

ATSS-DAS

MEMORANDUM FOR Commandant, United States Army Sergeants Major Academy, Fort Bliss, Texas 79918-8002

SUBJECT: Access Agreement for release of Student writing assignment PEP Essay Paper.

1. I, SGM Adam KRYKOWSKI, submitted a PEP Essay Paper to the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy archives regarding events and experiences that may be of historical significance to the United States Army and the Noncommissioned Officer Corps.

2. I understand the manuscript and attached documents will be accessioned into the historical holdings of the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy archives and will belong to the United States Government to be used in any manner deemed in the best interests of the United States Army as determined by the Chief of Military History or his representative. I also understand that I may retain a copy for my own use subject to classification restrictions.

3. I hereby expressly and voluntarily relinquish all rights and interest in the paper to the United States Army with the following caveat/exception:

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4. I understand that the information in this paper may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act, and therefore, may be releasable to the public contrary to my wishes. I further understand that, within the limits of the law, the United States Army will attempt to honor the restrictions I have requested to be placed on this material.

Date: 30 11 2010

Student Printed Name: SGM ADAM KRYKOWSKI

Signature: Krykowski

Accepted on behalf of the United States Army by:

SGA Printed Name/Date: Juan J. Ortiz Jr 3 Dec 10

Signature: J. J. Ortiz Jr

My Experience in Peacekeeping Operations (PEP Essay)

Adam Krykowski

United States Sergeants Major Academy

### **My Experience in Peacekeeping Operations**

I have served in the Polish army over 24 years in various positions and in different garrisons. Before I came to the Sergeant Major Academy, I was working as the Sergeants Major in the First Driving Training Centre in Grudziadz. Even if I am now in the Sergeant Major Academy, Polish army headquarter did not assign anybody for my position in Poland and kept the position open for me to take over after I return back from the Sergeant Major Academy. While I have been working in my current job in Poland since 2004, I spent two years at United Nation Organization (UN) missions. In this essay I would like to write one of my real action experiences which occurred during the time that I was working in the United Nation Organization mission in Lebanon.

I was working in the Polish Logistic Contingent as a firefighter driver in the fire brigade when I was in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). It was my fourth military mission in UNIFIL and I had spent so far almost two years in UN, therefore I was quite experienced with my job. After the long time that I spent over there, I thought that, as everything was proceeding smoothly, nothing could happen to surprise me. However, in January 20, 2009, the thing that happened to me showed that we had to be always ready for unexpected things to happen. This experience which I will explain in my essay showed that during the mission, soldiers always have to be ready to perform tasks. Difficult situations might arise anytime especially when you are not expecting them.

The task of our fire brigade was to protect and control all the objects in military bases, and to control the sensitive places which could cause emergency situations such as fuel stations and ammunition

storages. Another task of our fire brigade was to communicate with civilian Lebanese Fire Brigade when it was necessary. The most important task of our brigade was to take actions in case of emergency situations with the Emergency Team. It was a team consisting of Indian medical hospital, Portuguese Supply Team, Tanzania Military Police and Polish Fire Brigade. The Emergency Team's responsibilities were to act in time of natural disasters or to take action in case of any destruction caused by the Israeli or Lebanese militaries while they were fighting in Lebanon. Being aware of the importance of its responsibilities, Emergency Team conducted exercises in each three months period to make sure that the Emergency Team could handle any situation occurring within Lebanon. The rotation of most of the soldiers working in the Emergency Team was in each six months period; therefore, these exercises helped each soldier to have the possibility of joining exercises.

The Fire brigade consisted of two Fire engines. The light one had 5000 liters water and the heavy one had 11000 liters water. We had an additional small vehicle which could operate in all kinds of terrains and this vehicle had full fire fighting material on it. On 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2009, we had an international exercise with the participation of all groups of Emergency Team, including the Military Hospital Team from India, Military Police Team from Tanzania and Supply Company Team from Portugal. One day before the exercise, we prepared the fire equipment well and we had training on the fire rules. Everybody was ready and very excited for the exercise. Exercise would begin about 10:30 am on a nearby area about five kilometers from our Fire Station. We went there with the heavy fire engine and the all-terrain vehicle with our fire equipments couple of hours earlier than the exercise started. We had enough time to prepare everything before the exercise started. We took all equipment out of the cars to prepare equipment presentation and after that, all the firemen went to their role groups waiting for the exercise to start. We only left the light fire engine on the fire station with three firemen on duty in case of an emergency situation to happen.

After the exercise started, we received an emergency call from our Fire Station that there was fire inside one of the accommodation rooms. The distance of accommodation rooms' area was just 300 meters from our Fire Station. Therefore, it would have been quite easy for us to take action and to extinguish the fire if we had been on the fire station, but we were on the exercise area which was five kilometers far from the fire area. When our guys, which we left in our main base, let us know about the situation, we thought that somebody was making a joke with us as we did not encounter to a situation like that for a long time. Because they knew we had prepared very hard for the today's exercise. We, in any case, wanted to make sure if the information which was given to us was true or false, therefore we called back to confirm and learned that information was true. As we knew that our guys left in fire station could not handle the situation alone, we had to go to the place which was under fire and take care of the situation. At that moment the international exercise changed to real action. Portuguese, Indian and Tanzanian soldiers who exercised with us together did not know what was going on when we started quickly folding equipment and they were really surprised how quickly firemen could put equipment together. We did not even time to explain the situation in detail to the exercise commander. We just turned on the sirens of our vehicles and told simply, there was real fire on the base, so we got to cut the exercise immediately.

We went hurriedly to the place which was under fire. When we reached the place, we saw that the small fire engine had used up all the water and fire was spreading to different accommodation rooms quickly. We managed to extinguish the fire after struggling with it two hours. After we extinguished the fire we protected the place for the investigation team to come and see the main reason of the fire and prepared the report about the fire. Fortunately nobody was wounded and the fire damaged only six accommodation rooms.

With this experience, each one of us knew that such disasters could happen in time when nobody was expecting them. Soldiers must always be ready. Being on a military mission we should always be ready to work together and never make jokes about serious things, for instance like fire and weapons. After action two young firemen was appointed on true firemen because they attended in first true extinguishing action. It was a custom in firemen society.