

2020 Fact Sheet – Concept Development and Experimentation (CD&E) Course

Background: From the inception of ACT, the NATO Concept Development and Experimentation (CD&E) was introduced as the vehicle for transformation. Transformation was defined as ACT's core business and the focus area for engagement with NATO Nations. Concept development and experimentation are key elements in generating the transformation of NATO that is essential to meeting the security requirements of the 21st century. Little or no formal education and training was offered at that time in the area of NATO CD&E, except for on-the-job training that was conducted within NATO. National representatives requested the development of NATO CD&E education and training at several CD&E meetings. Therefore, this specific concept development and experimentation course was created in order to provide training for NATO military and civilian personnel assigned to CD&E positions in NATO agencies, national ministries, national subordinate military headquarters, units, centres or agencies in any NATO nations.

Mission: This course is to provide students with an introduction on NATO's concept development, experimentation structure, and processes.

Milestones: The course runs twice per year in NATO School Oberammergau. The two courses this year take place in May (Norfolk, Virginia) and October (Oberammergau, DEU). Visit the NSO webpage at www.natoschool.nato.int for more information.

Headquarters: NATO Allied Command Transformation
Joint Force Development Directorate
Operational Experimentation Branch

OPEX: OPEX is the intersection between Operators and Innovation. OPEX plans, designs, conducts, and analyses experiments in support of new concepts and capabilities development. Visit www.act.nato.int/opex-pressroom for more information, or visit us online at the CDE365 Website located on [NATO's Transformation Network](#).

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NATO HQ STRATCOM: The CD&E Course aligns under the 2020 NATO Communications Strategy pillar of *NATO Unites and NATO Strengthens*.

NATO ACT STRATCOM: The CD&E Course contributes to SACT's 2020 Objective #1 - *Support NATO's operations, increase interoperability, and readiness*; Objective #4 - *Exploit the benefits of cooperation*.

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