



Vigorous Warrior Multinational Joint Medical Exercise 2019



Media Statement

Background:

The Vigorous Warrior Exercise Series is the only dedicated multinational medical exercise in NATO, organized bi-annually by the NATO Centre of Excellence for Military Medicine (NATO MILMED COE, Budapest, Hungary) and a voluntary host nation. Its objectives always aim to tackle the most relevant questions of the military-medical realm in a multinational setting and under NATO's auspices. The series date back to 2011 in Hungary with 5 participating Nations, expanded to 11 Nations by 2013 in Germany, 14 by 2015 in the Czech Republic, 26 by 2017 in Germany again and in 2019 in Romania with 38 Nations (and 2 more pending) and a considerable civilian component. The exercise also grew in scope, with focusing on various issues ranging from the Framework Nation Concept to Force Health Protection, maneuvering with medical units, Medical Evaluation (MEDEVAL), Concept Development and Experimentation (CD&E) and multiple other facets of military-medical sciences and concepts.

Vigorous Warrior 2019:

What: Vigorous Warrior '19 is the largest dedicated medical exercise in the history of the Alliance, co-organized by the NATO Centre of Excellence for Military Medicine, the Romanian Armed Forces General Staff and the Romanian Ministry of National Defence Medical Directorate. It is a NATO Joint Multi-level and Multinational Medical Exercise, as it encompasses the simulation of actions with 38 (and 2 pending) participating NATO and Partner Nations, includes various air, land and naval components and furthermore, multiple echelons of the deployed units' command structure. Furthermore, a considerable civilian component will also participate in the exercise, with 10 different organizations. VW'19 is listed in the NATO Training and Exercise Program and the Combined Joint Enhanced Training Initiative as well.

Who: As of 5 March, 2019, **38 NATO and Partner Nations are confirmed** as participants: Albania, Australia, Azerbaijan, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Latvia, Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States. The **civilian component** includes participants from the Romanian Department for Emergency Situations, the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre, the HUNOR (Hungarian National Organization for Rescue Services) and the Malteser International and many more.

Why: This exercise is the only possibility to train for a **truly multinational medical support** for the operations NATO may be conducting. (See exercise objectives in the Annex)

When: The exercise will be conducted **1-15 April, 2019**. After the first week of build-up and preparation, the Live Exercise part begins on the 7th of April and ends on the morning of 12 April, with a Distinguished Visitors Day scheduled also for the 12th of April. The exercise ends with the Medical Evaluation and First Impression Report submission on the 15th with the units redeploying from the 13th of April.

Where: The bulk of the land component (civilian and military) will be situated in the Joint National Training Center in **Cincu**, air components at the Romanian Air Force 71st Air Base in **Campia Turzii**, multiple civilian and uniformed units in various locations in **Bucharest**, naval component in the Naval Base **Constanza** and on the Black Sea. Strategic evacuation locations include Germany (to the Landshtul US Role-4 Military Hospital), the United Kingdom and Hungary, also, multiple Romanian hospitals will take part in the in-country medical evacuation drills.

PA Posture: Very active

THEMES AND MESSAGES:

T1: VIGOROUS WARRIOR 19 IS DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT NATO ALLIES ARE TRAINED AND READY.

M1: Exercises like Vigorous Warrior 19 shows that NATO stands strong. Together we are more effective in upholding our common values and preserve peace.

M2: NATO's commitment to collective defence is ironclad.

T2: NATO MEDICINE WORKS FOR THE BENEFIT OF TROOPS AND CIVILAINS

M1: Cooperation between civilian and military counterparts helps ensure the best possible stewardship of resources by sharing and pooling knowledge, experience, equipment, and facilities.

M2: Cooperation between civilian and military counterparts expands mutual awareness of capabilities, which enables medical providers to better protect life.

T3: READY AND POSTURED FORCES

M1: Participation in multinational exercises enhances our professional relationships and improves overall coordination with allies and partner militaries during times of crisis.

M2: Exercises like Vigorous Warrior 19 test and validate interoperability of current and future capabilities to contend with a rapidly evolving security environment.

T4: STRONG AND STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS

M1: NATO is vital to European and Transatlantic security.

M2: NATO's exercises are defensive, long planned and transparent.

Q&A:

What is Vigorous Warrior?

The biggest NATO Joint Multi-level and Multinational Medical Exercise ever with considerable Partner Nation and civilian components participating.

Why is it important to train medical personnel on this scale?

Such an event is the only possibility to exercise multinational medical response and to learn from each other in this setting.

Why is it conducted in Romania?

Romania is one of the Sponsoring Nations of the NATO MILMED COE and all Vigorous Warrior exercises have been conducted in one of the Sponsoring Nations, as it facilitates a seamless co-organization and between NATO MILMED COE and the Nation.

How is the exercise funded?

It is self-funded by all participants, no NATO fund is used.

What tangible benefit the Nations, MILMED COE, other units receive from participating?

They can exercise the whole process of medical support to an operation from planning to the actual conduction in a realistic setting in which the conditions are provided by the MILMED COE. They will be advised throughout the whole process, including MEDEVAC, O&T, Tabletop Exercises, Scientific Workshops, use of Virtual Reality and so on by Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) from the COE and external SMEs. They can participate in CD&E and ultimately, they will be able to exercise and test their interoperability with other nations.

It is the best possibility for all Participants to train for a real deployment in a very well designed scenario with multiple challenges for everybody throughout the whole Exercise.

Where can the Exercise be followed in the media?

The Exercise can be followed on social media (Twitter, Instagram and Facebook) with multiple posts by the NATO MILMED COE (@MILMEDCOE) under the #roadtovw19 and #vw19 tags.

See Annex for Public Relations contact information and the Exercise Objectives!

ANNEX to the Vigorous Warrior Multinational Joint Medical Exercise 2019 Media Statement

Exercise Objectives:

1. Train and evaluate the interoperability/modular approach of a joint multinational medical support system including Medical C4I (Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence).
2. **Increasing upon the scale of Vigorous Warrior '17**, continue to train the **interaction between military, civilian**, national (uniformed services included), and multinational entities and Non-governmental organizations. Test the guidance to national authorities for planning for incidents involving catastrophic mass casualties.
3. Train the Medical C4I system at all involved levels.
4. Train the dynamic maneuverability of the medical support system.
5. Train the continuum of care, including Strategic Evacuation.
6. Train the preparedness and responsiveness to a possible chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and enhanced (improvised) explosives (CBRN-E) incident.
7. Concept Development and Experimentation (CD&E) and Transformational Activities: Conduct follow up experimentation on TRJE 18 medical Transformational Activities
8. Train national and multinational **Medical Logistic** procedures.
9. Train **Combat Search and Rescue (C)SAR**.
10. Incorporate **technologically advanced training support** options.

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