



**BERLIN PLUS INFORMATION NOTE-  
SHAPE SUPPORT TO THE EU OPERATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**



1. **Introduction.** In Dec 04, EUFOR successfully replaced SFOR, the NATO mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). This European Union (EU) operation is supported with the use of NATO common assets and capabilities under the Berlin Plus Agreement. In accordance with the terms of this agreement, DSACEUR was appointed the EUFOR Operation Commander and the EU Operation Headquarter (EU OHQ) was established here at SHAPE. In the years since then, the situation in BiH has evolved, the composition of EUFOR itself has changed and, inevitably I suspect, a clear understanding of the principles involved has become a little blurred. The purpose of this short Information Note is to remind all personnel at SHAPE of the basic facts so that all concerned can understand and, as required, fulfil their responsibilities with regard to this Operation.
  
2. **What is the Berlin Plus Agreement?** The 'Agreed Framework', which includes Berlin Plus and associated aspects, was designed to ensure a sound basis for the development of the strategic partnership between NATO and the EU. The 'Associated Aspects' cover matters such as participation, security of information and capability development. Berlin Plus presumes the availability to the EU, if NATO itself does not need them, of NATO capabilities and common assets for use in EU-led operations. More specifically, that includes NATO's military strategic planning capabilities and staffs from other elements of the NATO Command Structure.
  
3. **What Role Does DSACEUR Have?** I have a role as Strategic Co-ordinator both in routine periods and during times of crisis. For military strategic issues, I am the principal point of contact with the EU on behalf of NATO. As DSACEUR, I can be designated (as I have been for Operation ALTHEA) as the Operation Commander for an EU-led operation using NATO capabilities and common assets. If selected, I remain located at the EU OHQ based here at SHAPE.
  
4. **Under Whose Authority is Operation ALTHEA Conducted?** UNSCR 1948 authorises the EUFOR mission in BiH. The Operation is conducted under the political control and strategic direction of the EU's Political and Security Committee (PSC), under the authority of the EU Council. The EU Military Committee (EUMC) monitors the proper execution of military operations conducted under the responsibility of the Operation Commander. These are the bodies to whom the Operation Commander reports.
  
5. **What are the SHAPE Staff Responsibilities?** The personnel of the SHAPE Peacetime Establishment form the foundation of the EU OHQ. The OHQ is closely interconnected with the SHAPE Strategic Operations Centre (SOC) which facilitates its ability to draw upon the entire spectrum of capabilities at SHAPE. This capability is enhanced by EU augmentees (the EU Staff Group (EUSG)) who provide essential EU expertise and a visible EU identity at SHAPE. In summary, the EU OHQ is at SHAPE and **all** SHAPE personnel, as and when tasked, support that OHQ and the Operation Commander.
  
6. **More Information.** Should you require more information, then SHAPE Directive (SD) 80-17, EU Operation Headquarters (EU OHQ) at SHAPE, can be found on the WISE page. The SME on this issue is Mr Andrew McDowall, CPP SPO, on ext 6545.

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