

# Operation UNIFIER

Canadian Armed Forces Training Mission to Ukraine

**Major Cindy Legarie**

Deputy Commander



# Topics

- What is Op UNIFIER?
- How do we fit into the GoC overall plan?
- Overall multinational framework
- What we faced, what we achieved
  - Challenges
  - Successes
- What I think is most important
- Final thoughts

# Why



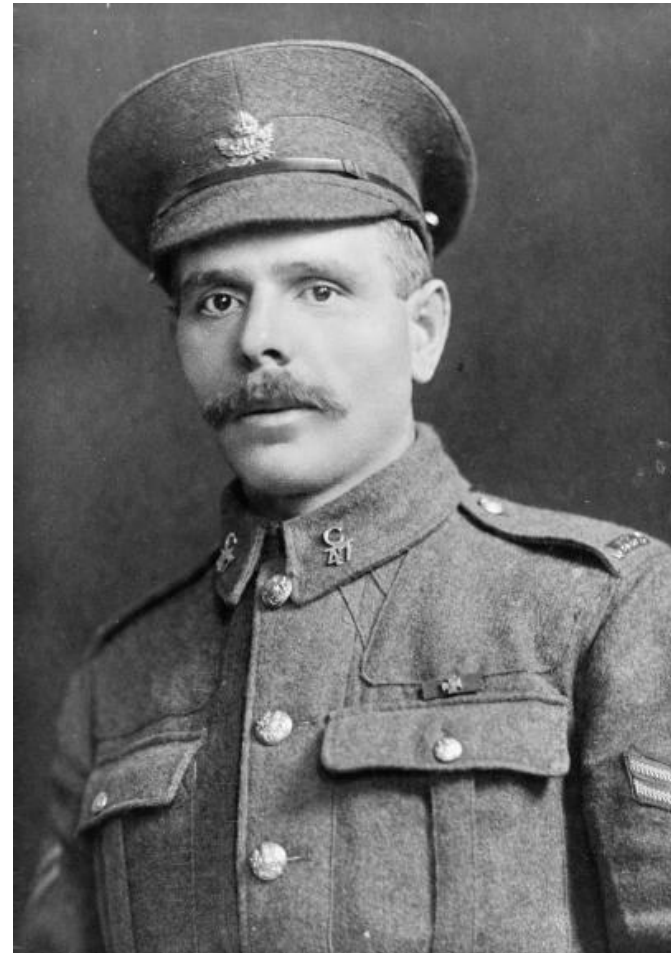
# Why

- Longstanding partnership
  - Canada first western country to recognize Ukraine's independence
- 2M Ukrainian-Canadians
  - 5.8% of the Canadian population



# CAF Legacy in Ukraine

- Persistent engagement since Ukr independence
  - In training
    - Military Cooperation Training Program
  - On operations
    - Kosovo
- Op UNIFIER represents the largest CAF commitment to date
  - ~200 Troops, \$16M, millions in equipment donation
  - Long-term commitment



Sgt Filip Konowal, VC

# Ukraine Crisis

- 21 Nov 13
  - President Viktor Yanukovich suspended preparations for the implementation of an association agreement with the EU.
  - Decision resulted in mass protests
- 22 Feb 14
  - Yanukovich was ousted by protesters.
  - Unrest enveloped the largely Russian eastern and southern regions of Ukraine
- 26 Feb 14
  - Pro-Russian armed men began to take over Crimea
- 18 Mar 14
  - Annexation of Crimea by Russia
  - Unrest in Donetsk and Luhansk that continues

# Canada's Response

- Economic Development
  - Sanctions on Russia and pro-Russian Ukrainians.
  - \$220 million in support to help Ukraine stabilize its economy.
- Governance
  - 500 Observers sent to monitor Ukraine's Presidential elections and Parliamentary elections.
- Security
  - \$15 million in non-lethal material and equipment to Ukraine security services.
  - \$3 million to NATO Centres of excellence
    - Cyber security
    - Energy security
    - Strategic communications
  - Military and Defense Cooperation

# Military and Defense Cooperation

- 8 Dec 14
  - MND news release the Canada signed a Declaration of Intent with Ukraine for joint military training and capacity building in response to Russia's aggression in that country
- 10 Apr 15
  - MND announces Canadian training mission in Ukraine





# Military Assistance to Ukraine

- Strategic Objective: Canada demonstrably contributes to Ukrainian Armed Forces reform efforts through capacity building, training and materiel donation, and ultimately assisting the development of a Western-style patterned military
- Military assistance is one component of broad Canadian support in fields of development, security, democracy and humanitarian aid

# Operation UNIFIER

- Operation UNIFIER is Canada's military training mission to Ukraine.
- As part of Canada's response to requests from the Government of Ukraine, the Canadian Armed Forces will provide military training and capacity building to Ukraine forces' in order to support Ukraine in its efforts to maintain its sovereignty, security, and stability.
- Canadian soldiers respect the courage and resolve during recent Ukrainian Armed Forces operations in the conflict zone and we will learn many new lessons while training together in the coming months and years.

Canadian Armed Forces  
Support to Ukraine

Combined Arms Training

C-IED/ EOD Training

Military Police

**Flight Safety**

Medical Training

**Logistics Modernization**

Military Training and  
Co-operation program

International Joint Commission

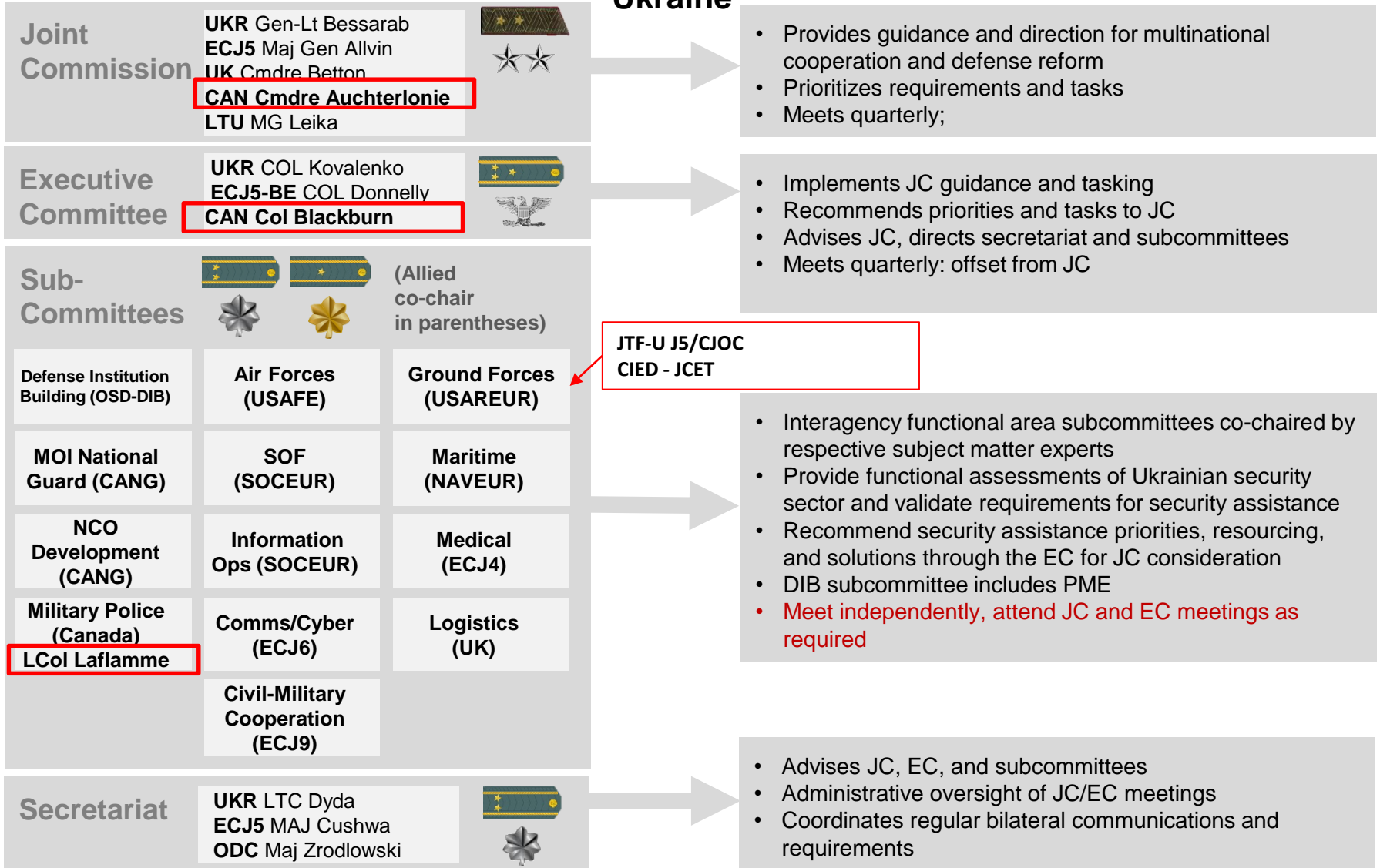




# Multinational Joint Commission (JC) On Defense Reform and Security Cooperation



## Ukraine



# Problem Framing

*How does the CAF, in partnership with the HN and Allies, help modernize and professionalise a Soviet-based armed forces?*

## Current Situation

- Soviet style trg system & doctrine
- Limited capacity to train instructor cadre at Nat'l Institutions.
- Embroiled in a conflict while re-structuring their trg system.
- Desire for NATO standards
- Resource constraints
- Top-heavy decision chain

JTF-U Activities

## Desired End State

Ukrainian Military Capability and Professionalism enhanced with UAF leading, developing, delivering and monitoring all military trg across identified LoEs in UA with minimal CAF augmentation.

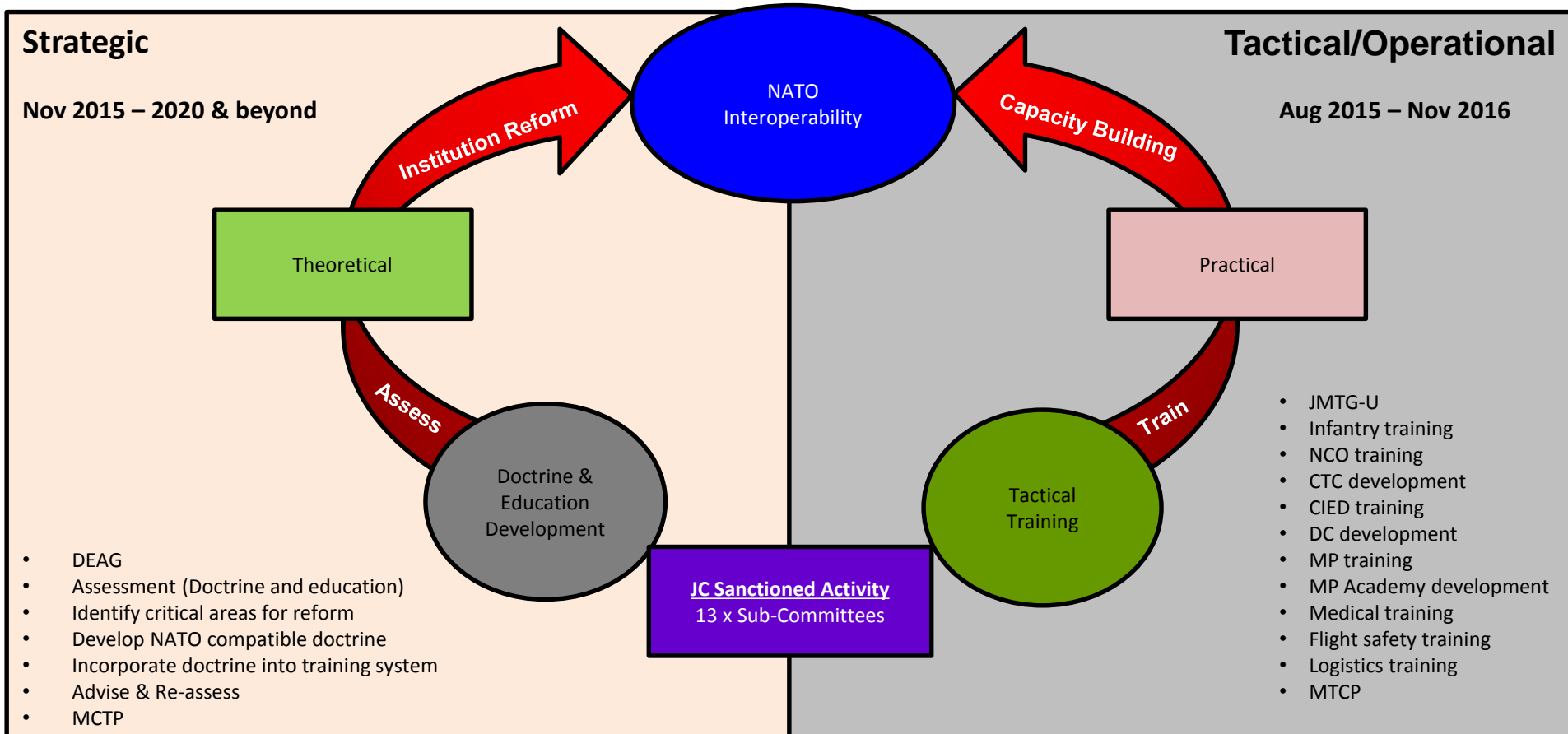
# Achieving NATO Interoperability

- Ukraine's desired endstate
- Will take significant work and patience
- Both tactical and institutional reform are needed
  - Capacity Building
    - Instructors
    - Training Establishment
    - Logistics
  - Institutional Reform
    - Doctrine
    - Organisation
    - Education



# Ukrainian Security Assistance Initiative

## Theoretical & Practical Link to Western Interoperability



# Mission Highlights- First Rotation

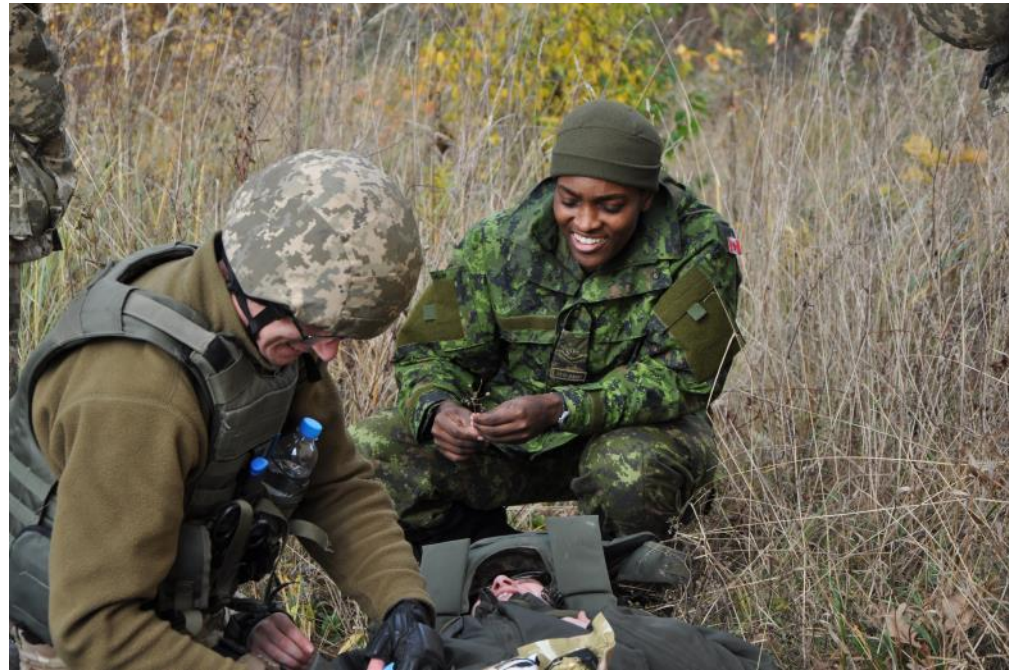
- 181 CAF soldiers deployed on a permanent basis to Ukraine since end Aug in 4 locations
- Successfully delivered 9 courses
- 581 UAF personnel trained
- Delivered 880 First Aid Kits
- \$3.3M CAD in contracts with local businesses
- Delivered \$3M of Counter IED Equipment
- ~90,000 UAH in soldier donations local charities





# Our Training Philosophy

- Demonstrate the professionalism of the Canadian Soldier (NCO).
  - Lowest ranks instructing where possible
  - *“show them what right can look like”*
- Train to the needs of the Ukr Army but modernize their practices.
- Pass on our knowledge as professional warriors.
- Learn from our hosts
- Respect the skills, expertise and knowledge of our Ukr partners.



# LoE 1- Small team Training

**Objective** – Train Infantry battalions and develop IPSC capacity.

- Individual Training
  - Basic Soldier Skills (weapons, field-craft, etc)
  - Battlefield Engineer skills (breaching, mine awareness)
  - Law of Armed Conflict Awareness
- Collective Training
  - Patrolling, offensive/defensive operations
  - Mechanized training
  - Live fire exercises
  - Leadership development



## Training Statistics

- 2 x Mechanized Companies (210 pers)
- 1 x Reconnaissance Platoon (28 pers)
- 1 x Engineer Platoon (16 pers)
- 1 x Medics (18 pers)
- “Designated Marksmen” (18 pers)
- Instructor Standardization Training
  - 37 students
- Junior Leadership Academy Training
  - Future training cadre @ IPSC
  - 34 students
  - 13 observers



## LoE 2: Counter-IED

**Objective:** Enhance C-IED skills and instructor capacity at Demining Centre.

- “Sapper” training
  - Explosives Safety
  - Explosive Ordnance Reconnaissance
- IEDD Basic Course (4 Weeks)
  - Safely dispose of IEDs
  - Training on C-IED equipment
  - Scenario-based training
- IEDD Advanced Course (4 weeks)
- Explosive Device Exploitation



### Training Statistics

- Sapper Training
  - 3 courses 50 students
- Instructor Cadre Training
  - 12 students
- IEDD Basic Course
  - 2 courses: 29 students, including 5 Demining Centre instructors
- Equipment donated



# CIED Equipment Donations

- GAC donated \$3M worth of CIED equipment



## LoE 3: Military Police Training

**Objective:** Train Ukr Military Law and Order Service in basic MP skills.

- Co-chair of the CAN/Ukr sub-committee
- Use of Force Course
  - Use of non-lethal force to detain
- Basic Investigation Techniques Course
  - Interviewing
  - Evidence collection
- Evolution of a Basic MP Course



### Training Statistics

- Use of Force
  - 2 serials
  - 40 students trained
- Basic Investigation Techniques
  - 2 serials
  - 40 Students trained

## LoE 5- Medical Training

**Objective:** Enhance combat-related medical training to save lives on the battlefield.

- Combat First Aid
  - Same training given to Canadian soldiers
  - “Front-line” focus
  - Enhanced training given to top students
  - Donation of Individual First Aid Kit upon graduation
- Enhanced Combat First Aid
  - PTSD awareness
  - Infection Control
  - Mentorship



## Training Statistics

- 230 soldiers trained in combat first aid who will directly serve in the ATO
- Instructor Cadre Training
  - 37 IPSC instructors
  - 3 dedicated First Aid instructors
- Individual First Aid Kits
  - 168 delivered to date
  - 650 more mid-Feb

# LoE 5 Background

- “Soldiers are dying from preventable battlefield related death.”
- No MEDEVAC coord
- 24.3% of all US combat deaths are survivable.
  - 91% massive hemorrhage
  - 8% airway obstruction
- Tourniquets reduced annual Ranger mortality from 23.3 to 3.5 d/y



Only 15% of Ukr Military trained / equipped with Combat First Aid

# LoE 5 – Medical Training

- Combat First Aid
  - Hemorrhage, Airway, Evacuation
  - Adapted mnemonic for UAF use KOLECO
  - Individual First Aid Kits
- Rehabilitation
- Canada's contributions:
  - Field Hospital
  - Ambulances

**КOLECO**

**Огляд** тіла на інші пошкодження

**КРОВОТЕЧІ** небезпечні

**Огляд** дихальних шляхів

**Серйозні травми** голови/обігрів

**ЕФЕКТИВНІСТЬ** кровообігу

**ЛЕГЕНІ** (грудна клітка)

Межі пульсу 60-120

Межі дихання 8-30

**МІСТ** рапорт

**М**еханізм поранення: \_\_\_\_\_ час: \_\_\_\_\_

**І**нформація про поранення: \_\_\_\_\_

**С**татус пораненого:

Дихальні шляхи: ВІДКРИТІ ЗАКРИТІ

Дихання: \_\_\_\_\_ за хвилину Пульс: \_\_\_\_\_ за хвилину

У свідомості	Реагує на голос	Реагує на біль	Не реагує ні на що
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**Т**ерапія проведена пораненому:

\_\_\_\_\_ час: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ час: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ час: \_\_\_\_\_



# Individual First Aid Kits

- Contents
  - Tourniquet
  - Combat Gauze
  - Oral antibiotics
  - Burn dressing
- Same type of kit issued to NATO soldiers in Afghanistan



## LoE 7 - Military Training and Cooperation Program

### Objective: Ongoing initiative DMTC-activities

- Exercise Planning Course
  - Exercise design and construct
- Public Affairs Course
  - Interviews, messaging
- Exercise Planning Working Groups
  - Ex Maple Arch, Rapid Trident
- Defense Resource Management Training
  - Procurement, Force Generation, Defence Economics



### Training Statistics

- Exercise Planning Course
  - 2 serials
- Exercise Planning Working Groups
  - Ex Maple Arch
  - Ex Rapid Trident
- Public Affairs Course
  - 40 students
- Defence Resource Management Training
  - 50 students

# Key Observations

- Great potential in UAF junior leadership that should be exploited
  - NCOs are the backbone of any army
- UAF soldiers are very well motivated and receptive to training
- Working with Ukrainian trainers has been an essential part of our mission



# Successes

- CAF trainers have established a working environment based on mutual respect and cooperation.
- JTF-U significantly influenced the standardization of MN trg
- We have generated a new interest amongst Ukr senior leaders in Training Safety, NCM PD and LOAC.
- Have captured many valuable lessons learned from ATO and in SFCB.



# Challenges

- Balancing national, multinational and host nation desires
- Understanding the environment
  - Build trust and open communication
  - Building an enduring solution
  - Understanding the HN constraints
- Patience



# What I think is most important

- Listen to what Ukraine has to say
- Recognise their challenges
- Build a sustainable program
- Motivated soldiers with much potential
- Mutually beneficial learning environment.



# Summary

- Important mission for Canada and the CAF
- We enjoy a meaningful and lasting military engagement
- Canadian Soldiers are both honoured and proud we have contributed to helping Ukraine





*UNITED FOR UKRAINE*