ASPECTS OF TRAINING OF LOGISTICS PERSONNEL AT THE REGIONAL LOGISTICS CENTER IN RAKOVSKI NATIONAL DEFENSE COLLEGE

Key words: regional logistic center, logistic personnel, logistic courses

The military power of the state at the beginning of the 21st century is based not only on the number and size of military units and the quantity of tanks, ships and airplanes with which they are complete, but also their logistics support is essential. The modern army can be compared to a large and complex enterprise in which the "production processes" – the combat operations are preceded by a great deal of activity related to the provision of the troops with the necessary material means and equipment: weapons and equipment, supplies, fuel, lubricants and much needed material for the equipment and proper functioning of troops, requires the solving of a number of tasks related to the movements and transportation of personnel and material resources, as well as the management of corresponding flows of information.

This requires the defense and security sector to be provided with well-trained logistics specialists who, on the basis of the use of modern methods and tools, can fulfill their functional obligations in the ever-changing situations and environment. The needs of the Bulgarian armed forces by logistics personnel with the necessary competencies to work in a multinational environment increased and increased after the accession of the Republic of Bulgaria to NATO in 2004. The opportunity to establish a Regional Logistics Center at Rakovski National Defense College shows the changing requirements of the MoD for the implementation of the new
approach to keeping the target and professional qualification of the military and civilian personnel at a high level.

The need for such a center to be established for training is defined by the objective processes and regularities of the developing framework of national priorities originating from the NATO membership and it also depicts the practical steps towards this. Broadening the opportunities for a future participation in the common NATO defense system imposes the integration of the training and acquiring higher professional qualification of the personnel in a unified process of standardization, procedures and rules. At the same time, establishing a center of a regional importance for NATO will be a contribution of the Republic of Bulgaria to the pact as well.

Bulgarian – French cooperation in the military field has a tradition of more than ten years. On 30.07.1992 the MoD of the Republic of Bulgaria and the MoD of the Republic of France signed a bilateral agreement for cooperation in the military field. The cooperation is implemented throughout the formation and annual meetings of a mixed bilateral commission at MoD level and General Staff representatives. They carry out meetings and realize initiatives as the two countries exchange the hosting of these events.

At the 8th annual meeting of the mixed Bulgarian – French commission in 1999 was taken a decision according to which France is to provide consultants in the field of Logistics who have to perform coordinating functions in the General Staff and the Commandment of 2nd Army Corps. Since the same year the implementation of the agreed Logistics Project for supporting the Bulgarian Army in the process of transforming the Logistic system has started.

At the 12th session of the Bulgarian – French mixed commission was agreed a regional Logistics training center, based in Rakovski National Defense College to be established. The center should be certified in accordance with the NATO standards with the purpose of:

- Optimizing the system of opportunities for training and target professional qualification of military and civilian personnel /Bulgarian and foreign/ in the field of Logistics;
- Maintaining and enhancing the professional qualification of the military and civilian personnel, working in different logistic structures and establishing a full cycle of a NATO interoperable national military Logistics system;
- Bringing the theory and skills taught to the students up to the highest national and international Logistics standards and making them comparable to those in corresponding NATO centers;
- Providing expertise in the field of military Logistics to the countries in the region during the process of joining NATO and after their accession.
The Bulgarian deputy minister of defense mister Ilko Dimitrow and His Excellency the ambassador of the republic of France mister If Sen Jur gave the official start of the Regional Logistics Center on 4 may 2005.

The objective of the training is to provide the Bulgarian and foreign officers and civilians with a target professional qualification and develop leadership competence in the field of common Logistics in accordance with NATO standards. This is achieved through:

- Enhancing the specialized training and further development of the students as logistic support experts;
- Introducing the students to up-to-date theory and practice related software for optimizing the logistic support internationally;
- Broadening the practical skills and ability for working in a team and international environment;
- Forming a new logistic and management culture;
- Promoting opportunities to exchange experience and establishing a multinational creative work environment.

Training is to be conducted according to programs approved by Chief Directorate LSM - General Staff, Logistic Support Command – General Staff and France, in timeframes and duration from 2 to 6 weeks, in two terms. The trainees are Bulgarian and foreign students preparing for their duties in CJTF and officers from directorates and departments of the services of the army, the General Staff and MoD.

The range of the students can vary including civilians from ministries, institutions and parties represented in the Parliament, involved in national defense and security.

The courses are taught in Bulgarian, French and English.

The programs for the different courses are designed to give an opportunity for upgrading students’ knowledge, classes are organized in modules, combining theoretical and practical training approaches. Computer modeling and simulation models, developed as software are widely used.

The programs ensure training of logistic personnel for work with ADAMS, LOGREP, etc. systems.

Depending on the course specialization, there are different lecturers with relevant diplomatic status from France, specialists from MoD and the General Staff and the faculty of the Logistics chair of Rakovski National Defense College.

The College provides training facilities including offices for the trainers and specialists, 2 specialized classrooms with 24 equipped workstations and consumables. The training facilities are provided in Command and Staff Faculty.

The main courses are “Logistic support of NATO forces”, “Policy and procedures in preparing the logistic personnel for participation in mission”, “Policy and procedure by carrying out the allied transportation
Aspects of training of logistics personnel...

and movement”, “ADAMS-Allied System for Planning and Control on transferring multinational contingent in operational theatre of NATO”.

The Aim course “Logistic support of NATO forces” is to give specialised knowledge in the sphere of logistic concerning NATO principles and procedures. The duration course is one week and 30 lessons. This course is part of post-graduation qualification for logistic officers and it is an important pace as specialist in their assignment in peacekeeping operation, led by NATO.¹

Mission is to give on logistic officers main ways of logistic theory which are supplies, support, repairs, medical support, administrative and field services, and additional qualification and ability to work in multinational logistic headquarter. It is head to create them as good commanders with appropriate knowledge, capabilities and the necessary behaviour and culture for integrating in Alliance.

Main tasks:
• to give appropriate knowledge to the students in accordance with the contemporary logistic theory and challenges;
• to give additional capabilities in accordance with current or future position, moreover to be able to work in international headquarters;
• to improve their practical training and drills in decision – making process by using new, contemporary methods.

Course has two modules: Module 1 – “Organizational structure and conceptions concerning NATO forces and Module – 2 “NATO Logistic Support Fundamentals”.

The Aim course “Policy and procedures in preparing the logistic personnel for participation in mission”² is to give specialised knowledge in the sphere of logistic concerning NATO principles and procedures. The duration course is two weeks and 60 lessons.

Mission is to give on logistic officers main ways of logistic theory which are supplies, support, repairs, medical support, administrative and field services, and additional qualification and ability to work in multinational logistic headquarter. It is head to create them as good commanders with appropriate knowledge, capabilities and the necessary behaviour and culture for integrating in Alliance.

Course has two modules: Module - 1 “Organizational structure and conceptions concerning NATO forces” and Module - 2 „NATO logistic”.

The students who have successfully completed the course “Logistic support of NATO forces” and “Policy and procedures in preparing the logistic personnel for participation in mission will know: The principles

¹ Curriculum Documentation for post-graduate training course Logistic support of NATO forces, RNDC, Sofia.
² Curriculum Documentation for post-graduate training course Policy and procedures in preparing the logistic personnel for participation in mission, RNDC, Sofia.
and procedures of NATO in the field of logistics; the strategic and operational concepts and doctrines of NATO in terms of logistics and logistics support in different operations. They will be able to: apply the main principles and policies of NATO in the field of logistics; attend successfully the strategic planning process; be successful managers of logistic structures and imply the structural and cadre policy.

The Aim course “Policy and procedure by carrying out the allied transportation and movement”\(^3\) is to prepare logistic officers in execution of their duties in accordance with the position which they have in the Armed forces concerning different problems about planning, execution and control on transportation and movement with using the NATO system. The duration course is two weeks and 60 lessons.

Mission is to provide the logistic officers with basic knowledge about the existing NATO standards for movement control and transportation, the implication of those standards in the process of planning and execution in multinational and coalition format.

Main tasks:
- to give the officers current knowledge in the sphere of movement and transportation in NATO;
- to increase officers’ qualification to manage all processes in movement and transportation;
- to increase and improve officers’ possibilities by giving new knowledge.

Course has two modules: Module – 1 “Transportation and movement in NATO” and Module – 2 “Transport models and systems in NATO”.

The students who have successfully completed the course will know:
- The NATO policy and procedures in carrying out the allied movement and transportation; structure and staff on main bodies for movement in NATO; the basis of transportation and movement in NATO; real transport systems and modules in NATO; destination, content and functioning of the ADAMS system.
- The Aim course “ADAMS-Allied System for Planning and Control on transferring multinational contingent in operational theatre of NATO”\(^4\) is to prepare logistic officers in execution of their duties in accordance with the position which they have in the armed forces concerning different problems about planning, execution and control on transportation and movement with using the NATO system.

\(^3\) Curriculum Documentation for post-graduate training course Policy and procedure by carrying out the allied transportation and movement, RNDC, Sofia.

\(^4\) Curriculum Documentation for post-graduate training course ADAMS-Allied System for Planning and Control on transferring multinational contingent in operational theatre of NATO, RNDC, Sofia.
This course complements and extends the education and skills of the trainees to work in multinational environment, use modern planning systems in the field of transportation, movement and logistics. As a result the students will be able to work in joint planning staffs within NATO command and control structure.

Mission is to provide basic knowledge for NATO logistics, planning, planning systems and transportation services to selected logistics personnel within the context of NATO led operation.

Main tasks are to provide up to date knowledge for the transportation services based on the most recent standards and to provide additional mission-specific training to personnel selected for positions within the logistics system.

Course has two modules: Module – 1 “Transportation and movement”and Module – 2 “Transport models and systems in NATO”.

The training courses conducted by Bulgarian and foreign logistics specialists at the Regional Logistics Center over the years have contributed to the successful realization of positions in national and international headquarters. Logistics specialists have been prepared from the different levels of the logistics system, capable of making decisions and planning logistics functions and activities in a complex environment following the principle of a professional logistics: the right thing, at the right place and at just in time.

The analysis of the training in the Regional Logistics Center shows that this moment has been achieved:

• a system of short-term courses has been set up to develop the professional skills required for a particular job, coupled with targeted training courses to acquire specific knowledge and skills;
• providing highly qualified staff with acquired competencies to improve the structure, organization and real possibilities for upgrading the national logistics system and achieving interoperability with NATO;
• professional experts are trained to work in NATO’s logistics structures capable of working in a multinational environment;
• Logistics personnel for working with LOGFASE modules ADAMS and LOGREP have been prepared;
• Foreign officers from Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Croatia were trained.

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**WYBRANE ASPEKTY TRENOWANIA PERSONELU LOGISTYCZNEGO W REGIONALNYM OŚRODKU LOGISTYCZNYM W AKADEMII WOJSKOWEJ IM. GEORGI RAKOVSKIEGO W BUŁGARIJ**


**Słowa kluczowe:** regionalny ośrodek logistyczny, personel logistyczny, kursy logistyczne