

Written by MAJ Nicolas Konieczny, JFTC Training Division
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The UE 13-1 was a multi-tiered exercise. It allowed future International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Headquarters (HQ), ISAF Joint Command (IJC) HQ, Regional Command East (RC E) HQ, Regional Command North HQ (RC N) and Sustainment Brigades Staff to train simultaneously from different locations. The JFTC was represented in three of them: in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, USA, where the future RC E HQ members were trained before their deployment to Afghanistan, in Grafenwoehr, Germany, with a group of Liaison Officers as members of the Combined Exercise Control Group (CECG) and in Bydgoszcz, with a team replicating the RC N Response Cell and a link to RC N TE 13/01.

From 26 November to 13 December 2012, the JFTC supported the pre-deployment training of the future Headquarters (HQ) of Regional Command (RC) East during the Exercise Unified Endeavour 13-1. The future RC E HQ will be manned mainly by the personnel of the US Army's 101st Airborne Division, the "Screaming Eagles", located in Fort Campbell, Kentucky State.

Led by the JFTC Chief Training Team, MAJ Nicolas Konieczny, the NATO Training Team deployed on site was responsible for the preparation and the conduct of Functional Area Systems (FAS) Training and Support to the Division. During that period, the Training Audience also received high-value feedback and comments from Afghan Subject Matter Experts (SME) contracted by the JFTC.

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Consequently, the members of the Training Audience improved their knowledge of the Afghan culture and environment as well as the NATO tools and systems used in theater. "It is very important for us to understand NATO systems because we are the gap between the Army forces on the ground and our international partnership above us," said MAJ Troy Thomas, Company A, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 101st Airborne Division, second shift chief of operations. A progressive interaction between the NATO Trainers and the Training Audience, especially during the second part of the Mission Rehearsal Exercise, when NATO tools were used at their higher extent, completed the already busy Battle Rhythm.

In his comments to the NATO Training Team, Major General McConville, 101st Airborne Division Commanding General and the future RC E HQ Commanding General, emphasized the "high value of the training and support delivered by the NATO Training Team and the quality of the demonstrations and support delivered by the FAS Trainers during the Mission Rehearsal Exercise." "The staff will have a solid understanding of the staff processes and will have begun to build the relationships that will be vital to our success in theater," added MG McConville.