NATO Allied Command Transformation
Operational Experimentation (OPEX)

2020 Fact Sheet – Countering Class 1 Unmanned Aircraft Systems (C-UAS)

Background:

The Countering Class 1 Unmanned Aircraft Systems (C-UAS C1) initiative is part of SACTs Warfare Development Agenda and added to the Concept Development and Experimentation (CD&E) Program of Work (POW) for 2019-2020. During 2019, in collaboration with the Emerging Security Challenges Division (ESCD) and the Defence Investment Division (DI), ACT's Operational Experimentation (OPEX) branch designed a campaign of experimentation to support the Handbook (HB) development. In order to achieve this mission a baseline understanding of the problem, people and impacts of military and civilian aspects was critical and as part of the work programme under discussion, one priority area was devoted to "policy and documentation review".

The first workshop was a discovery event held in Rome, Italy on the 17-20 of July and focused on gathering inputs from the Counter Unmanned Aircraft Systems (C-UAS) community related to the overall design of the HB and an initial outline of the specific content. The 2nd C-UAS event was conducted in conjunction with the International Concept Development and Experimentation (ICD&E) Conference in Madrid, Spain, 29-31 October 2019.The C-UAS WS#2 was designed to expand upon the progress made at the C-UAS HB WS#1 and assessed the draft HB for utility and practicality. The second C-UAS (Class 1) workshop held in Madrid resulted in extremely fruitful outputs.

The Nations and Partners in attendance succeeded in just a single day in defining the structure and contents of a C-UAS Class 1 Handbook, which is currently being drafted by NATO HQ Emerging Security Challenges and Defense Investment Divisions (ESCD), with the support of NCIA. This Handbook will be a versatile and useful document for the whole Alliance in order to better plan for future threats represented by Class 1 UAS systems.

Objectives

Establish a baseline understanding how to counter UAS and the impact of UAS on military and civil-military Develop a C-UAS

Experiment Category:

Experimenting in Operations

Milestones:

WS#1: 1st C-UAS Handbook Discovery Experiment Workshop, ROME 17 - 20 June 19.

WS#2: 2nd C-UAS Handbook Refine Experiment Workshop, MADRID 29 - 31 October 19

Creation of an Operational User Group to explore the Doctrine and to facilitate the use of the NATO C-UAS System. NCIA should release the System by the end of April 2020.

- EiO within the Resolute support by the end of September 2020
- Final EiO by December 2020

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

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 Drone Exploitation experiment aligns under the 2020 NATO Communications Strategy pillar of *NATO Protects*.

NATO ACT STRATCOM: The C-UAS Experiment contributes to SACT's 2020 Objective #1 *Support NATO's operations, increase interoperability, and readiness*; and Objective #3 - *Preserve the edge of NATO's military instrument of power over our potential adversaries*, and Objective #4 - *Exploit the benefits of cooperation*.

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