

APROC 2018



“That Others May Live!”

Polish Mi-24 over the Netherlands

The Air Centric Personnel Recovery Operatives Course or APROC, which concluded after two weeks on 6 June 2018 at Gilze-Rijen Air Base, home of the Defence Helicopter Command (DHC) of the Royal Netherlands Air Force, had involved over 500 troops, more than 18 fixed and rotary wing aircraft and 140 sorties with a total of over 300 flight hours.

The EPRC

From 2002 to 2006, the European Air Group (EAG) have conducted exercises named ‘Volcanex’ with major focus on Combat Search and Rescue or CSAR. These exercises provided not only valuable training for the participating forces but also fresh aspects. As no other training opportunity of this kind was available in Europe, the EAG developed the Combined Joint Combat Search and Rescue Standardisation Course (CJCSARSC) on the basis of the previous *Volcanex* exercises and their respective lessons learned. The main source of information for the CJCSARSC was NATO documentation on Personnel Recovery (PR). Over the years, these have changed regularly and that provided quite a challenge to the organisers.



AMI HH-101A

In fact, the CJCSARSC was a robust and comprehensive programme, the need for this course had become more pronounced. What emerged is CSAR, which is a narrow subset of PR and many see it as a legacy capability from times passed. In 2013, it was decided by the EAG that a separate multinational hub of Personnel Recovery expertise was to be set up which has, since then, been known as the European Personnel Recovery Centre or EPRC. On

9 July 2015, the EPRC reached Initial Operational Capability, a day after the inauguration ceremony which was held at the Poggio Renatico base in Italy.

The objectives

This course, being the main European training event in the recovery of civilian and military personnel in hostile or non-permissive environment, was conducted by five of seven EPRC members: France,