



**Kick-off Meeting of NATO MSG-147
(Sofia, Bulgaria, 17th-18th March 2016)**

Dear Sir/Madam,

You are cordially invited to attend and participate in the Kick - Off meeting of the NATO M&S Group 147 “**M&S Support for Crisis and Disaster Management processes, and Climate Change implications**”.

This event will take place on 17th and 18th March 2016 at the Arena Di Serdica Hotel in Sofia (Bulgaria).

The responsibility for Crisis Management and Disaster Response as well Climate Change influences is different for every nation and may involve several ministries and agencies. It is also a core task of the Alliance. Today the Alliance is able to make decisions in crisis and emergency situations, and to act under significant threat and time pressure. NATO develops capabilities to be ready, on a case-by-case basis and by consensus, to contribute to effective crisis management and disaster prevention. This enables the Alliance to actively engage in crisis management and disaster response, including through non-Article 5 crisis response operations. The Alliance is therefore encouraging the joint training of military and civilian personnel to help build trust and confidence.

The 2015 Gap Analysis Report serves as the foundation for the development of the 2015 Action Plan (AP) on M&S in support of military training identified a gap in NATO computer supported capabilities dealing with big events with negative impact over human society like crisis and disasters as well evaluation of Climate Change.

A CMDR COE team started working on the MSG for using of M&S for conducting of experimentations, tests of concepts and doctrines, Computer Assisted Exercises (CAXs) and training in order to investigate and assess Decision Making Support and Data Analysis for Crisis Management, Disaster Response (CMDR) and Climate Change challenges.

The aim of the MSG is to develop a technical platform capable of supporting and conducting crisis management and disaster response exercises and analysis. It should be established with several crisis management and disaster response tools and simulations that are unique to NATO and enable non-military type operations. The software environment should enable to provide:

- distributed environment
- automated data collection,
- engine for modeling with defined triggers,
- C2 logic and SOPs implementation;
- a dynamically generated plan for Crisis/Disaster Response,
- prognosticate and analyses in response of disasters and Climate Change.

In that regard NATO STB has confirmed the approval of the MSG 147 TAPs endorsed by



NMSG in Oct 2015 “**M&S Support for Crisis and Disaster Management processes, and Climate Change implications**”.

The MSG 147 is:

- Open to: All NATO Nations and Organizations, All PfP and Global Partner Countries
- Confirmed participants: AUT, BGR, DEU, SVN, USA, ACT, JFTC, MS CoE
- TBC participants: SWE

In preparation of the above mentioned activity, the CMDR COE will organize a kick-off meeting on 17th and 18th January at hotel Arena Di Serdica, Sofia, Bulgaria.

NATO Nations and Bodies, Partners, Industry and International Organizations are invited. For participation confirmation and any questions please refer directly to the Chair of the group.

Col. Orlin Nikolov, Chief of Capabilities Branch in CMDR COE

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If you interested to participate should register on the CMDR COE Website:

www.cmdrcoe.org



AGENDA (preliminary):

Thursday 17th March 2016

09:00	Welcome by the chair
09:05	Welcome by the host and administrative announcements
09:15	Approval of / or changes to agenda
09:30	Present the scope, objective TAP and TOR of the MSG
10:30	Coffee break
11:00	Discussion of the scope, objective TAP and TOR of the MSG
12:30	Lunch break
14:00	Discussion of the scope, objective TAP and TOR of the MSG
15:30	Coffee break
16:00	Review the scope, objective TAP and TOR of the MSG
17:30	End of the day

Wednesday 18th March 2015

09:00	Administrative remarks
09:05	Communication Plan and using of the internet platform
10:30	Coffee break
11:00	Draft a Programme of Work
12:30	Closing remarks
12:35	End of meeting



LOCATION:

This meeting will be held at:



Hotel Arena di Serdica,
2-4, Budapeshta Street,
Sofia, 1000, Bulgaria
www.arenadiserdica.com

CLASSIFICATION:

The meeting will be UNCLASSIFIED (no security clearance is required).

DRESS CODE:

Business casual.

MEETING FACILITIES:

WIFI, water and coffee will be provided.

MEETING REGISTRATION:

You are requested to respond with your **confirmation of participation** by sending an e-mail to the following recipients by Wednesday 02th March 2016:

- Maj Kostadin Lazarov: Kostadin.lazarov@cmdrcoe.org (Event PoC)

Participants are kindly requested to register on the CMDR COE website at http://cmdrcoe.org/menu.php?m_id=2&c_id=41.

HOTEL RESERVATION:

We recommend you to use made by CMDR COE group booking in five stars hotel Arena Di Serdica where the conference will be organized. Special conference rates of 97 euros for single room, 117 euros for double room will be offered for participants for rooms. The rate is inclusive of breakfast, high-speed internet access, complimentary garage and 9% VAT. The rate doesn't include city tax – 0.67 Euro per person per day. All major credit cards are accepted.

Hotel room reservations will be made by the CMDR COE.

Participants are kindly requested to register on the CMDR COE website at http://cmdrcoe.org/menu.php?m_id=2&c_id=41.

It's not necessary to make your own reservation in that hotel.

Nevertheless, all the participants are free to choose their own accommodation. It is strongly recommended that you book hotel well in advance.



TRANSPORTATION:

A valid passport is required for entry to Bulgaria. Participants from EU countries can use ID cards instead. It is required non-EU citizens to obtain a visa and is kindly recommended to contact with the Embassy/Consulate of the Republic of Bulgaria in their respective country.

For more details, please check – <http://www.mfa.bg/en/pages/view/85>

There are direct flights to Sofia from the biggest European airports. Generally, the international flights land at Terminal 2 of Sofia Airport. The drive from there to the city centre is a short one and should not take more than 20-30 minutes.

Both Sofia`s Central Rail Station and the International Bus Station are located close to the downtown.

If arriving by car, be aware of the numerous speed traps at the entrances to the city as you will end up with a not insignificant spot fine.

Local Transport

The taxi services in Sofia are cheap and reliable and there is a small percentage of frauds, but if you check the prices before you enter the car to avoid the usual lies you won't be overcharged. However, please check out the taxi companies in Sofia that CMDR COE recommend and call them directly to order a cab.

At the airport use the official taxi booth inside the Terminal 2 to ask for a taxi, as those loitering outside are likely to overcharge you by anything up to 10 times the normal fare. The taxi should not be more than 20-25 BGN (10-15 euro) for a ride to the central parts of Sofia. The payment should be made in Bulgarian currency only. You can change a small amount of money at the airport or use the ATM.

All taxis should be colored in yellow and operate by meter – it's worth checking if the meter is on. The reputable companies are **OK Supertrans, Eurolease, Yes and Yellow33. CMDR COE strongly recommends their services.** Their cabs are recognizable by their call-centers always well shown on vehicle's sides.

The public transport in Sofia is composed of buses (using an increasing number of CNG vehicles), trolleybus and tram networks and an underground as well. The city is amply covered by an interlocking network with services running from about 05:00 to 23:30. Single-journey ticket costs 1.00 BGN and can be bought from street kiosks at the stops or from the driver. Ticket must be validated on board using the metal punchers near the windows. A single-trip ticket may be issued by on-board vending machine in trams and trolleys for each journey. The metro tickets have the same price (1.00 BGN) but are different from those used in ground transport, and can only be purchased from ticket counters in the underground stations themselves.

Metro line is existed from the airport to the downtown. From the station „SU Kliment Ohridski“, hotel Arena Di Serdica is on five minutes walking distance.



LOCAL CURRENCY / PAYMENT OPTIONS:

The local currency is Lev (approx. 1 Lev = 0.51 € or 0.56 \$).
 Bulgarian banknotes come in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 lev.



All major credit cards are welcome and accepted everywhere.

VOLTAGE INFORMATION / PLUG:

Bulgarian standard voltage is 220 volts / 50 Hertz. Electrical sockets (outlets) in Bulgaria are one of the two European standard electrical socket types: The "Type C" Europlug and the "Type E" and "Type F" Schuko.

						
North America Grounded NEMA 5-15	Japan Non-grounded JIS C 8303	Europe German style CEE7/4 Schuko	Europe French style Schuko	Europe/Russia Non-grounded CEE7/16 Europlug	Great Britain Grounded BS-1363	Great Britain "Shaver socket" BS-4573
						
Australia/China Grounded AS-3112	Italy Grounded CEI 23-16	Switzerland Grounded SEV-1011	Denmark Grounded SRAF 1962/DB	Israel Grounded SI 32 (IS 16A-R)	India Grounded BS-546 "Small"	South Africa Grounded BS-546 "Large"

CLIMATE:

Temperate continental (round figure 2400 hours of sunshine per year) and average temperature of +20°C in the spring. The weather in the middle of March`2015 is expected to be not so cold and the day temperatures to vary between 5-10°C in the morning to 10-15°C at noon.

LOCAL TIME:

GMT+2 between late October and late March.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Sofia has an area of 1310 sq. km and population of 1 177 577 inhabitants.