

Dear participant,

Please find below additional information and requirements with regards to your participation in the NATO Emergency Management Exercise BULGARIA 2025.

Those arriving via Sofia International Airport

Those participants who arrive at the Border Crossing Point Sofia International Airport “Vasil Levski” will be met in the arrival hall of the airport by Exercise Representatives, near a banner with the Exercise logo.

Please confirm to our Bulgarian hosts (to: mpnikolov@mvtr.bg, cc: nato.eadrcc@hq.nato.int) the **metric volume and weight of cargo** that needs to be transported to the Base of Operations, and back, **not later than Friday 29 August 2025**.

Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony of the Exercise will start on Monday 8 September at 09:30h. All the exercise participants are expected to line up for the Opening Ceremony at 08:30h, near the stage, where you will receive an occupational safety awareness briefing. You are expected to be present in your national uniform.

Senior officials from Bulgaria and NATO will open the exercise. Media representatives will be present.

Following their introductory remarks, the senior officials will shake hands with the Team Leaders in the lineup.

Flags are not allowed during the Opening Ceremony in the lineup. Flags of all participating nations will be present at the main stage.

The opening ceremony will finish around 11:00h.

Static Display of Bulgarian and international capabilities

Teams willing to show their national/organizational capability to the Senior Officials, the media and the other participants should declare their intent not later than 1 September in an email to the Exercise Directors: Commissioner Martin Nikolov (mpnikolov@mvr.bg) and Mrs. Katrien Vanhamme (vanhamme.katrien@hq.nato.int). Please mention the capability you wish to display.

Accommodation in the BoO

During the exercise, the Base of Operations will be organized and supported by a Camp Manager (Mr. Petar Tikov (email: j_r@abv.bg ; phone: +359885520659) and a dedicated team to facilitate activities within the camp. For some of the teams, the host

country will set up tented accommodation, while the remaining teams will establish their own facilities in pre-designated areas.

The camp will also provide a **24/7 medical point**, a **distribution point for food and water**, as well as a **coffee shop offering refreshments** to ensure the well-being and comfort of all the participants.

Catering

A catering company will provide meals for all exercise participants who wish to use this service. Attached to this email you will find the daily menu options. Each team, and each individually registered participant (DISTAFF, Evaluator, Observer, Researcher) is kindly requested to indicate in advance the number of meals required and their selected menu options, no later than **4 September**. Please send your feedback to Insp. Daniel Hristov (DanHrHristov@mvr.bg) with the subject line “BUL25 – Catering”.

Meals will be delivered to the distribution point at the Operations Base. Breakfasts and lunches can be collected daily between **06:30h and 07:30h**, whilst dinners will be available between **19:00h and 21:00h**.

Lunches for the DISTAFF and Evaluators will be delivered at their “office” in the Training Centre.

Payment for the ordered meals will be collected on-site on the mornings of **8 and 9 September**, via POS terminal. Prices are listed both in Bulgarian leva and in euro, for your convenience.

On **11 September**, immediately after the official closing ceremony of the exercise, the hosts will provide food and refreshments for all participants. Therefore, there is no need to order an additional dinner for that evening.

The participants/team leaders of Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Jordan, Mauritania, Moldova, Morocco, Tunisia and Ukraine are kindly requested to pick up their meal vouchers at the EADRCC tent in the Base of Operations. All other participants and teams are responsible for arranging their meals in the Base of Operations directly with the caterer, near the dining facility in the Base of Operations.

Fuel

You will receive an overview of gas stations in the vicinity of the exercise area at the Reception and Departure Centre, upon your arrival in the Base of Operations. The partner nations who are eligible for fuel refunds (during the exercise) can contact Mr. Nicolas Iva in the EADRCC tent to accompany them and pay for their refueling.

Please note that those partner nations who have been confirmed fuel reimbursements will have to provide invoices to the EADRCC and will be refunded

after the Exercise, not during, for their itineraries between their home base and the Base of Operations (most economic route).

WASH

At the Operations Base, a dedicated sanitation area has been established, equipped with separate shower and toilet facilities for men and women. The ratio of facilities will be approximately **1 per 20 participants**.

These facilities will be available to all the participants throughout the field exercise, to support hygiene and comfort during the event. Teams wishing to deploy and use their own WASH facilities are kindly requested to coordinate in advance with the Camp Manager, Mr. Petar Tikov (email: j_r@abv.bg ; phone: +359885520659).

Research

The research component is an integral part of the NATO Emergency Management Exercise “BULGARIA 2025”. The researchers’ main task is raw data acquisition during the exercise, which they will use for post-exercise analysis of the results and further research.

Researchers can be identified by their orange (EADRC) vests and orange badges.

When not involved in ongoing operations, the exercise participants are strongly encouraged to support the researchers their efforts.

Research methods (approx. 50/50 split) applied:

- Interviews and questionnaires with the participants; and
- Field testing of VR tools, robots and software.

The interviews and questionnaires are anonymous and comply with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR, Regulation (EU) 2016/679).

Participating researchers have obtained an ethics approval for the conduct of their activities through their own university. The researchers will conduct interviews with, and issue questionnaires to, participants in the Base of Operations in the following timeslots: Monday afternoon, Tuesday (all day), Wednesday (all day) and Thursday morning.

Command Post Exercise

Team Leaders, participants of the On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC), Urban Search and Rescue Coordination Cell (UCC), Emergency Medical Teams Coordination Cell (EMTCC), and the Local Emergency Management Authority (LEMA) are cordially invited to join a Virtual Reality Command Post Exercise (at the Romanian Virtual Reality tent in the Base of Operations) on Monday 8 September from 17:00h until 18:30h.

The Exercise Organizers wish you safe travels and look forward to see you in Montana!

Best regards,

Martin Nikolov and Katrien Vanhamme
Exercise Directors.