



GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF
THE COUNCIL OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION
- Press Office -

SPOKESPERSON
FOR THE SECRETARY GENERAL
HIGH REPRESENTATIVE FOR CFSP

Brussels, 8 June 2007

PRESS BRIEFING

Exercise MILEX 07

Wednesday 13 June 2007 at 9.30

A press briefing will be held on Wednesday 13 June at 0930 hrs on the occasion of the EU military exercise MILEX 07. Speakers will include Lieutenant-General **David Leakey**, Director-General of the EU Military Staff, who is the Official Conducting the exercise, and the Operation Commander for the exercise, Major General **Bengt Andersson**.¹ The High Representative for CFSP, **Javier Solana**, is due to visit MILEX 07 on the day as well.

MILEX 07 is the second military exercise to be conducted by the EU. It is of particular significance as for the first time the new **EU Operations Centre** will be activated. The press briefing will be followed immediately for those who wish by a **visit** to the Operations Centre in activation.

Journalists wishing to attend are requested to **confirm their participation** (see contact details below) **by Monday 11 June** at 12 noon, as arrangements must be made in advance to issue security clearances.²

Due to in-processing requirements, you are requested to arrive early for the briefing, no later than 0900hrs. You will be escorted to the briefing room and thereafter to the Operations Centre.

Note: It is also hoped to provide a limited number of journalists with seats on a Swedish Air Force flight on Thursday 14 June to Enköping to see the Swedish Force Headquarters in operation for the exercise. There will also be an opportunity for those journalists travelling to see elements of the Nordic Battlegroup. More details will be available at the press briefing on 13 June.

Venue:

*EU Military Staff
(Details to be indicated upon registration.)*

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Attached: Press release on MILEX 07

¹ Maj.-Gen Andersson is also the Operation Headquarters commander for the Nordic Battlegroup, due to be on stand-by to the EU for six months from 1 January 2008.

² Please also indicate if you intend to bring cameras, recording devices or mobile phones with you, as these require additional arrangements to be made.

PRESS RELEASE
EU Military Exercise 2007 (MILEX 07)
to be conducted from 7-15 June 2007

The European Union (EU) will conduct its second military exercise (MILEX 07)³ from 7 June to 15 June 2007 in the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP).

MILEX 07 is a Command Post Exercise (CPX) and will focus on the key military aspects of crisis management. No troops will be deployed. During the conduct of the exercise the EU Operations Centre (EU OpsCentre), composed of military and civilian elements, will be activated for the first time.

The exercise will focus on the interaction between the EU OpsCentre in Brussels⁴ and an EU Force Headquarters (FHQ) in Enköping (Sweden), in the context of an autonomous EU-led military operation. This exercise will provide a good opportunity to train the personnel of the OpsCentre and its interaction with the FHQ. In parallel with this exercise, internal training activities for civilian personnel will also be conducted.

MILEX 07 will be based on a newly developed scenario called ALISIA that is being used for EU exercises during the time frame from 2006 to 2010. The scenario depicts a situation in a fictitious country (Alisia), where friction between the Transitional Government of Alisia and a rebel group (National Freedom Movement) leads to a situation in which the deployment of humanitarian aid to camps of internally displaced persons in the North-Western part of the country is significantly hampered. A UN mission already on the ground does not have sufficient capabilities to address the situation.

Under the scenario, at the request of the UN, the EU has decided to conduct an operation bridging the time needed for the UN to reorganise its personnel. The EU operation will include the deployment of a force up to 2000 personnel including an Integrated Police Unit (IPU), temporarily placed under military responsibility.

³ In May 2002, the EU conducted its first Crisis Management Exercise (CME 02) in the framework of the ESDP. In November 2003, the EU and NATO conducted a joint Crisis Management Exercise (CME/CMX 03). A third Crisis Management Exercise (CME 04) was conducted by the EU in May 2004. The first Military Exercise (MILEX 05) was conducted in November 2005.

⁴ The EU OpsCentre provides the EU with the capacity to plan and run an autonomous operation at the military strategic level, in particular where a joint civilian/military response is required and when no national HQ is identified. It is located in a Council building in Brussels.

MILEX 07 will be coordinated in Brussels under the direction of the EU Military Committee supported by the EU Military Staff, and under the guidance of the EU's Political and Security Committee.

The exercise will be conducted in Brussels (EU OpsCentre) and in Enköping (EU FHQ). Some 200 "players" and supporting personnel are expected to take part. The exercise represents a major step forward for the EU through the first activation of the EU OpsCentre.

The Council decision to schedule the exercise is carried out under the operational authority of High Representative Javier Solana. The Director General of the EUMS, Lieutenant-General David Leakey, is the Official Conducting the Exercise.

Staff representatives from the NATO, the UN, the OSCE, as well as the non-EU European NATO members and other countries which are candidates for accession to the EU, Canada, the United States, Russia, Ukraine and the Mediterranean Partners, will be invited for information briefings in the context of this exercise.
