

VIKING 11

- THE premier Multinational and Comprehensive exercise in the world - Support by CIMIC Centre of Excellence

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Picture 1: VIKING 11 / Coordination meeting during the planning phase.

1. History and background

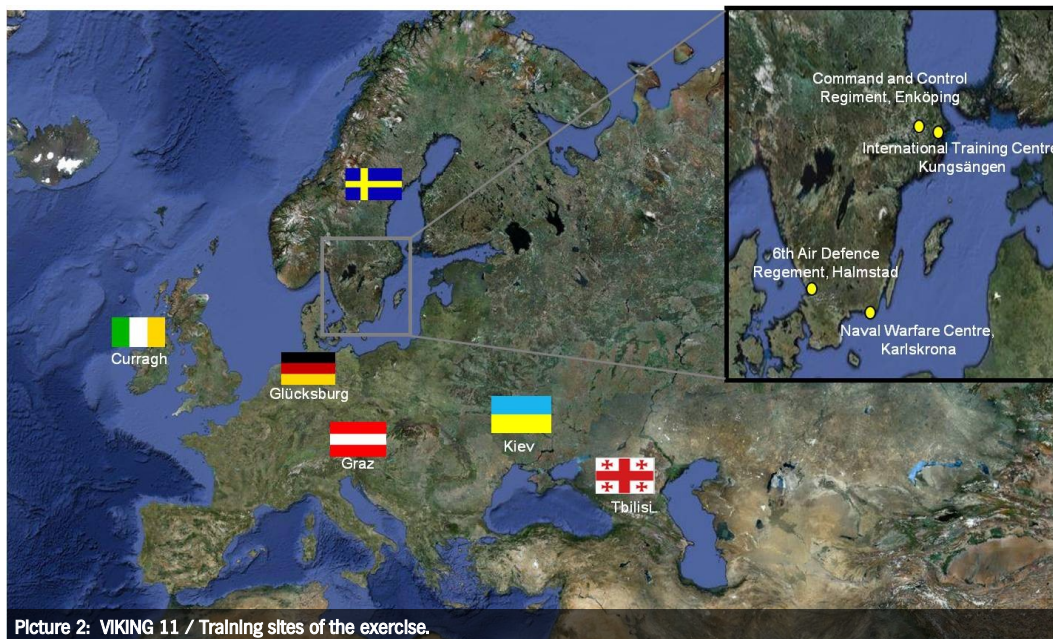
Six VIKING exercises (respectively in: '99, '01, '03, '05, '08, and '11) have been conducted. EX VIKING is the main Multinational Exercise and major flagship for the Swedish Armed Forces. It clearly shows the importance of building Partner Capacity in a Combined Joint training environment, before deployment in operations and it also provides a wider "network" building.



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The VIKING 11 Computer Assisted Exercise (CAX) has just been completed and more than 800 high ranking visitors (Swedish Royal family, Governmental authorities and military officials) considered this one to be one of the best exercises ever in its context. There were about 2000 participants from 31 nations and around 47 organizations - which is unique - exercising at different sites (see picture below).



Picture 2: VIKING 11 / Training sites of the exercise.

The scope was to practice and exercise constructive co-operation and co-ordination between military forces and civilian organisations, with UN in focus, and to mirror a UN mandated chapter VII, multi-national, multi-functional operation in a complex environment.

This required a joint military participation and effort from NATO (including Partnerships) and EU forces as well as civilian organisations.

The U.S. and Sweden continued their enhanced cooperation in building partner capacities through a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding. To-

gether, they further developed the already well proofed VIKING concept into a Persistent Partner Training and Simulation Network, by establishing a permanent group of persons (inter alia from US JFCOM, Folke Bernadotte Academy, Swedish Armed Forces) that are daily working on the development of the next iteration of the exercise VIKING. This will reduce and share costs, and reduce time and resources in the future.

The VIKING concept also went through a more comprehensive development. The scenario and context focused even stronger on a "Comprehensive Approach" scenario and conflict solution. Thus the Exercise increased cooperation with civilian governmental and other organisations. The event emphasized partnership and sharing by exchanging for example participating personnel.

This all led to a modified concept for the VIKING 11 exercise in the spring of 2011 with the aim:

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All military and civilian Partners share Lessons Learned, Ideas and "Burden" in order to enhance and develop this important exercise.

A special focus of VIKING 11 therefore was to:

- Further enhance Civil- and Military Interaction in a Comprehensive Approach,
- Contribute to Partners ability to participate in ongoing and future operations.



- Improve Interoperability and Networks in the Education and Training arena. for military Partners and Armed Forces,
- enhance expeditionary capabilities and
- meet the challenge of irregular opponents.

2. Exercise setting: scenario and training audience

The BOGALAND fictitious scenario, using the Scandinavian and Baltic terrain, is probably one of the most developed in the world.

A very comprehensive scenario library and database have been developed which is shared and available to partners. It contains databases of all kinds: handbooks, terrain studies, and a more than a 500 events list. The workload put in this scenario through the years is extraordinary and served also as excellent opportunity to co-operate and exchange knowledge and experience with exercise partners.

The scenario is based on a UN mandated Chapter VII CRO/PSO, requiring a joint and multifunctional military, police and civilian presence. The operations area had a UN presence, a Joint Forces Command Forward Element with subordinate forces under NATO command and an EU-led Battle Group. In addition, there had been an international police presence with law enforcement responsibilities.

The Joint Operation Area (JOA) is located in the Baltic Sea region and includes the central and the southern parts of Sweden and the Swedish island of Gotland. The scenario is strictly fictitious. The Mission is a UN mandated chapter VII Crisis Re-

sponse Operation/Peace Support Operation in the Republic of BOGALAND.

Viking 11 has been a multifunctional exercise.

The higher level consisted of a Joint Force Command Headquarters (JFC HQ) with a deployed forward element as a mission tailored HQ, one UN mission HQ with a SRSG and one European Union Battle Group (EUBG) Force Headquarters ((F)HQ located in Sweden. Subordinates were Land-, Air, Special Operations and Maritime Component. The Civilian organisations had been training in their structure matching the different levels in a realistic way.

The lower level consisted of a number of Regional Commanders Headquarters (RC-HQ), one Maritime Task Force and a number of civilian organizations. The Situation Force (SITFOR) responded to the training audience with major stakeholders and local authorities that you will find and encounter in a mission area.

This is the way how Viking 11 is different to other major exercises:

- The Training Audience is composed of military, police and civilians
- Exercise Core Planning Team is military and civilian
- Exercise Control staff is joint military-civilian
- Joint military-civilian exercise development - Training objectives, scenario and main exercise events and incidents
- Basic method and technical standards and procedures – “The Persistent Partner Simulation Network”
- Principal exercise focus is civilian-military



cooperation & coordination

- Deep/rich scenario enables diverse & detailed civilian and police play
- Scenario detail also supports exercising a wide range of peace- operations functions (e.g. Disarmament Demobilization Reintegration, Security Sector Reform, Rule of law, humanitarian, etc.)
- Sites have civilian observer/trainers, a civilian exercise coordinator, a civilian site advisor, and some have civilian mentors

3. CIMIC Centre of Excellence's (CCOE) Involvement in the exercise

For VIKING 11, being THE multifunctional and multinational Comprehensive Approach exercise, ***Civil Military Interaction (CMI)*** and ***Civil- Military Co-operation (CIMIC)*** were definitively important topics.

The CCOE supported the exercise with Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) as part of the exercise support platform in the following areas (see also picture on the next page):

- the ***operational level NATO HQ***,
- the ***maritime environment*** of an Maritime Component Command;
- the ***civil dimension*** of a UN operations HQ, including in a ***UN police operation*** and Security Sector Reform.

The overall objective for the Exercise Support Platform was:

To observe, train and mentor various actors within a comprehensive approach signified to exploiting opportunities and to create enabling con-

ditions, especially for civilian organizations and partners unfolding the mandated UN peace process.

The Observer- Mentor- Trainers could apply their knowledge and experience on military and police structures, operational procedures and organizational cultures to the benefit of the training audience.

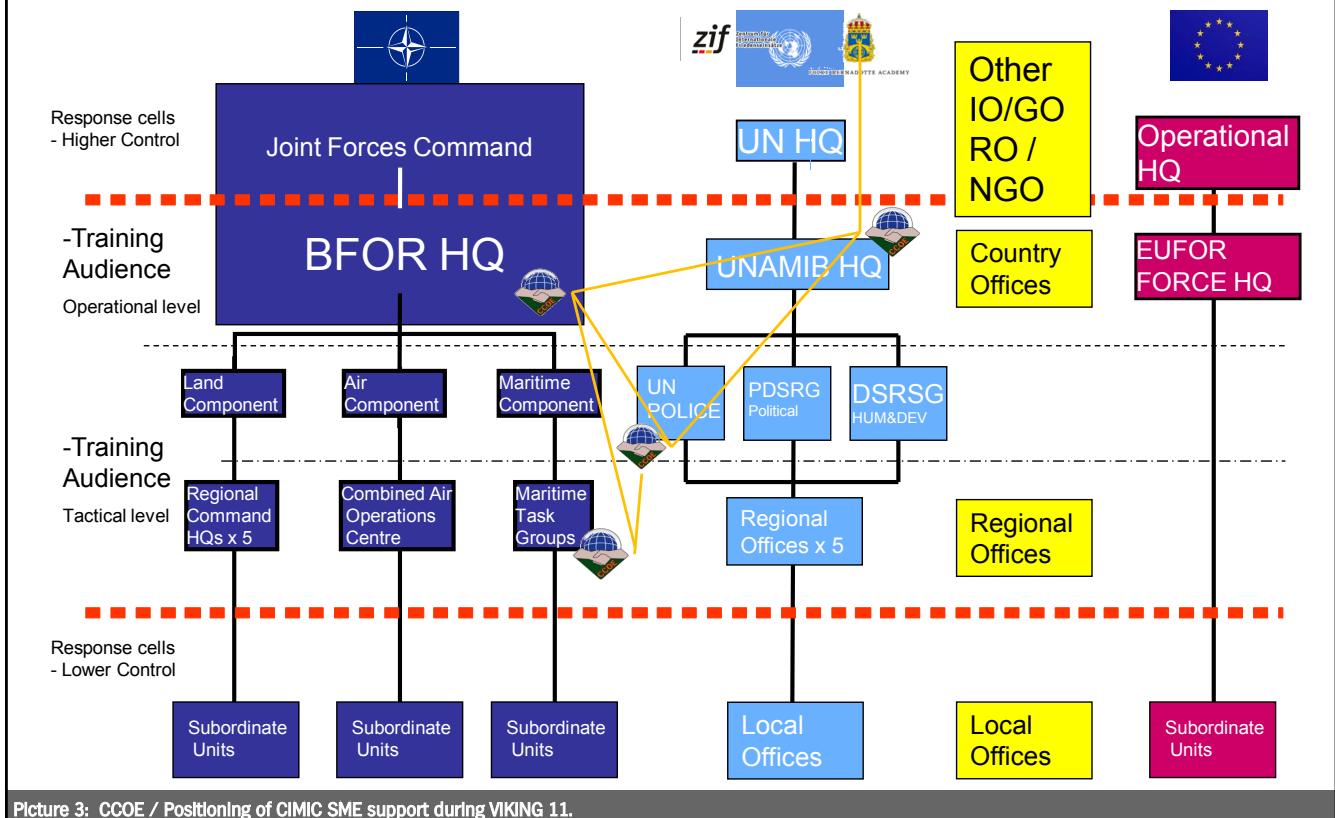
CCOE Observer- Trainer- Mentors (OTM) were available for the training audience to facilitate their tasks and responsibilities in Terms of CIMIC and Civil Military Interaction.

The CCOE OTM could prove their proficiency by providing advice regarding the CMI and CIMIC elements of: UN crisis management, Humanitarian Assistance, Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR), and Security Sector Reform (SSR).

Especially the opportunity to train CMI within the civilian dimension in the context of a Chapter 7 UN Peace support operation was an innovative challenge for the CCOE OTM team. To observe and coach within the functional area of the UN Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General (DSRSG); THE Humanitarian Coordinator of a UN- Mission, was unique for the CCOE-Team. Besides looking into the kitchen of a UN SRSG also the J9 of the Joint Forces Headquarters, as well as the G9 of the Land Component Command was observed and monitored. To witness a Humanitarian Co-ordination meeting with experienced field- workers and staff of Office of Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) with the military counterparts, to analyze and assess the communication and relationship, and to facilitate



CCOE: Observe- Mentor- Train



Picture 3: CCOE / Positioning of CIMIC SME support during VIKING 11.

with mentoring was a well appreciated experience for both the CCOE OTM and the training audience.

To be part of development of a SSR plan or development of a DDR strategy were requirements of the military training audience that required the expertise and knowledge on UN operating procedures and principles, which could be delivered by the CCOE OTM.

CCOE – a platform and broker for CMI subject matter expertise

The Maritime Civil Affairs and Security Training Command (MCAST) - the US Navy agency for naval civil-military interaction – provided for the first time actual maritime Civ-Mil experience and ex-

pertise to the Maritime Component Command (located in Glücksburg, Germany) on request of the CCOE.

Also in other exercises the CCOE has managed to play a coordinating role with regard to providing actual experience and expertise according to the exercise needs and contributing to the exercise objectives.

During VIKING 11 the CCOE again could add to its contact list a lot of experienced and competent organizations and partners to provide state of the art exercise support, and making civil- military training events more professional.

This enables the CCOE to assume more and more the role of a platform and broker for CIMIC/CMI subject matter expertise for all kinds of exercises, seminars or other (training) events.



4. Final remarks

Currently the Exercise Evaluation team is working on the final exercise report, expected in September 2011 to identify lessons to be learned from this great training event.

Today factors as economy, environment, safety and operational commitments have full attention from the surrounding leadership. We have to do everything to make sure these challenges not break our efforts to train in an efficient multinational way. Therefore today and for the future our

efforts to use commercial available features and means should never stop. When the training audience can stay at home base and participate in qualified events using efficient ways of training it will save many factors involved. Future VIKING exercises or related activities will hopefully continue to be a successful tool in order to prepare staffs, units, organisations and entities in the complex international tasks we see today and tomorrow.

The CCOE OTM Team was able to contribute to the success of this VIKING 11 Exercise and is looking forward to support VIKING 14!

Any comments or suggestions to this information leaflet?

Would you like to contribute an article?

Please contact us!

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