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**Chairmanship: the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

**696th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 24 October 2012

Opened: 10.10 a.m.

Closed: 10.50 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador Z. Dabik

3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE

None

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

(a) *Briefing on the military exercise Saber Junction 2012 led by the United States of America and conducted from 7 to 30 October 2012:* United States of America (Annex 1), Chairperson

(b) *National endeavours by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to implement United Nations Security Council resolution 1540:* the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Annex 2)

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

*Technical clarification by the Conflict Prevention Centre regarding the Vienna Document Plus Decision No. 9/12 on prior notification of major military activities:* Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre, Russian Federation, Chairperson, France, Spain, Latvia, United States of America, Netherlands, Austria, United Kingdom

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 31 October 2012, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Forum for Security Co-operation**

FSC.JOUR/702  
24 October 2012  
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

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**696th Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 702, Agenda item 2(a)

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

I have the honour to brief the FSC on a US-led military exercise called “Saber Junction” that began on 7 October 2012 and will run through 30 October 2012.

What is it?

Exercise Saber Junction 2012, the largest exercise of its kind that US Army Europe has conducted in more than 20 years, is a large scale joint, multinational exercise that will train US Army Europe’s 2nd Cavalry Regiment and partner and allied units in the Decisive Action Training Environment or DATE, which is designed to prepare the Dragoons of 2nd Cavalry Regiment and multinational soldiers for decisive and sustainable land operations through the simultaneous combination of offensive, defensive and stability operations appropriate to the mission and the environment.

Unique to this exercise is that the training will occur across an extensive manoeuvre rights area of over 1300 square miles outside the bounds of Germany’s Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels training areas to include Bavarian villages, forests and farmland. Units from 19 European nations and more than 1800 foreign personnel will join 2nd Cavalry Regiment in the training. Participating nations include Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

Saber Junction 2012 will see the use of jets, helicopters, main battle tanks, infantry fighting vehicles, Stryker combat vehicles, and more than 200 wheeled vehicles and 90 tracked vehicles operate together to help a notional country confront a litany of challenges, the participants forge relationships as they increase their interoperability.

Additionally, seven US agencies committed representatives to the exercise, integrating their goals, capabilities and authorities into the play for a whole of government approach to the exercise.

Decisive action is a pillar of the Army's Unified Land Operations doctrine. Its focus is on seizing, retaining, and exploiting the initiative to gain and maintain an advantage over complex threats during sustained land operations.

European troops account for 85 per cent of the non-US forces that make up the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. Every exercise builds on lessons learned from each previous exercise, and each country participating in Saber Junction will bring its military knowledge and tactical skills to bear to benefit all participants, building shared tactics, techniques and procedures that help ensure coalition partners fighting side by side can survive and win.

The unique training environment also exposes 2nd Cavalry Regiment to real-life challenges of civilian traffic, civilian authorities and civilians on the battlefield, in addition to the real-world experience of working as a coalition.

The US Army in Europe will continue to use Saber Junction rotations to prepare for a broad range of contingency missions in contemporary and emerging operating environments. Saber Junction provides a comprehensive approach, training soldiers and units to fight in the most demanding and complex operating environments with allies and partner nations.

It is providing a template for the way US ground forces will incorporate the lessons from Iraq and Afghanistan as they train for future operations.

Saber Junction will enhance joint and combined interoperability and build and sustain partner capacity among allied and partner nations through a focus on joint, interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational integration while improving the combat readiness of 2nd Cavalry Regiment and allies.

Mr. Chairperson, with your indulgence, we would like to play a short video on Saber Junction.

I would like to thank the 19 Partner nations participating in the exercise. The exercise Saber Junction will end on 30 October 2012.

More information about exercise can be found at [www.eur.army.mil/SaberJunction/default.htm](http://www.eur.army.mil/SaberJunction/default.htm)

Mr. Chairperson,

We take special note of joining other participating States who have shared briefings on recent military exercises in Europe. We believe that taking solid steps forward to improve military transparency and, as Secretary Clinton remarked in 2010 during her Paris speech on European security, to support "a more open exchange of military data, including visits to military sites and observation of military activities and exercises."

These types of briefing are welcomed but are not sufficient for our purposes to strengthen our military-to-military contacts, especially within the framework of notifiable

military activities and verification measures. We will always welcome the sharing of information on military activities, but we also need to incorporate that sharing of information into our political-military instruments, especially in the Vienna Document. A significant step along this path would include lowering the thresholds for notification of military activities, so that our CSBM instruments remain relevant and valuable in the 21st century.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Please attach this briefing to the journal of the day.



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**696th Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 702, Agenda item 2(b)

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAV  
REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

Distinguished representatives, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

The Republic of Macedonia shares the deep concern that one of the most serious threats to the international peace and security nowadays is the risk that non-State actors may acquire, develop, traffic in or use CBRN weapons and their means of delivery for terrorist purposes. Hence, we fully support UNSCR 1540, seeing it as a significant milestone on the path toward WMD non-proliferation, while backing the work of the 1540 Committee.

In line with these commitments and national priorities, the Republic of Macedonia undertook tangible legislative and regulatory measures to ensure compliance with international and regional standards facilitating consistent implementation of UNSCR 1540. We would like to name a few, which we perceive as achievements of the national endeavours to implement this significant resolution:

- By mid-2008, the Republic of Macedonia had become a party to all major international conventions and protocols on counterterrorism and non-proliferation;
- Likewise, Macedonia is actively participating in numerous other multilateral counter-proliferation regimes and initiatives, such as the Proliferation Security Initiative and the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism;
- We unilaterally adhered to the MTCR's Annex and Guidelines for Sensitive Missile Relevant Transfers; and in addition, as of 2002 Macedonia became a subscribing State to the Hague Code of Conduct against Missile Proliferation;
- The Republic of Macedonia is a Wassenaar Arrangement applicant country and as of 2010 regularly participates in WA outreach activities tailored for non-member States on expert level;
- Through concrete regional and national project activities, we actively participate in UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and Joint Research

Centre of the EC initiative establishing the CBRN Centres of Excellence for SEE, Ukraine, Moldova and the Caucasus;

- In June this year, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia established a comprehensive CBRN national body to steer the national CBRN policies. This body encompasses all competent institutions and further enhances the processes establishing an effective system for CBRN governance;
- Pursuant to FSC Decision No. 19/11 we have assigned a National Focal Point on UNSCR 1540;
- Duly noting FSC Decision No. 7/05 and UNSCR 1977, we acknowledge and support the role of international, regional and subregional organizations to promote universal implementation of UNSCR 1540. Thus, in June this year we have had a very constructive meeting with representatives of CPC, UNODA, 1540 Committee and Vertic. We exchanged views and opinions on the prospects for drafting a 1540 National Action Plan. Today, the development of this document represents a priority, which is now in the pipeline. A group of national experts will pay a working visit to Vienna and further discuss 1540 NAP with our partners. In one of the following Security Dialogues, our National CBRN Co-ordinator will thoroughly elaborate this and other relevant endeavours Macedonia undertakes to ensure consistent implementation of this important resolution. By doing this, our country presents its willingness to be a stable partner and contributor to the regional and global security community.

At the end, allow me to inform you that this statement would be attached to the journal of today's meeting.