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LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE EXECUTION OF THE MULTINATIONAL LOGISTICS TRAINING PROGRAM FOURLOG 2011

Absztrakt / Abstract

A Fourlog 2011 Többnemzeti Logisztikai Képzési Program 2011. május 01-13-ig került végrehajtásra az Osztrák Szövetségi Hadsereg bécsi logisztikai iskolájának, a Zrínyi Miklós Nemzetvédelmi Egyetem Hadtáp, Pénzügyi és Közgazdasági Tanszékének és a cseh Védelmi Egyetem hallgatóinak bevonásával. A képzési program elsődleges célja az volt, hogy felkészítse a résztvevő hallgatókat a béketámogató műveletek során, többnemzeti törzsekben várható szakfeladataik ellátására. A foglalkozások során a tisztjelöltek megismerték és gyakorolták a harcászati szintű katonai döntéshozatali mechanizmus lépéseit és a külföldi szaktisztekkel való együttműködés problematikáját. Cikkemben a képzési program tapasztalatait szeretném összegezni kihangsúlyozva annak pozitív és negatív oldalait és a program továbbfejlesztésének irányait.

The Multinational Logistics Training Program Fourlog 2011 was held from 01 to 13 May 2011 with the participation of the cadets of the Logistic School of the Austrian Armed Forces in Vienna, the cadets of the Department of Supply, Finances and Economics of the Miklós Zrínyi National Defence University, and the cadets delegated to the exercise by the Czech Defence University in Brno. The primary aim of the training program was to prepare the participating cadets to work in multinational teams and perform their special tasks in peace support operations. During the lessons the cadets were familiarized with the steps of the tactical level Military Decision Making Process and the problematics of cooperation with the supply officers serving in foreign armies. In my article I would like to give a summary of the lessons learned from the training program Fourlog 2011 highlighting the positive and negative sides and to describe the directions of its possible development.

Kulcsszavak/Keywords: *Fourlog, Többnemzeti Logisztikai Képzési Program, Béketámogató művelet ~ Multinational Logistic Training Program, Peace Support Operation*

INTRODUCTION

The Multinational Logistics Training Program Fourlog 2011 was held from 01 to 13 May 2011 with the participation of the cadets of the Logistic School of the Austrian Armed Forces in Vienna, the cadets of the Department of Supply, Finances and Economics of the Miklós Zrínyi National Defence University and the cadets delegated to the exercise by the Czech Defence University in Brno.

The task of the Hungarian, Czech and Austrian cadets was to take part in a peacekeeping training program in Austria, and in the role of G4 to carry out robust logistic planning work regarding the supply tasks of the peacekeeping brigade in Hungary, to deploy the functional elements of the logistic battalion and as a new element, to practise the S4 tasks of the deployed NSE (National Support Element) in the Czech Republic.

The cadets trained in the field of finances were also involved in the execution of the tasks, carrying out a series of financial planning, and playing the role of a financial officer of the national contingent.

It was also a new element in the exercise that during the Hungarian phase of the exercise the whole contingent of Fourlog took part in a night orientation march supported by GPS in the exercise area of the MZNDU (Miklós Zrínyi National Defence University).

SHORT PRESENTATION OF THE FOURLOG¹ MULTINATIONAL LOGISTICS TRAINING PROGRAM

Fourlog is a tactical level multinational logistics training program, the primary aim of which is to prepare the cadets of the participating nations for the special supply tasks during a peace support operation (PSO) in multinational logistic teams.

In the process of planning and execution they have to use all of their theoretical and practical knowledge learned during the time of preparation for the exercise.

The fictitious scenarios of the Fourlog exercise are based upon a fictitious PSO (Peace Support Operation) with UN (United Nations) mandate. The training program uses real geographic objects with fictitious states, borders and population.

The training program is held yearly and consists of the following three phases:

- Preparation for the PSO in Austria taking part in a practical peacekeeping training;
- Logistic reconnaissance of the OA (Operational Area) and logistic planning of the tasks of the PSO in Hungary;
- Site survey of the area of deployment of the logistic battalion's subunits and NSE as well as practicing the tasks of convoy protection in the Czech Republic.

The Fourlog Logistics Training Program is supervised by the co-directors and led by the national commanders appointed in each country by the co-directors. In the period of the exercise the work of the multinational syndicates is supported by the teachers from each nation.

¹ The name of the training program comes from a pun referring to the four nations that used to take part in it solving mainly special logistic tasks. At present there are only three participating nations, but the name remained the same. On the other hand Fourlog can be understood as „For Logistics”.



1. picture. Logo of Fourlog
Designed by J. Venekei in 2004.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PHASES OF FOURLOG 2011

In the first phase of the exercise, cadets took part in a practical preparation for the PSO in Vienna. After staff briefing and examination of the Brigade Commander's Frego (Fragmentation Order) the syndicates started their work with the tactical level MDMP (Military Decision Making Process).

During the preparation they visited the Bundesheer's² 33rd Infantry Battalion in Grossmittel where they had a series of theoretical classes about the structure and operation of mobile and static checkpoints and the rules of radio communication in the OA.

In the practical part of the preparation they learned how to deploy and operate the battalion's ammunition, food and fuel supply points. Additionally they were prepared for the tasks of mine awareness including mine disposal.



2. picture. Grossmittel, Demonstration of the Food Supply Point
Photo made by the author

During the second phase of the exercise, the staff that took part in the exercise redeployed to Hungary. After the situation report, the syndicates immediately started their preparation for the logistic reconnaissance of the OA. Four local governments (Veresegyház, Mogyoród, Gyál, Vecsés) with the support of the Defence Committee of Pest County were involved in

² German name of the Austrian Armed Forces

this task, in which the cadets, using their recce checklist, tried to get the information about the supply possibilities and facilities and also studied the tasks of HNS (Host Nation Support).

At the same time the preparatory group of the Peacekeeping Brigade carried out their site survey in Szolnok, where they visited the 86th Szolnok Helicopter Base which was designated as a possible APOD (Air Port of Disembarkation). They also visited the Szolnok Industrial Park which was considered as the area of deployment for the Logistic Battalion of the Brigade.

After the logistic reconnaissance the syndicates, according to the given task, started their planning the air and rail deployment of the Peacekeeping Brigade to OA using the ADAMS³ system. They made the calculation of the class V. material for a long distance march, and prepared a detailed supply plan for the refugees arriving in the area of responsibility of the peacekeeping brigade.

Cadets trained in the field of finance made a calculation for the allowances of the personnel taking part in the mission, prepared the plan of means and practised the NATO rules of billing.



3. picture. Budapest, Syndicate work
Photo made by the author

In the final part of the second phase syndicates got the task to explore the route of redeployment to the new area of responsibility, and draw up a plan for the convoy protection of the peacekeeping brigade. The Hungarian phase of the training program ended with the syndicates delivering their reports in an open session.

In the third phase of the exercise, after redeployment to Brno, according to the new task of the peacekeeping brigade, the syndicates started their direct preparation for the logistic reconnaissance of the new area of deployment.

Relying on what they learned from the recce, the cadets in the role of the commander of a logistic subunit have planned the deployment and operation of the logistic support elements of a battalion.

After the planning work, on the next day the cadets took part in tactical training in the training centre of the Czech Army in Vyskov. According to a fictitious situation, the cadets in the role of platoon commander practised setting up and securing a transport column and repelling various hostile acts against the transport column using modern simulation systems,

³ Allied Deployment and Movement System

such as Miles 2000. During the execution of this task the participating cadets were also trained in CASEVAC (casualty evacuation) procedures.

The simulation systems, transport and supply vehicles and the infantry platoon which were provided by the Training Centre of the Czech Army allowed for us to organize a really successful and effective practical training exercise in the field.



4. picture. Vyskov, Operation of the Refuelling Point
Photo made by the author

LESSONS LEARNED FROM FOURLOG 2011

After the evaluation of the execution of Fourlog 2011, the following positive lessons were learned:

- The objectives of the Multinational Logistics Training Program were fully achieved;
- The special tasks carried out during the exercise provided an excellent opportunity for the participating cadets to prepare for working on tours of duty abroad;
- The junior cadets who took part in the training program gained useful experience in carrying out international tasks, which promotes the effective execution of the next Fourlog program;
- In the period of the immediate preparation and execution of the training program the participants' confidence has increased and their language skills, including their technical vocabulary, have improved dramatically;
- The training program included a wide range of special knowledge the acquisition of which is only possible in an international environment;
- The Hungarian cadets used the LOGFAS⁴ system confidently due to the competent preparation prior to the execution of Fourlog 2011.

Since its birth the FOURLOG Multinational Logistics Training Program has become a large and complex logistic exercise, which is being developed continuously by the teachers and instructors of the participating nations. The co-directors and national commanders from

⁴ Logistics Functional Area Services. NATO's primary automated logistic systems are packaged within LOGFAS under the Automated Command and Control Information System (ACCIS). LOGFAS is currently a functional prototype comprising the Logistic Database (LOGBASE), the Allied Deployment and Movement System (ADAMS), the Allied Commands Resource Optimisation Software System (ACROSS), and the Logistic Reporting System (LOGREP).

each nation meet twice a year before the exercise to review the incoming tasks and find the possibilities of the improvement of the exercise scenario and logistic tasks. According to this, in 2011 we also included the National Support Element in the scenario. It proved to be a good decision, because this way the participating cadets got a detailed picture about the supply chain and the problems involved in supporting our troops thousands of kilometres away from the home bases.

From previous exercises it became obvious that the Operational Scenario was hard to understand and it had lots of unnecessary information, thus our cadets were confused and got lost in details. In order to make it possible for them to understand it better and improve our cadets' general military training, in 2011, for the first time in the history of the exercise we introduced the 1st and 2nd steps of the tactical level MDMP as a new element. In the first phase of the exercise in Vienna after receiving the Operational Scenario and the Brigade Commander's Frego, each syndicate had to review the situation and carry out the mission analysis. It proved to be an effective way of making sure that the syndicates understood the situation and the essence of the fictitious PSO.

The next problem we are facing year by year is that the cadets have to work and report in different roles. The exercise instructions vary from exercise to exercise, cadets have to complete G4 and S4 level tasks, which can be confusing and sometimes it requires an abstract way of thinking. In the next years this problem can be solved by reducing the task levels. It is necessary because of the fact that the training of the cadets of each nation is different.

While the Hungarian and Czech cadets are trained to solve both S4 and G4 level logistic tasks, the Austrians are prepared for S4 level tasks only.

There is no doubt that the biggest challenge during the exercise is the application of LOGFAS. Two years ago we recognized the necessity of LOGFAS, therefore since last year it has been included in our curriculum. Because of the lack of such type of preparation, the Austrian and Czech cadets couldn't be involved in the planning tasks based on the application of LOGFAS. To bring foreign cadets to the same level, from 2012 Hungarian teachers will deliver a course in Austria and the Czech Republic in the period of preparation.

CONCLUSION

Fourlog itself is a definitive point in the educational process of the Miklós Zrínyi National Defence University. It prepares the cadets how to carry out a tactical level planning work in multinational teams gathering essential information about the planning, setting up and running an operation abroad.

Nowadays our University is going through a definitive change. The whole educational process is going to be changed as well but we have to keep on working and developing Fourlog which is playing important role in education of the cadets trained in the field of military economics.