

Annex B – 2ND INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND INDUSTRIAL HEALTH HAZARDS AND PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS IN INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

5 – 6 April 2006, Rijswijk, Netherlands

B.1 MEETING AGENDA

April 5

- 09:00 – 09:15 Brigade-General Van der Meer (RNLA): Welcome
- 09:15 – 10:00 Dr. Paul Knechtges (USACEHR): keynote lecture: ‘New biotechnologies for environmental health monitoring’
- 10:00 – 10:15 Coffee
- 10:15 – 10:35 Dr. Daan Noort (TNO Defence, Security and Safety): ‘Persistent biomarkers of exposure’
- 10:35 – 11:00 Maj. Klaus Braun (Danish Army): ‘Accidental poisoning with organophosphates of workers working in a garbage dump’
- 11:00 – 11:30 Mrs. Birgitta Liljedahl (FOI): ‘Deployment experiences, vision on hazard management’
- 11:30 – 12:00 Maj. Roger Tremblay (Canadian Forces): ‘Canadian Forces Deployable Health Hazard Assessment Team concept’
- 12:00 – 13:30 Lunch and demonstrations
- 13:30 – 14:10 Mr. Ted Whiteside (WMDC): ‘A Perspective on the Development of the EIH Concept’

April 6

- 09:00 – 09:15 Dr. Maarten Huikeshoven (MOD-NL): Welcome
- 09:15 – 10:00 Col. Kees IJzerman (RNLA): keynote lecture: ‘The risk assessment of occupational and environmental hazards’
- 10:00 – 10:15 Coffee
- 10:15 – 10:55 Dr. Gabriele Borla (UNDPKO): ‘UN DPKO Environmental programme’
- 10:55 – 11:25 Col. F. Van Meeteren (RNLA): ‘Introduction of RAO in the Netherlands’ Armed Forces’
- 11:25 – 12:00 Mrs. Christina Edlund (FOI): ‘Integration and aggregation of unstructured EIH information using web and GIS-solutions / Medical Intelligence knowledge database’
- 12:00 – 13:30 Lunch and Demonstrations
- 13:30 – 13:55 Sqn Ldr. Mark Dray (MOD-UK): ‘EAPC Policy in management of environmental and industrial hazards on operations’
- 13:55 – 14:20 Major Kenneth Roberts (MOD-UK): ‘Health-risk management – A developing methodology for military operational support’

B.2 CONCLUSIONS

[These conclusions are taken directly from the published summary at www.eihh.foi.se].

A total of 75 participants attended the Workshop from the UN, NATO HQ, a range of NATO Allies and Sweden.

From the presentations and discussions it is apparent that the issue of environmental and industrial health hazards (EIHH) is high on the agenda of all participating nations, especially since most armed forces are active in out-of-area missions. Furthermore, it appears that many nations are struggling with the management of this issue and that there is a need for a standardised approach, especially given the current frequency multi-national deployments, to avoid ‘reinventing the wheel’.

A key issue is the ready and timely exchange of information and data on EIHH. This implies that (wherever practicable) such material should not be classified unless absolutely necessary, and should not be confused with Intelligence products. A means of exchanging such unclassified material was established at the 1st EIHH Workshop, when FOI (Sweden) made their website (<http://www.eihh.foi.se/>) available for this purpose. Since then, only a very few postings have been made, and participants should be encouraged to use this facility more, within the bounds of their national policies on the release of information. Perhaps data and information exchange and availability should be formalised under EAPC arrangements.

The relationships between the Medical and CBRN/NBC Communities for the management of risk across the spectrum of hazard (ranging from naturally occurring hazards, through those arising from the man-made environment to those posed by ‘classic’ CBRN/NBC weapons) needs to be further examined and explored. This should include the recognition that certain competencies and skills may be transferable across the spectrum and between the two communities, for example, the NATO HFM Panel has recognised this, by merging Technical Groups on operational toxicology and medical aspects of CW-agents into one new group in 2007. What is apparent is that an appropriate organisation needs to be identified to champion EIHH management issues, and which bridges both communities. Informally, it has been suggested that this could be carried out by NATO Med NBC Working Group, but the feasibility of this would need to be explored further.

A key outcome, as discussed earlier, is the necessity to maintain contact and exchange knowledge and experience in this area. GBR has therefore tentatively agreed to host a 3rd International EIHH Workshop in late Summer / early Autumn 2007.