

FEEDBACK ON A PAPER EXERCISE TO EVALUATE THE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES ASSOCIATED WITH THE SADC FORCE SUPPORT CO-OPERATION PLAN

INTRODUCTION

1. A paper exercise to evaluate the SOPs associated with the SADC Force Support Co-operation Plan was conducted in order to provide feedback that could improve the plan and/or the SOPs.

AIM

2. The aim of this paper is to provide feedback on the paper exercise that evaluated the SOPs contained in the Combined Force Support Co-operation Plan.

FEEDBACK

3. Chapter 7 of SADC SMC 1 is entitled Standing Operating Procedure for the Movement of a Combined Southern African Development Community (SADC) Military Task Force from Home Bases to an Area of Deployment and will be used to provide feedback.

4. The SOP appears to concentrate on doctrinal issues rather than specific SOPs that could be expected from this type of document.

5. Paragraph 7005 (Concept of Movement of the Combined Task Force) read in conjunction with Appendix A is the closest to an SOP. Using this concept, it is unclear as to how the individual Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) provide the forces in a manner that the combined force can become integrated prior to deployment.

6. If the concept is applied to individual countries, then it is able to provide a good indication of what needs to be done.

7. Paragraph 7006 (Functions of the CMCC) contains definitions on the whole but does include some information to be considered when handling certain cargo.

8. Paragraph 7007 (Strategic Movement Control) contains definitions.

9. Paragraph 7008 (Strategic Movement) contains some issues to be considered but falls short of specifics.

10. Paragraph 7010 (Port Movement Centre) indicates information that would be essential in compiling a dossier on a specific port but is incomplete.

11. Paragraph 7011 (deployment Phase) explains what should happen during various phases of an operation and provides some good advice.

12. Paragraph 7013 (Responsibilities of the Officer Commanding a Water Terminal) explains these responsibilities but does not provide any detail.

Terminology should be standardised to avoid confusion.

13. Paragraph 7014 (Tasks of a Port Movement Centre in SPOE) indicates tasks expected of the Port Movement Centre in relative detail and contains some good information. It is superficial in places and needs to be more explicit in terms of Naval Control and Guidance of Shipping.

14. Paragraph 7015 (Tasks of a Port Movement Centre in SPOD) is a relatively detailed explanation of the tasks required.

15. Paragraph 7016 (Discharge Operations) indicates the various responsibilities involved in the discharge of the vessels. There are a number of doctrinal issues that require clarification in this section.

16. The SOP on the whole does not address all aspects that could be expected of such a document. There are a number of doctrinal issues that need clarification, some of them are as follows:

- a. What is the involvement of the civilian authorities of the harbours?
- b. How do the commercial activities of the port continue if the military has taken over the activities?
- c. Is it the work of the military to offload the ships? Do the members have the specific training to handle the cargo equipment?

17. Much effort has gone into the documentation of this SOP but is nevertheless falls short of what one could expect of an SOP of this nature.

CONCLUSION

18. The SOP requires considerable work in order that it can be provided to all countries as the standard for this type of operation. Although a predominantly naval operation, there is a large part of this SOP that should involve the land forces. It is suggested that the SOP is reviewed and that the land forces of participating countries are involved to assist with the compilation of the revised SOP.

19. The SOP could be adapted to address individual countries that are required to mobilise, but it falls short of providing sufficient details for a multi-national force. Given the scenario used, this SOP cannot be used to mobilise and transport a multi-national force from home bases to an area of deployment.