

# Simulation:

## CPF Major Tool for Forces Training and Evaluation

**“During training nobody fires without going to assess the result!”**. This may appear obvious for firing but for many years in the domain of combat operational preparation education and training have been conducted without a reliable system permitting to assess the level of operational readiness of the forces.

In order to engage in operation only the forces capable of fulfilling their mission, the creation of a genuine piloting, the forces certification requests by NATO and today the arrival of the “LOLF”<sup>1</sup> have imposed along the years **the measurement of the performance of the operational preparedness**. Four domains must be controlled to check the degree of preparation of a force: **the command means, the maneuvering capability, the firing practice and the hardening level**.

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In the **domain of firing** the Army has had for a long time the capability to assess the skills of its units. The 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment de chasseurs d’Afrique garrisoned in Canjuers fulfils this mission by controlling the fires of the armored units and of the combat units equipped with antitank missiles. The “CNEA”<sup>2</sup> and “CNEASA”<sup>3</sup> control the units and artillery batteries mainly during their stays in the camps at Canjuers and Suippes. Finally the “CEITO”<sup>4</sup>, created in 1985 in the Larzac camp, controls the fire capability of the infantry units.

To increase the **hardening degree** of its units, the Army developed in the 60s the concept of commando training centers; in these centers delivering the commando qualification was determined by the individual success to all the components of a course permitting to guarantee a sufficient hardening level. Today three centers fulfil this mission: The Commando Training Center at Givet (“CEC”) and the Alps hardening complex with its centers at Briançon (“CNAM”<sup>5</sup>) and at

Barcelonette (“CIECM”<sup>6</sup>). There **a unit collective training is practiced** during which everybody must perform his functions in a particularly demanding and difficult environment. If the granting of the diploma (“brevet”) is still individual these courses are particularly well adapted observatories to enable the command to assess the hardening degree, the level of the moral forces and the cohesion of a unit.

Two domains were still lacking assessment means: **command and maneuver**. Therefore in the 90s the Army conceived and realized three new centers. The mission of the Command Post Battle Command training center (“CEPC”), garrisoned in Mailly, is to train and assess the level 2 (division) and 3 (brigade) command posts; in addition to the JANUS centers in the branch schools it is presently receiving the same capability for the level 4 (“GTIA”<sup>7</sup> or Bn TF). The mission of the “CENTAC” (Force on force training Center), located in Mailly, is to train and assess the combined arms company team (“SGTIA”<sup>8</sup>); the “CENTAC” fulfils this mission in open terrain. To train the “SGTIA” for combat in urban areas the Army is presently developing the Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) Training center (“CENZUB”); the first courses will begin at the fall 2006.

These three training centers (“CEPC”, “CENTAC”, “CENZUB”) receive their orders from the “CPF”. The pedagogy in use consists in placing the forces and /or their command means in situations as close as possible to the operations reality by using simulation means. These simulation means are multiple. First the action framework must be simulated. Therefore the **maneuver camps** must as much as possible look like a civilian countryside. It is also the role of the Beausejour village or of the Jeoffrecourt city that will permit in Sissonne to train in an **urban zone environment**. For the staffs, the CPs (command posts) of the French units in operation have been represented on platforms in Mailly with the current operations data bases in order to train the staffs before their departure for an operation.

The **human environment** must also be simulated. Opposing forces (OPFOR) have been created, reservoirs of personnel and equipment able to simulate enemy or friendly conventional forces but also paramilitaries, partisans, terrorists or civilian populations (crowds). The principle of double action is systematically used; it places the leader face to face with an intelligence opposed to him and not face to face with courses of actions as is done by a simple mock enemy.

Make-up sets permit to simulate wounded people to train the medical chain. Dummy ammunition loads permit to simulate the supplies. The medias presence is also simulated by true and fake journalists and television crews who during the exercises play the same disturbing role for the forces as on the theater of operations.

The combat fires simulators (“STC”) as indicated by their name simulate fires in a very realistic way; to fire the gunners must perform the same gestures as in reality.

Other simulation means such as the SCIPIO<sup>9</sup> software at the “CEPC” or the CENTAURE system<sup>10</sup> at the “CENTAC” permit on the one hand to arbitrate the exercises during their performance by reproducing the effects of the maneuvers and fires that are commanded and on the other hand for teaching reasons permit to follow the decisions and actions of the players.

The simulation is completed with real acts: in the “CENTAC”, the armored vehicles firing positions are effectively dug out. In all the centers the duration of the exercises put the players in a situation of real tiredness. So the mixture of real and simulation in the centers of the “FPC” creates for the forces **a very realistic context permitting on the one side a quality training and on the other side a good assessment of the forces and of their command means**.

“Control”, “assessment”, “certification” are words accurately expressing realities defined in the concept of operational preparation of the Army.

**Control** is defined as the technical act consisting in assessing thanks to calibrated control grids the strong and weak points in terms of military know-how. This role is played in the “CPF” centers by the pedagogical analysis teams.

The **assessment** is conducted by the hierarchic chain (battalion commanders, brigade commanders) which completes this assessment by taking into account the experience of the troop and their leaders, the morale forces of the unit, their tiredness level, etc. This assessment permits to keep man in the loop and to adjust the strict measure of the control.

It is only later, after control and assessment, that the command can **certify** the forces, an administrative act through which it commits

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itself by guaranteeing the quality of a force expected for a state of readiness or an operation.

This **forces assessment system** is only relevant if the unit has been really placed in an almost real situation (simulation quality), only if the control has been correctly performed with calibrated measuring tools (control persistence and quality) and only if the leader has a good knowledge of the unit he must assess.

**Notice:** all French acronyms are set into quotation marks (for instance: “CPF”).

1 *LOLF*: organic law about the finance; laws created to permit a better control of the public funds by the Parliament; it has for principle to define objectives to be reached and for each of them the provision of funds and the issue of indicators permitting to measure the obtained results.

2 *CNEA*: National board for artillery assessment.

3 *CNEASA*: National board for Air defense assessment.

4 *CEITO*: Infantry operational shooting training center.

5 *CNAM*: National center for mountain hardening.

6 *CIECM*: Mountain combat education and training center.

7 The combined arms battalion task force (GTIA) is a battalion level combined arms unit composed with infantry and armor with combat engineers and the necessary indirect support means (heavy mortar platoon and artillery observers).

8 Combat unit around 200 men strong mainly composed with infantry and armor reinforced by one combat engineer platoon and artillery observation elements

9 *SCIPPIO*: Combined arms combat simulation for the interactive preparation of the operations.

10 *CENTAURE*: Combat and engagement reproduction Training center.

This triptych “control - assessment - certification” is the basis of the **concept of operational preparation at the “CPF”**. Subordinated to the “CFAT” (Land Forces command), the “CPF” regroups the centers providing the forces with operational preparation services. Its mission as support to the operational preparation of the forces in the domains of command, maneuver, fire and hardening is clear. It must place at their disposal “turnkey” means for their collective education, training and operational preparation as well as control services permitting the leaders to assess and to certify the forces. **Today simulation is giving the “CPF” the means to fulfil this complex mission.**