

## ENGINEER SUPPORT TO SFOR AIR OPERATIONS

### MISSION HISTORY

Implementation Force (IFOR) had a one-year mandate to oversee implementation of the military aspects of the peace agreement - separating the armed forces of Bosnia's two newly created entities, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska; bringing about and maintaining an end to hostilities; transferring territory between the two entities according to the peace agreement; and moving the parties' forces and heavy weapons into approved storage sites. These goals were achieved by June 1996. As Stabilization Force (SFOR) succeeded IFOR at the end of 1996, the mission's aims became more ambitious. In addition to deterring a resumption of hostilities and promoting a climate in which the peace process could continue to move forward, they included providing an increased level of selective support, within SFOR's means and capabilities, to civilian organisations.

One of the most important part of the General Framework Agreement for Peace (GFAP) deals with freedom of movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)<sup>1</sup>. In compliance with it, air and surface movements in BiH shall be governed by the following provisions:

The IFOR shall have complete and unimpeded freedom of movement by ground, air, and water throughout BiH. The IFOR Commander shall have sole authority to establish rules and procedures governing command and control of airspace over BiH to enable civilian air traffic and non-combat air activities by the military or civilian authorities in BiH, or if necessary to terminate civilian air traffic and non-combat air activities.

The Parties understand and agree there shall be no military air traffic, or non-military aircraft performing military missions, including reconnaissance or logistics, without the express permission of the IFOR Commander. The only military aircraft that may be authorized to fly in BiH are those being flown in support of the IFOR, except with the express permission of the IFOR. Any flight activities by military fixed-wing or helicopter aircraft within BiH without the express permission of the IFOR Commander are subject to military action by the IFOR, including the use of necessary force to ensure compliance.

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<sup>1</sup> General Framework Agreement for Peace Annex 1-A Military Aspects of the Peace Settlement.

All air early warning, air defence, or fire control radars shall be shut down within 72 hours after this Annex enters into force, and shall remain inactive unless authorized by the IFOR Commander. Any use of air traffic, air early warning, air defence or fire control radars not authorized by the IFOR Commander shall constitute a breach of this Annex and the violating Party shall be subject to military action by the IFOR, including the use of necessary force to ensure compliance.

The Parties understand and agree that the IFOR Commander will implement the transfer to civilian control of air space over BiH to the appropriate institutions of BiH in a gradual fashion consistent with the objective of the IFOR to ensure smooth and safe operation of an air traffic system upon IFOR departure.

## MILITARY OPERATIONS

Support implementation of the GFAP and responding to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), the North Atlantic Council (NAC) has authorised a NATO-led operation to deter a resumption of hostilities and continue to stabilise the peace in BiH. The NAC provides overall political direction and control. NATO's objectives are to:

- Contribute to the secure environment necessary for the consolidation of the peace;
- Continue to consolidate SFOR achievements and promote a climate in which the peace process can proceed;
- Promote a transition of emphasis from military to civil implementation;
- Ensure that the size, role and profile of the NATO-led military contribution is gradually reduced, on the basis of reviews of tasks, environment and risks as part of a Transition Strategy linked to the achievement of an end state;
- The desired NATO end state is a secure environment adequate for the continued consolidation of the peace without the further need for NATO-led military forces in BiH.

## KEY MILITARY TASKS

- Maintain a deterrent military presence in the country.
- Act to prevent major breaches of the cessation of hostilities or the removal of heavy weapons or air defence weapons from cantonment.
- Continue to operate Joint Military Commissions (JMC) at appropriate levels.
- Contribute, within means and capabilities, to a secure environment in which the international civil organisations and the parties to the GFAP can carry out their responsibilities under the agreement.

- Ensure force protection and own Freedom of Movement (FOM).
- Ensure continued compliance with the cease-fire and Zone Of Separation (ZOS) and other military aspects of the GFAP.
- Monitor, and if required, enforce compliance with the military aspects of the GFAP.
- Enforce rules and procedures governing the use of airspace over BiH in coordination with the BiH Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) with the understanding that the DCA has no power of veto over SFOR air operations.
- Control the airspace over BiH.

## KEY SUPPORTING TASKS WITHIN MEANS AND CAPABILITIES

- Provide, on a case-by-case basis, support to the High Representative (HR) in his role of implementing the civil aspects of the GFAP, as well as to the other principal civil organisations.
- Support the Supervisor in implementation of Brcko arbitration decisions presently in effect.
- Support the Office of the High Representative (OHR) and Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in the conduct of elections and installation of elected officials.
- Support and promote phased and orderly returns of Displaced Persons and Refugees (DPRE) by contributing to a safe and secure environment in co-operation with the OHR, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other international organisations but not forcibly return them or undertake to guard individual locations.
- Support OHR and OSCE in media reform efforts, and support International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and efforts against Persons Indicted for War Crimes (PIFWCs).
- Provide, on a case-by-case basis, selective support to the OSCE, if requested, in implementing Annex 1B of the GFAP in BiH.
- Contribute to the continued improvement of FOM throughout BiH and Support the Standing Committee on Military Matters (SCMM).

## AIR OPERATIONS

Air operations in support of the GFAP provided by the Joint Force Air Component Commander for the following tasks:

- Airspace Management/Control and Surveillance in the Theatre Area of Operations (TAOO) to include enforcement of rules and procedures governing the use of BiH airspace.
- Air Policing to include the identification, interception, intervention and engagement of unidentified aircraft. Intervention and engagement will be specifically authorised in accordance with the Rules of Engagement (ROE) in force.
- Search and Rescue (SAR), as required, to support the SFOR and Combat SAR (CSAR) if required.
- Reconnaissance and surveillance to monitor compliance with the GFAP and for the security of the SFOR.
- Offensive Air Support (OAS), as required, in accordance with the ROE in force, to provide a robust capability to support and protect the SFOR in the event of a direct attack.
- Suppression of Enemy Air Defence (SEAD), as required, in accordance with the ROE in force, to counter Air Defence (AD) threats to the SFOR air operations.
- Air Transport/Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC) as required, in support of the SFOR.

## ENGINEER SUPPORT

SFOR Engineers shall maintain and improve Theatre Controlled Routes (TCR), Main Supply Routes (MSR), Airports of Debarkation (APODs), Seaports of Debarkation (SPODs) and Railheads in order to ensure SFOR's FOM, and to provide the appropriate level of force mobility and sustainability as well as safety on those routes. Engineers on each level of command shall provide support to ensure FOM as defined necessary by their level of command.

## PRINCIPLES OF ENGINEER SUPPORT

The Troop Contributing Nations (TCN) of SFOR provide adequate Engineer support at each level of command, including brigade, division and theater. Engineer units provided by TCN to support a particular command, retain as their primary role the provision of military engineering support to that command. The following general principles apply.

## COORDINATION OF ENGINEER EFFORT

Engineer effort is coordinated at Theatre level and prioritized at all command levels. This may lead to engineer forces being tasked outside their own formation boundaries, by appropriate commanders.

## THEATRE LEVEL ENGINEER OPERATIONS

Theatre level engineer operations may take place anywhere within SFOR's Area of Responsibility (AOR); subject to coordination with CJ4 to ensure de-conflicting of movements and the commands responsible for that AOR. In particular the engineering projects eligible for funding by the NATO Security Investment Program (NSIP) are managed at Theatre level. The main theatre level projects are:

- Repair and maintenance of the TCRs and the MSRs.
- Snow and Ice Clearance (SNIC) on the TCRs and MSRs.
- Development of essential facilities at APOD and SPOD, to assist SFOR FOM into and out of theatre.

Ensure SFOR's possibility to use the national rail network on the main routes / in the main directions within BiH.

## ENGINEER ORGANIZATION

### a) Command Relationships of CJ ENG

The position of CJ ENG within the overall HQ SFOR staff structure is shown in figure 1 below:

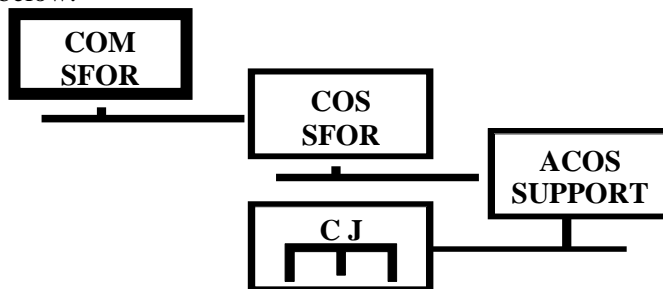


Fig. 1. Command Relationships of CJ ENG within HQ SFOR<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> CJ ENG— Combined Joint Engineers;  
HQ — Headquarters;

## b) Engineer Chain of Command

The Theatre Engineer Organization is shown in figure 2 below. Tasking of these units is done by CJ3 on recommendation of the Chief ENG. Theatre Engineers are also tasked by Task Orders of CJ ENG.

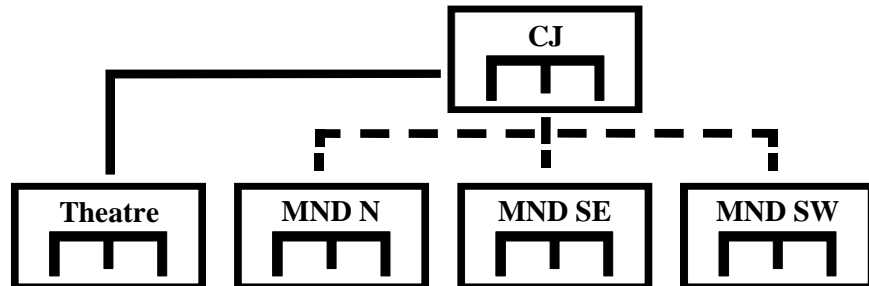


Fig. 2. SFOR Engineer Chain of Command<sup>3</sup>

## RESPONSIBILITIES

### Engineer Information and Intelligence

CJ ENG HQ SFOR is responsible for the dissemination of Theatre level engineer intelligence and information. Engineers on all levels are responsible for the collection and collation of engineer information and intelligence within their AOR. Engineers at all command levels are responsible for reporting and disseminating engineering information that has operational implications. There are specific requirements for which special reporting arrangements apply:

### Route Information

The Freedom of Movement Engineering Team (FOMET) is responsible for keeping MSR, TCR, APOD and SPOD operational, in order to ensure SFOR's FOM.

### Logistics, Engineer Material and Budgets

The following principles apply:

- a) Maintenance and Re-supply TCNs are responsible for conducting both maintenance and re-supply for their nationally owned equipment and engineer materiel.

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COMSFOR — Commander of SFOR;  
COS — Chief of Staff;  
ACOS — Assistant Chief of Staff.

<sup>3</sup> Multinational Division

b) Local Procurement Local supply, purchase and delivery of materiel for the conduct of Theatre engineer tasks is managed by CJ ENG Logistics through the SFOR Theatre Area Contracting Office (TACO) organization.

Budgets Budgetary authority for undertaking engineer tasks is provided by NATO through SHAPE and SFOR CJ8 to the Chief Engineer SFOR. All funding requests will be coordinated through the SFOR Financial Controller and reviewed at the Financial Management Review Board (FMRB).

## SFOR ENGINEERING PROJECTS

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) 7101 describes procedures which CJ ENG must execute for the life cycle of Engineer projects in theatre. This SOP provides detailed explanations and examples for project submission, allocation of funds, procedures for initiating work, payments, and closure of projects.

SFOR Engineer projects are generally funded by one of the following:

- NATO Infrastructure Committee (IC);
- NATO Military Budget Committee (MBC);
- National Funds;
- International Organizations;

SFOR Engineers are responsible for identifying Engineer requirements, priorities, scope of work and cost estimates for common funded projects and sub – projects within the SFOR AOR. This also includes deciding whether the work will be done by military engineers or contractors and who will manage the projects and sub – projects.

## MORE IMPORTANT PROJECTS

Project 52 — is the relocation and construction of facilities to house the Det Air, HQSFOR heliport and COMSFOR fleet at the Sarajevo Airport.

Project 54 — is the construction of an improved heliport for the COMSFOR Op Reserve at Eagle Base near Tuzla.

Task 485 — heliport recce at Eagle Base.

Task 508 — helipads construction at Eagle Base.

### REFERENCES

- [1] SFOR Engineering Projects SOP 7001 = Sarajevo Oct 2000.
- [2] CJ Engineers mission Brief = COL Dr. Padányi CHENG HQ SFOR Sarajevo 11/19/99.
- [3] General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.