

SACT signs Explosive Ordnance COE memoranda of understanding - ACT

Written by ACT PAO

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French Air Force General Stephane Abrial, Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, signed the memoranda of understanding May 5 for the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Centre of Excellence (EOD CoE) in Trencin, Slovakia.

The memoranda establishes a relationship between Allied Command Transformation (ACT) and the participating nations of Slovak Republic, Czech Republic, France, Hungary and Romania.

During the signing ceremony, Abrial expressed the importance of CoEs. "Centres of Excellence are pivotal in two of my key priority areas: first to better network existing national capabilities and second to encourage development in NATO collective military expertise on key issues.

"Bringing together competence from the distinguished nations that have already decided to contribute, combined with the experience of trainees from all countries is certain to generate a powerhouse for progress," said Abrial. "The development of the grid of such Centres has been one of the most encouraging developments in transformation over the last few years."

The EOD CoE provides support to NATO operations to improve relations, interoperability and a practical cooperation in the area of EOD with partners, NATO command elements, member nations and international organisations in the area of explosive ordnance disposal. They provide ACT with EOD expertise and support in NATO-wide tactics, techniques and procedures, remaining current in technical developments while aiming to improve military capabilities, value and efficiency of the Alliance.

The CoE offers an opportunity to improve skills in the training and sharing of useful information with partners. In line with NATO, their efforts consist of standardization, doctrine development and concept validation. They also focus on improving interoperability and training for deployment in multinational operations. These areas are closely interlinked and the EOD COE will effectively play its role as a subject matter expert for NATO in area of EOD.

The threat of improvised explosive devices and unexploded ammunition has a huge impact on the activity of coalition forces. Establishing the EOD COE is a significant contribution in creating EOD capabilities, lacking in NATO.

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For additional information on the EOD COE, visit <https://transnet.act.nato.int/WISE/TNCC/CentresofE/Individual/TNCC/CentresofE/EOD>