



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
**GENERAL STAFF OF THE
SLOVENIAN ARMED FORCES**

CONCEPT

MULTINATIONAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

FOR

MOUNTAIN WARFARE

(“MN COEMW”)

April 2010



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MULTINATIONAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR MOUNTAIN WARFARE ("MN COEMW")

References:

- A.** MC 324/1, The NATO Military Command Structure, 16 May 2003
- B.** MCM 236-03, MC Concept for NATO Centres of Excellence, 4 December 2003
- C.** IMSM-0761-04, Strategic Vision, 16 September 2004
- D.** IMSM-0416-04, NATO Centres of Excellence Accreditation Criteria, 11 June 2004
- E.** CONCEPT CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR MOUNTAIN WARFARE, 26 November 2008

BACKGROUND

Nowadays crisis response operations take place in different environments, such as the mountains of Europe, Asia and Africa. The operations conducted as part of asymmetric warfare also include engagements and operations in mountainous areas, which require specific training, readiness, technical and other types of equipment, as well as specific approach in terms of doctrine and tactics.

In light of the changed economic circumstances, a decision was reached in the Slovenian Armed Forces to develop a National Centre of Excellence for Mountain Warfare with international participation (hereinafter referred to as "Multinational COEMW MN COEMW"). The transformation of the MN COEMW into a NATO COEMW is planned after the year 2015.

The establishment of the MN COEMW contributes to the transformation and adaptation of the Alliance capabilities which enables its forces to better operate in the mountain environment. MN COEMW incorporates a professional core that will ensure and develop the subject matter expertise to meet the requirements of mountain

warfare doctrine and concept development. This will enhance the ability of military units for mountain warfare and Alliance interoperability to operate in mountain environments. In order to conduct efficient operations in these specific environments, the Alliance needs to develop a special training sub-system, and individual and collective standardized skills for mountain warfare. The MN COEMW represents the core with the required professional skills to develop standardized training.

The MN COEMW is organized so as to allow for the functioning of four pillars: concept development and experiments, lessons learned, education and training, and development of the doctrine and interoperability. The expertise will be provided to develop standardized training and mountain warfare skills, both for individuals and groups, focused on enhancing the overall force capability.

AIM

The establishment of the MN COEMW in line with NATO standards.

SCOPE

The MN COEMW concept covers:

- a. guiding principles;
- b. mission;
- c. core areas;
- d. deliverables;
- e. location;
- f. caveats;
- g. functional relationships;
- h. resources;
- i. coordination.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following principles apply to the MN COEMW:

a. Participation

Participation in the MN COEMW activities is open to all NATO member countries, NATO PfP countries, countries involved in other NAC-approved partnership programmes, other countries, international organizations, NGOs, Universities, etc...

The nature of participation in the MN COEMW will be established in the MOU (the notion of three ways of participation with the MN COEMW – as a Participant, Contributing Partner - CP or Other Partner).

b. Relationships

“Three way” participation in the MN COEMW will be reflected in relevant documents, namely:

- relationship between the Participants (only NATO member countries) will be established through the Memorandum of Understanding
- relationship between the MN COEMW and Contributing Partners (any nation, organisation, or agency that is not a Participant and provides a contribution to the MN COEMW) will be established through a Technical Agreement;
- relationship between the MN COEMW and Other Partners (any nation, organisation or agency that uses the services and / or products, on the basis of TA, provided by the MN COEMW other than a Participant, Partner, or NATO body) will be established through a Technical Agreement.

The nature and the scope of the cooperation of the Participants in the particular core area will be determined upon the identification of the interests and the capabilities of all Participants.

c. Added value and no duplication

By developing new capabilities, the MN COEMW will facilitate the progress in the field of mountain warfare. The MN COEMW will not duplicate any existing NATO capabilities and core functionalities, but will improve and expand the existing capabilities.

d. Resources

The Republic of Slovenia (as represented by the Ministry of Defence/Slovenian Armed Forces) as a Leading Nation (LN) will provide the basic infrastructure and functionalities.

e. NATO standards

The MN COEMW will conform to appropriate NATO procedures, doctrines and standards. It will recommend their improvements for endorsement by appropriate Alliance institutions and bodies.

MISSION AND CORE AREAS

The mission of the MN COEMW is to support the concept of developing and transforming forces, assets, and operational methods of the mountain warfare for the Republic of Slovenia, all NATO member countries, partners, other countries and international organizations, through the following core areas:

- a. development of mountain warfare-specific doctrine, tactics and concepts;
- b. education and training;
- c. capability development and support to experimentation;
- d. MW lessons learned process;

DELIVERABLES

The MN COEMW will, on the basis of annual programme of work, develop products and services for the requirements of the NATO member countries, partners, other countries and international organizations.

In order to enhance NATO capabilities in the field of mountain warfare, the following products and services are foreseen:

- a. Doctrine and concept development
 - mountain warfare-related concepts, standards and doctrine;
 - conferences, expert talks, seminars and workshops.
- b. Training
 - mountain warfare courses;
 - supporting the courses with exchange of instructors (MTT);
 - command and staff exercises and training focused on command functions in mountain warfare.
- c. Research and development
 - preparing, conducting and supporting research and development projects;
 - supporting the development of NATO member countries, partners, other countries and international organizations mountain warfare capabilities and participation in testing of mountain warfare equipment;
 - conducting and participation in mountain warfare experimentation.

d. Analysis and lessons learned

- analysis of mountain warfare-related lessons learned;
- preparing conclusions and reports on the basis of the lessons learned process, and their transfer into practice, and education and training processes.

LOCATION

The MN COEMW is located at the Bohinjka Bela barracks - Mountain School of the SAF/National Centre of Excellence for Mountain Warfare HQ.

CAPABILITY LIMITATIONS:

- a) The activities within the core area “Education and training” are limited to company size unit level.
- b) Training activities out of the area of military facilities, such as “Triglav National park” area do not allow shooting or use of other explosive devices, but enables the execution of other tactical and technical training activities.

FUNCTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

MN COEMW will remain in the chain of command of the SAF.

MN COEMW will be associated with the NATO Centres of Excellence network coordinated by ACT.

The MN COEMW will develop the following relationships:

a. Relationships with NATO organizations

To avoid duplication of effort and to create synergy between the mountain warfare activities of NATO entities, the MN COEMW will establish relationships with appropriate NATO entities in cooperation with ACT.

b. Relationships with other Centres of Excellence

In order to ensure full cooperation within the network of Centres of Excellence and to establish a joint and cross speciality perspective, the MN COEMW will, in coordination with ACT, establish relationships with other Centres of Excellence, in particular with the Centre of Excellence for Cold Weather Operations (Norway).

c. Relationships with external entities

The MN COEMW will seek to establish supportive relationships with related external entities (e.g., international organisations, private companies, schools, universities, research institutes etc).

FINANCIAL ASPECTS

The financial arrangements are subject to relevant agreements. The basic assumptions underlying these arrangements are the following:

- The Republic of Slovenia provides its own resources to ensure physical security, workspace and the communications and information support required for the MN COEMW projects and activities;
- The Republic of Slovenia provides permanent POC office manned by SFC Marko Pogorevc phone: +38645763203, e-mail: marko.pogorevc@mors.si;
- NATO member countries, Contributing Partners, Other Partners, other countries and international organizations participating with the MN COEMW will pay their salaries, allowances and travel/per diem costs in accordance with national regulations;
- The Republic of Slovenia covers accommodation and meal expenses for company size unit level E&T when accommodated in SAF facilities;
- The Republic of Slovenia provides available technical and other specialist equipment for the purposes of E&T;
- The Republic of Slovenia organizes and covers costs of transportation to the MN COEMW HQ upon arrival and departure if required;
- The Republic of Slovenia provides medical first aid treatment if needed;
- The Republic of Slovenia does not cover any costs that occur outside of its SAF facilities or out of the scope of MN COEMW projects or activities;
- The Republic of Slovenia does not provide weapons or ammunition.

COORDINATION

The performance of the MN COEMW will be periodically coordinated with ACT in line with the long term goal, the establishment of a NATO COEMW.

Transformation Network Coordination Cell (TNCC) will play an active role during the progress and the process of transformation of the MN COEMW to NATO COEMW.