

Annex 2

Village Security Assessment (VSA)

1. Introduction. The Village Security Assessment (VSA) is a written report prepared for a Municipal Working Group (MWG) by KFOR operating in that municipality. The report is a comprehensive assessment of the security situation for a specific village (or collection of closely associated villages) being discussed at MWG sessions. When completed, the KFOR maneuver battalion presents the VSA along with a recommendation on whether the local security environment will support the proposed return. Together with the VSA, other important assessments led by various members of the MWG are part of the MWG's overall evaluation.

2. General. The KFOR maneuver battalion has the lead for preparing the final report, with support from CIVPOL. The KFOR maneuver unit will request the assistance of additional MWG assets (e.g. UNHCR, NGOs) and KFOR general support (GS) assets (e.g. Civil Affairs, Military Police, Psychological Operations, Mine Action Center, and brigade-level intelligence and analytical capabilities). Conducting VSA is a 3-step process, Planning, Research, and Final Preparation:

- The Planning Phase begins when the MWG requests the KFOR maneuver battalion to prepare a VSA for a specific village. KFOR MNB headquarters "endorses" the MWG's request by formally tasking the appropriate maneuver battalion and supporting assets using a fragmentary order (FRAGO). As necessary, the MWG directs appropriate MWG participants (UNHCR, NGOs, IDP representatives, etc.) to provide assistance upon request by the KFOR maneuver unit. During the planning phase the maneuver battalion, CIVPOL, and supporting assets cooperate to develop a timeline and a plan for report preparation. Stated differently, all parties involved in the VSA process collaborate to determine what work needs to be done, to decide who is responsible for doing it, and to agree upon deadlines and milestones for completion. This phase ends when the maneuver battalion notifies the MWG (or the Municipal Administrator) and they accept the date when the report will be complete.
- The Research Phase begins when the maneuver battalion, CIVPOL, and supporting assets begin to gather information to support the report. Throughout the research phase, all parties meet as necessary to ensure unit of effort and share information. This phase ends when all necessary data has been gathered.
- The Final Preparation Phase begins when the maneuver battalion begins work on the final version of the VSA. It ends when the maneuver battalion delivers the completed VSA to the MWG (or Municipal Administrator).

3. Report Format: The completed VSA consists of 8 parts as described below. The intent is NOT to dictate the actual "format" for the report (e.g. a narrative, powerpoint presentation, or an appropriate combination of both); rather, the intent is to provide a standardised set of "baseline questions and issues" that should be considered and evaluated.

A. Executive Summary. Co-authored by the KFOR maneuver battalion and CIVPOL.

- Provides an overview of the significant findings and recommendations covered in the VSA.
- Provides an answer to the question: "What are the major reasons people left the village." Details are covered in the Receptiveness section of the report.

- Also, the Executive Summary addresses the existence (or lack thereof) of other written sources of information and their current relevance to aspects of security in the village (e.g. KFOR "battle book", UNHCR village profiles, "KVM" reports, or reports from NGOs and other organisations).
- Finally, the Executive Summary "rates" the village with regard to whether it will support returns from the standpoint of security:
 - **Green:** Minor security issues exist, but they are not expected to significantly impact the return. The return can happen as envisioned by the MWG.
 - **Amber:** Significant security issues exist that are likely to impact the ideal timeline and process for returns, but the issues have a reasonable chance of being resolved within an acceptable period of time.
 - **Red:** Major issues exist that are not likely to be resolved in time for returns to occur as foreseen by the MWG. Another reason for a "red" rating could be when security for the returnees is likely to require use of significant KFOR and/or CIVPOL assets to keep the peace.

B. Geographic Factors. Completed by the KFOR maneuver battalion, with assistance from other organisations as coordinated by the KFOR battalion through the MWG or KFOR MNB headquarters.

- Describes how various aspects of geography could affect security in the village. Not all factors described below apply, and others may exist.
- Examines the village's proximity to the Border or ABL, and whether this impacts security of the village.
- Assesses whether major smuggling or criminal routes pass through or near the village.
- Assessment of the Mine / UXO threat: Are there any known mine/UXO threats in or near the village? Threats could take the form of known active minefields, uncleared or partially-cleared UXO concentrations, and areas that have had frequent incidents of booby traps or other explosive devices. Provide details as given by the KFOR Mine Action Center (MAC) and the G-2. The MAC and G-2 will also know whether there is any mine/UXO clearance work scheduled during the next 6 months.
- Include a "vector map" of the village as prepared by the KFOR topographic team.

C. Receptiveness. This portion of the report is completed by the KFOR maneuver battalion, but the majority of the contributions to this section will come from UNHCR, NGOs, and KFOR civil affairs and intelligence assets working in the targeted area. It is a portion of the VSA process in which the MWG should direct UNHCR and applicable NGOs to assist KFOR. The other major source of "historical" information will be the KFOR G-2 office. The assessment of receptiveness includes:

- Identification of potential "flashpoints" among the receiving community that may impact security when returns occur. Critical to this process is identifying the reasons why people left the village ... and how those reasons may impact security for returnees. This is likely to involve talking to both the receiving and returning communities. When the returnees do not currently reside within the KFOR sector, the process of talking to them is complicated. This is where the good offices of UNHCR and other NGOs can be of tremendous assistance.

- An evaluation of the attitude of the receiving population toward returns. How will their perceptions impact returns to the village? Highlight any particularly "negative" or "positive" attitudes among the public or any specific groups of people in the village (e.g. another minority, other IDPs, specific people or political parties, etc).
- Does the local village leadership support returns? In word only, or through their actions?
- The names of key players in Municipal Assembly and their individual stances with regard to returns. A key player is any member of the Municipal Assembly who appears to have an interest in the planned return.
- Not only answer as to "why" people left, but "when" they departed.

D. Crime & Violence Factors. Completed by CIVPOL and KPS with assistance from the KFOR Military Police operating in the municipality, the KFOR maneuver unit, and the KFOR G-2.

- Identifies and describes crime trends or extremist activity in the village-and the potential impacts of such activities upon returns.
- If minority returns have already been occurring, or in places where minorities already live in the village, this section addresses existing inter-ethnic tension as indicated by violence and crime ... as well as any evidence of violence/crime related to returns (e.g. ethnic intimidation ...).
- The report will note whether there are any particularly noteworthy villagers involved in crime or extremism, what activities in which they are involved, and how their activities could affect returns. Names will not be published in the VSA.

E. Status of Police Forces and other Security Assets. Completed by CIVPOL, the Military Police, and the maneuver battalion.

- What is the typical "police presence" in the village? For example ... is there a substation? Is police presence created through patrols? Do walking patrols operate in the village? How frequent are the patrols? Do patrolmen/women engage the populace? Is police presence rare, routine, or only when needed?
 - Are patrols multiethnic (and containing the ethnicity of returnees)?
 - What is the attitude of villagers toward the police - do they generally help or hinder the ability of the police to provide law and order? Any trends?
 - Does CIVPOL have any future plans that may impact the way in which policing is conducted in the village (i.e., changes in station locations, creation or loss of a substation, more multiethnic police)?
- What is the KFOR presence in the village? Is there any permanent KFOR presence, or is presence created through patrols? Do walking patrols operate in the village? What is the frequency of patrols? Do soldiers engage the populace? Is the presence of soldiers rare, routine, or only when needed?
 - What is the attitude of villagers toward KFOR - do the people generally help or hinder KFOR? Any trends?

- o Does KFOR have any future plans that may impact the way in which security operations are conducted in the village (i.e., un-fixing of checkpoints, closeout of a permanent presence, fewer patrols, change or permanent departure of units)?

F. Freedom of Movement (FOM). Completed by the maneuver battalion. In areas where a minority population already exists FOM can be evaluated by talking to the member of the minority community. However, in places where minorities have not yet returned, assessing FOM will be more problematic and projected based on the assessment of the "receptiveness" of the receiving community as discussed in paragraph 3c above. The issues assessed under FOM include:

- Will returnees have access to public services, goods, mass transit, schools, etc. in the village?
- Can they walk the streets or drive their vehicles through the village without fear of intimidation or other reprisal?
- Describe known or potential problems.

G. Other Issues. The KFOR maneuver battalion has the responsibility for pulling together this section based on inputs from any party involved in the VSA process.

- Use this section to identify any other issues you believe may impact returns to this village.

H. Conclusions & Recommendations. Co-authored by the maneuver battalion and CIVPOL, with inputs from other parties participating in the VSA process.

- This section highlights the major security issues identified during the conduct of the VSA. MOST IMPORTANT--it provides recommendations on how each security issue should be addressed.
- Conclusions and recommendations must agree with the information given in the Executive Summary of the report.

Prepared By MNB(E)