

# Green Blade 2012

## About the Exercise

Belgium hosts GREEN BLADE 2012, a multinational helicopter exercise, from 18 September to 5 October 2012, based at Kleine-Brogel Air Base and supported by Luxembourg. Green Blade 2012 is part of the European Defence Agency's Helicopter Training Programme. Belgium, Germany and Italy participate in the exercise.

Running together with Belgium's biennial PEGASUS exercise, a special forces training exercise, the two groups work closely together on numerous missions. The main aim is to enhance deployability by training personnel in multinational helicopter missions, while demonstrating the advantages of helicopter-special forces cooperation, a vital area of modern operations.

In total, 15 helicopters are involved in the combined Green Blade/Pegasus exercise. During the exercise, helicopters and crews execute missions of steadily increasing complexity, from typical special operations-related missions, such as insertion/extraction, Direct Action, Personnel Recovery, and Intelligence Surveillance & Reconnaissance, by day and by night, in single or multiship configurations. The exercise also includes more conventional types of missions, such as Airmobile Operations, Recce & Surveillance and Medical Evacuation, as well as non-tactical training missions, such as Night Vision Goggle-flying, Nap of Earth flight and Gun Firing.



## Helicopter Training Programme

The HTP concept was approved at the Ministerial Steering Board in November 2009. The aim of the HTP is to provide a framework to Member States to allow them to develop, consolidate and share best practices to meet the challenges of flying helicopters in the modern operational environment.

Since 2009, the EDA had delivered helicopter exercises in France, Italy, Portugal, Spain and now Belgium. The programme has so far involved 123 helicopters and 227 crews. The EDA has also worked with its Member States to create the Helicopter Tactics Course in the UK, with 18 crews trained thus far. A new 'train-the-trainers' initiative is planned for this year; the European Qualified Helicopter Tactics Course, which is a joint effort by Sweden and the UK, aims to create a recognised tactics instructor cadre across Europe. Work has also started to harmonise helicopter flying training across participating Member States; trial courses have been delivered in Operational English Language learning and later this year, the EDA will conduct a capability concept demonstration into the use of distributed simulator training.

These exercises have met an urgent training requirement for the participating Member States, greatly enhancing the helicopter capacity available. They are complimented by the EDA's three weeks Helicopter Tactics Course, ten of which being held in 2012.

Further information: [www.eda.europa.eu](http://www.eda.europa.eu)

Last update: 27/09/2012

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