

International Military Training, Education and Cooperation – Tasks of the Austrian International Operations Command (AUTINT)

Brigadier General Karl PERNITSCH
Lieutenant Colonel Harald MENZEL
Austrian International Operations Command

Since 1960, Austria has been taking part in peace support operations and humanitarian missions all over the world. Initially, various military units were responsible for the training, deployment, personnel administration and logistical support of the Austrian PSO troops serving abroad. In 1987, these tasks were handed over to the then newly created Austrian Training Center for Peacekeeping Operations.

The increasing number of missions and the more and more complex PSO scenarios led to the foundation of the Austrian International Peace Support Command on 1st April 1999 in Götzendorf (Lower Austria).

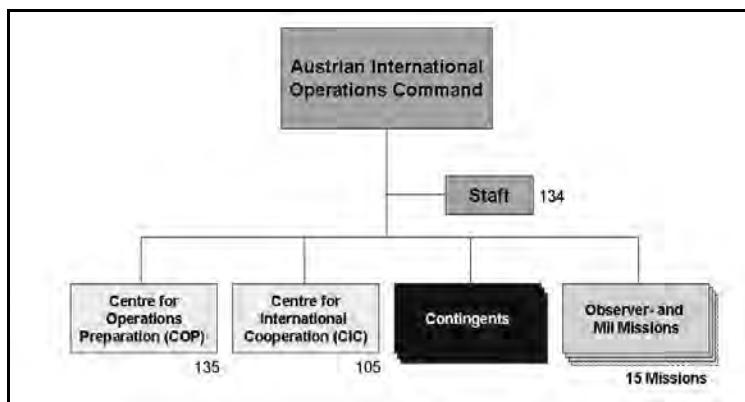
On 1st December 2002 the main part of this command was moved to the Belgier Kaserne in Graz and renamed Austrian International Operations Command (AUTINT). Other units of the AUTINT are the Center for Operations Preparation (COP), located in the Wallenstein Kaserne of Götzendorf and the Center for International Cooperation (CIC), also deployed in the Belgier Kaserne of Graz. The AUTINT is the command responsible for the preparation, deployment, administration, redeployment and after action assessment of Austrian military units or individuals serving in international missions abroad.

Besides that, the AUTINT disposes of an aptitude testing cell for psychological and physical check-ups in Wien-Stammersdorf.

The Tasks of the AUTINT and its Subunits (COP, CIC)

1. Austrian International Operations Command

It is responsible for the planning, preparation, deployment and redeployment of Austrian PSO troops serving abroad. In detail this means that the AUTINT has to ensure the recruitment, check-up and pre-deployment training of the personnel volunteering for a mission abroad, the operational, logistical and financial planning of such missions, the psychological support of the soldiers serving abroad and their families at home and, last but not least, the permanent evaluation of their performance in order to integrate the lessons learned in the preparation of further contingents.



2. Center for Operations Preparation

The COP, located in Götzendorf, is responsible for the aptitude testing of soldiers who want to serve abroad and

the conduct of certain elements of operational readiness training, e.g. staff personnel training, force integration training, etc. The COP also is the executive unit for deployments and rotations. It as well maintains contact with other foreign training centers for international operations and is a member of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centers (IAPTC). In addition to that, it is the Austrian Partnership for Peace (PfP) Training Center.

3. Center for International Cooperation

The CIC, located in Graz, combines three different tasks: The formation and training of military police (MP) units and individual MPs, the fulfillment of the various aspects of civil-military cooperation (CIMIC) and the conduct of psychological operations (PSYOPS). Finally, it is responsible for international verification and arms control.

Military Skills Required at the International Level

The AUTINT attaches big importance to the training of its troops scheduled for international missions abroad. This means the application of state of the art training methods, taking into consideration the lessons learned from former missions and the experiences gathered by permanent evaluation of ongoing missions. In addition to that, Austria has implemented the Operation Capabilities Concept Evaluation & Feedback (OCC E&F) which defines the standards to be reached by troops and individuals scheduled for NATO/PfP operations. AUTINT training also underlines the capability of cooperation with civil organizations under the aspect of

impartiality, humanity, openness, and the priority of a political solution of conflicts.

Pre-deployment Training and Preparation for Missions Abroad

These activities rest on two pillars: The general military training and the mission-specific training.

The general training program of AUTINT offers basic courses for possible functions in missions abroad, like observer courses, MP courses, etc., whereas the mission-specific training is a pre-deployment training for a concrete mission (see chart below). These training courses are conducted at an international level and are part of the PfP Working Program.



The General Training

This type of training is provided by the COP and the CIC.

The COP provides the following courses:

1. Officers Course:

The aim of this course is to teach special skills needed for international operations and cooperation to officers earmarked for the function of a company commander or battalion staff officer. This course is only accessible for Austrian officers and lasts 2 weeks.

2. Staff Officers Course:

This course provides the necessary knowledge and skills to officers who want to become the CO or DCO of a battalion or a senior staff officer in an international headquarters. This course is open to officers from foreign countries and lasts 3 weeks.

3. Logistics Course

This 2 week course prepares officers for the logistical C2 activities in peace support operations. It is accessible for foreign officers.

4. Military Observer Course

The "MOC" prepares officers for the function of a military observer and medical NCOs for medical support in PSOs. This course lasts 3 weeks and is open to foreign soldiers.

5. Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) Course

The LOT course was specifically designed in order to prepare officers and NCOs for the service in a liaison and observation team within a PSO. This is an international course and lasts 3 weeks.

The CIC offers the following courses:

1. Civil-Military Cooperation Course

This course provides officers the ability to take over responsibilities as a CIMIC member within a multinational headquarters. This course is also offered for officers from foreign countries and lasts 3 weeks.

2. Military Police Course

This is a course offered to soldiers of all ranks and prepares them to serve as an ordinary MP soldier, an MP detachment commander or as a force provost marshal. Duration: 6 weeks; open to foreign soldiers.

Since 2001 about 450 participants from 40 nations have taken part in at least one of the above-mentioned courses. Additionally to these courses, the AUTINT conducts several other network activities and international training assistances, such as:

- Instructors exchange with Canada, Germany, Sweden Switzerland, Finland and Ireland
- Training assistance for logistics courses of the Croatian Army
- Host nation support for PfP activities
- Participation in and contribution to various PSO working groups and activities.

The Mission-Specific Training

The mission-specific training covers the pre-deployment phase of a contingent scheduled for a mission abroad. Its aim is to give the contingent the required operational readiness. This means that the training is adapted to the knowledge and skills required for the area to which the

contingent will be deployed. The duration of this training depends on the operational requirements and can last up to 9 weeks.

In order to permanently ensure the operational standards needed for missions abroad, the AUTINT has developed its own quality assurance management. This means that the performance of individuals and troops operating abroad is subject to a permanent evaluation, which starts already in the pre-deployment phase, is maintained during the whole mission abroad and ends after the redeployment. Each lesson learned is consequently taken into consideration for the pre-deployment preparation of further contingents/individuals. This process ensures the flexible adjustment of the operational needs for all operational elements. This kind of training and preparation provides a good basis for the cooperation of Austrian troops in an international environment, e. g. within SHIRBRIG or CENCOOP.

The Standing High Readiness Brigade (SHIRBRIG)

SHIRBRIG is a military formation within the UN Standby Arrangement System (UNSAS), consisting of units which can be deployed at short notice. It is designed to speed up the preparation for future international missions. In 2004, Austria was the chair nation of SHIRBRIG, a presidency that rotates annually. During its presidency, Austria's contribution to SHIRBRIG was the development of an exercise scenario as a preparatory training for the peace support mission in SUDAN, the hosting of an international staff exercise at the AUTINT in Graz and the provision of the directing staff and the

evaluation team for a staff exercise conducted in Denmark.

The Central European Nations Cooperation in Peace Support (CENCOOP)

Austria initiated CENCOOP in 1998 with the aim of improving the preparation of troops for peace support missions. CENCOOP consists of the following nations: Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Switzerland. The intention of this organization is to facilitate the cooperation of CENCOOP nations as troop contributors, e.g. for AUSBATT, the Austrian battalion at the Golan Heights, which currently consists of troops from Austria and Slovakia.

In 2005, a CENCOOP working group meeting, chaired by the AUTINT, was held in Graz in order to precise the idea of a “CENCOOP Academy”. This theory was in fact seen as a promising way to enhance the training and preparation capabilities for PSOs and thus to be able to face common future challenges in this field.

Summary

Austria, even though it is a rather small country, has always shown big efforts in the contribution to peace support operations and will also do so in the future.

The most important installation for the assurance of these contributions is the Austrian International Operations Command, as it disposes of much experience in the field of PSO and permanently tries to adapt the training of its

soldiers to the needs of the various missions and the permanently changing security-political environment.