

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR ROAD SAFETY IN THE ARMED FORCES



**STRATEGY PLAN 2013 - 2017**  
**ACTION PLAN 2013 - 2014**

APPROVED BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
IN SPAIN 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The first edition of the ECRAF Strategy and Action plan was approved by the ECRAF Congress in 2009. The main reason to develop a Strategy and Action plan was to strengthen the organizational structure and to improve ECRAF political influence within the Armed Forces in Europe. The cooperation with civilian Road Safety organization across Europe has developed to be an important activity. The Strategy and Action plan has given the necessary authority to ECRAF to be a relevant partner within the Road Safety environment in Europe.

Most national Armed Forces give priority to road safety as part of their daily safety work. Highly educated personnel are the most valuable recourses in the Armed Forces, and we have all a duty to avoid unnecessary and tragic losses in Road accidents. Such losses can have a negative impact on operations, but also the morale in a unit.

The ECRAF Congress has decided that ECRAF aspires to be the foremost independent institution recognised across Europe for the best practice within the military environment to prevent road traffic incidents, and the mission is to collect and exchange knowledge and experience, analyse military road traffic statistics and develop recommendations to improve road safety in the Armed Forces. To achieve this ambitious vision, and to accomplish the mission, all ECRAF member nations have to work hard over a long period of time, and the work have to be coordinated. The Strategy and Action plan will be an important tool in this very important work.

Oslo, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2012



Oddvar Haagensen  
Norway  
President

## **2. ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS OUR BIGGEST THREAT!**

### **2.1 THE DISASTER IN A CIVILIAN PERSPECTIVE**

Every year more than one million people worldwide lose their lives in road traffic accidents. More than 20 million people are seriously injured. This means that more people are killed in road traffic accidents than in all the ongoing wars.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has estimated that road traffic accidents will become the third largest cause of death in 2020. Road traffic accidents were for twenty years ago the ninth largest cause of death worldwide.

The European Union sees more than 40 000 fatalities and 1,7 million injuries from road traffic accidents every year.

As a consequence of the worldwide road accident development, we can state that the absence of road safety on the roads is a bigger death and injury threat than military operations. With reference to the WHO estimate, we also can assume that the road safety challenge will increase in the coming years.

### **2.2 THE DISASTER IN A MILITARY PERSPECTIVE**

Statistics gathered by ECRAF in 2009 from 13 member countries shows that about 650 persons are killed and about 9 250 persons injured in road traffic accidents in the national armed forces - on and off duty - in the period 2004-08 - with military or military leased vehicles. In the same period about 90 civilian persons were killed by military vehicles or military leased vehicles in road traffic accidents.

The repairing costs for the military and military leased vehicles involved in the above referred road traffic accidents, are by 7 countries estimated to 85.500 000 EURO.

By using the European population as a reference, we can estimate for the same period that more than 1 500 persons have been killed and more than 21 000 person have been injured in Europe in the same type of accidents. In the same period it is estimated that ca 230 civilian persons are killed by military or military leased vehicles.

By also using the population as a reference for the repairing cost for the same period for Europe, we end up with an estimate of ca. 260 billion EURO.

The figures and estimates in a military perspective, show that prevention of road traffic accidents also is a huge challenge for the Armed Forces in Europe.

### **2.3 THE CHALLENGE**

The unique nature of military operations and transports - on and off road - and the fact that the Armed Forces in particular pose road safety issues to military employees and civilian populations, make this to be a big challenge. The Armed Forces as a large user of specialist vehicles and mobile weapon platforms must take an active part in efforts to prevent road traffic accidents. This will be achieved by thorough and relevant training.

Operations are more likely to be conducted in urban areas or amongst the people with large wheeled (armoured) vehicles in nations across the world. The military authorities have a duty of care to minimise loss to its own employees but also the civilian population of the nation in which operations are being conducted.

## **3. VISIONS**

### **3.1 Vision Zero the basic concept**

ECRAF has, like many public and civilian road safety institutions, adopted the concept of Vision Zero which declares that nobody shall be killed or seriously injured in the road traffic. The vision will be achieved not only by providing physical and urban planning and infrastructure, but also - and this is our main part - by vehicle equipment that encourages the kind of road traffic behaviour/education that is required to achieve increased road safety. This also includes individual responsibility for behaviour and action in the road traffic.

### **3.2 ECRAF the foremost across Europe**

ECRAF aspires to be the foremost independent institution recognised across Europe for the best practice within the military environment to prevent road traffic incidents / accidents and injuries whether on operations or off duty.

## **4. VALUES**

### **The intrinsic values**

The intrinsic values will always be the basic for the planning and implementation and are prioritized as following:

- Respect for rules and laws
- Respect for self and other human beings
- Character and education
- Excellence in performance
- Dedication and commitment
- Teamwork
- Ethics, fair play and honesty
- Community and solidarity.
- Courage

## **5. ASSUMPTIONS**

### **5.1 Health, environment and safety**

Prevention of road traffic accidents in the Armed Forces included as a part of the ongoing activities to promote health, environment and safety. It is important to educate the military personnel in their own safety and security and in that way obtain successful activities and operations without accidents or injuries.

## **5.2 Integrated road safety**

Road safety activities shall be performed as an integrated part of the ordinary work in the Armed Forces.

## **5.3 Young soldiers and employees most vulnerable target groups**

The most vulnerable target groups for the road safety work in the Armed Forces are the young soldiers and the employees 18 - 25 years old and which is the age group that is most at risk for road traffic accidents. Many of the preventive activities are for this reason directed against this target group. This work also includes all other civilian or military employees – also their leaders and families.

## **5.4 Based on facts**

ECRAF want in the largest possible way to build its decisions and activities on undoubted facts. Common statistics based on national statistics from the ECRAF countries will be one of the valuable resources. In addition ECRAF will use relevant research or other actual studies to ensure the best possible quality of the work.

## **5.5 Professional competence**

ECRAF has to-day, through its member countries, a lot of different kinds of knowledge and experience which can lead to common standards for statistics, equipment, educational programs, webworking etc. Participation in ECRAF is an easy way to get and hold contact to road safety specialists of a majority of European Armed Forces.

## **5.6 Prevention before repair**

The ECRAF members will be active in preventing road traffic accidents rather than concentrating on reacting to accidents / incidents. This role will lead to saving money and other resources for the Armed Forces, and at the same time be good for the general economy of the civil society.

# **6. MISSION**

European Commission for Road Safety in the Armed Forces (ECRAF) is an institution of professional military members working to promote Road Safety within the Armed Forces.

The ECRAF mission is to collect and exchange knowledge and experience, analyse military road traffic statistics and develop recommendations to improve road safety in the Armed Forces.

ECRAF is open to all Armed Forces in Europe and also to civilian Road Safety partner organizations of the Armed Forces. ECRAF delegates should hold executive powers on behalf of their respective nations/organizations.

## 7. STRATEGIES

The strategies are the result of earlier described values and premises.

### 7.1 Road Safety competence centre

ECRAF shall develop to be a Road Safety competence centre for all the Armed Forces in Europe. The competence will include collection and exchange of experience in education, information, analyses, statistics and develop recommendations to improve road safety in Armed Forces.

### 7.2 Coherent communication strategy

ECRAF will develop an active and coherent communication strategy within nations. This will be performed by different information channels and where a modern and frequently updated website will play an important and key role.

### 7.3 Harmonize activities across armed forces

ECRAF will harmonize Road Safety activities across armed forces. This will in the first phase be to develop a common statistics standard and implement the new standard in the ECRAF member countries and development of different educational programs.

### 7.4 Build alliances and network

ECRAF will develop and build alliances/coalitions and a strong network with important continental and intercontinental stakeholders in the field of Road Safety.

ECRAF will in this respect continue the established contacts with EU and NATO to keep up the formalized cooperation.

In order to get a stronger collaboration at the national level on road safety issues, the WG has been in contact with PRI which established the first working group on this issue. Both parts are positive to a future formalized collaboration in order to get a stronger collaboration with the national military and civilian Road Safety work.

## 8. ACTIONS

### 8.1 Road Safety competence centre

- Establish administration of an independent organization
- Develop ideas for financing administration / competence centre:
  - + *Recruit new members*
  - + *Support from EU, NATO etc.*
- Database activities:

- + *ECRAF Statistics*
- + *Relevant accessible national statistics*
- + *Links to other relevant databases*

- SharePoint / information for different purposes:

- + *Risk assessment*

## **8.2. Coherent communication strategy**

- Congress:

- + *Main subjects discussed in advance*
- + *Documentations to all participants within six weeks after the congress*
- + *Agreements on following up*
- + *Road Safety Forum is the professional part of the congress and has at least one day of the congress program*

- Website:

- + *The website should continuously be improved*

- Electronic newsletter:

- + *Electronic newsletter should be sent out at least four times a year*
- + *One member could be presented in each issue*
- + *Each issue could have a guest writer*

- Exchange of information:

- + *Procedures should be made for exchange of information between the members, f. ex. use of electronic post*
- + *Develop new publications*

## **8.3 Share and harmonize activities across armed forces**

- Best practice:

- + *Common procedures - sending drivers on mission abroad*
- + *Education of drivers - special exercises and operations*
- + *General driver training including load safety (NATO)*
- + *Information on general traffic conditions in operating areas*
- + *Basic general contents in campaigns to be used continentally*

- Harmonize collecting of statistics:

- + *Agree upon what types of statistics to be published inside and outside ECRAF*

- Minimum standard rules for investigation of accidents:

- + *UK / German experience*

#### **8.4 Build alliances and network**

- Continue formalised collaboration with NATO
  - + Follow up established contact
- Continue formalised collaboration with the European Union (EU)
  - + Follow up established contact
- Establish contact with other European Organizations within the Road Safety Arena
  - + Establish contact with Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA)

### **9. EVALUATION**

The evaluation of the plan should be a natural part of the annual report from the Executive Committee to the General Assembly.

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**Adjusted 050612**