

Ex Disciplined Warrior

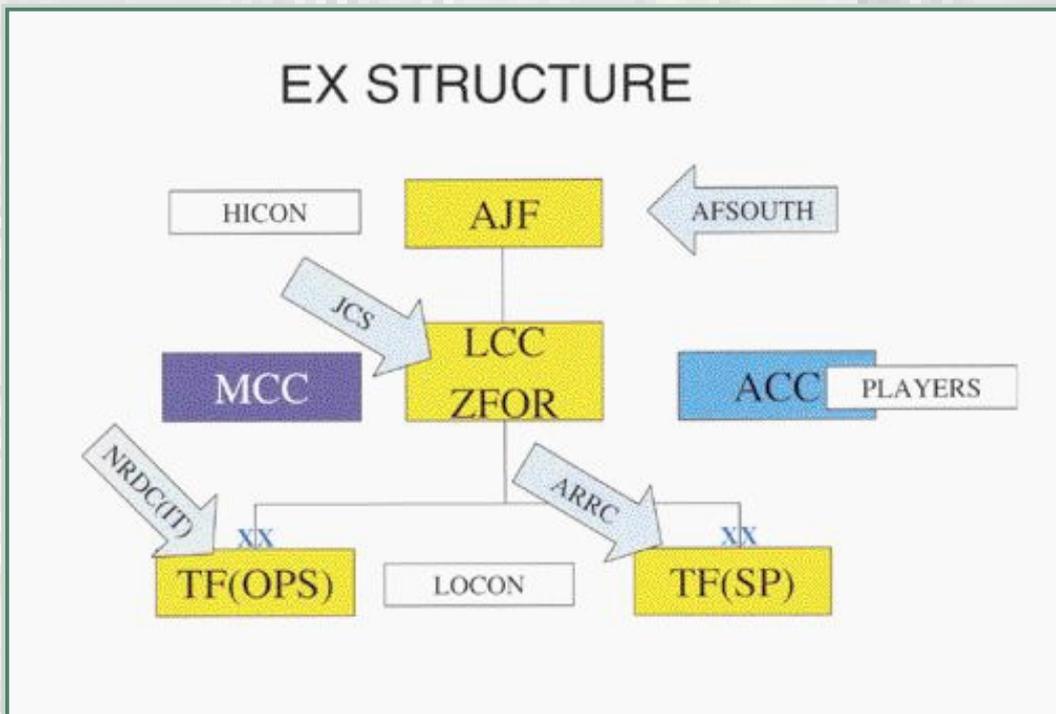
by MAJ. J. I. GIL RUIZ G3 OPS COORD/BSM

For the first time after achieving FOC status last December, HQ NRDC - IT participated as LOCON () (response cell) in an exercise called "DISCIPLINED WARRIOR 03". This exercise was organized by Joint Command South (JCS) VERONA from 24 February to 7 March 03.

Our 12 members belonged to G3 OPS (Team Leader/TF Comd/COS, Ch Ops and LCC LO), G2 (G2 Cell and Admin coord), G3 Plans (Mountain Bdes and Mech Bde), G3 Air (G3 Air/Avn), AOCC (), FCOORD (Fire Coord/CS) and the Support Division (G4 Ops).

The purpose of the exercise was to conduct a Southern Region Command Post Exercise (CPX) in which HQ Staff performed Crisis Management functions and procedures in a Crisis Response Operation (CRO) scenario. The exercise was also aimed to initiate the affirmation of the Hungarian Defence Forces in planning interoperable defensive/offensive operations.

The structure of the exercise was as follows:



HQ JCS were the training audience (LCC – ZFOR), while the Hungarian (HU) Armed Forces acted as observers/evaluators.

The exercise setting consisted of an Alliance executing an on-going PSO operation with a fictitious geo-political scenario. The overall intent was to create an escalating crisis situation that required detailed and coordinated staff crisis-action planning, operational decision-making and operational/tactical force employment in a non-article 5 CRO focused on peace enforcement. The CPX was part of a general plan to conduct a series of training events during the exercise planning process that prepared JCS and Hungarian Land Forces Command (LFC) to operate as a Joint Force Land Component Commander (JFLCC). CIMIC () activities with IOs/NGOs and international/local media outlets were considered very important.

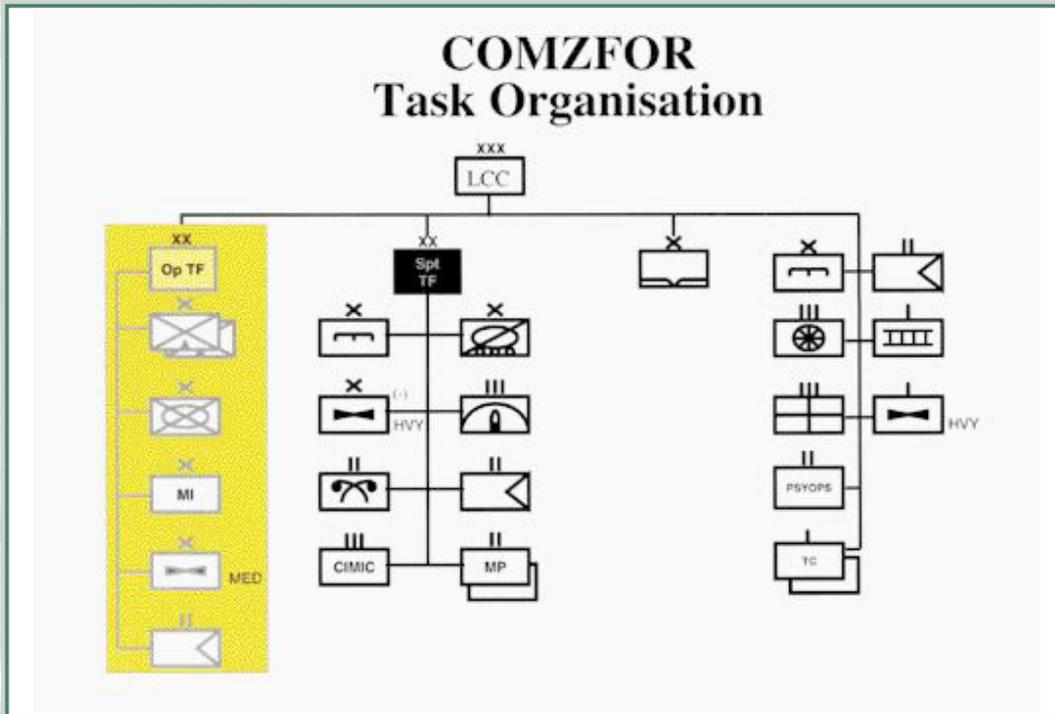
The exercise was divided into two phases: pre-exercise training that lasted for three days and the CPX itself that concluded with a Distinguished Visitor's day followed by a wash up debrief and redeployment.

The DISTAFF () was composed of AFSOUTH acting as EXCON (AJF), ARRC (Multinational Task Force Support - MNTF (SP)) and our HQ NRDC-IT (Multinational Task Force Operations - MNTF (OPS)) acting as LOCON.



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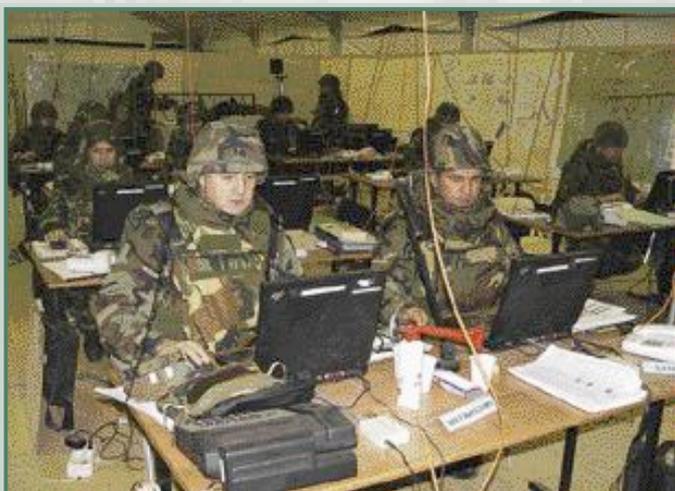
The Task Org of ZFOR –LCC forces was the following:



Where our Division, MNTF (OPS), is represented in yellow.

One of our main problems was the coordination with the response cell from the ARCC – MNTF (SP). Our Division MNTF (OPS) and theirs had to share the AOO () to perform different duties, so some coordination measures were agreed upon beforehand during a meeting with members of both Divisions that took place in our HQ.

But among all the many things that happened during those two weeks, what distinguished this exercise from others was the location. The exercise was carried out in WESTSTAR bunker. There, we arrived in the bunker before first light came up then leaving in the evening, once darkness had come again, not having any fresh air for as long as the exercise lasted. We also practiced an evacuation drill through the long tunnels.



The Staff during a Briefing.

