

Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation

Wednesday 29th of August 2007 on Bornholm

On Wednesday 29th of August the Danish Task Group will carry out Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation (NEO) with geographic starting point at Raghammer Odde exercise area on Bornholm.

SCENARIO: The fictive country Bonnie Isle (Bornholm) is in a serious crisis. Civilian riots are part of everyday life and paramilitary forces and terrorists operate in the country and created increasing security problems for the citizens from EU- and NATO- countries. The local government has lost control and can't guarantee the safety of foreign citizens. Therefore NATO has been tasked to use military forces from the seaside to evacuate the concerned citizens. The army operates on ground supported by the Navy Forces at sea off the coast of the country. The persons who need to be evacuated are spread all over Bonnie Island. They have to be found, transported safely to the evacuation area and evacuated.

The military force is lead by Commander Danish Task Group (COM DATG) commodore Palle Cortes, who leads the operations from the command ship THETIS. Units from the Danish Army have been allocated together with Danish, Norwegian and Polish ships and Danish and foreign helicopters. The Army units have been landed on the island by transport ships from the Navy, the so-called ARK ships.

The army forces on ground have to find the persons who need to be evacuated. The army also has to make sure that the persons, with UN personnel and other citizens who wish to leave Bonnie Isle, are brought to a pick up area. From here DATG takes over the evacuation task. The army also has been charged with the task of securing the evacuation area. Danish Task Group (DATG) is leading the NEO from a command post on ground.

The people who wish to be evacuated are wounded and injured. At first they will be treated on ground and later on board the naval ships. People with false identity will try to be evacuated. That is why it is important to register and search everyone who arrives at the evacuation area. This task is the responsibility of the Navy forces. The evacuated are transported to DATG by helicopters or rubber dinghy. While the operation takes place there is a risk that the involved might be attacked by paramilitary forces both on the ground and at sea.

Timetable:

Monday 27th of August 12 a.m.:

Transport ships arrive at Rønne with 1. Light Recce Squadron.

Monday 27th of August 12 a.m. to Wednesday 29th of August 6 a.m.

Securing of the NEO area.

Wednesday 29th of August 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Personnel are escorted to the evacuation area. Evacuation to the ships off the coast with helicopters and rubber dinghies.

Wednesday 29th of August 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Evacuation - the ships will sail to Rønne.

During the entire exercise the forces both on the ground and at sea will be challenged to make the situation as realistic as possible.



There will be areas where the civilians are registered, examined and can get something to eat.



The medical support for ill and injured persons is handled by trained staff.



Sick and injured can also be evacuated.



Evacuation is done by rubber dinghies or helicopter to the ships that are waiting outside the evacuation area.

NEO participants:

- Danish Task Group (DATG)
- Naval District Bornholm (BHM)
- Recce Battalion
- Military Police
- Home Guard
- Danish Air Force with F-16 and T-17
- Civilians

Examples of NEO:

During the last 20 years there are several examples of NEO:

OPERATION PHILLIS

On November 2nd 2004 Great Britain initiated a NEO, to evacuate embassy personnel and others from Abidjan in the Ivory Coast. Royal Air Force evacuated 220 persons who were flown to Ghana.

Before the operation took place British land forces were on standby in Great Britain in preparation for the operation. They were landed in and around Abidjan to secure the embassy personnel and others who wished to leave Ivory Coast.

The British had coordinated the effort with France.

OPERATION OBELISK

After a coup in 1997 in Sierra Leone USA ordered US European Command to carry through NEO to evacuate American and other citizens.

The operation was executed by Marines from USS KEARSAGE. After a few days stay on the ship the evacuated were landed in Guinea.

OPERATION GUARDIAN RETRIEVAL

A NEO was carried out in March and June 1997 after an unstable period in the Democratic People's Republic of Congo.

The operations were carried out by Marines from USS NASSAU.



The ships that are waiting off the shore will bring the evacuated to safety.



The evacuated can eat at the gathering area.



The NEO element is a part of the Navy Exercise DANEX 07. Commander Danish Task Group, Commodore Palle Cortes leads the exercise from the command ship THETIS.

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