



# Co-operative Key 2000

**Carlo Brummer and Marnix Sap** report from Romania on NATO's most recent PfP exercise, held in September 2000.

***"Co-operative Key 2000 (CK2000), was one of four 'Autumn Dream' exercises held in Romania that month, the others being Carpathian Express, Joint Efforts Blue Danube and Co-operative Best Efforts."***

The exercise was supervised by Admiral James Ellis, Commander in Chief, NATO Southern Europe, and led by two Co-Directors, Brigadier General Francisco de la Vega, representing Allied Air Forces Southern Headquarters, and Brigadier General Cornel Gancea of the Romanian Air Force.

The CO-OPERATIVE KEY series of exercises began in Romania in 1996, the first being hosted by the 90th Otopeni Air Transportation base, with a total of 12 nations and eight helicopter and transport aircraft taking part. The complexity of the exercise has been increasing ever since.

ck'97 was held at Šliac and Piešťany in Slovakia, and saw the participation of 32 aircraft, including fighter and attack aircraft in four mission types. ck'98 was held at three different locations in Turkey and involved 15 nations and 46 aircraft in six types of mission. Because of the war in Kosovo, the ck'99 exercise had to be cancelled.

Nevertheless, the Kosovo war and the Albanian refugee crisis gave a good deal of input to ck2000, and many of the lessons learned there were incorporated. The 2000 exercise involved numerous officers who had taken part in this action.

The exercise scenario greatly resembled earlier NATO/Partnership for Peace exercises in which a fictitious country, in this case Yellowlandia, finds itself in a civil war. Clashes between opposition forces and forces loyal to the Yellowlandian president had already left about 20,000 people dead and many thousand more wounded. United Nations attempts to negotiate peace had failed. The UN is consequently asked to intervene militarily and authorises NATO and its partner countries to set up a multi-national HQ at Mihail Kogalniceanu. Here, under the command of a Multi-National Combined Air Operations Centre, a multinational force carries out Peace Support Operations (PSO) in the conflict area. A



*Above: During a familiarisation mission on September 8, this Slovak Mi-17 was re-directed to pick up an injured person, turning it into a real Medevac mission. This was also the first time that a Slovakian helicopter had flown under AWACS control in a foreign country. MARNIX SAPHIRAS  
Left: Mihail Kogalniceanu houses Grupul (Wing) 57 equipped with the MiG-29. As these are used in the air defence role, they did not participate in the exercise; instead the nearby base of Fetesti provided MiG-21 Lancer-As for the ground attack role. ALL PHOTOS CARLO BRUMMER/MIAS UNLESS STATED*