



OPENING REMARKS COMMON TENACITY 07

Strasbourg, 13/11/2007



Soldiers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

For several months many of you have been working hard on the preparation of this exercise, Common Tenacity 07.

Indeed that name, Common Tenacity, fits perfectly to this exercise. First, tenacity is a key point when you are planning an exercise at LCC level. Doing so, that some 1.200 persons

coming from all Europe join here in Wildflecken, requires indeed a lot of tenacity and is in itself already a true performance.

Moreover, some of you are deployed since early October and will redeploy only in three weeks. My gratitude goes to all of you who have invested so much of their energy and their time in the preparation of this exercise. Since several weeks, you have been deploying shelters, computers, cables, optic fibre, etc. Since several weeks a large number of you has been providing real life support to their comrades setting up the exercise. Of course this is part of your job. But without a strong personnel dedication all what you have reached would not have been possible. Therefore my warmest thanks go to all of you.

But the term "Common Tenacity" includes another word. That is Common. All of you know that Eurocorps is not an ordinary headquarters. Wherever Eurocorps personnel work, they have and they want to do it in Common. Nobody is in a situation to rely only on his nation. Every time we have to request for the support of our framework nations or also of our sending nations.

Therefore I am particularly happy to welcome here in Wildflecken all these people coming from the French-German brigade, the 1st Belgium Medium Brigade, 10th Spanish Mechanised Brigade, 15th Polish Mechanized Brigade, 2nd French Armoured Brigade, from RFOC in Ulm, from Austrian Defence college, from Greek NATO deployable corps, from Hungary and from many other units.

Thanks to the support of the German Army war fighting simulation centre, this exercise will be intense, demanding and moreover, realistic. Eurocorps is not training for a war which will never happen. Eurocorps is training for an operation, that our nations could request us to make. Thus we will train full scale military operations, but also to peace support and humanitarian relief. And this in a joint and combined environment, this time not in a NATO-, but in the framework of an EU mandated operation.

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A few weeks ago, while speaking about military reaction to a crisis, in front of the commission for the French white paper, General Bentégeat, former French CHOD and president of European Union Military Committee declared this: « Il n'y a pratiquement plus aujourd'hui de réaction nationale envisageable ». I would translate it by "Nowadays, there is so to say no way to envisage a national reaction". What does it mean? Concretely it means that almost all military operations will consist of a coalition of forces. These coalitions will be all the more efficient that troops will have been trained already in peacetime.

This is why we are all together here. We are all building this Europe of Defence, of course within the NATO framework, as this is the only existing really efficient military organisation. This notwithstanding, I just remind you that Common Tenacity is taking place in an EU led scenario with the necessary recourse to NATO capabilities.

Now, it is up to you to make out of this exercise, Common Tenacity 07 a success, as this is not an ordinary exercise; this is an additional milestone in the construction of Europe of Defence.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Lieutenant General P. PITARCH
General Officer Commanding
EUROCORPS