Scope, Aim, Components, Conduct, Locations

Steadfast Jazz 2013

The Steadfast series of exercises are part of NATO's efforts to maintain connected and interoperable forces at a high-level of readiness. To date, 17 exercises have been held in the series, with elements hosted in 14 different countries. The goal is to make sure that NRF troops are ready to deal with any situation in any environment.

Scope of the exercise

NATO Response Force training for 2013 will culminate with Exercise Steadfast Jazz, which takes place in early November in a number of Alliance nations including the Baltic States and Poland. The event involves about 6,000 personnel from many Allied and partner nations. Around 3,000 of these troops will participate in a live exercise and an additional 3,000 headquarters personnel will be involved in a command & control exercise. Air, land, maritime and special forces components will all be involved, as well as the headquarters staff from Joint Force Command Brunssum, who will lead any NATO joint operations in 2014.

Aim of Steadfast Jazz 2013

The purpose of the exercise is to train and test the NATO Response Force, a highly ready and technologically advanced multinational force made up of land, air, maritime and Special Forces components that the Alliance can deploy quickly wherever needed. The NRF must be able to respond to the full-spectrum of potential missions, including high-intensity combat. This requires exercising complex capabilities employed by interoperable and multinational forces in a demanding environment. Exercise Steadfast Jazz is designed to test both live forces and those involved with the command and control of NRF troops using a fictional scenario.

The NATO Response Force is essential in maintaining and enhancing the ability of forces from across the Alliance to work together, which will be increasingly important as the ISAF mission in Afghanistan winds-down and NATO prepares to meet future challenges.

Steadfast Jazz 2013 Components

Contributions from many NATO allies and several partner nations will demonstrate NATO's readiness to defend its members using capable land, air and sea forces, employing a range of modern weapons systems, in a realistic multinational environment. Both the command and control and live components
of the exercise will contribute to maintaining the unparalleled level of interoperability among allies and partners as a result of recent and intense operational experiences. Many elements will participate in the live exercise, including among others:

· Over 1,000 mechanized infantry from various nations;
· A Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) Battalion;
· An Airborne Anti-tank company;
· An Amphibious company;
· An Electronic Warfare company;
· 2 Military Police platoons;
· A Long Range Reconnaissance Platoon;
· 2 Submarines;
· Around 40 aircraft in the skies (F-16, MIG-29, SU-22, Mi-8, C-295M, C-160, JAS-39, L-159);
· Around 15 vessels in the water (mine counter-measures vessels (MCMV), frigates).

**Exercise Conduct**

The overall coordinator for Exercise Steadfast Jazz 13 is General Hans Lothar Domröse, Commander of Joint Force Command Brunssum. The exercise will be directed by the NATO Joint Warfare Centre, who also developed the fictional scenario. The event is broken down into several phases including:

· The Foundation Training Phase (Spring/Summer 2013): Commanders and staff in Brunssum and other headquarters undergo initial training to prepare for the exercise.

· The Crisis Response Planning Phase: (Spring/Summer 2013): Commanders and staff begin the comprehensive NATO operations planning process in order to develop a planned response to the pending crisis.

· The Execution Phase: Commanders and staff execute and adjust their plans as the fictional crisis response scenario unfolds.

**Exercise Name**

The exercise name "Steadfast Jazz" was chosen in accordance with NATO procedures for the naming of exercises. "Steadfast", commencing with the letter 'S', signifies that the exercise involves elements from Supreme Headquarters Allied Power Europe (SHAPE). The ‘J’ in "Jazz" signifies that the exercise is joint, meaning that all elements (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Special Forces) are involved.