

operational safety, time of recce and weather conditions, area to be covered, special target considerations, availability and timeliness are all essential in planning a mission to ensure that a pilot returns with useful data.

Missions were flown continuously, supplying accurate picture material to the exercise planners and were mainly targeted at recognising threats at drop zones and collecting information about targets. Following touch-down, it took about 45 minutes to develop and print the wet films ready for the photo interpretation specialists. The Swedish and Bulgarian teams had each installed a mobile development laboratory to process the photographic material. A member of the Bulgarian photo recce team registered all incoming film material after every mission to ensure that every picture taken over Bulgarian territory was returned to the host nation after being used for the purposes of the exercise.

Apart from the photographic evidence, the IFREP (oral in-flight report), MISREP (mission report within 30 minutes after landing using a standard report form) and EX RECCERP (exercise recce report, 45 minutes after engine shut down) were all important sources of information for commanders and planners involved in the exercise.

A third new element in CK '01 was training for a scenario similar to the one that occurred in Kosovo when a downed pilot had to be rescued behind enemy lines. In a pre-planned CSAR operation, two Austrian Bell AB 212s carrying US and Austrian special ground forces were guided into hostile territory by the AOC and AWACS. On their ingress route to the objective point (OP), two Bulgarian *Hinds* shadowed the formation, looking for possible threats. Minutes later a pair of A-10s of the 81st FS joined the package, circling around the formation at distances of between 600ft-1500ft (183m-457m) to provide cover.

Once the downed pilot, who identified himself



ABOVE: The Bulgarians provided a recce capability by sending a single Jambol/Bezmer based Su-22M4 equipped with the KKR recce/ELINT pod on the centre line stores station. MARIN SAF/WAS

BELOW: Neighbouring Romania sent a large delegation including three Lancer-Cs, of which one was used as a spare. Besides their normal air defence role the -C models were also used in CK '01 for close air support. MARIN SAF/WAS



by using a simple hand-held mirror, had been located, the pair of AB 212s landed. Immediately after the go-ahead was given, the US and Austrian special forces disembarked the Twin-Hueys to set up a perimeter around the helos and escorted him into the helicopter's cabin. During this phase, the Bulgarian *Hinds* kept their distance in order not to give away the position of the downed pilot and to distract any possible hostile forces.

On departure from the landing zone, the A-10s continued circling around the formation to cover them. Several times the two *Hinds* were directed by the A-10 pilots to identify and attack possible threats - the many cars on Bulgaria's roads acting as unknown targets.

In cases involving refugees, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is usually designated the world's leading agency, and as part of the exercise UNHCR set up and managed a "real" refugee camp with all its different elements, while NATO co-ordinated the peace enforcement operations. The Military Medical Academy, guided by experience gained in operations in Kosovo and the construction of a refugee camp at Radusha in Macedonia in 1999, established and operated the camp's emergency medical facility. Cases requiring hospital treatment were passed on to the Dutch Field Hospital. Real-world UN procedures were followed: once off-loaded by helicopters, the refugees were registered and medically screened before documentation and

interviews took place. The next steps involved food and shelter, psychological support, and social services and tracing procedures. To ensure the effective co-ordination of civil and military communication and activities during CK '01 a Civil-Military Co-operation (CIMIC) programme was set up.

### Future Developments

Through its participation in PFP, Bulgaria has again demonstrated its suitability for NATO membership. Its chances of future membership have further increased since Russia recently waived its objections against NATO's expansion east.

Bearing in mind NATO's enlargement as it is envisaged by the end of 2002, the urgency to achieve interoperability highlights a need for more complex and comprehensive exercises in which participants are assessed against NATO standards. To this end, CO-OPERATIVE KEY 2002, scheduled to be held in France, will include the setting up of a field AOC, night operations and more special operations. Consequently, it is argued in some quarters that an assessment process under which participating countries can only pass or fail should now be introduced. AFM

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