



International Training Activities of the Hungarian Defence Forces



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Lifelong learning – the first requirement of the modern battlefield

If we survey the different armed forces that have existed throughout history, it becomes apparent that sufficient training has always formed the basis of well-qualified militaries, and the soldiers' skills played a pivotal role in their victories. This axiom will be even more evident if we examine the modern-day battlefields where troops face ever-changing situations, so that keeping their knowledge and methods updated is essential. For this reason, the soldiers of the 21st century can never be satisfied with their knowledge, which can quickly become out of date, so they have to prepare for lifelong learning and training.

Because nowadays crisis response operations are multi-dimensional and multinational, military personnel have to learn how they can work together with the troops of other nations in a foreign environment. To help achieve this objective, multinational training activities provide great opportunities for soldiers from different countries to gain significant experience of cooperation and common endeavor and improve their skills in the field of multinational operations. In addition, common training promotes interoperability as well as a common way of military thinking and a common military culture, which are essential during any multinational mission. Furthermore, common training is beneficial not only to individual soldiers, but also to the whole structure of the

national armed forces, which can become more effective in crisis response operations by adopting the new methods and views.

Hence, the Hungarian Defence Forces consider it important to provide the opportunity for other partner nations to participate in various training programs organized by Hungary – from language courses to the different types of training offered by the Peace Support Training Centre – and broaden their knowledge in the field of modern military challenges like C-IED activities or Weapons Intelligence. We think the common training is essential for our soldiers to be well-prepared for executing their tasks; therefore, we continue training jointly with our partners to reach our aim: to provide a lifelong learning experience for the troops of the 21st century.



The HDF Bakony Combat Training Centre, Várpalota

The Hungarian Defence Forces Bakony Combat Training Centre (CTC) has the mission to maintain, protect and properly utilise the training facilities, exercise fields and shooting ranges located at the foot of Bakony Hills. Its predecessor, the Central Exercise and Shooting Range Command, was established in 1992 with the purpose of providing rifle training. The training centre reached its final status in 2004. Because of the progressive reforms, the CTC now operates with a modern and effective structure which meets NATO requirements.

The headquarters of the Bakony CTC are located in Várpalota in the western part of the country, with easy access to transport networks. The Bakony CTC has the largest training field in



Central Europe and offers individual and collective training programmes, exercises and shooting practices for the infantry, artillery, tank and air defence units, aircrafts and helicopters.

The CTC's Central Training Field and Shooting Range covers a 45-kilometer-long and 2-15-kilometer-wide (251 km²) hilly area. It is divided into three training fields. The "A" training field is an 87 km² area suitable for manoeuvres without live firing. The "B" training field is a 100 km² area that has battalion-level and company-level shooting ranges and firing positions for artillery, as well as an impact zone for bombs. The "C" training field is a 64 km² area with a company-level shooting range, firing positions, and an impact zone for artillery. In the case of the "B" and "C" training fields, various training programmes can be carried out with individual weapons, hand grenades, AD guns, APC guns, tanks, anti-tank weapons, artillery, helicopter and aircraft weapons of 12.7 mm MG, free rockets of 57 mm and 80 mm, and bombs of max. 250 kg.



In addition, the Bakony CTC has two distant bases: the Training Centre in Táborfalva and another in Újdörög.

Táborfalva is located in the eastern part of Hungary with a good connection to transport networks. The training field is approximately 80 km², which is suitable for manoeuvres for up to two infantry companies. It has a company-level shooting range, as well as firing positions and an impact zone for artillery. The training field has a driving course, an NBC course, a recce combat path and an obstacle course. In Táborfalva, training programmes can be carried out with individual weapons, hand grenades, AD guns, APC guns, tanks, anti-tank weapons, artillery, helicopter and aircraft weapons of 12.7 mm MG and free rockets of 57 mm and 80 mm.

Újdörög is located in the western part of Hungary and is also easily accessible through transport networks. There is a 7,2 km² training field for manoeuvres without live fire. It has a FIBUA training course and a combat path.

Additionally, the Bakony CTC has MARCUS and MARS simulation systems, MILES and an OPFOR Company. The



Simulation Centre was established in 2000, in order to support the exercises. The MARCUS system is able to simulate real operational circumstances, thus the total costs of a full exercise may be saved. In addition, the system is also suitable for the preliminary modelling of future exercises. MARS has the same capability up to battalion level. MILES stands for Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System. It is capable of training the soldiers in realistic Force-on-Force situations and incidents. The mission of the OPFOR Company is to act as an opposing force mostly with the use of MILES. The company is trained in accordance with current doctrines and lessons learned from different operations and missions.

In October 2000, the unit was extended with the addition of the Táborfalva Training Base, where the preparation of the KFOR Transport Battalion takes place, and other troops earmarked for NATO exercise here as well. The long-range course, the chemical protection course, the reconnaissance combat trail and the obstacle course will soon be available.

The HDF CTC is ready to serve and assist any army (platoon, company, battalion level) of the world that wishes to improve its soldiers' skills. The request for training at the Bakony CTC should be made in advance, till August every year.

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The HDF Peace Support Training Centre, Szolnok

The Hungarian Defence Forces Peace Support Training Centre (HDF PSTC) in Szolnok plays an important role in the training of the Hungarian Defence Forces. The training centre was established in 2000 with the aim of providing training for the Hungarian soldiers participating in UNFICYP and MFO missions. Hungary's growing role in international crisis management assigned more and more tasks to the training centre. After its reorganization, the centre reached its present status in 2004. Now it offers courses that meet international criteria in forming a well-trained, specialized, dedicated military force. Several courses (like the International Military Observer Course and the International Special Forces Qualification Course) are open to foreigners, too.



The International Military Observer Course

The International Military Observer Course (IMOC) is organized by the HDF PSTC in Szolnok. The main goal of the course is to train officers (from captain to lieutenant-colonel) for United Nations peacekeeping missions in the challenging task of a military observer. In order to simulate the international environment the students will face in their real mission, the participants of the course arrive from all over the world and are trained by an international instructor staff.

The IMOC is a course recognized by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (UN DPKO), therefore, all who complete the course receive a certificate authorizing them to apply for any UN military observer mission as a military observer.

Lectures are given on subjects such as security and safety issues, peacekeeping operation techniques, human



rights, gender issues, code of conduct, cultural awareness, radio communication, mine awareness, medical and psychological training – stress management, media handling, map reading. The topics are subject of theoretical and practical training programmes; the level of the acquired skills is examined during a final exercise.

The training is conducted in English and is available for foreigners, too. Requirements include English language proficiency and a rank between captain and lieutenant colonel. The three-week-long course is implemented twice a year (spring and autumn) and is designed for a group of up to 30 persons. The training is published via military attachés.

More information concerning the course can be found on the website www.pstc.hu.

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The International Special Forces Qualification Course

The International Special Forces Qualification Course (ISFQC) is also organized by the HDF PSTC in Szolnok.

The main goal of the course is to provide initial operational capability level Special Forces training for Hungarian and international personnel, and to develop Hungary's SOF capability and facilitate coalition SOF interoperability. The course is divided into phases. Phase 0

contains the Special Forces Assessment and Selection, which involves individual and collective tasks through which the trainees are tested for their intelligence, agility, resourcefulness, tenacity, stamina, and ability to work in teams in adverse conditions. Phase I aims at Land Navigation and Small Unit Tactics (SUT), within which students learn patrolling, movement techniques, planning and troop leading procedures, as well as techniques and procedures of individual and collective tasks, contact drills, and squad-level live-firing drills. Phase II is the Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) phase, in the course of which students receive training for SF Officer, SF Operations Sergeant and SF Warrant Officer, Weapons Sergeant, Engineer Sergeant, Special Operations Combat Medic (SOCM), and Communications



Sergeant. Phase III is the Common Core phase during which students learn cultural awareness, communicational techniques, troop leading procedures, basic survival and common leadership skills. Phase IV includes Special Reconnaissance (SR) and Direct Action (DA). As part of the collective training events, this phase teaches the students basic SR and DA skills as well as isolation and planning procedures. Phase V concentrates on Military Assistance (MA). During this phase, students are instructed in Foreign Internal Defence/Military Assistance and learn SF skills in a realistic MA practical field exercise. They work with basic trainees as their role players, who actually go through basic training under their supervision, making this phase a very realistic training event and providing the students with the required training value.

The official language of the 10-month-long course is English. The training is announced through the military attaché corps accredited to Hungary.

Further information is available on the website www.pstc.hu.

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The HDF Central Training Base, Szentendre

The HDF Central Training Base in Szentendre has almost a century-long history. Its predecessor was established in 1930. Between 1957 and 1996, it became an important actor in training the Hungarian officers. Between 1996 and 2001, the officer training was realised under the Zrínyi Miklós National Defence University (Faculty of Military Sciences). Since 2005, the HDF Central Training Base has been responsible for organising the warrant officer leader course and rank-advancement courses, as well as the basic training of contracted soldiers, students of the Zrínyi Miklós National Defence University and students to obtain warrant officer qualification. The courses held in the Training Base of Szentendre, organised by the ACT (like the C-IED Training Course and the Weapons Intelligence Team Course), are open to foreigners, too.

The C-IED Train the Trainer Course

The C-IED Train the Trainer Course is based on the doctrinal foundations of AJP 3.15 and STANAG 2294. It is organized by the Allied Command Transformation (ACT) in order to train and prepare national T3 trainers throughout the Alliance. The aim of the course is to provide the appropriate knowledge and skills for selected personnel in order to enable them to design and deliver

C-IED training programmes in national training organisations and units, and to introduce C-IED related staff functions (battalion-level and below). The ideal candidates for these courses will come from the Infantry, Combat Engineers, other Combat Arms, and Support Staff. With a view of the future employment duties of participating personnel, the recommended rank of students attending the course is from OR 6-9 and OF 1-3. The C-IED TiT course is a two-week-long tactical-level course. Students must be prepared to undertake practical exercises with radios and weapons, carry out tactical tasks, confront various situations and implement force protection measures as the instructions require.

Courses are held three times a year, beginning in April, August, and October. Questions on the course content and curriculum can be referred to:

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The Weapons Intelligence Team Course

The Weapons Intelligence Team Course (WIT) is organized by the NATO Allied Command Transformation at the Central Training Base of the Hungarian Defence

Forces in Szentendre, Hungary. The aim of the course is to train and prepare national WIT professionals (instructors and deploying WIT personnel) of NATO member states. The two-year-long training project gives a higher understanding of the methods and devices used in the theatres, consequently further reducing the IED effects.

Since the instructor pool for the Alliance is already selected, the ideal candidates for these courses will be personnel to be deployed to ISAF in the WIT role. The WIT course is a three-week tactical level course. Courses are held twice a year (May and July). Questions on the course content and curriculum can be referred to:

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The Zrínyi Miklós National Defence University

The Budapest-based Zrínyi Miklós National Defence University has a long history. The predecessor of the University, the Ludovika Academy, was established in 1872. After some breaks – because of the two World Wars, and reorganizations in 1950 – the National Defence Academy was established in 1955. The University reached its present status in 2000.

Today, the Zrínyi Miklós National Defence University is the only institute of military higher education in Hungary, where the high-level training of professional military officers and civilian experts is conducted. The university is also an acknowledged research centre in the field of military sciences and military technical sciences. Within its educational and training system, the following fields are cultivated as state tasks: Higher military/national defence leadership training and professional training; Bachelor (BSc) and Master (MSc) education; PhD training programmes; general and professional further training courses; course-based training programmes and language training programmes.

Apart from military training, the university undertakes the training, preparation and further training of professional experts in the field of defence, law enforcement, and national security. The scope of training was broadened by specialising in the fields of 'civil' security and defence policy, defence administration, economics, and engineering. A number of training courses are also conducted at our University, including blended and distance learning.

The university also has two PhD schools, the PhD School of Military Sciences and the PhD School of Military Technical Sciences.

In addition, the Zrínyi Miklós National Defence University places special emphasis on its foreign relations, which include relations and cooperation with its Hungarian and foreign counterparts on both formal and informal levels.

Cooperation within the European Security and Defence College

The Zrínyi Miklós National Defence University works in association with the European Security and Defence College (ESDC). In the framework of this cooperation, the University has offered different courses. The training activities of the ESDC consist of three types of training: the Orientation Course (OC), the High-Level Course (HLC), and courses for specialised audiences or with specific focus.



After having participated in the organisation of the 4th HLC module in the 2005-2006 academic year, an OC and a course on Security Sector Reform in 2009, the University will – together with the ESDC Secretariat – co-organise an Orientation Course – which will be open to the participants of the Western Balkan countries, too – in Brussels on 4-8 April 2011, as well as host the 4th module of the High Level Course in the 2010/11 academic year. The latter event will take place in Budapest, on 6-10 June 2011 and will focus on 'Future perspectives of CSDP: a changing nature of crisis and conflicts, new demands for missions'.

Military Terminology Language Courses

The University organises NATO STANAG 6001 Military Terminology Language Courses (in English, French, and German) for STANAG levels 1, 2 and 3. On the first two days, students take part in a spoken and a written placement test to exactly determine their command of the given language.

The teaching staff consists of highly qualified language teachers with many years of experience in military language, as well as of military advisors from the UK, the USA, Canada, France and Germany temporarily assigned to the University. Course books, reference books, dictionaries and CDs are provided for the students from the Centre's library. Multimedia laboratories equipped with computers and internet access are also available for the students. There are extracurricular activities: Grammar Clinic on STANAG levels 1, 2 and 3,

Pronunciation Clinic, Writing Clinic, Conversation Club, Budapest Club. The participants also have the opportunity to take the exams for all three STANAG levels. The Course Syllabus aims at teaching a blend of general and military language appropriate to the students' level, to enhance communication in a multinational and multi-cultural environment.

The min. and max. number of participants in the case of English courses are 25-30 pers., and 5-10 pers. in the case of French and German courses. The participants can be civilian and military personnel from NATO, PfP, MD and ICI countries. The duration of the course is 300 lessons (3 months). Courses are held three times (starting in September, January, and April) in each academic year.

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The NATO Staff Officers' Military Terminology Course

A NATO Staff Officers' Military Terminology Course (SOMTC) is also organized in English by the University. The Course Syllabus aims at teaching specialised terminology concerning for example the NATO institutional system, crisis management, military operations, or logistics.

The min. and max. number of participants is 12-32 pers. Participants can be civilian and military personnel from NATO, PfP, MD and ICI countries. The duration of the course is 80 lessons (2 weeks). Courses are held four times in each academic year (starting generally in September, November, February, and May).

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The NATO English Teachers' Military Terminology and Professional Methodology Course

The NATO English Teachers' Military Terminology and Professional Methodology Course (at operational level) is organized by the Zrínyi Miklós National Defence University. The Course Syllabus contains a professional methodology for teaching military English and military terminology.

The min. and max. number of participants is 12-24 pers. Participants can be civilian and military teachers from military education and training centres of NATO, PfP, MD and ICI countries. The duration of the course is 80 lessons (2 weeks). Courses are held once in each academic year (beginning in October).

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The EU Security Policy Professional Language Course

An EU Security Policy Professional Language Course in French is also offered by the University. This course provides the opportunity to discuss current security policy

issues in the Central and Eastern European region.

The min. and max. number of participants is 8-24 pers. Participants can be civilian and military personnel from NATO, PFP, MD and ICI countries that work in connection with security policy issues. The duration of the course is 40 lessons (5 days).

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The Hungarian as a Foreign Language course

Hungarian as a Foreign Language (via Russian, English, German, French) courses are also organized by the ZMNDU. The course consists in the teaching of general Hungarian and military Hungarian.

The min. and max. number of participants is 5-12 pers. The course is open to officers or civilians who are posted in Hungary, or who are dealing with matters concerning Hungary in their daily work. The duration of the course is 500 lessons (5 months). Courses are held twice in each academic year (starting in September and February).

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