

23th of January

MCCS Session 9

8H00-9H30

“SACT to update on CFI Implementation plan with focus on CFI Chap 4 and Preparation of HVE15”

The implementation of the Connected Forces Initiative is a top priority for us. Today I wish to open this discussion by picking up on some points about exercises.

You will be aware of our work submitted towards the end of last year updating the implementation plan and offering a new promising chapter 4 on exercises in 2016 and beyond and, a chapter as well on evaluation. Both are key issues.

The objectives described in the Chapter 4 of the CFI Implementation Plan are, in my view, ambitious and realistic, ambitious and achievable.

It derives an exercise requirement from the NATO's Level of Ambition for the NATO Command and Force Structure and the NATO Response Force.

This exercise generic planning is given as an indicative model that will be tailored annually through the SACEUR's Annual Guidance on Education, Training and Evaluation, the "SAGE".

A balance will be maintained between training for Collective Defense and Crisis Management operations, between higher and lower intensity. Phil and I intend to promote demanding, modern and comprehensive conditions of exercising that will integrate as often as possible, new threats such as Cyber or Ballistic Missile and obviously the Joint ISR dimension.

It is also clear, that the NCS and the NFS must be trained together and coherently and we have already started to work with your staff to find the best way to link NATO, national and multinational exercises. This point will be discussed during our NATO Training Synchronisation Conference a key event on 4 Feb 14 in Warsaw where your representatives will be welcomed to present your views and proposals in theof the implementation plan.

In this domain, again, we need a forward leaning, constructive, and very proactive approach.

I would like to conclude this part by stressing again the fundamental need to constantly enhance the quality of exercises. It is the quality of the training that will really bring sense and meaning to this ambitious approach. Our ability to take forward, together, lessons from operations and exercises will be key to this very exciting enterprise.

This brings me to Trident Juncture 15, which is, from my perspective, I fully concur with our Chairman, on the right track.

Last September, you remember, I asked you to translate your support to CFI into commitments for Trident Juncture 15. Today, I must acknowledge the impressive endeavour of Allies since the total of the pledges amount to some 22000 troops, but numbers don't make quality. Nevertheless, we still need some key elements such as artillery, attacks helicopters, UAVs, amphibious shipping or from the sea joint operations capability and force protection units as well as a Special Operation Component Command and a Psy Ops Task Force headquarters. I do hope that we will be able to fill those gaps in order to run the most relevant exercise, highly visible and, even more importantly, highly valuable.

The planning of Trident Juncture 15 is well underway. The next step will be the important exercise specification conference next week in Norfolk, to which Allies are more than welcome. Another encouraging point is that we are already working to link it to national and multinational exercises such as ARCADE FUSION -a UK CAX, BRAVE WARRIOR-a Hungarian LIVEX and GRIFFIN RISE-a French-UK CAX.

Permettez-moi de conclure en insistant a nouveau sur le fait que l'exercice Trident Juncture n'est pas qu'une simple balise sur la route de CFI, c'est un évènement majeur au tout début du voyage. Nous ne pouvons pas nous permettre de le manquer parce que CFI est crucial pour conserver les acquis de nos operations en Afghanistan et sur d'autres théâtres. CFI est également essentiel pour s'entraîner de façon réaliste, identifier de nouvelles leçons, tester des doctrines ou de nouvelles capacités.

Le succès de CFI reposera aussi et avant tout sur des hommes et des femmes motivés et talentueux. C'est pour cela que nous aurons besoin de votre soutien constant pour armer à bon niveau la structure de commandement, notamment le Joint Warfare Center, le Joint Forces Training Center et le Joint Analysis Lessons Learned Center mais aussi les Centre d'Excellence qui participant de plus en plus a notre réseau d'expertise.

A ce sujet, je saisis cette opportunité pour vous faire part de ma préoccupation s'agissant de l'Ecole de l'OTAN d'Oberammergau qui, de mon point de vue, sera une pièce maitresse de

CFI dans le domaine de l'éducation. Plusieurs nations ont récemment fait part de leur intention de réduire leurs contributions volontaires dans les 18 prochains mois. Si cette tendance continue, nous risquons de perdre le bénéfice de cette superbe institution au moment où elle n'a jamais été plus utile.

Finalement, je voudrais à nouveau remercier tous les acteurs de Steadfast Jazz 2013, qui a été également une étape importante pour CFI. Ce fut une démonstration brillante de la solidarité des Alliés dans un exercice de défense collective et, je tirai, une manifestation prometteuse de notre effort collectif en faveur de CFI et de la transformation de l'Alliance.

Merci pour votre attention.