

Fact Sheet – OPEX

Introduction:	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 .
Background:	OPEX is a compact, yet versatile organisation within NATO's Headquarters Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, based in Norfolk, Virginia, USA. OPEX is responsible for experimenting, using controlled investigations to gain evidence in support of developing new concepts, ideas, and capabilities. With an operational bias, OPEX works extensively with field operators and niche experts such as deployed NATO forces, civilians, academics, industry, other international organisations, and non-government organisations. Experimentation enables the Alliance to better understand what works, and what does not, and why.
Mission:	The OPEX mission is to plan, design, and conduct and analyze experiments in support of concepts and capabilities development.
Why Experiment?	To reduce uncertainty, evaluate innovations objectively, identify solutions that may not be clear through study and analysis alone, and reduce the risk of selecting a poor solution. In Warfare Development, experimentation can bring potential capabilities to life in exercises and operational settings. This can inform the development of Alliance thinking, support National choices, and help to identify opportunities for Common-Funded or Multi-National Solutions.
Types of Experiment:	<p><i>Discovery.</i> Introducing novel systems, concepts, organisations, or technologies to a setting where their use can be observed and recorded.</p> <p><i>Hypothesis.</i> Testing of educated, testable predictions about what will happen; if we do x then, y will happen.</p> <p><i>Validation.</i> Provide the final demonstrated evidence of whether a prototype can operate within the operational theatre and improve effectiveness or efficiency. Validation activities include Operational and Acceptance Testing in support of formal Capability Acceptance, ensuring that all supporting elements of a new capability are present and viable.</p>
Experiments Venues:	Operations, Exercises, Scenario Based Discussions/Wargaming, Table-Top Exercises, Workshops, Surveys, etc.
Experiment Categories:	Experimenting in Operations, Experimenting in Exercises, Classic Experimentation, Multinational Capability Development Campaign (MCDC), and Core Business
Headquarters:	NATO Allied Command Transformation, Operational Experimentation Branch.

NATO HQ STRATCOM:

NATO Experimentation aligns under the 2020 NATO Communications Strategy pillar of *NATO Unites, NATO Protects, and NATO Strengthens*.

NATO ACT STRATCOM:

NATO Experimentation contributes to SACT's 2020 Objective #1 - *Support NATO's operations, increase interoperability, and readiness*; Objective #2 - *Mitigate the risk of strategic surprise*; *Objective #3 - Preserve the edge of NATO's military instrument of power over our potential adversaries*; Objective #4 - *Exploit the benefits of cooperation*; and #5 - *Maintain a permanent fit for purpose and agile ACT*.

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