

NATO Allied Command Transformation **Operational Experimentation (OPEX)**



2020 Fact Sheet – NSHQ Comprehensive Defence Concept - Joint Fires

- Background:** As part of the Supreme Allied Commander Europe Comprehensive Defence Concept, the idea of training citizen soldiers, home guard, and territorials in the skill of Forward Observer is critical. This experiment builds upon the virtual reality (VR) training and artificial intelligence (AI) assessment of the Coaching & Mentoring experiment. It proposes a VR Joint Fires (Jt Fires) course delivered in Europe under the control of NATO Special Operations Headquarters to train the increase in Force Elements without the need to send to Fort Sill, CONUS. It will employ a fully immersive training environment and predictive AI to grade the Competence, Capability and Currency of these Force Elements, allowing the control staff to inject themselves into the training scenarios remotely from any location, at any time.
- Mission:** Build upon the VR/AI Coaching & Mentoring Experiment to deliver a viable remote/distance learning and assessment capability for Jt Fires Observers.
- Experiment Category:** Experimenting in Operations – Validation (building on the VR/AI Coaching & Mentoring Discovery Experiment)
- Milestones:**
ERR Via CSB – Complete – May 2020
P&C approval of SOW and P&C – Jul 2020
Initial Concept development and Course Review – Sep 2020
Develop physical training devices – Sep 2020
Align results of the Coaching & Mentoring experiment – Oct 2020
Phase 1 completion – Dec 2020
Phase 2 Start – Jan 2021
IOC – Jun 2021
- 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](#).
- OPEX Point of Contact:** LTC Michael Atkinson, Michael.atkinson@act.nato.int, +1-757-747-4155
- NATO HQ STRATCOM:** This experiment aligns under the 2020 NATO Communications Strategy pillar of *NATO Strengthens and NATO Protects*.

NATO ACT STRATCOM:

This 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.*

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