

COLD BLADE 2016 (CB16)



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From 7th to 18th of March this year, the 9th helicopter exercise under the umbrella of the Helicopter Exercise Programme (HEP) will be executed in the area of Ivalo, Finland.

Finland and Germany are the countries of the HEP cMS committed to participate in the exercise with a total of 8 helicopters and approximately 180 military personnel. Attendees to the survival courses are from Italy. Additionally, observers are coming from both Germany and Sweden.

Participants*

	 95 personnel	 6x NH-90	Transport day/night.
	 65 personnel	 2x CH-53	Transport day/night.
	 10 observers	 2 observers	 4 trainees

* List subject to change

A Distinguished Visitors Day (DVD) for Exercise COLD BLADE 2016 (CB16) is planned for the 15th of March in Ivalo, Finland. The aim is to provide all pMS the opportunity to get first-hand information from the participating crews and to demonstrate the environmental training within HEP.

Overview

The Exercise COLD BLADE 2016 as a Multinational Helicopter Exercise of the HEP will be delivered by the Finnish Defence Forces. The HEP is one of the EDA helicopter training projects and programmes. Together with Helicopter Tactics Course (HTC) and Helicopter Tactics Instructors Course (HTIC), it proves that at very low cost, immediate operational output can be realized.

CB16 will be designed to allow European helicopter crews to train, adopting joint procedures while operating in a challenging winter scenario. Besides the focus on flying in demanding environmental conditions, the exercise is developed to test the helicopters, test the aircrew and to teach and learn Technics, Tactics and Procedures in cold and snowy conditions.

Exercise Aim & Objectives

The aim of Exercise COLD BLADE 2016 is 2-fold:

- To train European helicopter crews and technicians to fly and operate in a challenging winter environment and to teach and learn Techniques, Tactics and Procedures in cold and snowy conditions.
- To promote co-operation in helicopter training, adopting the winter techniques both in the air and on the ground. There is a simultaneous SOF exercise, Northern Griffin in Lapland/Finland, offering the possibilities to execute infiltration and exfiltration scenarios with Finnish Special Operations Forces units.

The Aim of the Exercise will be achieved with the following Objectives:

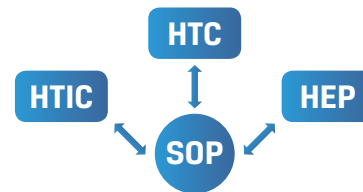
- a. To maximize integration of interoperability in training and operational tasks (low flying, formation, FARP training, gunnery, etc.): the units will fly a diverse set of day and night training missions, with a focus on winter operations.
- b. To perform flights at low temperature in order to increase aircrew skills and qualifications and to operate under adverse weather and environmental conditions.
- c. To perform maintenance at low temperatures in order to increase maintenance skills and qualifications to operate under adverse weather and environmental conditions.
- d. Provide opportunity to practice multinational formation and training with the SOF units (infil and exfil) in the second week of the exercise.
- e. To promote EDA cMS dialogue and cooperation.
- f. To enhance skill of Helicopter crews in using Standard Operating Procedures in the conduct of flight planning and operations.
- g. To teach and train the participant crews to survive in cold conditions with their own equipment (survival training).

Concept of the Exercise

The exercise will deliver environmental training, over a two weeks period duration, offering participants a unique opportunity to plan and execute missions within winter circumstances.

CB16 will be based on a commonly agreed SOP (Standing Operating Procedures). During the CB16 planning phase, the SOP was reviewed to reflect the lessons captured during previous HEP exercises as well as the latest operational experience.

Links between the HEP, the HTIC and the HTC assure the implementation of best practice and Lessons Learned in all three parts of the "triangle", what contributes to an increased exchange of knowledge, as well as to the establishment of a standardized European wide training pipeline.



CB16 delivers an outstanding opportunity to expose helicopter crews to the training methodology and knowledge of another Member State. CB16 fosters not only the common understanding and methodologies of how others operate military helicopters. It furthermore fosters the building of interoperability and trust amongst the European military helicopter community as a key factor for future multinational operations. The ultimate goal for Exercise COLD BLADE 2016 is developing to improve immediate output through pooling and sharing training skills among European countries for flying in different (winter) environments and to train for future European crisis management operations.

More information on helicopter initiatives available on: <http://www.eda.europa.eu/helicopter-initiatives>

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