The purpose of every CMDR COE Annual Conference is to promote ideas in a way that will advance the common understanding as well as gain points of view that might not have been otherwise considered. The interagency interaction is a core task that requires common efforts and advanced knowledge to collaborate the skills of many actors – governmental, non-governmental, regional, local etc. The Conference is a goodwill venue for all those who work in and around crisis management and disaster response, from the civilian and military communities that wish to share opinion and experience, learn from, and to meet with interlocutors from around the world. Since its foundation the main objectives of the CMDR COE Annual Conference have remain the same:

- To spread the knowledge concerning Lessons Identified/Lessons Learned in disasters relief and humanitarian assistance, consequence management and the ways of mitigation the effects of the natural and manmade calamities.
- To make contacts in order to exchange ideas among the members of the crisis management community of interest.
- To bring opportunities for the researchers from different countries to present their work and share experience with other scientists working in the same field.
- To share data and facilitate cooperation between research institutes and governmental organisations.

The Conference’2017 is open to all NATO Nations and Partners, governmental, non-governmental and international organizations and will include 3 panels:

I. DEFENCE SUPPORT IN DISASTER RESPONSE OPERATIONS
II. IMPLICATIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE TO MILITARY ACTIVITIES
III. BUILDING SOCIETAL RESILIENCY AND MITIGATING VULNERABILITY

The working language will be English and interpretation services to and from other languages will not be provided. No limitation for participants by nation, no security clearance is required (non-classified information will be shared).

Conference fee per participant is 50 euros.
Papers fee per article is 35 euros.
This is the ideal opportunity for companies to exhibit at the Conference in a cost effective way.
Conference exhibition fee per stand for 2 days starts from 300 euro.
The Exhibitor package comprises a stand with furniture, power and registration fees for 2 persons. Please get in touch with us for costs.
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Rear Admiral Peter A. Gumataotao
Deputy Chief of Staff, Strategic Plans and Policy in Supreme Allied Command Transformation (SACT).

Mr. Jean-Dominique Dulière
Head of Crisis Responses and Exercises Section in NATO HQ, Brussels.

Assoc. Prof. Maria Ivanova
Member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the UN Secretary-General, a Board member of the UN University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) and of the Ecologic Institute in Berlin.

PANELS CHAIRMEN

Colonel Milen Milkov
Chief of CMDR COE Education and Training Branch.
Chairman on the panel: Defence Support in Disaster Response Operations

Colonel Orlin Nikolov
Chief of CMDR COE Capabilities Branch.
Chairman on the panel: Implications on Disasters and Climate Changes on Military Activities

Colonel Jaroslav Kubisz
Chief of CMDR COE Transformation Branch.
Chairman on the panel: Building Societal Resilience and Mitigations Vulnerability
### DRAFT SCHEDULE

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<td>1100-1300</td>
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<td>Third plenary session: <strong>BUILDING SOCIETY’S RESILIENCY AND MITIGATING VULNERABILITY</strong></td>
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<td>Chair: Colonel Milen Milkov</td>
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<tr>
<td>1530-1545</td>
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<td>1700-1730</td>
<td>Wrap-up and Closing ceremony</td>
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CALL FOR PAPERS

Do you have a paper you could present to the international community? Has your organization introduced an idea that has changed the way things are done? If so, why not attend the CMDR COE Annual Conference’2017 as a speaker and deliver a briefing alongside the other colleagues? If you are interested in speaking, please contact the Conference Director, Col Orlin Nikolov on +359 2 92 24705; 359 88 799 7540 or e-mail orlin.nikolov@cmdrcoe.org

All presented materials during the Conference 2017 will be published in the CMDR COE Proceedings (ISSN 2367-766X) afterwards. Articles will be published after a peer review by the Editorial team of CMDR COE. The peer review procedure is carried out only if the materials are relevant to the topics of the Conference’s panels.

For more information about the book series visit website: http://www.cmdrcoe.org

Key criteria for evaluating the quality of the articles are:

• Importance of the issue, treated by the author;
• Scientific level and mastery of the issues.

Papers must not exceed 20 standard pages (font Arial, 12 pt; 25000 characters with tables and images). Citation shall be done in accordance with the Harvard System of Referencing. Texts should contain an excerpt in English (up to 200 words) and keywords (no more than 10). In addition: enclosure name, email, institutional address and brief Curriculum Vitae of the author (academic degree, position, monographs, important papers, scientific interests, etc.) in English.

Submission Abstracts: NLT May 1st, 2017

Deadline for receiving full presentations for the Conference: May 31st, 2017

Papers fee per article is 35 euros.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

VENUE:

Central Military Club,
17, Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd, Sofia 1000.

Known as Voennia Klub (The Military Club), it is a prominent monument of modern Bulgaria political and cultural history. Currently it has multi-purpose functions and serves as a head-office of the Bulgarian Armed Forces` executive agency for recreation and clubs activity.

The foundation stone of the edifice was laid in 1895 as the project was designed by Czech architect Antonín Kolář in the Neo-Renaissance style and finished by Bulgarian architect Nikola Lazarov in 1907. The funding was provided by the Sofia Officers` Assembly.

The building has three stories and features a coffeehouse, an art gallery, a number of refined halls varying in size, as well as an imposing concert hall with 450 seats.

Conference fee: 50 EUR per participant; FREE for presenters and lecturers. This is the ideal opportunity for companies to exhibit at the Conference in a cost effective way.
Conference exhibition fee per stand for 2 days starts from 300 euro.
The Exhibitor package comprises a stand with furniture, power and registration fees for 2 persons. Please get in touch with us for costs

Visit Sofia
If you are planning your participation in the CMDR COE Annual Conference in Sofia, you will find this short travel guide a useful source of information about the capital of Bulgaria.
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.

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.
Public Transport
The public transport in Sofia is composed of buses, 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 1.60 BGN (0.80 eurocents) and can be bought from street kiosks 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 (1.60 BGN) but are different from those used in ground transport, and can only be purchased from ticket counters in the underground stations themselves.

The taxi services in Sofia are cheap and reliable and there are 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. 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 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 Yellow333, and the CMDR COE strongly recommends their services. Their cabs are recognizable by their call-centers always well shown on vehicle’s sides.

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

CLIMATE: Temperate continental (round figure 2400 hours of sunshine per year) and average temperature of +22°C in the autumns. The weather in July’2014 is expected to be warm and the day temperatures to vary between 15-17°C in the morning to 25-30°C at noon.

LOCAL TIME: GMT+3 between late March and late October.

CURRENCY: Bulgaria’s unit of currency is the Lev (pl. leva), code – BGN. It is in fraction of 100 stotinki (singular: stotinka). The denomination is coin of 1 Lev and banknotes of 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 Levs. The exchange rate against the euro is fixed at BGN 1.95583 for €1 as in 1999 the Lev’s value was pegged to that of the German Deutschmark, which was replaced by the euro in 2001. Since then due to the Currency Board it is easy to calculate the rate – it lasts BGN to € as 2:1.

EXCHANGE: Many international banks and Foreign-Exchange Offices operate in Sofia. Currency exchange at the airport on arrival or departure, and in the hotels, is also possible. Do not exchange money in the streets or outside financial offices despite the bargain rate offered: you risk being cheated!

BANKING HOURS: From Monday to Friday 09:00 – 17:00. Most of Foreign-Exchange
Offices are open until 6 PM, and some around the clock. For more information on the actual rates it is better to consult with the Bulgarian National Bank (BNB) website: www.bnb.bg. Most of the banks have very friendly web portals where can find concerning information as well as the location of their ATMs.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS: International direct-dialing access code for Bulgaria: 359, for Sofia: 359 2. Cell phones are widely available where mobile services are provided by three operators M-tel, Telenor and Vivacom. Another one is MaxTelecom however it is specialized in Wi-Fi supply.

DRINKING WATER: Tap water is safe to drink but not always pleasant in taste or appearance. Bulgaria's vast supplies of mineral water are widely available in 0.5 litre and 1.5 litre bottles. They are very tasty and not expensive. Stick to well-known brands such as Gorna Banya, Devin or Bankia and check that the bottles are properly sealed.

ELECTRICITY: Main voltage 220 V/50 Hz, round two-pin plugs.

MOTORING: Drive on the right, overtake on the left, cross only when the traffic light is green, give right of way to vehicles approaching from the right at crossroads and to buses in urban areas, carry your International Driving Permit, ride with lights on at all times. The use of seat belts is mandatory for all passengers, except pregnant women. Speed limits are 50 km/h urban, 90 km/h outside and 130 km/h highways.

EMERGENCY: CALL 112.
ACCOMMODATION

For all participants, a block booking has been made until May 26th, 2017 at the Arena Di Serdica and Crystal Palace hotels.

Arena Di Serdica****
Strategically located in the downtown of the city, it is right next to the states institutions and banks, as well as to the historical places of interest. During the early constructions of what came to be the Arena di Serdica Hotel, the ancient amphitheater of Roman town of Serdica was accidentally discovered in 2004. In the modern cityscape of Sofia, the ruins lie south of Knjaz Dondukov Blvd, between the Goethe-Institut headquarters and the embassy of the United Kingdom. In July 2006 came across further ruins, however, it was not clear that the unearthed Roman structure was indeed part of a large arena. The east gate and the section of the amphitheater within the hotel lot was preserved and incorporated into the hotel's ground floor.

The exclusive rates for the Conference `2017 – for single room is 99 euro per night including VAT and Taxes, double room 120 euro, small suit 150 euro.

The Crystal Palace Hotel****
It is a boutique hotel, that offers shuttle bus services which are available upon request and charges apply. The unique combination between architectural monument and modern business style gives it a remarkable appearance. The Crystal Palace was awarded for Bulgarian Building of the Year for 2004.

The exclusive rates for the Conference `2017 participants are – single room is 89 euro per night including VAT and Taxes, double room 110 euro, small suit 135 euro.

Please note the deadline for hotel booking is: MAY 26th, 2017
Note: The Registration Form (below) is sufficient for accommodation purposes.
Please address all accommodation issues to POCs

Terms & Conditions: Your reservation is absolutely secure. All personal data is encrypted and will be processed in a secure manner.
Other hotels in the central part of Sofia  
(transportation to/from conference hall will not be provided)

**Grand Hotel Sofia*****
1 Gurko Str., 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria tel: (+359 2) 811 0811 fax: (+359 2) 811 0953
reservations@grandhotelsofia.bg.

**Sofia Hotel Balkan*****
5 Sveta Nedelya Square Sofia 1000 Bulgaria Phone: (359)(2) 9816541 Fax: (359)(2) 9806464
www.sofiahotelbalkan.com/en/

**Sense Hotel*****
16 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd., 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria: +359 (0) 700 20670

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**IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS OR QUESTIONS,**
**PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT OUR POC**

**POC:**
Colonel Orlin Nikolov, Director of Conference  
Chief of Capabilities Branch CMDR COE
office: 359 2 92 24705; cell: 359 88 799 7540
e-mail: orlin.nikolov@cmdrcoe.org;

Major Svetlin Denchev,
Head of Publication, Library and Database Section
office: 359 2 92 247385; cell: 359 88 829 7840
e-mail: svetlin.denchev@cmdrcoe.org;
WE EXPECTED YOUR REGISTRATION ON THE CMDR COE WEB SITE:

https://www.cmdrcoe.org/menu.php?m_id=2&c_id=58

PLEASE APPLY YOUR PRESENTATIONS AND ABSTRACT ASAP BUT NLT MAY 26th, 2017
TO: boris.guenov@cmdrcoe.org or svetlin.denchev@cmdrcoe.org
OR BY FAX: +359 2 92 24755