

Lieutenant Colonel Bernd Allert, from  
Nato's Weapons of Mass Destruction Centre,  
on a possible Ukrainian addition to NRF15

**J**oint Forces Command Headquarters Naples (JFC HQ NP) conducted an operational capability concept (OCC) evaluation of a Ukrainian engineering company, as well as a CBRN defence company between 14 and 18 September 2009. For the first time ever, the evaluation of a Ukrainian CBRN defence unit took place at the International Peacekeeping & Security Centre (IPSC) at the Ukrainian Military Training Site YAVORIVS'KYI (Яворівський), about 50km northwest of LVIV (Львів former Lemberg).

The purpose of the OCC evaluation and feedback (E&F) programme is to support Partnership-for-Peace (PfP) countries reaching Nato standards. At the Nato summit in Istanbul, Turkey, on 28 June 2004, Nato's

heads of state and governments endorsed their intention, "To provide our Partners with increased opportunities to enhance their contributions to Nato-led operations, and to help transform their defences in keeping with Nato's own evolving operational roles and capabilities, including through enhancement of

the Operational Capabilities Concept." Consequently, Nato aims at integrating Partners' armed forces into the Nato Response Force (NRF), and at the same time promoting Nato standards. That OCC evaluation has been important to the decontamination platoon of the 1st Company/144 (UKR) NBC Separate

# Testing times



ARS-14 being used for road decontamination ©B. Allert

CBRNe Convergence 2010, 2-5 November, Rosen Plaza, Orlando, Florida. More information on [www.icbrnevents.com](http://www.icbrnevents.com)

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Battalion, which should complement the multinational CBRN Defence Battalion (NRF 15).

The evaluation itself consists of two parts: a self-evaluation and a Nato evaluation, which is also subdivided into two levels. The self-evaluation serves as preparation for the Nato evaluation. Nato evaluation level 1 (NEL 1) takes care of interoperability, whereas the NEL 2 branch evaluates specific capabilities. The evaluation comprised 14 "military tasks of interoperability (MIT)", including "operations in an NBC environment" and consequently all-arms NBC defence as individual protection, but also some with respect to interoperability of important capabilities such as CBRN warning and reporting, as well as CBRN reconnaissance (marking of contaminated areas).

There has not been an evaluation on its own; it has been embedded into a Ukrainian field training exercise (FTX) RAPID TRIDENT 2009. Within a peace enforcement and later peacekeeping, operation, 1

Coy/144 Battalion has been subordinated to a multinational brigade. The CBRN Coy consisted of a command and control (C2) element (command post), one CBR reconnaissance platoon and two decontamination platoons.

The evaluation itself has been prepared and conducted by 16 trained and certified OCC E&F evaluators (from Austria, Germany, Italy, Slovenia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States) led by Lieutenant Colonel (AUT-A) Rudolf Waldner, JFC HQ NP. The only CBRN Subject Matter Expert (SME) participating was the author, who also successfully attended the 9th Operational Capability Concept (OCC) evaluation and feedback (E&F) evaluator training course in Austria 2006.

Besides impressions on the interoperability of the CBRN company, it has been possible to get an insight into their CBRN defence capabilities (CBRN reconnaissance using BRDM-2RH-3 and their decontamination of vehicles, equipment and roads with ARS-14). The evaluation has been

concluded by a so-called first impression report (FIR). Lt Col Waldner confirmed that the company met most of the evaluation criteria. Furthermore, he stated that all the Ukrainian soldiers showed a high degree of professionalism and motivation, and consequently the company has to be "Level 2" evaluated within the following months. Then the evaluators will pay much more attention to CBRN defence capabilities.

Lt Col Jürgen Ludwig, Commander/(DEU) CBRN Defence Battalion 7, as well as designated Commander/Multinational CBRN Defence Battalion (NRF 15), visited the Field Training Exercise in order to get an impression of the capabilities of one of "his" decontamination platoons.

In short, the Ukrainian CBRN Defence Forces achieved a very important step towards contributing to Nato's best advert – the Nato Response Force. Perhaps that OCC evaluation will gain the attribute "historic" someday, because for the first time a Nato partner will join the NRF.



BRDM-2RH-3 being used for CBRN reconnaissance ©B. Allert