). These Units have been deployed several times, participating in various Peace Support and Peace Keeping Operations in the past 20 years.

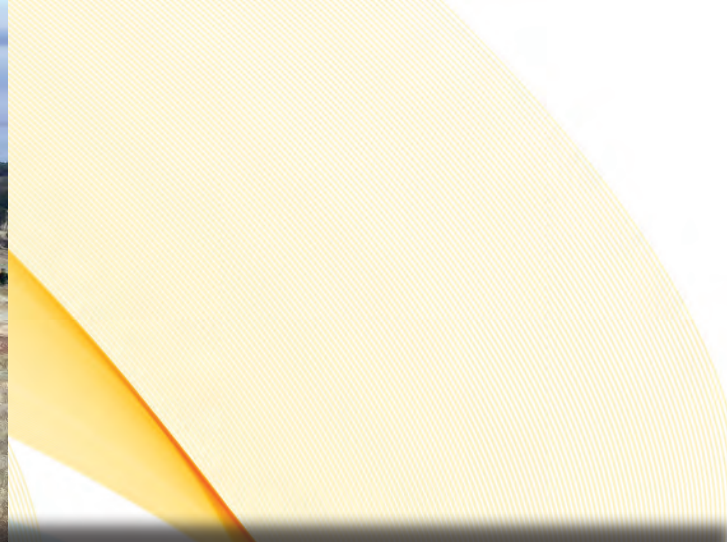
Greece remains committed to regional stability and cooperation, and will continue to contribute to SEEBRIG, ensuring our shared goals of peace and security in Southeastern Europe.

525 Mech Infantry Battalion

The Battalion's flag has been awarded with the medal of Excellence, by the President of USA and with the medal of Peace Support Operations, by the Greek Government. Therefore, focusing on constant training in basic and more advanced urban tactics, enhancing the existing SOP's is crucial for the unit's preparation for an upcoming mission and maintaining soldiers' proficiency.









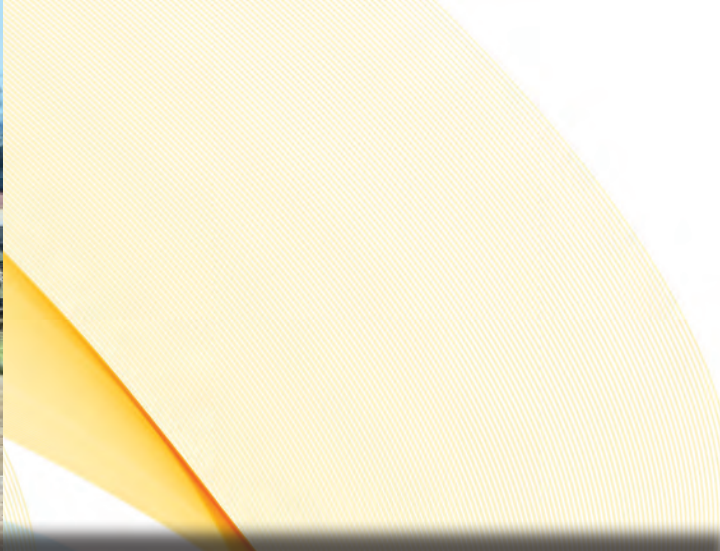
Hellenic Peace Support Engineer Company

HEPSEC has participated in various Peace Support Operations (PSOs) and multinational exercises, by conducting small-scale Engineering tasks, such as:

- CORNERSTONE 2001
- SKOPIA GREEK FORCE 2001
- ISAF 2002
- CORNERSTONE 2002
- CORNERSTONE 2003
- KOSOVO GREEK FORCE 2003-2004
- ISAF 2005-2006
- SEESIM 2006
- ISAF 2007
- SEVEN STARS 2007
- SEESIM 2008

Since 2008, the participation of HEPSEC has not been requested from SEEBRIG, for training or any other activity.









Dear current and former representatives of SEEBRIG and SEDM

As we mark the 25th anniversary since the establishment of the South-East European Brigade, we are reminded of the courage, dedication, and resilience that operates in SEDM (South-Eastern Europe Defence Ministerial).

Reflecting on the achievements of all SEEBRIG member states in this initiative, we honor the values, principles and commitment of our nations to contribute in maintaining peace, stability and security of the region and beyond.

As a Minister of Defence I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all former commanders of the Brigade, to the brave individuals, both civilian and military, to all former members of the SEDM Secretariat and Chair persons of the SEDM Coordination Committee (SEDM-CC) and the Political Military Steering Committee (PMSC) for their contribution in these 25 years. You did an excellent job working for SEDM/SEEBRIG and serving your countries and our citizens at the same.

Your commitment to the Initiative have brought the development of this joint defence capability, an enabled the creation of an environment in which team spirit was fostered and professionalism in the defence was promoted from the very beginning.

I am certain that the lessons learned from this past quarter of a century, having in mind the current security situation in Europe, will empower us to continue with an increased intensity and participate in such initiatives. We as a country are strongly committed to strengthening bilateral and regional cooperation especially in today's security environment and changed security architecture.



Address by
the Minister of Defence
of Republic of North Macedonia

Mr. Vlado MISAJLOVSKI





These regional initiatives have helped us understand each other, learn from one another, live and work together, share knowledge and experience, which is why we must continue working together for our future. Our countries are participating in different regional initiatives, but our goal is the same, safety, stability and prosperity.

We have achieved one of our strategic goals, NATO membership, and this regional Initiative significantly affected our path. Today, our soldiers are working side by side with our friends and allies and our Army is a valuable contributor to global peace.

As we celebrate this milestone, we reaffirm our commitment to our guiding principles and this anniversary is not only a time to honor the past, but also an opportunity to look forward with hope and determination. Together let's build on the legacy that will remain.

May we continue to uphold the values that make our militaries and our nations strong.





Dear friends, colleagues, members of the SEEBRIG

It is a great honor and privilege for me on behalf of the Army of the Republic of North Macedonia to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the South-eastern Europe Brigade.

As the current host, along with our dedicated staff officers in the SEEBRIG Command we are privileged with the responsibility of supporting this vital organization. We are committed to providing the necessary resources and support to ensure that SEEBRIG can continue to thrive, offering its member nations a platform to strengthen their military capabilities and deepen their strategic partnerships.

SEEBRIG has proven to be a vital component of the regional security architecture in Southeast Europe. It has continuously evolved and adapted to the ever-changing security environment, and its role as a force for stability and cooperation will only become more crucial in the years ahead.

I am confident that the unity that SEEBRIG has built upon its multinational foundation, based on mutual respect, trust, and a shared sense of friendship, will undoubtedly help it achieve its goal, as expressed through its symbolic dove of peace: to promote peace, stability, and security throughout the entire region.

On this occasion of SEEBRIG's 25th anniversary, I extend my sincere wishes for good health, success, and a pleasant stay in the Republic of North Macedonia to the entire staff of the brigade.

Happy anniversary SEEBRIG!



Address by
the Deputy Chief
of General Staff

**Major General
Azim NUREDIN**





Address by
the Former Commander
of SEEBRIG

Brigadier General (R)
Zdravko POPOVSKI

Dear SEEBRIG Family,

This year we all marked a jubilee on the 25th anniversary of the birth of the institutional architecture of South-Eastern Europe Multinational Peace Force –SEEBRIG.

25 years of lifetime, 25 years of maturing, 25 years of Success!

Twenty-five years seems to be a considerable time to fill the calendar with numerous exercises, trainings, seminars, and many other events and activities. During these 25 years, MPFSEE has become well known in the military world and achieved high military competence.

Over the past twenty-five years, every year, we proudly look back to the beginnings of our institution—let this festive atmosphere be both a commemoration of our milestones and a pledge of further commitment towards the realization of the unique vision, that SEEBRIG has been, are, and will be the strong and credible Multinational Peace Force that our Nations can be proud of.

SEEBRIG is the structure where people constantly face new tasks and introduce innovative ideas. Multinational military cooperation increases along with the number of participating states and the sensitivity of soldiers to other cultures and challenges of the contemporary world. A multinational environment consisting of soldiers from our nations already is a source of pride and strength for this Headquarters.

The successes go far beyond the military sphere. The Headquarters is treated as an indissoluble part of its home garrison. For the past years, and the time to come, soldiers wearing different uniforms established close ties and friendly relations with inhabitants of host cities wherever HQ was replaced. Therefore, one of the major goals has been and is becoming an active member of the community considering the HQ city their second home.





Nowadays, as we celebrate and share our Anniversary, let me, greet all fellow SEEBRIG members—retired and in active service alike and civilian professionals the happy and rewarding 25th SEEBRIG Anniversary Today's ceremony marks the culmination of many years of commitment and dedicated service and successful completion of moto “One Team One Mission”.

It is also important to acknowledge the family support and backing that enables our former and future members to attend this modest ceremony. In that context, I would like to express my gratitude to all family members because the support of families is essential for the organization to survive and be appreciated.

I avail this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to current HQ Personnel, as well as to those who are somewhere on other world meridians, for their outstanding performance and contribution given for the good providence of SEEBRIG.

I wish all of you the best of luck and the strength to continue this common project, proving that SEEBRIG is a success story. At the very end, allow me to congratulate you, and wish you and your families, good health and prosperity in the years to come.

Long Live SEEBRIG!





Affiliated Units

Engineer Platoon

From March 2000 is established engineers' platoon with mission to provide engineer support, mobility, prevention and ensuring preparedness and resilience. SEEBRIG's engineer platoon has actively participated in various exercises to enhance its operational capabilities and regional cooperation. demonstrating its commitment to joint training and readiness across the region. These exercises underscore SEEBRIG's role in fostering collaboration and interoperability among its member nations.

Engineer platoon participated on the follow SEEBRIG exercises:

- CORNERSTONE 2000 – Krivolak, Nation 5;
- CORNERSTONE 2002 – Pazardzhik, Nation 2;
- CORNERSTONE 2003 – Constanca, Nation 6;
- NEIGHBOUR EFFORT 2003 – Krivolak, Nation 5;
- ADRIATIC PHIBLEX 2004 – Slunj, CRO.

Beside participation on national exercises, Engineer platoon participated on exercise abroad:

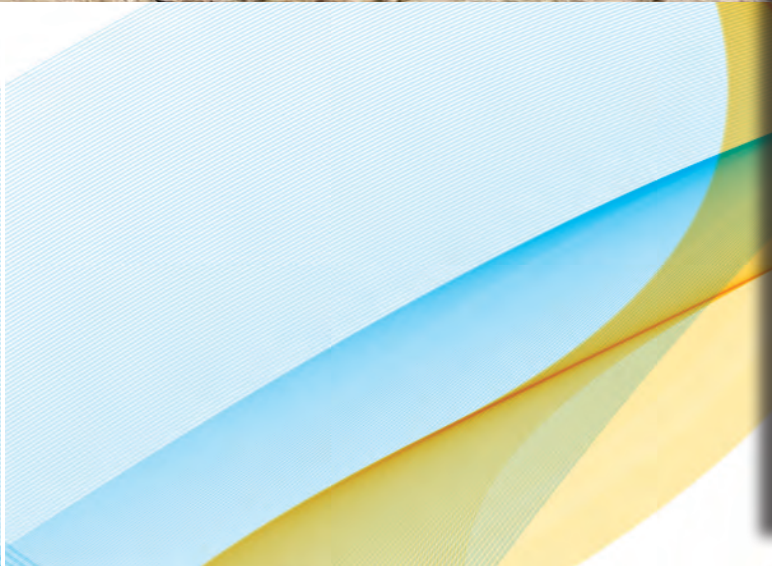
- SABER JUNCTION – Germany – 2017;
- SABER GUARDIAN – Germany, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria – 2017;
- DRAGOON GUARDIAN – Krivolak – 2017;

Engineer platoon has played a significant role in supporting local populations in coping with various natural and man-made disasters. From responding to floods in municipalities, industrial disasters, and rehabilitating areas affected by floods and landslides.

Furthermore, platoon participated in providing support during the floods in Serbia in 2014.

The unit has also undertaken infrastructure projects like constructing wooden bridges and participating in ongoing efforts to secure southern border with a security fence since The unit will continue to enhance its capabilities and with its commitment to regional stability and humanitarian assistance in times of crisis.









Mechanized Infantry Company

The Mechanized Infantry Company commenced its journey on 19.11.1999 as a designated unit under the moniker “Scorpions”, as part of the 2nd Mechanized Infantry Battalion and SEEBRIG, consistently reaffirming their commitment to upholding the values of this organization.

The mission of this military unit is multifaceted, encompassing rigorous training and preparation for peace-support operations within SEEBRIG, where the company collaborate closely with allied forces.

Apart from the participation in national and multinational exercises conducted in Stip and Krivolak training area, it is worth to be mentioned unit’s participation in many exercises out of the country, in various training scenarios designed to enhance interoperability and readiness.

The unit has actively participated in all iterations of the “Seven Stars” exercise, from the first one held in 2000 in Na-2, to the last one held in 2022, in Na-5. Through continuous participation in SEEBRIG exercises, unit stands ready to meet the challenges of today’s dynamic security environment with professionalism and dedication.

Furthermore, Mechanized Infantry Company has been actively involved in several significant NATO missions, such as:

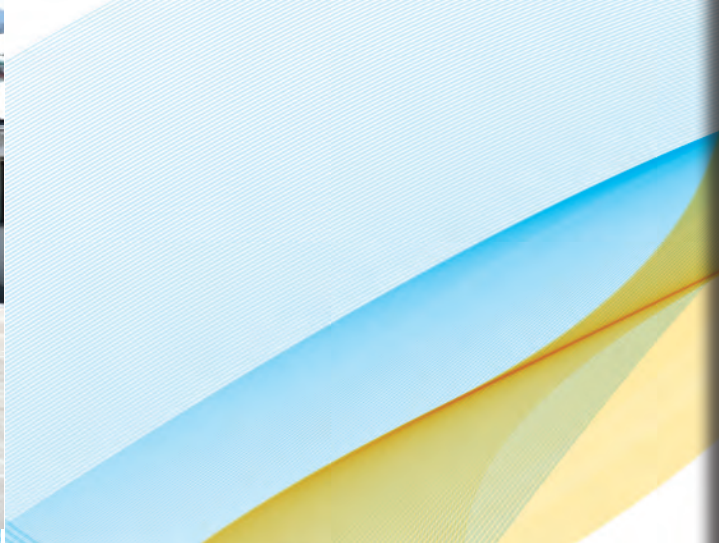
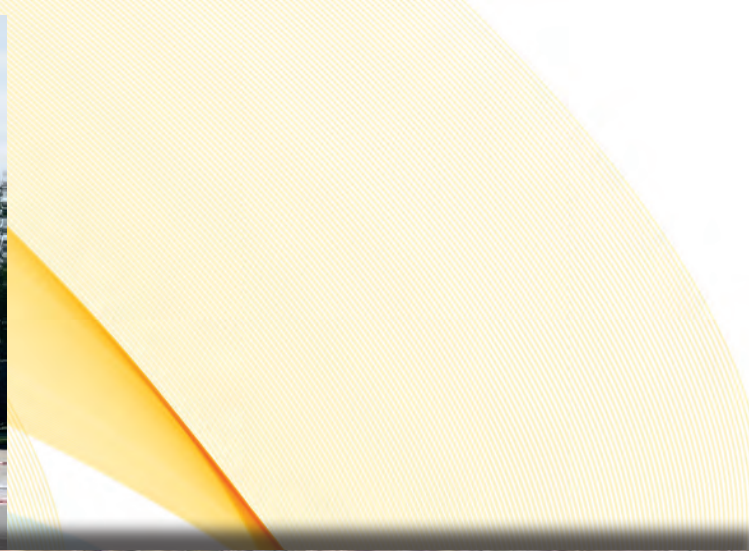
1. PARTICIPATION IN NATO/PfP MISSIONS:
 - Mission ISAF IX Afghanistan - 2006/2007,
 - Mission ISAF X Afghanistan – 2009,
 - Mission ISAF XI / 1 Afghanistan – 2011 and
 - Mission Resolute Support - 2015.

Additionally, the unit provided vital support to local communities affected by different natural disaster in the country and as well as to the population affected by floods in Slovenia in August 2023, demonstrating our versatility and commitment to humanitarian aid.

All those activities underscore the company’s readiness and capability to operate effectively in complex environments, supporting NATO’s objectives of global security and stability.









Greeting message by the
Minister of National Defence

Angel TÎLVĂR

Starting from the premise that, in an interdependent global environment, our country's security is directly affected by enduring outbreaks of tension and insecurity, Romania has been participating in these missions with MoND personnel and equipment based on the "Agreement on the Multinational Peace Force South-Eastern Europe", signed in Skopje, on September 26th, 1998.

**"Through adaptability, innovation and close collaboration,
we will face the challenges and ensure a safer future for all our citizens."**

A quarter of a century ago, our nations shared the vision and determination to create a multinational force aimed at promoting peace, stability and cooperation in the region. On 31 August 1999, in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, the South-Eastern Europe Brigade - SEEBRIG became operational. The force was to be hosted by Romania as well, two years later.

Over these 25 years, SEEBRIG has been proving its value and relevance many times now. We have succeeded in building a robust framework of security and mutual trust through joint exercises and multiple cooperative projects. Not only have we strengthened the military relations, but we have also enhanced the diplomatic and cultural bonds among our nations.

As we look ahead, we understand that there are many challenges yet to come. We are living in a dynamic and unpredictable world, where the threats posed to peace and security are constantly changing. This year's anniversary of SEEBRIG takes place in a complicated security context, particularly in the Black Sea region, generated by the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine. That being said, we do believe that through adaptability, innovation and close collaboration, we will be able to face the challenges and secure a safer future for all our citizens.





In 2023, Romania took over the Presidency of the South-Eastern Europe Defence Ministerial Process (SEDM) for two years. One of our top priorities in this capacity was to raise the Observer status of the Republic of Moldova to full membership, an objective fulfilled at the Ankara Ministers' Meeting, in November 2023. The new position acquired by the Republic of Moldova is an important step towards regional cohesion, and we are happy with the support provided by the member countries in achieving this goal.

Another priority set by Romania while holding the SEDM Presidency is to increase SEEBRIG interoperability and become more visible, more active and for that matter, ready to carry out missions, tasks and objectives pursuant to its mandate.

This anniversary is an excellent opportunity for us to thank everyone responsible for making SEEBRIG a success story. Be they soldiers, diplomatic partners or supporters from around the world, each and every one of them has played a key role in it. We highly appreciate the dedication, professionalism and sacrifices made by all the people involved.

I would like to conclude by offering my deep gratitude to all those who have been part of this extraordinary journey. Every single one of you has contributed to building an enduring legacy and a solid foundation for the future. Let us keep working together, with unshakable determination, clarity of purpose and spirit of cooperation, to safeguard peace and prosperity in South-Eastern Europe and beyond.

Happy anniversary, SEEBRIG! Long live all the members of this special community!





Greeting message by the
Deputy Chief of Defence

Lieutenant General
Dragoș-DUMITRU IACOB

The South-Eastern Europe Defence Ministerial Process is very important for the Romanian Armed Forces. Its component, the South-Eastern Europe Brigade (SEEBRIG), represents a significant asset for the regional security system.

Over the last few years, SEEBRIG has proved to be a useful tool in the hands of our nations, aiming to be instrumental for the security and stability in the area, to foster good neighbouring relations among the countries from Southeast Europe, and to support even further the interoperability among the Euro-Atlantic structures.

In light of the brigade's 25th anniversary, my deepest appreciation and respect go to the brave and devoted men and women who serve and contribute to this regional initiative.

SEEBRIG has gained quite of traction in the recent period.

The exercises, the multinational missions, and the brigade's transparency have confirmed our personnel's reliability, professionalism, and devotion. We consider that SEEBRIG should be looked upon more thoroughly and promoted more actively.

Wishing you success in all your missions, we're confident that years to come will bring more important tasks, more relationships with international organizations, and increased effectiveness and deterrence.

Happy anniversary, SEEBRIG! All the best, dear allies!





A quarter of a century since SEEBRIG has been part of me, my career and my international experience.

At the beginning of the 2000s, when I was the commander of the mechanized brigade from Dobrogea, I received the assessment visit of the White Sharks Infantry Battalion and the reconnaissance and engineer small units affiliated to SEEBRIG, an activity led by General Andreas Kouzelis, a remarkable friend of mine.

After commanding the Scorpions Brigade, now the South-East Multinational Brigade and a year spent at the NATO Headquarters, I had the privilege of taking over, from the late General Neiko Nenov, the SEEBRIG command.

I found here a special team, which in a short time, became the SEEBRIG family, a formidable command team, with which we achieved remarkable performances. And I believe that SEEBRIG would not have confirmed its capacity and strength without the permanent and competent guidance of the SEDM-CC and MPFSEE presidencies, held at that time by North Macedonia, with special appreciation for Mrs. Radica Gareva and Col. Jordanco Miladinovski.

As a Romanian general, I am proud of the request made by the Turkish Armed Forces' General Staff to SEEBRIG to take over the command of the Kabul Regional Command. If the request had materialized, it would have been the second mission of SEEBRIG in Afghanistan, but for political reasons, which exceeded the SEEBRIG framework, this mission was abandoned.

I have to recall here, the exceptional relationship we had with the commander of the NATO-Turkey Rapid Reaction Corps, General Yalcin Ataman, the fielding of the Turkish small units during the Seven Stars exercises, the exercises themselves, in all their complexity, the international symposium on SEEBRIG disaster intervention, being eloquent from this point of view.

I handed over the SEEBRIG command to General Zyber Dushku, a prestigious general of the Albanian Armed Forces, but I will always feel that I am part of the COMSEEBRIG Hall of Honor.



Greeting message by the
Former Commander of SEEBRIG
(2007 – 2009)

Lieutenant General (R)
Virgil BĂLĂCEANU





Greeting message by the
Former Commander of SEEBRIG
(2017 – 2020)

Brigadier General (R)
Tudorică PETRACHE

A quarter century of excellence!

Year 2024 marks the 25th anniversary of SEEBRIG. During its first quarter century, SEEBRIG, as an operational pillar, has proven a valuable mechanism for promoting regional stability and security, fostering political and military confidence and maintaining military cooperation among the member nations.

On 31st of August 1999, this unique structure became operational and the outstanding journey of dedicated work began. There have been many challenges on the path and SEEBRIG has been making great progress since its activation. Year by year, it succeeded in achieving its goals by developing a peaceful, secure and stable environment and stronger regional defence capabilities.

Now in its maturity, SEEBRIG is a strong and reliable tool of South-Eastern Europe Defence Ministerial Process. The world is continuously changing and the security context is more volatile than ever. The war between Russia and Ukraine is actually transforming global politics and security. Not only has it fractured the existing global order, but it has also reignited the Cold War paradigm of distrust, thereby diminishing faith in a peaceful and cooperative global order. All nations are likely to redefine their foreign policy strategies when addressing current and future geopolitical challenges. From this perspective, SEEBRIG needs to adapt to the new defence and security context on the south-eastern flank. It needs to redefine the levels of ambition, increase interoperability and training. With a great foundation and expertise created over the last 25 years by previous commanders and hardworking personnel, I am sure that SEEBRIG can move forward and face the next challenges.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude and appreciations to all SEEBRIG members, whether retired or active-duty, who contributed to the most successful story in the region. On this 25th Anniversary we must be proud of what we achieved and remember that together we can make anything happen, because we are: „ONE TEAM, ONE MISSION”.

I wish you best of luck, good health and prosperity!

Happy anniversary SEEBRIG!





Affiliated Units

Over 400 Romanian soldiers are currently assigned to the Multinational Peace Force South-Eastern Europe in the joint effort of promoting international stability. Romania contributes to this regional initiative with soldiers from the infantry, engineer, reconnaissance and transportation structures subordinated to 9th Mechanized Brigade “Mărășești”, as follows: 341st Infantry Battalion “Constanța”, 353rd Engineer Company “Rechinii Albi”, a reconnaissance platoon of the 349th Reconnaissance Company and a platoon of 168th Logistic Support Battalion “Pontus Euxinus”. These structures remain at their permanent home base locations and will be ready for employment when necessary. The entire NAG force package will be made available to the MPFSEE (Multinational Peace Force South-Eastern Europe) upon deployment notification and in accordance with the national and regional papers that regulate the rendering of the SEEBRIG structures operational and their insertion into the theater of operation.

The nomination of the 341st Infantry Battalion within the SEEBRIG regional initiative was not accidental. The soldiers of this battalion have participated over time in numerous exercises conducted both domestically and abroad, always proving determination and devotion, cultivating a professional attitude. Starting with September 2000, the 9th Mechanized Brigade “Mărășești” accepted this new challenge, managing to brilliantly cope with the assigned missions.

Capitalizing on the positive results of the training process was not too long in coming. Thus, in 2002, during “Cooperative Partner” Exercise, “Rechinii Albi” was the first Romanian Armed Forces’ unit to command the land component of a multinational force. Acting as a “well-knit” team, the soldiers

of the 9th Mechanized Brigade “Mărășești” have gained valuable experience, particularly useful when increasing the interoperability of the Romanian Armed Forces. The establishment and development of the battalion as an elite structure was perfected through its participation in numerous multinational exercises, as well as missions in the theaters of operations in Kosovo, Iraq or Afghanistan.

The most important force engagement of SEEBRIG was recorded in 2006, within the UN-mandated NATO-led ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) Mission in Afghanistan. Romania had a significant contribution to this mission, participating with 233 soldiers. They professionally fulfilled their entrusted missions and represented our country at the highest level.

Moreover, the SEEBRIG Commander evaluates the combat readiness level of the forces made available by each partner country every two years, according to the standard operating procedures in force. The last assessment of the Romanian force package took place in June 2022, when the 9th Mechanized Brigade structures were evaluated by the South-Eastern Europe Brigade Headquarters. The live tactical firing exercise aimed at increasing the combat capability of the Romanian force package but also the interoperability between the SEEBRIG Headquarters and its affiliated units.

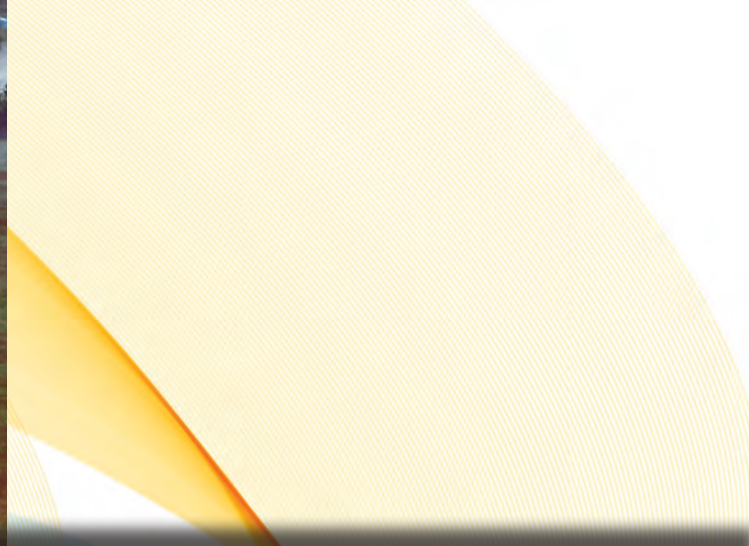
The participation of the 9th Mechanized Brigade “Mărășești” in this regional initiative validates our country’s firm option to create a steady international security environment as well as the appreciation shown by the international community.













*Greeting message by the
former SEEBRIG Commander
(2016-2017)*

**Major General (R)
Faruk METİN, TÜRKİYE**

The problems emerging in our region and worldwide, and their reflections on our region, necessitate that regional states maintain fully situationally aware and well-equipped units ready for combat to preserve peace.

In line with the aim of preserving regional peace and contributing to global peace when needed, adapting to the rapidly evolving age of information and technology by maintaining the spirit of inter-country solidarity has become the primary duty of units to keep up with changes in the security environment and the hybrid operation environment that has become inevitable in recent conflicts.

During this period, many events threatening international peace and security are taking place. SEEBRIG has undertaken an important mission in providing humanitarian aid during natural disasters, which are rapidly occurring due to global warming, and supporting peace operations in regional and international contexts.

Since its establishment, SEEBRIG has been constantly preparing to effectively fulfill the duties assigned to it for the establishment and maintenance of peace in its region and the world, with its increasing combat power and experience. Moreover, it is considered beneficial for SEEBRIG to evaluate every opportunity that arises to utilize and test its current capabilities, especially concerning developments and events occurring in its immediate vicinity.

To keep up with developments worldwide and maintain its functionality, SEEBRIG should continuously cooperate and coordinate with NATO (participating in NATO meetings and exercises, following NATO documents, etc.) and integrate into NATO.

In this context, I am fully confident that SEEBRIG, with the experiences gained over the past 25 years, the contributions of member countries, and the training and exercises conducted, is determined and resolute to succeed in all kinds of missions both now and in the future.





Contributions to the South-eastern Europ Brigade

The Southeast European Brigade (SEEBRIG) was established on August 31, 1999, with the goal of contributing to the enhancement of security and stability in the South-eastern Europe region. This was made possible through the signing of the Multinational Peace Force South-eastern Europe (MPFSEE) Agreement in Skopje, NORTH MACEDONIA, on September 26, 1998, by Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, North Macedonia, Romania, and Türkiye. The first commander of SEEBRIG was Brigadier General Hilmi Akın Zorlu (1999-2001). Subsequently, Brigadier General Alptekin Tartıcı (August 19-30, 2016) and Brigadier General Faruk Metin (2016-2017) from the Turkish Armed Forces served as SEEBRIG commanders.

Türkiye hosted the SEEBRIG Headquarters (3rd Corps Command/Istanbul) from 2007 to 2011. During this period, numerous successful training exercises and drills were conducted, and activities that fostered bilateral relations with regional countries were carried out.

As part of its force contribution, Türkiye supported SEEBRIG with the 1st Armoured Brigade (Mechanized Infantry Battalion) under the 3rd Corps Command until 2010. From 2010 to 2023, the 3rd Armoured Brigade (Mechanized Infantry Battalion, Artillery Battery, Engineer Company) and the 8th Mechanized Infantry Brigade (Reconnaissance Company) contributed to SEEBRIG. Since January 2023, contributions have

continued with the 8th Mechanized Infantry Brigade/2nd Corps Command (Mechanized Infantry Battalion, Artillery Battery, Reconnaissance Company), Engineer Construction Company, Transportation Platoon, Tactical Air Control Group, and EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) Team. Additionally, three personnel are continuously assigned to the SEEBRIG Headquarters.

The SEEBRIG command team, during various visits and inspections in Türkiye, observed the high training and readiness levels of our units. They departed our country with satisfaction.

At the meeting of South-eastern Europe Defense Ministers held in Batumi on October 11, 2017, it was decided that the SEEBRIG Headquarters would be stationed in Türkiye from July 2026 to 2032. When taking on the Host Nation role, additional contributions will include the Brigade Headquarters Company, Signal Company, and Combat Service Support Company (3rd Corps Command).

Our allocated units, as part of SEEBRIG, which plays a significant role in ensuring and supporting regional and international peace, are determined and committed to successfully completing all tasks *in the future*.











In a world where global security and defense cooperation are increasingly vital, high-level meetings play a crucial role in fostering international alliance and ensuring stability.

Being the military instrument of South-Eastern Defense Ministerial (SEDM) process the Brigade has been widely recognized not only as a useful and productive prerequisite for coordination and dialogue among the South-Eastern European countries but also as reliable partner in exercises, trainings, and operational employment.

These meetings are fundamental to facilitate dialogue, operational collaboration, and the exchange of expertise among the nations and have underscored the importance of these interactions in addressing common security challenges and enhancing mutual understanding.

Through these meetings, nations can forge stronger defense ties, and develop cohesive strategies to address the complex security issues of our time. In this regard recent flurry of the meetings signifies a collective commitment to a secure and stable region, reinforcing the importance of cooperation increasing the interconnected global landscape

Participation of SEEBRIG in PMSC, DCHOD's and SEDM meetings has provided the opportunity to report and interact. On the other hand, meeting outputs and implied guidance have shaped the work of SEEBRIG.





SEDM-CC and PMSC Meeting – Izmir, 15 -17 March 2005





SEDM-CC and PMSC Meeting – Sofia, 22-24 March 2010





DCHOD Meeting – Rome, 20-21 June 2023





SEDM Meeting – Antalya, 03-03 October 2011





SEDM Meeting – Bucharest, 15-16 October 2019





In today's interconnected world, visibility is crucial for any organizations. Increasing visibility not only fosters better understanding and cooperation with other entities but also enhances public perception and support.

Considering SEEBRIG's mission, closely associated with the framework of the United Nations (UN), NATO, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and European Union (EU), visits and meetings have been conducted aiming at strengthening cooperation and collaboration with relevant international organizations (IO), non-governmental organizations (NGO), and regional military and non-military entities, such as NATO HQs, Centers of Excellence (COEs), Partnership Training and Education Centers (PTECs), and adapt and transform to better face challenges of the security environment.

It has always been and will continue to be of paramount importance for SEEBRIG to enhance cooperation with local civilian and Host Nation (HN) Military Authorities while consolidating good relationships.

The realization of the visits significantly contributed to the improvement of cooperation and interoperability with international and military entities, represents a significant element towards strengthening the primary goal, namely, to contribute to regional security and stability while promoting harmonious relationship among South-Eastern European countries and at the same time contributed to the visibility of SEEBRIG on the international scene.





HLPG OSCE Visit to SEEBRIG HQ





SEEBRIG delegation visit to EUCOM in Stuttgart





SEEBRIG delegation visit to KFOR in Prishtina





SEEBRIG delegation visit to OSCE in Vienna





SEEBRIG delegation visit to RACVIAC in Zagreb





A military exercise is the employment of military resources in training for military operations. Military exercises are conducted to explore the effects of warfare or test standards, procedures, tactics and strategies without actual combat. They also ensure the combat readiness of forces prior to deployment from a home base. Exercises are important tools to test and validate concepts, procedures, systems and tactics. More broadly, they enable militaries and civilian organizations deployed in theatres of operation to test capabilities and practice working together efficiently in a demanding crisis situation.

Through its period of existence, from very beginning, SEEBRIG HQ established excellent cooperation with NATO and regional military organizations which enable participation in multinational exercises primarily based of Peace Support Operation Scenario.



Ex "SEVEN STARS 2000"





Ex "SEVEN STARS 2008"





Ex "SEVEN STARS 2012"





Ex "SEVEN STARS 2016"





Ex "SEVEN STARS 2022"





Ex "CORNERSTONE 2001"





Ex "NOBLE JEWEL 2010"





Ex "VIKING 2003"





Ex "SEEBA 2015"





Evaluation visits remain for SEEBRIG the best opportunity to interact with affiliated units that participating nations have “assigned” to the brigade. Officer and NCO from SEEBRIG HQ can witness first hand and see from up close what the real capabilities of the affiliated units to SEEBRIG are, and more importantly to meet and greet the very people that are the source of strength – the soldiers of those units.

The SEEBRIG Evaluation Standards and Procedures (SESAP) is the starting point for the evaluation of the affiliated Units which is one of the main pillars of activity within the SEEBRIG framework. All units are evaluated in the areas of organization, personnel, operations/training, equipment, logistics, communications and medical. In accordance with the Unit Evaluation Program, SEEBRIG HQ conducts 3 evaluation visits each year.





Nation-1





Nation-2





Nation-3





Nation-5





Nation-6





Nation-7





Training, as a process which intends to establish and improve the capabilities of military personnel in their respective roles, is a key element of readiness. The types of training audiences are defined below:

- a. Individual Training
- b. Collective Training

Training is the basic pillar in order to achieve an appropriate standard of proficiency for SEEBRIG units and staffs through the integration of experiences gathered in real missions, exercises and staff studies and it supports the assessment and development of military concepts and capabilities.

During the peace time, our main effort is to enhance capacity of SEEBRIG's nucleus staff. For that reason, we are seeking for every available training opportunity, in accordance with our mission. We cooperate with many international organizations and participate in individual and collective training.

TRAINING & COOPERATION





Battle Staff Training





CIMIC Course





CIS Training





CMDR COE Colletive Training





DRO Course





First Aid Training





NATO CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Article III of the MPFSEE Agreement stipulates “SEEBRIG will be available for possible employment in UN or OSCE – mandated, NATO- or EU- led conflict prevention and other peace support operations”, except peace enforcement operations.

In this regard, on the 1st May 2001 the Brigade was declared by the Chairman of the PMSC operationally ready for UN, OSCE, EU and NATO led PSO. The initial SEEBRIG Force offer was forwarded to SHAPE (NATO) in November 2002. In April 2003, PMSC declared SEEBRIG ready to participate in a Peace Support Operation under NATO Command.

After process of intensive communication and cooperation JFC Naples was tasked to conduct certification process through two phases: Initial Operational Capability (IOC) and Full Operation Capability (FOC).

During IOC (conducted from 27th to 30th of April 2004) Brigade was evaluated in 38 agreed criteria in seven functional areas: Policy, Intelligence, Operations, Logistics, Legal, Admin and CIS. Focus of the evaluation was given to HQ SEEBRIG including its peacetime location, Signal Company and HQ Support Company.

During exercise “SEVEN STARS-04”, FOC was conducted from 26th to 29th October 2004. HQ SEEBRIG, together with Signal Company and HQ Support company were evaluated in barracks and in deployed location. The evaluators have assessed and checked SEEBRIG HQ capabilities for conducting planning, deployment, operations, command and control, logistic and CIS support, as well as other specific aspects of peace support operation, in accordance with the NATO standards and procedures.

In the report of JFC NAPLES, the Evaluation Team mentioned that “the results of evaluation indicate quite clearly that HQ SEEBRIG is capable of making a meaningful and valuable contribution to NATO-led Peace Support Operations albeit there are a number of limitations that would need to be taken into account at the time”. The recommendation of the report forwarded to SACEUR (Supreme Allied Commander Europe), SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe) was “to formally certify that HQ SEEBRIG has attained FOC status with limitations to deploy to a NATO led PSO in Balkans.”





SEEBRIG "Seven Stars 2004" Exercise, Constanta Na-6





SEEBRIG "Seven Stars 2004" Exercise,
Constanta Na-6



SEEBRIG "Seven Stars 2004" Exercise,
Constanta Na-6





MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN

During SEDM Ministerial meeting, held in Washington DC, the 6th December 2005, the decision on SEEBRIG deployment in ISAF as Kabul Multinational Brigade IX (KMNB IX) was taken by ministers of defense from MPFSEE countries.

The mission itself was challenging and demanding. During the mission the personnel from SEEBRIG HQ Nucleus staff successfully cooperated with the other contingency and crises establishment personnel coming from 7 other nations.

The SEEBRIG motto was and still is: “ONE TEAM ONE MISSION”, no matter of nationality or religion. The strong teamwork that was built, played a crucial role when the SEEBRIG took over the command of KMNB IX between 6th February and 6th August 2006. The time during the six months spent in Afghanistan was for SEEBRIG to give its contribution in promoting security and stability beyond its area.

KMNB IX mission, as a part of ISAF in Afghanistan, was to conduct stability and security operations in Kabul Area of operation and to assist to the Government of Afghanistan in the establishment and maintaining of a safe and secure environment.

SEEBRIG, as a peace force, was working in close cooperation with Afghan security partners, United Nations Mission in Afghanistan and other civilian agencies in order to facilitate the rebuilding of the country. The

mission of the brigade also included working on different projects to reconstruct the infrastructures and facilities and to assist the people of Afghanistan in their needs.

SEEBRIG HQ, together with the support units provided by the host nation (Na-6), completed successfully its mission. SEEBRIG soldiers showed excellent performance because they paid significant attention to build up and to maintain outstanding relations with the local people, local authorities and the governmental representatives and they were respecting the culture and the tradition of the Afghan people.

KMNB IX released more than 150 Fragmentary Orders to the subordinated units, conducted more than 6000 patrols, including 1170 with Afghan National Army and Kabul City Police soldiers and many other significant activities such as:

- different training activities for Kabul City Police and Afghan National Army soldiers,
- repairing important roads in the area and reconstructing Kabul Entry Points,
- CIMIC projects for the benefits of the local populations,
- organization of Afghan National celebrations together with the units from Kabul City Police and Afghan National Army.





The success of the mission in Afghanistan strengthened the relationship among the MPFSEE Nations and increased the stability and security in Kabul. Moreover, as the NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer said during his visit in Kabul, “SEEBRIG did a very good job and this is a big success not only for the brigade but also for NATO and we are looking forward for the next SEEBRIG mission”.



*KMNB IX Hand over-take over ceremony,
2006 Kabul Afghanistan*



SEEBRIG patrolling, Kabul Afghanistan 2006



SEEBRIG support to ANA life fire training exercise, Kabul Afghanistan 2006



SEEBRIG CIMIC project, Kabul Afghanistan 2006



SEEBRIG CIMIC project, Kabul Afghanistan 2006



Cultural trips offer a passport to understanding beyond borders, where every step becomes a lesson and every encounter a story. As we traverse unfamiliar streets and ancient pathways, we absorb the essence of diverse traditions and histories of a particular nation. From bustling markets alive with the rhythm of daily life to serene temples whispering tales of faith, each destination unveils layers of humanity's shared narrative.

These journeys transcend sightseeing, they invite us to immerse ourselves in local customs, taste regional flavors, and listen to the melodies of unfamiliar tongues. Whether exploring the intricate architecture of a centuries-old palace or participating in age-old ceremonies, every experience becomes a brushstroke on the canvas of cultural exchange.

Cultural trips are not just about exploring the world, they are about expanding our perspectives, fostering empathy, and celebrating the rich tapestry of human heritage that unites us all.

Social activities play a crucial role in enhancing the fabric of society by fostering connections and shared experiences among individuals. They are avenues through which individuals come together to make meaningful contributions and create positive impact.

Blood donation, sports activities, charity, and other social activities contribute to a sense of unity and collective responsibility among SEEBRIG personnel. These activities rely on the collective efforts of individuals working together towards common goals, ultimately making a profound impact on the well-being of society as a whole.





Blood donation, Kumanovo Na-5





Backpacks donation, Afghanistan





Toys donation, Afghanistan





Cultural trip, Mavrovo Na-5





Study trip, Lefkada Na-3





Basketball tournament, Kumanovo Na-5





Sports tournaments, Kumanovo Na-5



