

# EUFOR FORUM

September - October 2021  
European Union Force in BiH



#128

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## Editor in Chief



Captain Eoin Murphy

Hello and welcome to the latest edition of the EUFOR Forum, edition number 128. This is my second edition as editor in chief and I hope that you will enjoy the content.

Obviously the main focus of this edition is Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2021. As EUFOR's flagship exercise of the year and the focus of the PAO's third campaign of the year it is only right that we bring you coverage of the

exercise in great detail. There is a day by day account of the exercise during the LIVEX phase and we also look at the opening and closing ceremonies as well as the Distinguished Visitors Day.

Apart from that, a few of the articles in this edition include an insight into the Tactical Meteorological Observation System (TMOS) of Archer base, the Change of Command ceremony for the MNBN Commander, JMA securing funding for the AFBiH Demining Battalion and if ever you were wondering how the French Military ensure that they remain physically fit for operations then wonder no more because we reveal the details of their fitness testing.

Please remember, we very much appreciate hearing from our colleagues across EUFOR. If you, the members of EUFOR, don't give us input then this publication will not survive. Feel free to send us stories, pictures, relevant articles, whatever you think is interesting and worth publishing. We are available to give advice and guidance on how to make a story so feel free to talk to us!

Also, don't forget to follow us on Social Media and as always; stay safe and stay tuned!

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These pictures show some of the events of Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2021 'LIVEX'. The Multi National Battalion (MNB) troops dealt with complex serials across the South of BiH and were supported by local Law Enforcement Agencies and Armed Forces of BiH. The final day of the LIVEX saw troops from the MNB conduct Crowd Riot Control (CRC) serials and then collapse their HQ and Coy positions before returning to Camp Butmir for the Distinguished Visitors day and the closing ceremony of the exercise.



317,365  
People reached

18,850  
Engagements

Boost post

Operation EUFOR Althea  
@euforbih



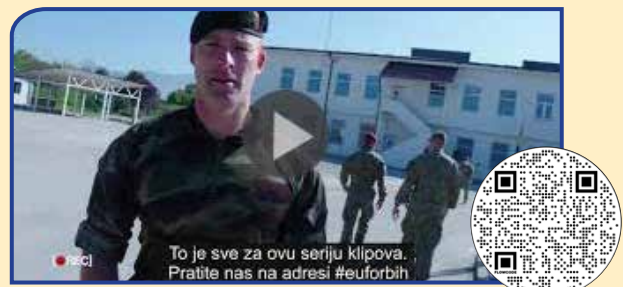
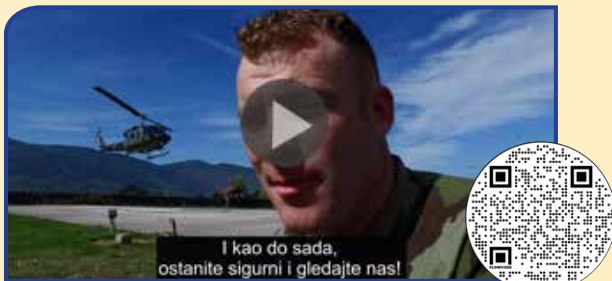
#EUFOR 🇫🇷 soldiers from accompanied by members of the French Embassy in Sarajevo, participated in the #RacefortheCure event. 20 French athletes participated in a hike to #Trebevic Mountain to show their commitment to this noble cause. #RFTC2021 #svizanju #BreastCancerAwareness



3:23 PM · Oct 6, 2021 · Twitter Web App

French soldiers from EUFOR accompanied by members of the French Embassy in Sarajevo, participated in the #RacefortheCure event. Twenty French participants completed a hike to Trebevic Mountain to show their commitment to this noble cause.

Our social media 'mini-clip' series looking at behind the scenes of Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2021 are here. The idea behind these clips was to reach the younger generations who are more exposed to social media than traditional advertising.



# Change of Command of the EUFOR Multinational Battalion



On Monday 18th of October a ceremony, presided over by COM EUFOR, Major General Alexander Platzer, marked the Change of Command of the EUFOR Multinational Battalion (MNBN). The Multinational Battalion is comprised of 3 different nations Austria, Hungary and Turkey who serve together within EUFOR.

The command of the Multinational Battalion was handed over from Lieutenant Colonel Reinhard Janko to Lieutenant Colonel Alfred Sanz, both members of the Austrian contingent in EUFOR.

In his speech Lieutenant Colonel Alfred Sanz, underlined the commitment and professionalism of the Multinational Battalion in support of the mission of EUFOR.

COM EUFOR remarked; 'having command of the MNBN, the primary operational arm of EUFOR, is a great honour'. COM EUFOR also mentioned how EUFOR has a responsibility to show the citizens of BiH that we care about their security. The position of COM MNBN is usually a 6 month position.



Lieutenant Colonel Alfred Sanz, new MNBN Commander

I was born in the east of Austria and I am married with one son. I joined the army in 1994 as a conscript and joined the mechanized infantry battalion 35.

After I graduated as an NCO in the branch of mechanized infantry I was then a student at the military academy to gain my commission as an officer. In 2005 I graduated from the military academy and between 2005-2019 my assignment has been in the mechanized infantry battalion 13.

I have two Masters, one in public management & the other in military leadership.

My intent for the mission is to fulfil all given tasks, continue the Combined Training with the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina and increase the training to Company Level for the soldiers.

My private interests are working with wood, historical events especially from the military, and cycling.

This is my third time serving with the EUFOR mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina. As the Battalion Commander of the Multinational Battalion my primary role is to command and lead the primary operational arm of EUFOR.

This is my fifth mission for the Austrian Armed Forces with my non EUFOR missions being in Kosovo.

This will be my second time to lead the MNBN, with the previous time being in 2019.



# EUFOR's Tactical Meteorological Observation System (TMOS)

EUFOR Operation Althea conducts regular air operations in support of its Mission and also operates a 24/7 MEDEVAC Helicopter capability, which serves as a secondary responder in BiH. In order to complete these operations safely, especially during taking off and landing, the flight crews depend upon accurate and timely weather data. This data is provided by the Tactical Meteorological Observation System (TMOS). The Camp Butmir weather office, which this magazine covered in the last edition, have their own independent weather observation system available to support EUFOR Air Operations in order to maintain the required level of flight safety from a meteorological point of view.



Technicians reassemble and test the TMOS

The Tactical Meteorological Observation System is a field-deployable, compact weather station for various field operations. Offering broad sensor capability, the portable system can be easily and rapidly deployed. Moreover, it is powered by a dual power source. Its lifetime is extended through regular updates for the likes of sensors, data loggers and software. They will extend the operational life of the system and expand its operational use for even the most demanding applications.

In the summer of this year, EUFOR's TMOS underwent one of these upgrades. The update was organised over a period of time in collaboration with the different existing EUFOR branches and also the Italian Air Force, which provided personnel and equipment necessary to carry out all actions. Completion of the update required a long preparation phase and a great organisational effort from administrative to those in an operational and logistical

capacity. The Italian technical team disassembled the antenna for shipping and took the system to Italy for recalibration and maintenance and that in the meantime they left one back-up antenna in Camp Butmir in order to guarantee the air operational continuity and flight safety risks. The same technical team then returned after the termination of the upgrade works to assemble it again. There was a demonstration of high levels of professionalism, interaction and cooperation between all the actors involved in this process.

The TMOS has undergone regular calibration and inspections in the past and is always certified at these regular intervals. Combined this will all ensure the accurate routine operation of the TMOS system and thus the future proofing of EUFOR capabilities. The EUFOR MET Office is not fully operational without a reliable TMOS. Since this system shows the actual weather information it is deemed as essential equipment for Air Operations.

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TMOS arriving back from Italy after recalibration and maintenance



# Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2021 Opening Ceremony



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Saturday 25th September 2021 marked the opening ceremony for Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2021. The annual exercise tests EUFOR's capability to call up and deploy its Intermediate Reserve Forces (IRF) held at high readiness by contributing nations.

Attended by representatives from the AFBiH and the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA), they witnessed a multi-national parade of fully integrated soldiers.

EUFOR Intermediate Reserve Forces (IRF) troops arrived from Austria, Bulgaria, Slovakia and Romania to join and integrate with their colleagues from Turkey and Hungary in EUFOR's permanent Multinational Battalion, before deploying to locations across Southern BiH for the duration of the exercise. Every soldier that entered the country complied with all COVID-19 regulations in accordance with International, BiH and EUFOR rules.

During the exercise, troops were tested by a varied series of differing scenarios to examine their response and ensure the intensive integration programme conducted at Camp Butmir was successful.

EUFOR Operation Althea is currently made up of forces from 19 nations with a mandate to support BiH authorities in maintaining a Safe and Secure Environment.



During an opening address, COM EUFOR, Major General Alexander Platzer said;

***"This year's exercise will again bring together BiH Law Enforcement Agencies, Armed Forces of BiH and EUFOR, in order to test our respective contingency plans and our capabilities. Together we will demonstrate that the citizens of BiH can be assured of our combined commitment to ensuring a Safe and Secure Environment."***

# LIVEX - Deployment



8

EUFOR deployed its Multi National Battalion (MNBN) to the exercise areas of Mostar, Livno, Čapljina, Trebinje and Bileća for a total of five days. All convoys arrived in their exercise areas and established the MNBN Headquarters and their sectors bases for the exercise. This day focused on the the logistical move, HQ establishment, navigation and, seperate to the exercise, the safe arrival of all convoys to the exercise AO. Over the number of days the MNBN personnel will be exercised in their capability to support the authorities of BiH in maintaining a safe and secure environment.

Below is our video from the day.



EUFOR has deployed its Multi National Battalion (MNBN) to the exercise areas of Mostar, Livno, Capljina, Trebinje and Bileca for the next five days. All convoys have arrived in their exercise areas. Over the next five days the MNBN personnel will be exercised in their capability to support the authorities of BiH in maintaining a safe and secure environment.







# LIVEX - Day 1 - Scenarios begin



These pictures show some of the events of Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2021 'LIVEX'. The Multi National Battalion (MNBN) troops dealt with complex serials across the South of BiH and were supported by local Law Enforcement Agencies and Armed Forces of BiH. Scenarios differed in each Sector of the exercise and were closely monitored by the 'EVAL' or evaluation teams to ensure that the MNBN troops performed as expected.

Below is our video from the day.



This is the first video showing the events of Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2021 'LIVEX'. The Multi

National Battalion (MNBN) troops dealt with complex serials across the South of BiH and were supported by local Law Enforcement Agencies and Armed Forces of BiH. The exercise continues and scenarios will change and become more complex in order to ensure the MNBN are fully tested in their interoperability with other agencies and in their ability to support those agencies in maintaining a safe and secure environment.



# LIVEX - Day 2 - Things heat up



10

These pictures show the events of Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2021 'LIVEX' on day 2, September 28th 2021. The Multi National Battalion (MNBN) troops again dealt with complex serials across the South of BiH and were supported by local Law Enforcement Agencies and Armed Forces of BiH. Some of the serials included denial of access/movement, evacuating Liaison Observation Team (LOT) houses and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) tasks.

Here is our video of the day



This video shows the events of Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2021 'LIVEX' on day 2, September 28th 2021. The Multi National Battalion (MNBN) troops again dealt with complex serials across the South of BiH and were supported by local Law Enforcement Agencies and Armed Forces of BiH. Some of the serials included denial of access/movement, evacuating Liaison Observation Team (LOT) houses and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) tasks.





# LIVEX - Day 3 - Challenging times continue



On day 3 of the LIVEX, EUFOR scenarios in the different exercise areas differed greatly. MNBN troops had to deal with distressed civilians who were displaced from their homes, route and area clearance and security as well as the events at Mostar airport. Close co-operation with the AFBiH and local law enforcement agencies continued with a HRO (Hostage Rescue Operation) conducted with SIPA in Mostar airport.

Check out our video of the day



In the third day (29 Sep 2021) of the LIVEX part of Exercise EUFOR QR 21, EUFOR co-operated with local Mostar airport authorities, local Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) and Special Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA) in Mostar airport. EUFOR successfully cordoned off the airport allowing SIPA to conduct a Hostage Rescue Mission (HRO). EUFOR's EOD team then disposed of the bomb and handed over the scene to local LEAs. The scenario tested the command and control of multiple agencies as well as their interoperability.

# LIVEX - Day 4 - Conclusion and return to Camp Butmir



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The final day of the LIVEX saw troops from the MNBN conduct Crowd Riot Control (CRC) serials, receive a visit from the Operation Commander, Lieutenant General Brice Houdet and then collapse their HQ and Coy positions before returning to Camp Butmir. The day culminated in the safe return of all MNBN personnel and equipment.

Why not watch the video of the day below?



The final day of the LIVEX saw troops from the MNBN conduct Crowd Riot Control (CRC) serials, receive a visit from the Operation Commander, Lieutenant General Brice Houdet and then collapse their HQ and Coy positions before returning to Camp Butmir for the Distinguished Visitors day and the closing ceremony of the exercise. All 6 Companies of the MNBN returned from the exercise area by the end of Thursday 30th September.





# Distinguished Visitors Day (DVD)



The DVD is a chance for EUFOR to demonstrate its many capabilities in a controlled and easily observed area for Distinguished Visitors. The visitors to this years DVD included senior members of the AFBiH, MoD personnel, defence attaches , ambassadors and of course members from our Operational Command in the EU. Held in Camp Butmir 2, the EUFOR troops displayed a co-ordinated event which accurately demonstrated our capabilities. This was followed by a static display where visitors could mingle with MNBN personnel and see their equipment.

Check out our video below.



EUFOR concluded its LIVEX part of exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2021 with a Distinguished Visitor Day (DVD) on Friday October 01st. The DVD consisted of a dynamic display showing the capabilities of EUFOR's Multi National Battalion (MNBN) and a static display of weapons and vehicles used by the various nations that participated in the exercise. SIPA and AFBiH were also present.



# Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2021 Closing Ceremony



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The closing ceremony marked the end of exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2021. COMEUFOR, Major General Alexander Platzer, presided over the ceremony with the Operational Commander, Lieutenant General Brice Houdet, and EUFOR Chief of Staff and Exercise Director, Brigadier General Szilard Gerofi also present. Troops from EUFOR's Multi National Battalion (MNBN) inclusive of the Intermediate Reserve Forces (IRF) were present with the participants receiving certificates from COMEUFOR. The IRF have now departed for their home nations where they will once again remain on standby to be deployed in BiH if there is a threat to the Safe and Secure Environment.



Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2021 concluded with the closing ceremony.

The ceremony featured addresses to the Multi National Battalion (MNBN), AFBiH participants and SIPA participants by Chief of Staff EUFOR, Brigadier General Szilard Gerofi who was the exercise director, COMEUFOR Major General Alexander Platzer and the Operational Commander of EUFOR Operation Althea in BiH, Lieutenant General Brice Houdet.

The exercise has successfully achieved all its aims and objectives. The final phase, which is the redeployment of EUFOR's Intermediate Reserve Forces (IRF) back to their home nations now begins.

# COM EUFOR welcomes Distinguished Visitors



SEPTEMBER

6

COM EUFOR welcomed future COM KFOR, Major General Ferenc Kajári on a visit to EUFOR. The meeting was a chance for the Commanders to get to know each other and to speak about the reciprocal reserve units available for use between KFOR and EUFOR.



SEPTEMBER

15

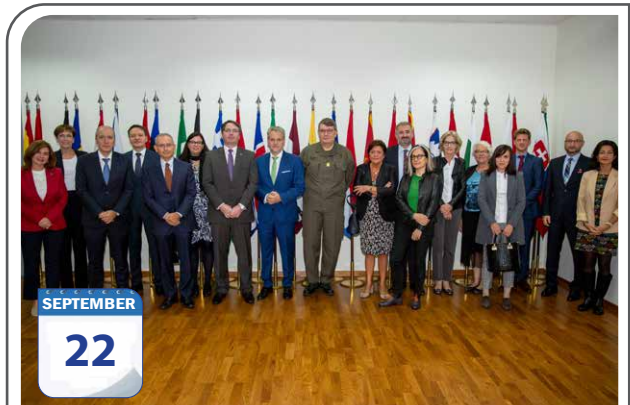
COM EUFOR met with the Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Bosnia and Herzegovina, H.E. Mr. Matthew Field, and the UK Deputy Head of Mission Mr. Neil Kavanagh. Discussion in the meeting focused on the general security situation in BiH.



SEPTEMBER

16

COM EUFOR met with Russian Ambassador to BiH H.E. Igor Kalabukhov. Discussions in the meeting focused on the overall security situation in BiH, results of the recent Strategic Review of EUFOR and Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2021.



SEPTEMBER

22

COM EUFOR hosted a European Union Heads of Mission meeting in Camp Butmir. These meetings are regularly held and serve as a mechanism to increase communication between EU countries.



OCTOBER

15

COM EUFOR, Major General Alexander Platzler, met with the newly appointed foreign minister of Austria, Mr Michael Linhart.

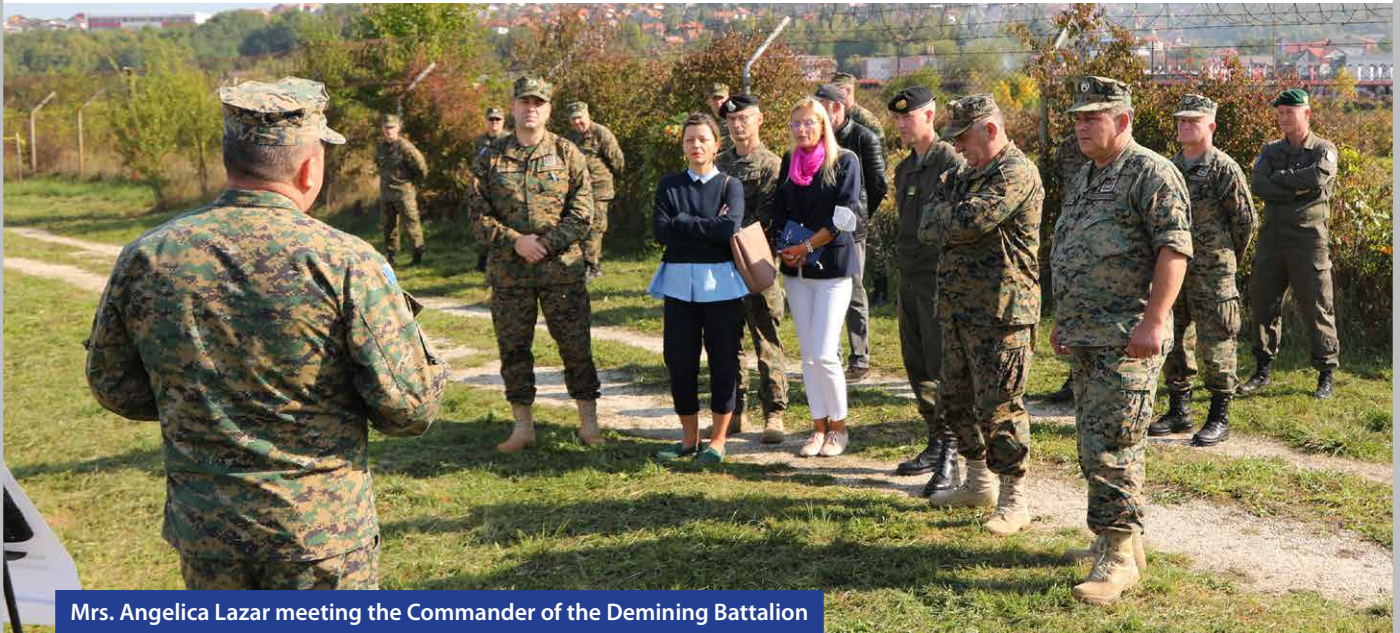


OCTOBER

29

General Claudio Graziano, the permanent Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (EUMC), visited Camp Butmir and met with COM EUFOR and COM NHQ Sa, Brigadier General Eric Folkestad.

# Securing funds for the AFBiH Demining Battalion



Mrs. Angelica Lazar meeting the Commander of the Demining Battalion

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Mine Action is one of the missions of the AFBiH. The BiH Defence Law clearly defines that the Armed Forces of BiH have to ensure uninterrupted mine clearance. The Demining Battalion of BiH – which is the only one of its kind in the world – is the executive body and fulfils this important task.

The AFBiH Demining Battalion is responsible for more than 35%

of the yearly demining in BiH, contributing to a Safe and Secure Environment for all BiH citizens. The main operations are done by 34 demining teams plus 9 explosive detection dog teams.

This battalion is therefore one of the main contributors of the National Mine Action Strategy, whose vision is – of course - to have a mine free country.

The problem is that the Demining Battalion is in a critical situation with regard to the operational capability. In the next years, due to ageing equipment, their capability will decrease to 40%. This would mean that it would not be possible to meet the goals of the National Mine Action Strategy if no new equipment would be procured. New vehicles and mine metal detectors are particularly badly needed.



One of the 9 explosive detection dog teams at work



**JMA – Joint Military Affairs**

The JMA Branch within HQ EUFOR is responsible for Countermines and Arms Control on the tactical and operational level.

The members of JMA monitor the clearing of minefields and obstacles on a daily basis so EUFOR is aware of the effect of demining activities in BiH that are conducted, for the most part, by the Demining Battalion of the AFBiH.

In addition, JMA branch observes, monitors and inspects Defence industry factories, ammunitions storage sites and weapon storage sites in order to advance the reduction of arms and weapons to an appropriate level and to issue guidance on storage and security issues.

Both tasks are directly related to the civil and military environment in BiH and have therefore a big impact on the daily life of the local population.



JMA tried to facilitate this process by bringing all relevant actors from the EU and AFBiH together. At the beginning of October a project officer from the European External Action Service (EEAS) visited the Demining Battalion in Rajlovac to conduct an on-site appreciation of the state of equipment of the unit and vehicles. The EU Policy Officer for the European Peace Facility of EEAS, Mrs. Angelica Lazar, was that project officer and she gained an appreciation of the challenges and needs of this unique unit.

For the next weeks, all details concerning the technical descriptions will be prepared by JMA together with AFBiH authorities and forwarded to Brussels so that the bidding process can begin.

It is likely that the new vehicles and mine detectors will be available for use in the battalion by the middle of 2023.

The visitors were highly impressed by the commitment and professionalism of the AFBiH Demining Battalion and were looking into the possibility to increase the capacity and efficiency of this unit. To formalise this, a request on the 07th of October from the Ministry of Defence of AFBiH was sent to the High Representative in the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to support BiH with essential demining equipment.

Happily, after this visit and due to the recognition of the challenges and needs of the Demining Battalion, on the 4th of November there was a decision made by the European Union Council on an Assistance Measure under the European Peace Facility to support the Demining Battalion of BiH with new equipment. The Council agreed to the purchase of 68 new vehicles and 150 metal detectors for a total of 10 million Euro.



# French Monitoring of the soldier's physical condition

Contrôle de la Condition Physique du Militaire – CCPM



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**Purpose - To ensure that all personnel in the armed forces are fit for operational deployment in all its forms.**

In previous editions of the EUFOR FORUM we presented you with our fitness test series covering the military fitness tests of Austria, Poland, Switzerland, Ireland, Hungary, Turkey and Slovakia. In this edition we want to introduce you to the French one. PAO would like to take this opportunity to thank Lt Col Olivier Mercier for his active support in compiling this article.

**All military personnel must perform these tests every year.**

Two sets of tests:

**1. Mandatory tests, common to all branches of the military (Contrôle de la Condition Physique General CCPG)**

**Cardiorespiratory fitness:**

- 2400m running (ARMY)  
Maximum Score 20 points: 8'45 to obtain 20/20 for 22-25 years-old men.

- 20m shuttle test 'Luc Léger' (AIR-FORCE and NAVY)  
Maximum Score 20 points: stage 12 (18.5km/h) to obtain 20/20 for 22-25 years-old men.

**Aquatic fitness: 15 meters of apnea swimming (swimming underwater) followed by 85 meters of swimming;**  
Maximum Score 20 points: 1'30 to obtain 20/20 for 22-25 years-old men.





**General muscular capacity: push-ups (crossfit type : hands must leave the ground when the chest touches the ground)**

Maximum Score 20 points: 80 repetitions to obtain 20/20 for 22-25 years-old men.

For all these tests, there are 9 age categories:

18-21 / 22-25 / 26-29 / 30-33 / 34-37 / 38-41 / 42-45 / 49-49 / 50&+

**2. Specific tests for the Army (Contrôle de la Condition Physique Specific CCPS)**

**Walk-run test: run a distance of 6 to 8 km, depending on age and sex, in combat gear without weapons nor bags;**

Maximum Score 20 points: 8km in less than 35' to obtain 20/20 for senior men.

For these tests, there are 3 age categories: Senior: 19-39 / Master 1: 40-49 / Master 2: 50&+

**Optional for Master 2**

**Combat shooting test: combat shooting course with targets at 100m, 75m, 50m (double) and 25m (single shot) in limited time, without breaking any safety rules and with knowledge of the range practice.**

Maximum Score 20 points: All targets must be hit without safety errors to obtain 20/20.

No age category.

CCPG RANKING						
5	4	3 (threshold level)	2	1	Exempt	Non performed
60 to 51	50 to 41	40 to 31	30 to 21	30 to 0		

CCPS RANKING						
5	4	3	2	1	Exempt	Non performed
40 to 33	32 to 25	24 to 17	16 to 9	8 to 0		

All members must reach the threshold of 31 points out of a maximum 60 points in the CCPG. If they are classified as level 1 or 2, they must repeat some or all of the tests in order to reach this threshold. Failure to do so will result in the notation "not performed" on the annual mark sheet.

These results may be important for taking part in competitive examinations or military training courses.



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