



COUNTER IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES
CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

CTRA M-618 KM 14,600. 28240 HOYO DE MANZANARES - MADRID. SPAIN

S155 / 2019

Date: 09 July 2019

Subject: Final Report 7th Counter Improvised Explosive Devices Centre of Excellence Lessons Learned Workshop, 11-13 June 2019.

1. Introduction

The Counter Improvised Explosive Devices Centre of Excellence (C-IED COE) conducted its 7th Counter Improvised Explosive Devices Learned workshop (C-IED LL WS) from 11 to 13 May 2019 at the C-IED COE, Hoyo de Manzanares in Spain. The workshop was open to NATO nations, NCS and NFS, Partnership for Peace (PfP) countries, contributing nations, European Defense Agency (EDA), UN organizations and other partners.

The C-IED COE's intention was to achieve the following objectives:

- a. Update ENEMY Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (ENY TTPs) from current operations in order to gain Observations and Lesson Identified (LI).
- b. Real Lessons Identify and the Lessons Learned from Theaters of Operations and its implications, with focus on Exploitation since its beginning to the current experiences from Sahel to the Middle East.
- c. COEs Lesson Learned process – Develop the “C-IED links” between each COEs: Gain Lessons Identified (LI) and develop further/closer cooperation between them.
- d. Learn from our support in efforts in NATO exercises and discuss outcomes for the institutionalization of C-IED
- e. Discuss about different activities around Defence Capability Building (DCB) engagement with partners; discuss alternative opportunities to support this kind of programme/activity for the future.
- f. Facilitate and enhance interaction in the multinational C-IED Community of Interest (Col): “Information exchange out of theatre” - find the gap of the C-IED LL community info sharing.

Organized every two years, this event is not only a good opportunity for the C-IED Community of Interest to gain and share information on the latest trends in C-IED but also to communicate about the Lessons Learned process and how to improve it.

The agenda, with Technical Exploitation as the main focus, was structured around 6 panels following the objectives of the WS. The event gathered 27 briefers and more than 50 attendees; it is considered an important number of experts from organizations, nations or companies, different expertise and areas of operations. Active discussion took place among them and participants could share their experiences and points of view and so attendees could learn from each other.

NON CLASSIFIED

2. Executive Summary:

Panel 1: Update Enemy Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (Enemy TTPs) from current operations in order to gain Observations and Lesson Identified (LI).

In this panel we received very interesting lectures from different theatres of operations and we realize the important efforts in C-IED from different units and brilliant discussions.

The IED threat is not confined to conflict areas. The threat is moving within an area and across different areas of operation, as we can see in Mali moving from the North to the center and from Syria to East Africa. Terrorist groups share information and the same TTPs in different places such as in the Pacific/Asia area where we are starting to see TTPs used first by Daesh in Middle East.

Furthermore, as presented by MNIOTC and by Europol in the panel LL from theatre of operation, international waters and homelands are also targeted, with important impact on economy and population.

The enemy is adapting his TTPs, reacting to our TTPs, learning, evolving, and acting outside area of operation. Military should not be the only personnel involved in the fight against IEDs but also Law Enforcement personnel.

One vital weakness in Areas of Interest is the lack or the reduce Info sharing of activities amongst similar actors regarding C-IED. Measures of confidence should be established from Operational level to facilitate meetings, share tools and procedure among military organization or Law enforcements units.

Panel 2: The evolution of Technical Exploitation. LI / LL from Theatre of Operations

Since the Afghanistan operation, Technical Exploitation has been developed and adapted. Today more than ever, the theatre of operation, from Mali to Irak, through North Africa and to Europe, shows us that it's important be flexible, adaptive and able to evolve quickly.

France learned from Afghanistan and developed a level 2 laboratory with a small footprint but adapted to the long distance in Mali.

As highlighted in briefing from the TEF in Irak or from CEET in Tunisia, information sharing and common language, which are essential to relationships of trust with host nations, lead to C-IED efficiency.

Panel 3: Collective training from C-IED perspective. LL from exercises

Besides the update on NATO, EDA or national exercises devoted to IEDD (Northern Challenge) or C-IEDs (Ardent Defender, Bison Counter or Clock wise Orange), these briefings showed how exercises adapt and evolve to be as close as possible to reality in AOO.

As said by the UKRAINE representative, training programs must be permanently developed and adapted to current tendencies, and so we can consider this rule in every training activity.

Coordination and integration of Tech Ex in scenario is a sine qua non condition for participation of a Level 2 laboratory in the exercise IOT influence MEL/MIL with lab results and make exercises realistic.

C-IED must also be included in non-pure C-IED exercise. It's important to find it in the C-IED element or cell with capability of influence to the rest of sections (also, to involved Law Enforcement and LEGAD for biometrics issues for example).

Technical Exploitation still has room to expand, enhance and profit from coordinated activities.

Panel 4: Institutionalization of the LL-process and cooperation amongst NATO COEs and nations

This panel shows that NATO Lessons Learned processes are very well organized in Nations and Centers of Excellence but each one focuses on their own characteristics and necessities. As bilateral collaborations are very often between CoEs and nations, it is recommended to include a chapter in the agendas about possible collaboration and projects related Lessons Learned.

C-IED Community of Interest can start sharing information, using NLLP for any subject of C-IED, not only issues from LL. In order to get access to NLLP, it is required to register and to grand access JALLC portal and then request permission in our C-IED Community of Interest.

Panel 5: C-IED related support to new partners LL from DCB

The aim of this panel was to review the Lessons Learned from Discipline Capability Building projects carried out by the C-IED CoE and some information regarding activities from others. There is no doubt of the direct success of these projects, largely recognized by the host nations because the design of the activities is tailored for each nation and situation. These projects have a short term effect on the ground saving lives and improve the understanding of the C-IED approach.

One of the key points from this panel and the panel exercise, key leaders and decision makers' acculturation and awareness of C-IED is a critical point. If political and strategic levels are not educated and convinced, tactical training won't be efficient and will always deal with the symptoms not with the root causes.

Panel 6: Information exchange and national solutions

Mentality of contribution in all level and situations starts if you have an easy tool to gather all observations in a possible solution of a gap or misunderstanding.

As for C-IED, decision-makers and key leaders need to adopt the lessons learned mindset.

The observation/lessons identified must come from the field and return to the field as improved TTPs IOT protect soldiers and permit them to accomplish the commander's mission.

Conclusion:

Since its inception in Afghanistan, Technical Exploitation has continued to evolve and adapt to today's operational theatres.

Exercises as well as DCB are needed to continue to cope with shifting and constantly transforming threats.

Both C-IED and LL require a real sharing of information between different actors whether civilian, privates or military. Similarly, it is essential that decision-makers be acculturated and convinced of the usefulness of C-IED but also of the LL for the proper accomplishment of the mission.

The 7th C-IED LLWS allowed a good exchange of information. Regular situational updates on all types of C-IED TTPs are essential for collecting observations, that after analysis will become lessons learned, and help to deal with the IED threat.

ANNEX 1. AGENDA

ANNEX 2. Notes from the lecturers

FOR THE COUNTER IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

Jose Antonio Cruz Moro
Colonel, ESP Army
C-IED COE Director