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CONGRESS EXERCISE AND RELATED EXHIBITIONS

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CONGRESS EXERCISE

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INTRODUCTION

Somewheria and Anywheria are neighboring countries in transition with border disputes. Both countries are not State Parties of OPCW. Somewheria has a warehouse with old chemical weapons in the mountains 70km from the border with Anywheria. In the wider area of the warehouse complex, rapid settlement began because of the development of new production technology of electronic equipment. Anywheria decided to execute a terrorist attack on the warehouse and cause panic and suffering with the population in order to stop further settlement in that area and slow down the economic development of the neighboring country.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE TERRORIST ACT

A terrorist group executed an attack on a warehouse complex containing old chemical weapons. The attack was executed using armor-piercing system RPG-7. Following the attack the special antiterrorist unit from Ministry of Interior entered the area and neutralized the terrorist units. After the attack, a line of secondary explosions occurred, as rocket projectiles, which dispersed to the distance of few kilometers from the place of attack and cause the contamination of a wider area.

Next, alert and evacuation of civilian population followed, as well as the organization for a rapid response and medical help.

Neutralization of the released toxic substances and decontamination of the attacked space (decontamination system by Irvin Aerospace, NBC Team Limited Canada) were conducted.

Neutralization of the primary source of contamination was performed by decontamination platoon with special equipment for fire extinguishing and decontamination (CASCAD System). CASCAD, an aqueous foam, was designed to contain and eliminate chemical and biological warfare agents, and for removing radioactive particle contamination. Decontamination platoon used special protective equipment and system for protection of the respiratory tract (Dräger, Germany).

Effective detection of a presence of toxic agents in the area around the warehouse before and during this action was performed using very sophisticated and effective detection equipment purchased by Tradeways Ltd. (Annapolis, Maryland, USA).

A DESCRIPTION OF THE INCIDENT

A warehouse complex containing old chemical weapons was situated in the southern part of Somewheria,

The complex, inside of which those weapons were stored, was secured by classic and sophisticated technical security (fence, cameras, sensors, automatic chemical detectors and monitors, meteorological system). Aside from that, the warehouse was located under patrolled surveillance by the NBC defense unit, which is responsible for its security.

There was a barrack around 70 km from the area where the warehouse was located, containing the atomic-biologic-chemical defense unit. In case of an accident in the

warehouse, considering the distance and readiness factor, the unit could intervene within 2 hours after receiving the alert signal. The unit had an operational headquarters through which it received information in real time from all devices and instruments founded in the technical security system of the warehouse.

Terrorist groups from Anywheria attacked the warehouse wanting to cause a chemical accident. The attack was carried out using hand held rocket launchers. The attack caused serious damage to the warehouse, which resulted in explosions of chemical projectiles and release of chemical agents (chemical warfare agents) contained in stored old chemical weapons.

Explosions caused by direct hits create secondary explosions of chemical projectiles, which spread to all three buildings in a warehouse complex. Secondary explosions caused a fire by ignition of a transport vehicle parked in the area of the warehouse.

The NBC defense unit received a "chemical alert" signal, 3 minutes after releasing of the chemical agent ("response time" of the automatic chemical detector).

Decontamination platoon (with the NBC reconnaissance and surveillance equipment), trained and equipped for accidents of this kind was directed to the area of the warehouse complex with a task of chemical decontamination of the accident area. Upon entering the area of contamination, the platoon located visible damage on the warehouse complex, the release of the chemical agent and forming of a smaller cloud of chemical contamination, as well as a smaller fire on the transport vehicle near one of the warehouses. The unit split into three groups and began with the operation.

NBC reconnaissance group approached the warehouse in a vehicle, and determined places of greatest damage to the warehouses, or the strongest "emission" of chemical agents.

After determining the locations of damage and "emissions" of chemical agents, four decontamination platoons approached the warehouse complex with mobile cisterns for decontamination. Water supply crew (with 2 mobile water cisterns) and the support crew remained on the border of the outer area of contamination.

Decontamination platoons approached the warehouse and split up for operation. They began extinguishing the fire on the transport vehicle. Next, the decontamination began on the building that has been most severely damaged, with the strongest chemical agent "emission". The other two warehouse buildings experienced short-term intensification of the release of chemical agents, during the operation of the water for decontamination.

Decontamination of the remaining two warehouse buildings began.

After the completion of decontamination of buildings, the decontamination platoons moved on to decontamination of surrounding area.

Decontamination platoons finished the operation and exited the inner area of the warehouse complex. After their departure, the NBC reconnaissance unit performed the control of the decontamination on the warehouse buildings and the inner area of the warehouse complex.

Upon the completion of decontamination control the NBC reconnaissance unit exited the inner area of the warehouse complex.

Primary and secondary explosions started fires in the surrounding area, but because of the inaccessible terrain airplanes and helicopters were not used. Instead, special fire units were used, equipped with special equipment for fire extinguishing and protection. They secure the approach of special NBC units whose members continued to work on fires and prevention of further emission of toxic substances that expands in form of a toxic cloud. After that an action of combined units for medical care and civilian protection followed. It provided rapid response and took care of hurt and poisoned members of special fire and NBC units in the area of primary release of toxic agents.



Fig.1: Terrorist attack on warehouse with old chemical weapons. A special antiterrorist unit from Ministry of Interior entered the area and neutralized the terrorist units.