EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY

Fact sheet

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Military Camp Study

Background Description

Armed forces have a high dependency on critical energy infrastructure (CEI) belonging to, operated and supervised by other government agencies and the private sector. In the case where a threat causes the unavailability of a specific CEI, military camps (*) are obliged to continue functioning and sustain their required level of capability.

In most cases, military camps have their own contingency plans and resources to cope with critical events for a certain limited period of time. However, it has been identified that there is a need for testing, sharing and standardising contingency plans to ensure uniformity of procedures and levels of sustainability across the EU Member States.

This project proposes to develop a comprehensive template for military camps to operate at reduced or no availability of imported energy.

Objectives

The following objectives will be achieved:

1. Following a detailed analysis of a military camps energy requirements, create a generic and adjustable template for operation at reduced or no availability of imported energy. This template will be developed so that it can be applied on a camp-by-camp basis.

2. Provide (using the template) a tiered priority matrix and relevant metrics in order to (i) optimise the use of available energy and (ii) inform those responsible about the limitations in the event of reduced or no availability of imported energy.

3. Test and revise the template in identified and varied military camps to ensure it is applicable in all scenarios.

The project will drive energy efficiency within camps and inform the introduction of new technologies including renewables. ***It will enhance resilience through better awareness of the energy component*** of the security environment and will ***enhance the understanding of decision-makers for the energy resilience*** of their facilities.

* Note: The term 'military camp' is not limiting to a particular size. It is interchangeable with other terms such as 'installation', 'site', 'facility' or 'barracks', as decided by Member States.

Opportunities & Expected Outcomes

The project will present two (2) critical opportunities, (i) ensure independency and resilience of military camps and (ii) inform the financial effort required to increase the capacity of a military camp to operate independently.

The template will allow energy consumption and energy efficiency to be optimised and for the development and introduction of new technologies, including renewables, in the future.

The project will present an opportunity to safeguard the resilience of military camps within member states through comprehensive contingency planning. In addition, isolated grids within military camps could be developed to cater for critical sites/ operations/activities.

The project is eligible for potential funding at the European level, for instance, through the LIFE Programme, the Structural Reform Support Programme (SRSP), the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Erasmus +.

Challenges

The availability of suitable camps for testing may present a challenge as the project may cause interruption to operational infrastructure. There may be an unwillingness to participate or a reluctance to conduct reduced capacity operations for the purpose of testing and revising the template. There might also be conflict about what is or is not a critical site/operation/activity within a camp.

Smaller training camps may be best suited for the study initially. There will be consultation required with current energy providers. A lack of existing or standardised knowledge in contingency planning across military camps may initially create difficulties. The cost associated with testing and revising the template may be limiting.

Methodology

The following methodology may be applied:

- Identify suitable camp(s) for study (considering geographic and climatic conditions);
- Identify the critical sites/operations/ activities;
- Engage with all stakeholders before, during and after testing;
- Determine the energy requirements of each site/operation/activity;
- Determine if these sites/operations/ activities can function at a reduced capacity at the minimum levels on a camp-by-camp basis;
- Determine if these sites/operations/ activities can be isolated and operate autonomously;
- Determine how these sites/operations/ activities can be appropriately managed in terms of (i) infrastructure, (ii) personnel and (iii) resources;
- Create a template with a tiered priority matrix for the camp;
- Test the applicability of the template at reduced power for a specified time in a series of scenarios, simulating realistic patterns of interruption, disruption and fluctuation of energy supply at specific camp. These scenarios will be defined by representatives of the beneficiaries;

- Revise the template upon completion of applicability testing;

- Define applications for the template in consultation with stakeholders: manual for coursework, procedure set, logic for energy management tool in the camp control centre.

Way Ahead

The duration of the project must be defined. Following this, the necessary funding mechanism must be identified and secured. In tandem, member states interested in participating in the project must be identified. There may be an opportunity to merge with or collaborate with other similar projects which may be mutually beneficial.

This project might be linked with and may complement the project "ENergy Self-SUfficient REsilient military base (ENSSURE) developed as well as in the context of the second phase of the Consultation Forum for Sustainable Energy in the Defence and Security Sector (CF SEDSS II).

On completion of this project, the generic and adjustable template which has been developed should be used as a planning tool.

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