PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS

Scenario Based Exercise

Pre-Deployment Tactical Planning Training for Military Contingents in United Nations Peacekeeping

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Scenario Base Exercise

Pre-Deployment Tactical Planning Training for Military Contingents in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations



United Nations

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Guidance

The objective of this Scenario-Based Exercise (SBE) is to:

- a) Reinforce the knowledge acquired during the delivery of the CPOC conceptual, legal and operational modules;
- b) Use the knowledge gained to solve a scenario based on real-life events encountered in UN peacekeeping missions;
- c) Incorporate POC considerations into unit/individual's existing decisionmaking planning (DMP) methods.

General instructions (How to run the SBE?)

This SBE can be conducted in the form of a Command Post Exercise (CPX) or Table Top Exercise (TTX) taking place directly after the delivery of the CPOC modules. The general instructions contained herein will follow the TTX format.

Working Groups

The audience should be divided into groups of 5 to 10 participants, who will assume the following required roles: Battalion Commander (BC), Deputy BC/Chief of Staff (COS), S2 – Battalion Intelligence Officer and S3 - Battalion Operations Officer.

The remaining group members shall assume the other general or specialized staff functions (S1, S4, etc.) as required.

A sample breakdown of role assignments is included in the SBE Instructional Presentation.

Exercise Control

The Exercise Control (EXCON) group, normally staffed by instructors, should be arranged in such a way that positions above and below the training audience (HIGH CONTROL & LOW CONTROL) are made available to exchange information during the exercise.

For example, the instructor group will themselves take the role of Sector Commander, Mission COS, civilian positions (e.g. SRSG, DMS, Chief of Political Affairs, Child Protection Adviser, Head of ICRC, local communities, Head of local women group, etc.), Armed Groups, other key protection actors and Community Liaison Assistants (CLAs).

The EXCON should be available to provide ad hoc information of the scenario during the course of the exercise.

Conduct of the SBE

Preparation

- 1) Brief/prepare the instructor group on their roles in the EXCON/Response Cells;
- 2) Arrange the audience in groups (i.e. Battalions) and assign the required roles as suggested in the Working Groups section above;
- 3) Print and disseminate one set of the following documents per BATT:
 - a. Situation Map,
 - b. Threat Analysis Matrix,
 - c. Risk Analysis Matrix,
 - d. Summary of intended COAs Matrix.

Note: The high-resolution digital copies of these documents can be downloaded from the resource hub. The three matrices are best utilized by printing on 24 inches x 36 inches or comparably large paper. The Map is usually similar in size.

4) Provide separate break-out rooms, flip charts, markers, post-it notes, etc. for each BATT;

Presentation of the Situation

- 5) Present the situation to the audience using the MS PowerPoint presentation included in the resource hub;
- 6) Ensure that the Warning Order (WARNO) is understood by the participants;
- 7) Set a time and place for the Battalions to come back to the plenary to present to the Sector HQ (role play by instructor group/HICON) the following:
 - a. Summary of the situation,
 - b. Threat analysis,
 - c. Risk analysis, and
 - d. Summary of intended Courses of Action (COAs) in the four phases of response.

As a practical issue facilitators may consider arranging two intermediate briefings to ensure the groups are on track.

Intermediate Briefings (conducted by participants)

In practice, a back-brief from each BATT to the facilitators explaining their comprehension of the Situation shortly after the SBE presentation is encouraged. A minimum of 45 mins should be given to each BATT to discuss their level of understanding of the Situation as a group. During this time, they will identify relevant Priority Information Requirements (PIRs) to be raised after their back-brief. EXCON may decide to provide this information at this time.

Secondly, a Summary of Threat Analysis presentation is recommended for each BATT. The BATT should be given a minimum of 2 hours to analyze a number of threats in their Area of Responsibility (AOR). During this presentation, the group should explain the rationale for highlighting these threats. Note: BATTs should enumerate the various threats without prioritization. Prioritization will take place during the Risk Analysis.

Lastly, final presentations should be made at least 3 hours after their Summary of Threat Analysis. This briefing should include the BATT's entire Mission Analysis containing the Summary of the Situation, Threat Analysis, Risk Analysis and a summary of the intended COAs.

A sample timeline of these briefs is included in the MS PowerPoint presentation.

General comments on the conduct of the SBE

It is strongly recommended not to discuss in detail or judge the conclusion of the analysis or the tactical decisions of the BATT's COAs. As long as there is a rationale explained and the process followed, the instructors may flow with the solutions.

Discussion among the groups may take place and is encouraged. Instructors should bear in mind that there are no clear blueprints to solve the tactical situation presented. Additionally, participants will have different levels of analysis according to their own background and expertise.

The focus is for the groups to apply what they have learned from the CPOC modules into their current DMP. This training does not aim to change the participants' national DMP doctrine, but rather enhance it with tactical considerations to undertake POC actions.

This SBE and the CPOC modules have a threat-based approach as its core element. Therefore, emphasis should be placed on identifying the various "threats to physical violence against civilians", prioritizing these threats according to the perceived risks to civilians and the mission, and finally how the audience would take proactive or reactive measures under the four phases of response.

General considerations about the Scenario

The information included in the core exercise documents (e.g. UNSCR 1544, CONOPS, Carana Country Study, etc.) are meant to provide complementary details to the situation presented during the SBE. Participants would benefit from reading these documents as they are always present in the mission.

Instructors may decide to adapt the information contained in the documents and also adjust the "Current Situation" presented.

The situation presented in the next section is one possible occurrence among numerous others. Although this setup has proven to be very effective to teach the subject, instructors may change the disposition of the key actors in the given AOR to adjust to learning capabilities of the audience as well as possible time constraints.