



Host Nation Support — conclusions of Polish Armed Forces experiences

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Abstract. The aim of this article is to provide basic information about Host Nation Support (HNS) and Polish Armed Forces experiences. At the beginning the place of Host Nation Support in Multinational Logistics is described, then there were given the most important definitions within HNS and some background information. Nowadays, joint exercises are becoming more and more significant within NATO activities. It is why our Armed Forces take part in many different exercises organized abroad or within our country.

This article gives also some information about Host Nation Support Planning System, which is divided into five steps. The Polish system of HNS is described as well as its importance of military and civilian parts.

HNS seeks to provide the NATO Commander and the Sending Nation (SN) with support in the form of materiel, facilities and services, including area security and administrative support in accordance with negotiated arrangements between the SN and/or NATO and the Host Nation (HN) government. As such, HNS facilitates the introduction of forces into an Area of Operations (AOO) by providing essential Reception, Staging and Onward Movement (RSOM) support [1].

At the end, there was given an example of exercises organized in Poland — “Strong Resolve 2002” and “Steadfast Jazz 2013”, which were one of the biggest undertakings where Poland was involved.

Keywords: military logistics, Host Nation Support (HNS), NATO Logistics, Strong Resolve, Steadfast Jazz, Multinational Exercises

DOI: 10.5604/12345865.1198000

1. Introduction

Joining NATO by Poland in 1999 established scope of conditioning concerning structures, tasks and procedures realised by national defence system. Ratification

of the North Atlantic Treaty circumscribed formal status of Poland as a member of Alliance. Without fail it can be stated that Polish defence abilities were strengthened by our activation in a process of creating European safety. The guaranty of security in a shape of military support, in case of the attack by the aggressor outside NATO or in case of appearing different threats, is connected with the necessity of realizing several liabilities in favour of allies. Thus, Poland makes many endeavours to ensure security in NATO's countries.

2. The place of Host Nation Support in NATO Logistics

NATO Logistics is divided into five sections (Fig. 1). Thus, Multinational Logistics is defined as: “Any coordinated logistic activity involving two or more nations supporting a multinational force conducting military operations under the auspices of an alliance or coalition, including those conducted under United Nations mandate” [1].

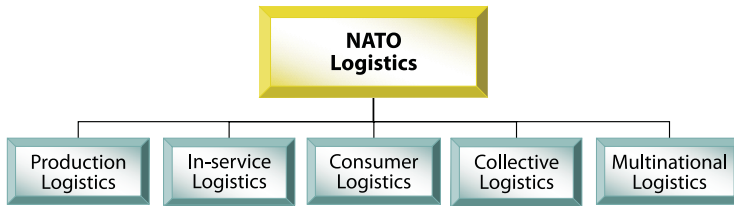


Fig. 1. The functional division of NATO Logistics [1]

Multinational logistics (Fig. 2) includes activities involving both logistic units provided by participating nations designated for use by the multinational force commander as well as a variety of multinational logistic support arrangements that may be developed and used by participating forces. Early use of multinational logistics can save the cost of deploying and maintaining personnel and equipment [1, 2].

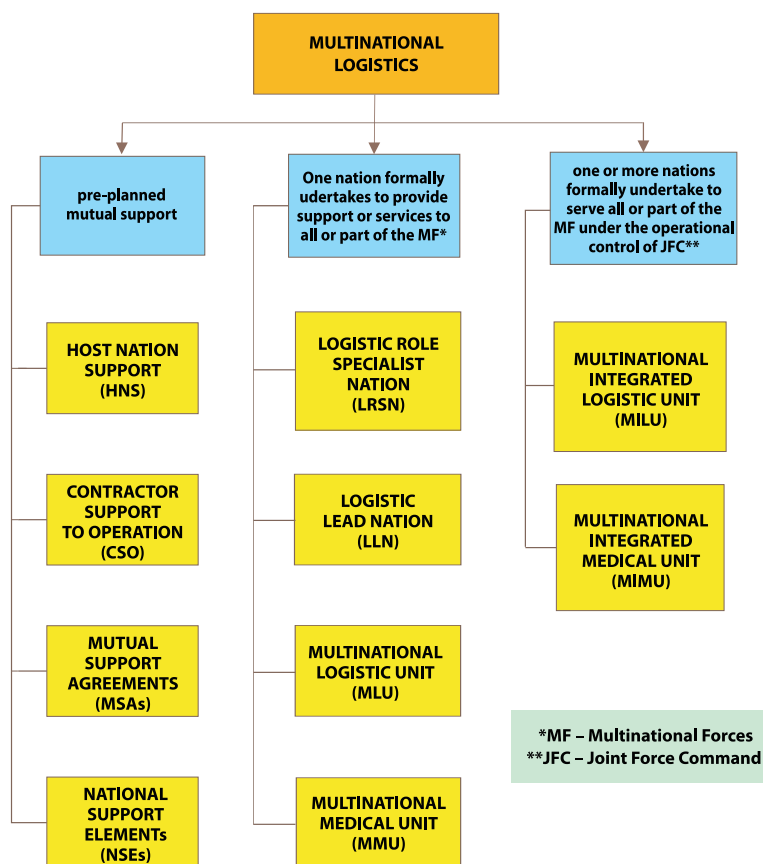


Fig. 2. Structures of Multinational Logistics [2]

3. Host Nation Support Characteristics

HNS as an important part of Multinational Logistics is defined as: “The civil and military assistance rendered in peace, crisis, and conflict by a Host Nation (HN) to allied forces and organisations which are located on, operating in or transiting through the HN’s territory”. Arrangements concluded between appropriate authorities of HN(s) and Sending Nation, (SN) and/or NATO form the basis of such assistance [3].

That means HNS is not only logistics support, but also all functional areas will be involved. Provided services in many different areas depend on various requirements of nations which are taking part in the operations. If and to what extent they will be touched depends on the requirements of the involved nations, the NATO formation and the capabilities of the HN which will consequently conclude arrangements as a legal basis for HNS.

The purpose of NATO’s Host-Nation Support (HNS) concept is to provide effective support to NATO military activities and to achieve efficiencies and economies of scale through the best use of a host nation’s available resources. This concept has always to be interpreted in accordance with the NATO Strategic Concept [3].

4. Host Nation Support Planning Process

One of the most important aspects of efficient support is HNS planning. It seeks to identify the requirements for HNS and the capabilities of the HN that are available to meet these requirements. The planning process must also put into place arrangements for the provision of HNS in advance of the envisaged NATO-led military activity. The NATO Commander is responsible for initiating and co-coordinating HNS planning and execution, in cooperation with the SN(s) and HN(s). It is an interactive process that must proceed from a common understanding of the situation and the likely resources available [1, 3].

The planning process (Fig. 3) needs to be clearly coordinated to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort and to facilitate the accession of SNs to HNSA. The requirement for a more strategic and streamlined approach to HNS planning together with the concept of collective responsibility necessitates the development of standing HNS Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) to be used for all NATO-led military activities. To be effective, HNS planning must involve all levels of HQs and all appropriate NATO and non-NATO national representatives. When executed successfully, careful co-ordination will bring about harmonization of effort and provide visibility within

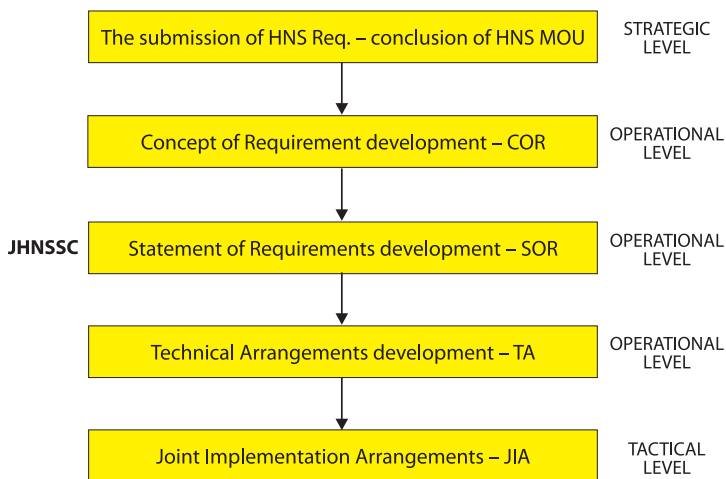


Fig. 3. Host Nation Support Planning Process [3]

the planning process. The net effect of this will be the achievement of maximum economy, both in the allocation of time for planning and the allotment of resources. In addition, it will instil a strong unity of effort within the planning process and staffs. Experience has highlighted the importance of the HN, SNs and NATO-led Forces respectively minimize the number of points of contact (POCs) for HNS matters, particularly during the planning and early implementation stages. As a matter of principle, each SN and the HN should have a primary logistic POC for all HNS matters. The POC should have sufficient authority to mediate between all concerned and speak on behalf of their nation [3].

The Memorandum of Understanding is the foundation document in the HNS planning process. It represents the formal establishment of the overarching principles for provision of HNS between the Strategic Commands (SCs), the Sending Nations (SNs) and the HN and establishes the basis for follow-on HNS documents. NATO considers these MOU to be politically binding. Such Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Government of the Republic of Poland and Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe and Headquarters, Supreme Allied Commander Transformation Regarding Provision of Host Nation Support for the Execution of NATO Operations on Polish Territory was signed on 26th of September 2005.

The next stage of HNS Planning System is development of a Concept of Requirements (COR), which addresses broad functional support requirements including land, air, maritime, security, transportation, telecommunications, facilities, etc. It provides the HN with a list of the required types of support, but does not yet furnish details regarding the timing and quantity of that support.

Development of the Statement of Requirements (SORs) is the next step of HNS planning process and takes this planning process from the generic to the specific, in that they require identification of the force(s) to be supported. Therefore, identification of SNs and the Allied Forces is a prerequisite for proceeding with this Stage.

The third stage is development of the Technical Arrangement (TA) for Provision of HNS. A TA will be developed to amplify the concept and procedures for the provision of HNS common to all participants. The TA should contain a list of all nations participating in the military activity to ensure they are all considered as NATO led forces.

During Stage 5,JIAs may be prepared although for small or medium level exercises this may not be necessary. In this case the SORs would stand-alone or be annexed to the TA. JIAs will include financial obligations serving as the fundamental 'contract' between the HN and SNs/NATO Commander for the provision of specific HNS. Consequently they are signed on a bilateral basis even though they may have been developed collectively/multilaterally. As the JIAs will detail financial obligations and impose requirements on the HN, SNs and the NATO Commander the signature level should be consistent with the authority required by each to make such arrangements [3].

5. Polish system of Host Nation Support

The conception of tasks incident to Host Nation Support duties was implemented in National Defence Ministry on the basis of National Defence Minister No. 260/MON from 25 October 2001. The organization of national system of HNS (Fig. 4) is comprised of necessary elements of National Defence System (military and civilian subsystems).

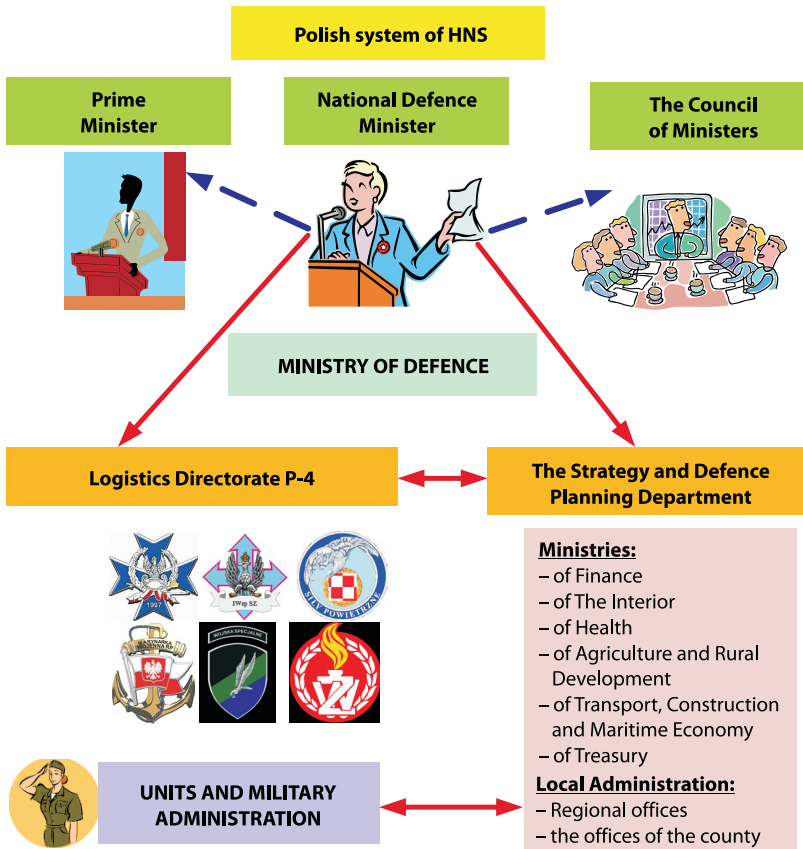


Fig. 4. The structure of Polish System of Host Nation Support [5]

Polish system of HNS is composed of a netting of Points of Contact (POC) which refer to military and civilian part. Minister of National Defence takes responsibility for coordinating all of undertakings executed by government department within HNS. This function is divided between the Chief of Logistics Directorate P-4 — in military sector and the Director of the Strategy and Defence Planning Department

— in a civilian sector. On behalf of National Defence Minister they are responsible for all tasks which are undertaken. Department of the Strategy and Defence Planning performs each operation together with appropriate Ministries with cooperation with local authorities.

6. Experiences of Polish Armed Forces

Since 2002, Polish Armed Forces (PAFs) have been actively participating in multinational exercises within HNS. Many times such exercises were organized in our country, thus we gained appreciable experience. First exercises organized on our territory were “Strong Resolve 2002”. Later, in 2003, together with our allies we realized the exercises under the code name: “NATO Air Meet 2003”. The year 2007 was abounded with many exercises where Polish Armed Forces took part. For instance, Noble Mariner 2007, Compact Green 2007, Compact Grey, Bold Avenger — Norway, and Dapex 2007 — Spain. There are plenty of exercises which are organized recurrently and by particular type of armed forces, such as:

- Land Forces: “Compact Grey 09, 10”, “Concert Grand 2009, 2010”, “Little Eagle 2009”;
- Navy: “MCOPLAT 2009” — Latvia, “NORHTEN COAST 2010”, “OPEN SPIRIT 2010” — Lithuania, “DANEX 2010” — Denmark, “CROWN EAGLE 2010”, “BALTOPS 2010”, “BALTIC SAREX 2010”;
- Air Force: “NEWFIP 2009”, “FRUIT FLY 2009, 2010”, “LOYAL ARROW” — Switzerland, “EAGLE TALON 2010”;
- Special Forces: “JACKAL STONE 2010”;
- Military Police: “BLACK BEAR 2009, 2010” [4].

Additionally, Poland participates in exercises under the code name “ANAKONDA”. Those are ones of the biggest joint exercises which have been held every two years on our territory since 2006.

One of the most prominent examples of the exercises realized within HNS was “Strong Resolve 2002”. According to them we managed to verify real capabilities of our country. Moreover, it helped to identify shortcomings and developed directions of further steps in creating HNS system.

SR 02 was pioneering challenge for Polish Armed Forces within HNS. NATO’s Strong Resolve 2002 war games, the largest in a decade involved over 26,000 troops from 15 NATO countries, up to 50 warships and auxiliary vessels, and over 70 aircraft. The exercises aimed to practice NATO’s ability to conduct operations in response to two separate and simultaneous crises in different geographical regions. SR 02 also supported the implementation and validation of the NATO combined Joint Task Forces concept — a capability by which NATO forces, together with non-NATO countries, deployed in response to a crisis beyond NATO’s borders.

The latest and significant exercise was Steadfast Jazz 2013. The exercise was conducted in Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland and in the area of Baltic Sea in early November 2013. About 6,000 personnel from 28 NATO member nations and three partner nations (Sweden, Ukraine, Finland) and over 300 troops were involved in the exercise. The aim was to train and test the NATO Response Force (NRF), a highly ready and technologically advanced multinational force made up of land, air, maritime and Special Forces components and the Joint Force Command (JFC) in Brunssum has succeeded. “The live element of Exercise Steadfast Jazz will test the interoperability of the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines involved, while the fictional scenario will be equally challenging for those participating in the command and control aspects of the exercise”, said at the beginning of the exercise the Commander of JFC Brunssum — General Hans-Lothar Domröse. For the first time NATO’s large-scale exercise was integrated with the annual Baltic Host Nation Support (HNS) exercise Baltic Host 2013. The exercise trained representatives of military and civilian institutions in interoperability and collaboration with other NATO institutions as they were rendering HNS jointly for Alliance forces that would be deployed to provide assistance in case of a potential crisis. At the end, General Hans-Lothar Domröse admitted, he was completely satisfied with the level of the exercise. What is more, he praised all soldiers who were under his command for their commitment and engagement. He also expressed acknowledgements of support and hospitality of Poland Lithuania and Latvia. “Without their efforts, resources, and hospitality we would not have been able to achieve the results that we see today”, said the Commander of JFC [6]. Thus, it is obvious that Poland is an important partner within NATO.

7. Conclusions

To conclude, Poland gained a lot of experience from Strong Resolve 02 and others exercises, what allowed for fulfilling of our duties within Host Nation Support. Undoubtedly such good results would not be possible to achieve without civilian ministries. They confirmed their professionalism, responsibility, and readiness to undertake such actions. Thus, if we want Poland to be a respected and reputed ally, HNS system should be dynamic, elastic and mobile, so as to provide support in any region of our country. Simultaneously HNS system must be able to achieve others demands, such as: dependability, continuance, performance, economy, deliberation, simplicity, etc. Professionalism and engagement of personnel are keys to succeed in accomplishment of tasks within logistics.

Received December 10, 2013. Revised December 28, 2015.

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**Wsparcie przez państwo gospodarza — doświadczenia i wnioski
Polskich Sił Zbrojnych**

Streszczenie. Niniejszy artykuł ma na celu dostarczenie podstawowych informacji na temat wsparcia przez państwo-gospodarza (HNS) oraz związanych z nim doświadczeń Sił Zbrojnych RP. Wstępna część obejmuje najważniejsze definicje oraz podstawowe informacje z zakresu wsparcia przez państwo-gospodarza, a także jego umiejscowienie w logistyce wielonarodowej. W obecnych czasach połączone ćwiczenia wielonarodowe stają się coraz bardziej znaczące w działaniach podejmowanych przez NATO. Stanowi to jeden z głównych powodów, dla których Siły Zbrojne RP biorą udział w ćwiczeniach organizowanych zarówno na terenie kraju, jak również poza jego granicami.

Artykuł ten zawiera także informacje na temat systemu planowania wsparcia przez państwo-gospodarza, który składa się z pięciu części. Opisany został także polski system HNS, w którym podkreślono znaczenie nie tylko części militarnej, ale również pozamilitarnej.

Celem wsparcia przez państwo-gospodarza jest dążenie do zabezpieczenia potrzeb państw wysyłających, jak również dowódcy NATO. Każdy z podsystemów logistycznych jest obejmowany wsparciem w postaci materiałowej lub usługowej, w tym także bezpieczeństwa i pomocy administracyjnej w obszarach zgodnych z wynegocjowanymi porozumieniami między państwem wysyłającym (SN) a rządem państwa-gospodarza (HN). Tak rozumiane wsparcie umożliwia wprowadzenie sił sojuszniczych w miejsce operacji poprzez właściwe przyjęcie, ześrodkowanie oraz dalsze przemieszczanie (RSOM).

Słowa kluczowe: logistyka w NATO, logistyka wielonarodowa, wsparcie przez państwo-gospodarza

DOI: 10.5604/12345865.1198000

