

SOME OBSERVATIONS OF STUDENTS' EXERCISES OF NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF PUBLIC SERVICE IN HUNGARY

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Abstract

The authors summarized of the major observations of students' exercises of National University of Public Service In Hungary. This article describes the processes of planning, organization and execution of these exercises and presents the planned future of them.

Key words: Students exercise, Education system, National Defence University.

INTRODUCTION

Fundamental changes occurred in Hungary related to military higher education system. The new defence administration established a new university integrated the former military higher education institute.

The National University of Public Service is the newest university in Hungary; it was founded in the first of January 2012. The legal predecessors were the Miklós Zrínyi National Defence University, the College of Police Officer Training and the Faculty of Public Administration of the Corvinus University of Budapest. The University has three Faculties. One of them the Faculty of the Military Sciences and Officer Training (FMSOT) is tasked with providing young officers for the Hungarian Defence Forces and gives opportunities for officers to participate in master's program and several professional courses.

In the framework of military leadership education the troop commanders at all level are trained for the Hungarian Defence Forces. For cadets and master degree students military exercises are conducted to get some staff work practice.

This article describes the processes of planning, organization and execution phases of these exercises and presents the planned future of them.

1 THE HISTORY AND THE SCENARIO OF EX'S

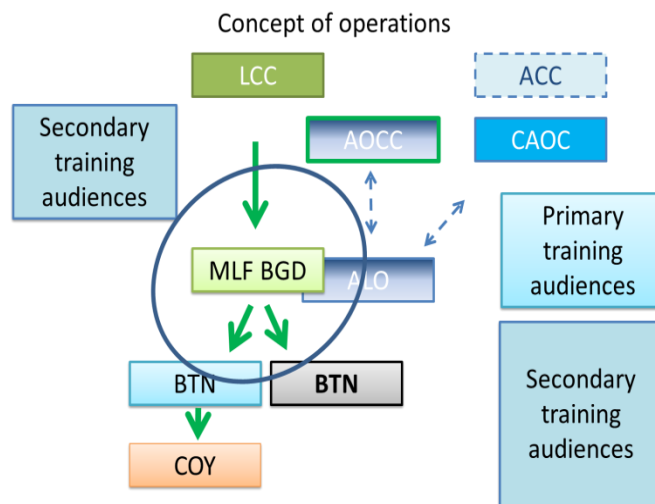
Eight years ago the Dean of the former Military Sciences Faculty made a decision on renewal the so-called student's exercises with great traditions as the coronation of a full training cycle. These exercise takes place on areas of imaginary states (common historical pasts are on real Hungary's area). These: Middleland, Waterland and Wolfland.

The executive country, the Middleland is the member state of NATO and it has similar constitutional order and political settlement and military abilities as well as legal controls

to the Hungary (former Republic of Hungary). The conflict is going on on the virtual neighbouring countries' area, which so jeopardizes the NATO member state's area, furthermore it was necessary to reckon with migration. Besides the Middleland had to prepare for executing the tasks of the host nation support.

In the interest of the fulfilment of the didactics aims the fictitious countries and the so-called executive member state provided distinguished opportunities to execute of tasks according to the NATO principles.

The tasks of all of the potential military missions can be executed in the framework of so military-political background. The military departments' instructors executed



Picture 3 - The concept of operations

Source: Own source

the planning in the course of the preparation of the exercises. It was necessary to develop the regional area's historical background and economic opportunities and political attitude as well as military organisations' structure.

2 THE EXERCISES SERIES: “COMMONPEACE EFFORT”

2.1 Concept of operations and participating of exercise

According to the intention and main idea of the President of University the primary audiences (the major actors of the exercises) were students of military leadership training at master level. This so-called student’s closing exercise settles down in the peak of our military officer training system. Therefore we always try to integrate most of our students and cadets of all type of our trainings into the EX.

These officers had practice of activities and staff work of company level and some of them already worked at battalion level. According to his/her training-level they were appointed to adequate positions.

On the *Picture 3* the focus of exercises is visible. The so-called Multinational Forces Brigade (MLF BGD) level stands in the centre of training.

The code name of the exercises series are the Common Peace Effort. It got into the ministry's planning system and the budget at the MOD level. Hopefully it means that the financial conditions will be supported in future 5 years. It was the „Z1530-project” in military budget-plan.



Picture 4 - The participants of EX
Source: Own source

The form and type of exercises was a computer assisted and decision-making and command post exercise.

The exercise was carried out at 3 levels (operational and tactical). In the highest level of exercises (Land Component Command level) was trained officers of the General Staff Course (Colonels, Lieutenant Colonels). They were the higher control of exercise with dedicated instructors of Faculty. In the medium level of exercise (MLF BGD level) were trained the students of military leadership program at master degree level. These officers were located into the staff officers' positions of MLF BGD.

In the lower level of exercise (one of the Battalion of MLF BGD level) were skilled the cadets of military leadership program at bachelor degree level. They supported the lower control of exercise.

Of course the cadets of BSc-level supported the lower control playing the battalion positions under control of teachers. The majority of participants' emerged from our students and cadets.

Last year in addition took part in exercise:

- 25th Klapka György Mechanized Brigade: 10 soldiers;
- Civil-Military Cooperation and Psychology Operations Centre: 8 soldiers;

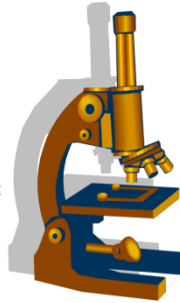
- 12nd Arrabona Air Defence Missile Regiment: 2 soldiers;
- we had 10 international participants:
 - From Virginia Military Institute: 7 cadets (USA);
 - Officers of language courses: 2 soldiers (UKR), 1 First Lieutenant (People's Republic of China);
 - They were involved into CIMIC section. at the moment the Chinese officer take part in some courses in Defence Policy training in our Faculty.

2.2 The focus and the battle rhythm of exercise

We focused on three main topics: staff-works of BGD and air-Land integration and civil military cooperation's activities as well.

FOCUS

- ☐ **Staffwork of BGD:**
 - ✓ Operate of TOC of BGD (information management);
 - ✓ Ops planning;
- ☐ **Air-Land integration:**
 - ✓ ALO, Army AVN co-operation;
 - ✓ Training for AIRREQUESTS;
- ☐ **CIMIC:**
 - ✓ Co-operation with civilian authorities;
 - ✓ JMC and press tasks;



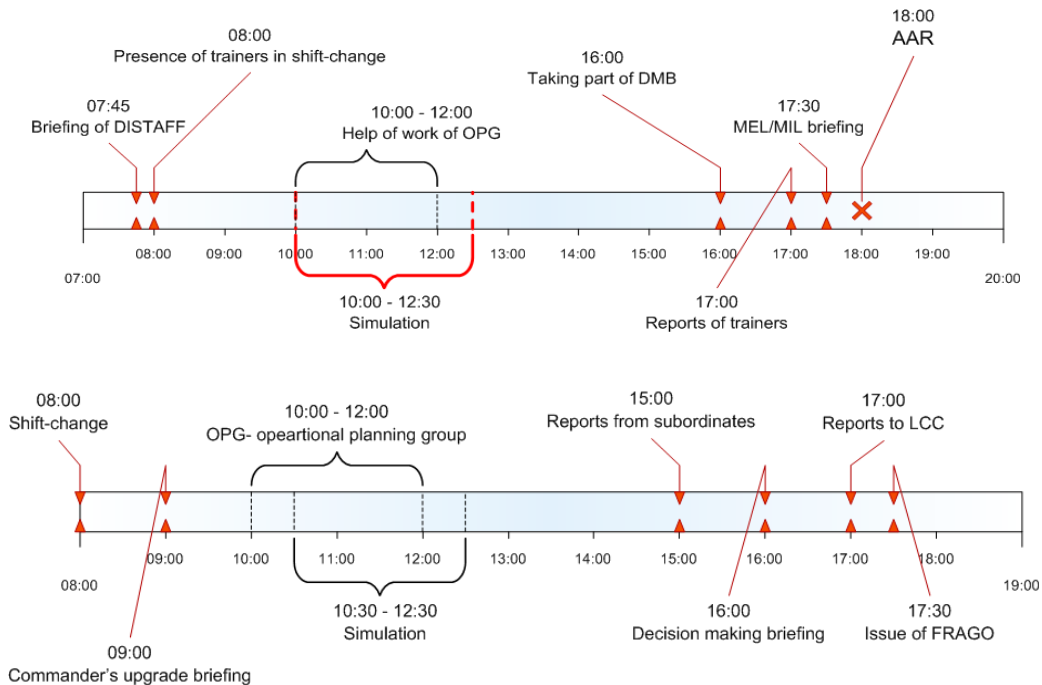
Picture 4 - Focus of EX

Source: Own source

For these we operated Tactical Operations Centre (TOC) of brigade for practicing information management and decision making and operational planning processes.

In the framework of tasks of air-land integration dedicated students worked as Air Liaison Officer (ALO) and Army Aviation Chief and G3 Air officer. They could get some experience of planning and organizing different air activities for example AIRREQUESTS (RECCE, MEDEVAC, CASEVAC, AIRLIFT, AIRBORNE OPS, AIRSPACE MGT MEANS as well.

In the course of civil military cooperation's activities the officers and civil students from defence policy training could practice the cooperation with civilian authorities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and activities according to Joint Military Commission (JMC) and many press tasks.



Picture 5 - General battle rhythm of of trainers and control of EX and MLF BGD
 Source: Own source

The *Picture 5* gives general picture for you about the standard battle rhythm of directing staff (DISTAFF) and trainers of EX which controlled the all processes of the exercise. You can see that the day started with short briefing for DISTAFF personnel. The battle rhythm demanded permanent active presence of trainers in different staff action: shift-change in the TOC, Decision Making Briefings (DMB), Operational Planning Group events (OPG), Main Event Lists and Main Incident Lists (MEL/MIL) briefings.

The standard working day of BGD had 4 relevant briefings:

- shift-change in the TOC;
- commander's update BRF;
- meeting of the OPG;
- and finally the DMB;
- and the "long long day" lasted with After Action Review (AAR).

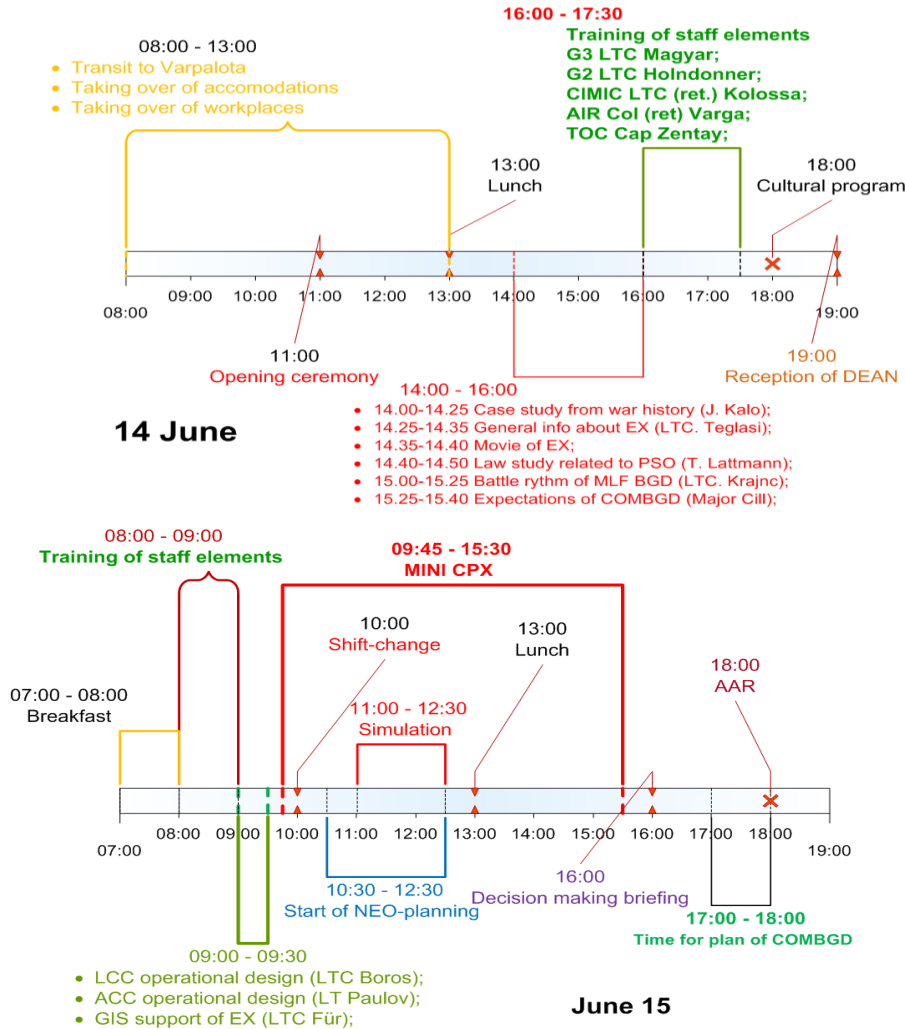
2.3 The execution of exercise

In the first day the participants were transported to the Training Centre and after the opening ceremony we started the training with:

- case study from Hungarian military history;
- general info of EX;
- law study;

- and training at staff element levels conducted by instructors.

The second day was highly difficult because we continued the staff-training and conducted a so-called mini-exercise (MINI CPX) with the simulation support.



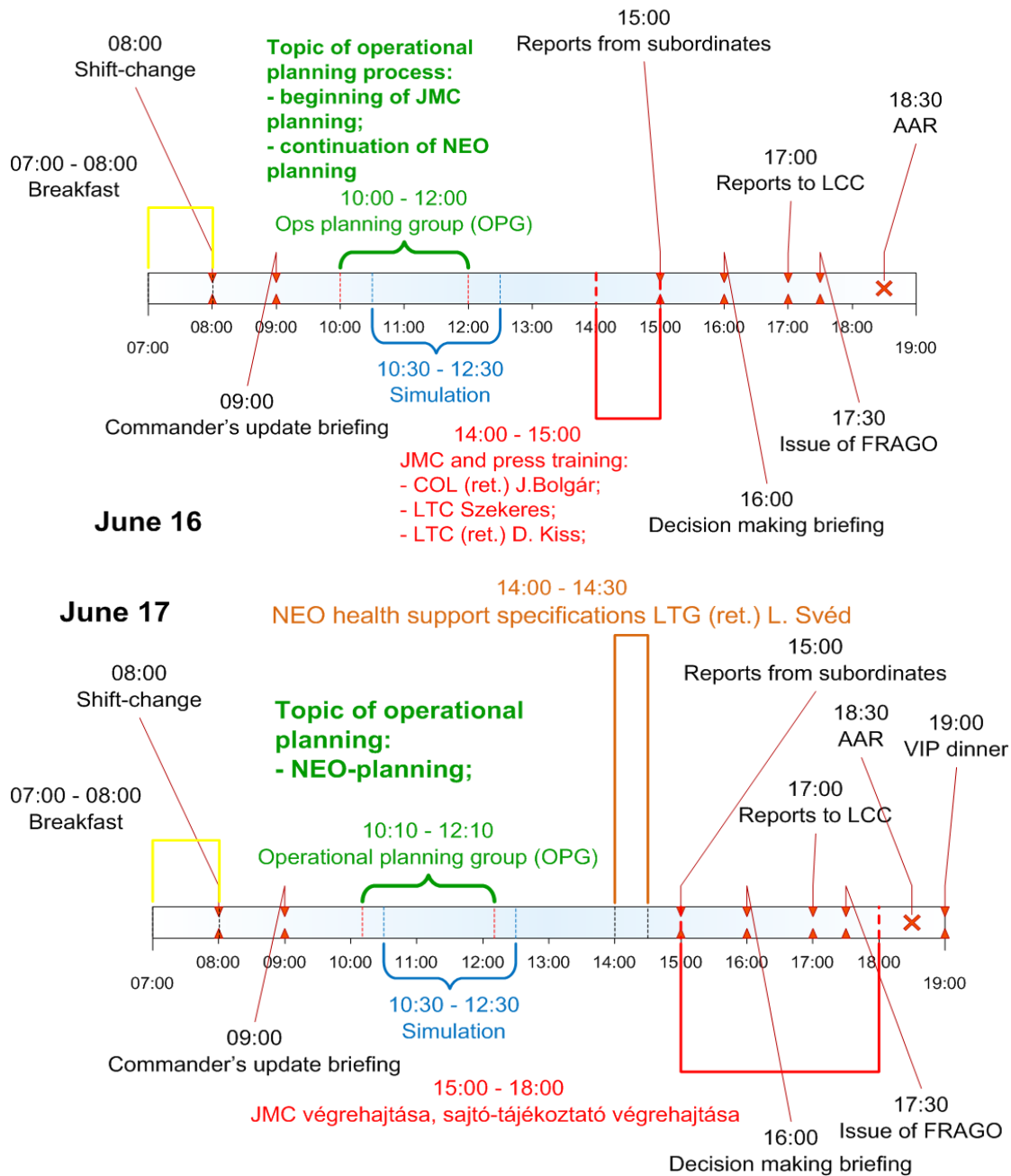
Picture 6 - The 1. and 2. days of EX

Source: Own source

The work of OPG was started with Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation (NEO) planning and the BGD carried out some briefings. For example: shift-change in the TOC, DMB. The third day also was very crowded and busy day for all staff elements. The new issue was the beginning of JMC-planning in the work of OPG. In this day our staff-workers got huge of information about theory of JMC, communication, knowledge related to press conferences.

The execution of JMC and Press Conference were the main events of the fourth day. In addition the students gave some training related to specialities of healthy support of NEO task. They had to plan evacuation oil workers from 2 different places with air and ground transportation in difficult other circumstances. The EX ended with LCC back briefing where

LCC listened to report of commander (BGDCOM) and primary appreciation was carried out of EX by Dean of Faculty.



Picture 7 - The 3. and 4. days of EX

Source: Own source

CONCLUSIONS

Finally we would like to summarize some observations and conclusions. It is easy to see that the main determinant is the international environment such exercise. The knowledge of the NATO standards (interoperability, unambiguous) and common language (English) constitute the basis of collective work. Those officers who have some experience of staff work and decision making process can work more efficient. The Joint Military Commission and activities according to press are of great importance for today's operations in non-Article 5 operations. Almost the all activities in military staff especially in tactical operations centres belong to information management doings. Commander Critical Information Requirement (CCIR) and other relevant procedures were trained in the staff elements. to success of modern warfare requires the joint effort therefore the air and land integration got distinguished role in our exercise. Officers from Land Forces became acquainted with almost all air activities organized for the interest the brigade. (close air support, air lifting, MEDEVAC, CASEVAC, air defence, airspace management means, etc.). In the near future we are going to extend the International participation of EX integrated into the Erasmus-program or other projects.

Literature

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