



NATO Allied Command Transformation

Joint Force Development Experimentation & Wargaming Branch 2023 Fact Sheet – Project PHOENIX

Background:

Project PHOENIX is an initiative aiming at identifying, from a Counter Intelligence (CI) perspective, a cross-functional procedure to standardize the approach to captured/discovered CLASS I Unmanned Autonomous Systems (UAS) custody, data extraction, and counter intelligence forensic exploitation.

At present within NATO there is not any coordinated procedures that synchronize activities related to CLASS I UAS discovery/capture, specifically encompassing counterintelligence (CI) concerns when conducting custody and forensic exploitation. Without a NATO standard and a proper C2 relationship among the different stakeholders involved, the risk to lose sensitive intelligence or to overlook intelligence threats is significant. A coordinated procedure on handling captured mini/micro UAS and associated equipment will ensure minimization of data loss and proper exploitation of any historical, location/positioning, and user identification data.

The experimentation will be essential to further refine the theoretical contents of the proposed handbook and ensure the procedure identified meets the tactical and legal needs of the different stakeholders involved in a CLASS I UAS accident.

Aim:

The experimentation is aimed to assess, at the planning level, the validity of the “CAPTURED/DISCOVERED CLASS I UAS MANAGEMENT” appendix to Annex D of the OPLAN.

WDI:

Project PHOENIX aligns under Allied Command Transformation Warfare Development Imperative (WDI) – Layered Resilience

Category:

Standalone Experimentation

Sponsors:

NATO Counter Intelligence Centre of Excellence

Headquarters:

NATO Allied Command Transformation; Joint Force Development Directorate; Experimentation & Wargaming Branch

EWB:

JFD EWB delivers transformation to the Alliance through the conduct of experiments and wargames. Visit www.act.nato.int/ewb-pressroom for more information, or visit us online at the CDE365 Website located on [NATO's Transformation Network](#).

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