

July 2021

# C-IED CoE Newsletter



**Counter Improvised Explosive Devices  
Centre of Excellence**



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# INDEX

- 
- 4** C-IED CoE Highlights
  - 6** Courses and Training
  - 12** Exercises
  - 13** Projects
  - 14** Conferences, Seminars and Working Groups
  - 20** Upcoming Events 2021

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic many internal and external events, courses and seminars have been cancelled or conducted by Video Conference.

## C-IED COE HIGHLIGHTS

### C-IED Annual Discipline Conference (ADC)

On March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, the C-IED COE welcomed 36 participants from the C-IED community of interest to the 8<sup>th</sup> C-IED Annual Discipline Conference (ADC). This year's ADC was conducted virtually to overcome current health situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

During these two days, Subject Matter Experts (SME) from 12 units/organizations including NATO headquarters, NATO-CS, NATO-FS as well as national representatives and representatives of various Education and Training facilities (ETFs) ensure that training requirements and solutions remain aligned with NATO's needs.

This year's ADC was separated in two main sessions to better focus on different topics in every one of them. Based on the Training Requirements Analysis (TRA) the first day briefings delivered updates about tasks and topics from ADC 2020 and potential new NATO Education and Training requirements would be discussed. On the second day, the participants were given detailed information on topics in the field of training and education and the further way ahead and how to strengthen the C-IED discipline was discussed.

Despite the unusual format of the ADC (as VTC), the goals of a solid exchange of information and fruitful discussions about the C-IED-E&T requirements of NATO were achieved in a very professional and open-minded conference.

The Discipline Alignment Plan (DAP) is the official report of the ADC 2021 and is published by ACT on TRANSNET. All presentations of the C-IED ADC are available in the restricted area of the C-IED COE website and also published on e-ITEP.



## 8<sup>TH</sup> C-IED COE LESSONS LEARNED WORKSHOP

C-IED COE held online the 8<sup>th</sup> C-IED COE Lessons Learned Workshop (LLWS) the 27 and 28 of April 2021.

The aim of the LLWS is to contribute to the NATO Lessons Learned process and to increase the knowledge of missions that different nations/agencies are conducting in countries with a high IED threat in order to facilitate and enhance interaction in the multinational C-IED community. The workshop was developed on the basis of three topics:

- a. SAHEL, what has been learned and what needs to be learned to face the next challenges.
- b. The awareness of the C-IED threat to security forces worldwide at the operational and strategic level.
- c. The new NATO Lessons Learned Portal and the C-IED Community of Interest.

Briefers from different units/organizations provided their point of view about the related topics.

It is to be noted the willingness and work of the speakers. The different structures and procedures of organizations and units respond to the evolution of lessons learned throughout their activities. Not only is the information and knowledge exposed and shared in the LLWS important, but also the dissemination of C-IED culture. This supports the identification

of C-IED as a common and shared problem. More than 60 participants attended this event.



## COURSES AND TRAINING

### ANALYST'S NOTEBOOK® USERS COURSE (ANUC) 21.1 AND 21.2

From 22 to 26 February 2021 and from 07 to 11 June 2021, the C-IED COE facilities hosted and supported to the ANUC 21.1 and the ANUC 21.2. The program and the different tasks were fully completed and appreciated by the attendants that fostered the easy learning and dynamic accomplish the performance of the exercises and assorted topics. The students' opinion related to the courses were "very useful, interesting and fruitful enough for their professional interest and daily task at work". The courses ended with the ceremony of formal diplomas, issued by the CoE Director.





## C-IED STAFF OFFICER COURSE (CSOC) 21.1

From 22 to 26 March the C-IED Staff Officers Course (CSOC) 21.1 was conducted in the C-IED COE in Madrid. With participants of five NATO nations, from organizations of Navy, Marines, Law Enforcement and Army as well, there was a lot of tactical level experience in the class. Having representatives from these nations and organizations in the course was a great benefit. From an other point of view, having students from national tactical levels gave us the opportunity to establish a very active and interactive picture of the audience throughout the whole course, especially during the practical excercises. The C-IED Staff Officer Course is not intended for army personnel exclusively and the C-IED COE wants to promote this course to all joint and interagency organizations, for the joint and interagency approach will benefit both the students and the course itself.



## ATTACK THE NETWORKS OPERATIONAL COURSE (ATNOC) 21.1

The C-IED COE conducted in its premises another iteration of the ATNOC in the period of 12-23 April 2021 with 21 students from 6 nations. Supported by external Subject Matter Experts from U.S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) and EUROPOL European Counter Terrorism Centre (ECTC), the C-IED COE could also count again on the support of the ESP Joint Special Operations Component Command (JSOCC, MCOE) and Communications Division of NATO Rapid Deployable Corps (CommsDiv, NRDC, ESP). The ATNOC provides NATO Staff Officers/Senior Staff Assistants from C-IED/Intel/Ops/Plans or other Counter terrorism related disciplines, from tactical and operational level commands as well as personnel of Law Enforcement and Intelligence Agencies with AtN related Situational Awareness. Emphasis concentrates on knowledge and skills to integrate and facilitate the comprehensive AtN approach across other HQ processes and disciplines (e.g. NATO OLPP, intelligence, targeting and exploitation processes) in order to recommend lethal and non-lethal ways to engage all networks (threat, neutral and friendly) and to assess on the engagement effects.





## WEAPON INTELLIGENCE TEAM (WIT) 21.1

The first iteration of the NATO WIT Course 2021 took place from 11 to 28 May in Ramnicu Valcea, Romania. The course was hosted by Romanian Engineering and EOD Training Center, as part of the VNCF WIT Training 2021 Executing Agent Agreement. The course has a duration of three weeks, and covers overall IED exploitation subjects, including make-up and type of IEDs, forensics, photography, terrorist tactical design, S-UAS collection, DOMEX basic concepts and skills and post blast collection and analysis. The course includes as well a very complete practical phase, through which the instructors help developing the skills needed for WIT operators. Students pass through a complete incident battle rhythm, starting with receiving of the task, being deployed to incident site and conducting the scene investigation, producing WIT reports and finalizing next day with a briefing for the TF Commander. VNCF instrument has proven again being a very powerful tool to fulfill the NATO Operational requirements as well to provide nations with a high standard accredited training. The program allows nations to join in an international pool all the needed trainers (and related knowledge) filling the existing gaps in most nations without too much burden to each one.



## DOMEX COLLECTION AND PROCESSING IN SUPPORT TO ATTACK THE NETWORKS COURSE 21.1

The first iteration of the DOMEX Collection and Processing in Support to Attack the Networks Course in 2021 (iteration 21.1) took place from 7 to 18 June 2021, at the C-IED CoE premises (Hoyo de Manzanares) and the “San Marcial Division” Headquarters (Burgos), in Spain.

The two-weeks course covered overall DOMEX disciplines, including DOCEX, MEDEX and CELLEX, as well as UAV exploitation procedures, by lectures focused on scene analysis, forensics and collection, and processing of information gathered from items. The second week of the course faced practical scenarios where the



instructors helped students developing the skills needed as DOMEX specialists. Students run through different scenarios simulating a complete incident environment, starting with receiving the task, being deployed to incident site, conducting the scene investigation, processing the items collected and finalizing with a basic analysis to understand the complete process. The support received by the “San Marcial Division” HQ, Spanish SOF Command, French PIAM, USAREUR-AF and Spanish National Police have being highly appreciated and added value to fulfill the training requirements providing to the students skills in a high operational environment. The program allows to develop national capabilities filling the existing training gaps across the NATO countries and its partners.



# **C-IED CoE PARTICIPATION OR SUPPORTING IN COURSES:**

## **SYSTEMS APPROACH TO TRAINING COURSE (SAT)**

From January 18 to January 22, the Systems Approach to Training course was developed at the NATO School Oberammergau, one C-IED COE officer attended to this highly demanding week.

With this course, participants will be able to explain the link between E&T Requirements and E&IT Solutions, describe the phases of the NATO Systems Approach to Training (SAT) and identify NATO SAT roles and responsibilities.

## **INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT TO IRREGULAR WARFARE COURSE (ISIW)**

One CIED-COE officer attended the Intelligence Support to Irregular Warfare Course at NATO School Oberammergau from 8 to 12 of February.

After this course students will be able to employ analytic methodologies appropriate to providing comprehensive assessments of asymmetric threats and environments in order to provide analytic and collections support to strategic and operational level decision makers, regarding asymmetric warfare threats and environments.

## **NATO ADVANCED FORCE PROTECTION COURSE**

An officer from C-IED COE attended the N3-155-A-21 NATO Advanced Force Protection Course in the NATO School of Oberammergau (Germany). This is the first interaction and the course aim is to better prepare personnel to assume specialist Force Protection staff or Force Protection related staff appointments in national or NATO Headquarters both within NATO boundaries and as part of deployed Force.

C-IED COE is always involved to develop a comprehensive education to their personnel, especially in those areas and activities with which C-IED has a direct involvement.

## EXERCISES

### EXERCISE CAMALEON 21

From 17 to 21 May 2021, EX CAMALEON 21 was held at the "San Marcial Division" HQ DOMEX facility in Burgos, Spain.

The San Marcial Division HQ as a reference Unit for the preparation in DOMEX for Spanish Terrestrial Force (FT), has the task, among others, of "Organizing specific preparation activities / exercises that allow the dissemination of knowledge related to its assigned capacity".

To fulfill this task, since 2013, The San Marcial Division HQ personnel have been training in DOMEX capacity and since 2014, the CAMALEON exercises have been organized annually in which the knowledge and experiences acquired are transmitted to the rest of the FT units.



# PROJECTS

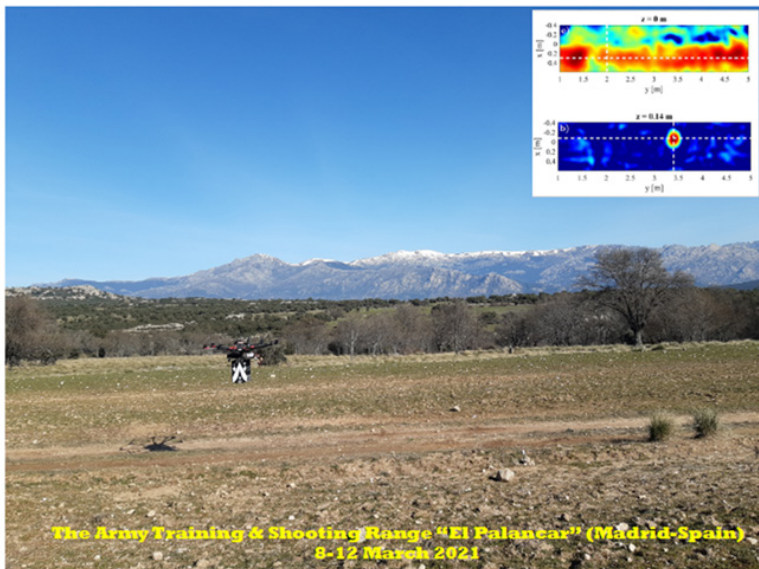
## SAFEDRONE R&D PROJECT - INTERMEDIATE VALIDATION TRIALS

The SAFEDRONE R&D project on UAV-mounted Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) imaging system for buried IEDs detection has completed its intermediate validation trials from 8 to 12 March in the Spanish Army Training & Shooting Range “El Palancar” (CMT El Palancar).

Along a 2,5 km countryside route of the CMT El Palancar more than 80 inert objects (antipersonnel and antitank land mines, IEDs, UXO, metal, plastic or low metal content) have been buried in seven detection areas of same size (12 x 4.5 m) following EOD personnel recommendations.

Intermediate validation results will allow progress in the development of SAFEDRONE prototypes and improve their final performance.

Final validation trials are planned to be held on October 2021 and R&D project SAFEDRONE will finish at the end of this year.



# **CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND WORKING GROUPS**

## **MILENG COE 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DISCIPLINE CONFERENCE**

On invitation of MilEng COE, the C-IED COE attended the Annual Discipline Conference (ADC) for Military Engineering, helded virtually on 25 January 2021.

Even if there are only some overlaps in the tasks and responsibilities of these two NATO education and training (E&T) disciplines, the mutual participation in the ADCs underlines the very good cooperation between these two different stakeholders in the NATO E&T system.

## **COE EDUCATION&TRAINING POC ONLINE MEETING**

Last February 4<sup>th</sup>, the first COE E&T POC Online Meeting took place. Chaired by COE Programme Development Branch, this new informal forum pretends to foster coordination and collaboration within COEs.

This first edition was focused on the new version of e-ITEP and it is used to guarantee every Center and Discipline visibility and how COEs are overcoming the pandemic situation.

## **MAROPS 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DISCIPLINE CONFERENCE**

On invitation of the COE for Operations in Confined and Shallow waters (COE CSW), the C-IED COE attended the virtual Annual Discipline Conference (ADC) for Maritime Operations (MarOps) on 23 February 2021. This mutual participation in the ADCs underline the good cooperation between these two different actors in the NATO E&T program and the mutual importance of the different areas of responsibility.

## NATO LESSONS LEARNED CONFERENCE 2021

C-IED COE attended the NATO Lessons Learned Conference 2021. The theme was “NATO Lessons Learned in a global crisis: what did we learn and how can we do better?” It showed and discussed challenges and opportunities identified during the COVID-19 pandemic and highlight findings as well as ways and means to improve potentially the Alliance's Lessons Learned (LL) Capability.

C-IED COE as a member of the LL community and its spirit of contribution to the Alliance is at the forefront of events in its respective area.

## 3<sup>RD</sup> EU EXERTER PROJECT ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON “PERSON-BORNE IED”

The five year EU EXERTER Project has held its 3<sup>rd</sup> EU EXERTER Project Annual Conference on-line focusing on “PERSON-BORNE IED” from multiple perspectives like research projects, field experiences or the human factor aspect. EU EXERTER Project is promoting a Security of explosives pan-European network. The network aims at identifying and promoting innovative methodologies, tools and technologies that will offer solutions in the fight against terrorism and serious crime, i.e. enhancing the overall Security of Explosives.

Each year is devoted to a specific scenario and the core topic of this year's event is the Scenario of a “Person Borne IED”. The scenario of a “Person Borne IED” has been looked at from different perspectives from stakeholders of the explosive's security community. Experts from different military, research and police institutions as well as a



manufacturer have given their expertise on how to manage a suicide bomber scenario in connection with the EXERTER domains prevent, detect, mitigate and react.

The C-IED COE is supporting EXERTER as stakeholder and end user from the beginning. In this 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference, the C-IED COE has presented the Joint (DEU BKA & C-IED COE) Project on Suicide Vest “Indoor phase”. Others presentations came from the TNO-NDL research centre (Reflection of the Human Factors), the German Federal Criminal Agency or BKA (Suicide Bomber in a tram), the Rohde & Schwarz Company (latest development on Millimetre-Wave Personnel Body Screening/presentation of the “walk-through/top-down group screening study) or the Irish Defence Forces Ordnance Corps Training school (Counter Marauding Terrorism Course- Tactics, techniques, procedures: adverse and own; lessons learned, post-IED strategies).

As final conclusion, it could be highlighted that some interesting issues were discussed and potential lines of work could be open.

## **INDIVIDUAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION PROGRAMME PLANNING BOARD (IPB 2021-I)**

From 12 to 13 May 2021, the first Individual Training and Education Program Planning Board for 2021 (IPB 2021-I) took place under the chairmanship of HQ SACT- JFD. Due to the COVID pandemic, the IPB 2021-I was held virtually.

Participants from ACT, NATO HQ, COEs and NATO training provider came together to share and discuss possibilities and needs within NATO Education and Individual Training (E&IT) Production Planning Process (PPP) and how the COVID-19 pandemic effects training providing.



## **48<sup>TH</sup> SHARED AWARENESS AND DE-CONFLICTION (SHADE) CONFERENCE**

C-IED COE participated in the online 48<sup>th</sup> Shared Awareness and De-confliction (SHADE) conference on 26-27 May in order to identify information sharing opportunities regarding C-IED in the maritime domain. Each year, CMF and EU NAVFOR co-chair the conference, which includes working groups and expert guest speakers to discuss issues that affect maritime security, as well as ways to improve cooperation between the mutually interested parties. Maritime security includes IED threats and the escalation of IED related incidents in the Arabian Peninsula and therefore creates opportunities for collaboration between C-IED COE and maritime related partners.

## **DAT POW WORKSHOP**

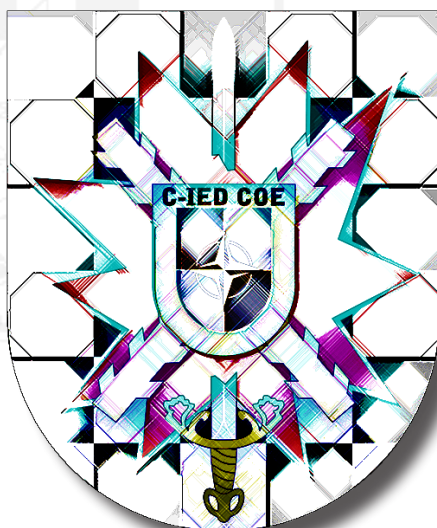
On the 09<sup>th</sup> of June 2021, the Workshop of the Defense Against Terrorism Program of Work (DAT POW), managed by Emergent Security Challenges Division/NATO HQ was held online. The event was intended to monitor status of the ongoing projects, main events and activities regarding DAT POW. Up to 18 briefings were done in DAT areas as Harbor/Force protection, C-IED/EOD, CBRN, EW, C-UAS, Biometrics and Technical Exploitation.

Members of the C-IED COE briefed on three topics as the successful PRINSE-APC Research project on Protection of Infrastructures and Systems Against Explosions – Advanced Protective Coatings finished at the end of May 2021 and other main events as the next Technical Exploitation in Water Environment Seminar, 6-8 July 2021 and the C-IED Interagency Workshop, 26-28 October 2021.

## VTC WITH THE EU COE FOR COUNTERING HYBRID THREATS

C-IED COE and The European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats held a VTC in order to inform about IED threats in a maritime hybrid scenario. As a result of the VTC it was decided that C-IED CoE will support Hybrid COE in future update of the handbook on maritime hybrid threats regarding C-IED.





## UPCOMING EVENTS 2021

### **C-IED COE courses planned for 2021**

This is the C-IED COE planning for 2021 with regard to courses approved by the Steering Committee on 18 November 2020. Below dates may change due to unforeseen reasons. No rights can be inferred according to this schedule.





	BEGIN		FINISH			
2021	JULY	6	JULY	8	ESP	Technical Exploitation in Water Environment Seminar
2021	AUGUST	16	AUGUST	27	HUN	DOMEX 21.2
2021	SEPTEMBER	13	SEPTEMBER	17	ESP	C-IED STAFF OFFICER COURSE (CSOC 21.3)
2021	SEPTEMBER	13	OCTOBER	01	HUN	NATO Weapons Intelligence Team Course (WIT 21.2)
2021	OCTOBER	18	OCTOBER	29	ESP	AtN Operational Course (ATNOC 21.2)
2021	OCTOBER	26	OCTOBER	28	ESP	Inter Agency Workshop (IAWS)
2021	NOVEMBER	16	NOVEMBER	17	ESP	Steering Committee
2021	NOVEMBER	22	NOVEMBER	26	ESP	NATO Weapons Intelligence Team Course Train the Trainer (WIT T3)
2021	NOVEMBER	29	DECEMBER	03	ESP	Analyst Notebook Users Course (ANUC 21.3)

**NOTES:**

1. The proper calling letter for each event will be released in advance.  
POC: [info@ciedcoe.es](mailto:info@ciedcoe.es)
2. No WIT-courses will be offered if there is no VNCF-funding.

The vision of the CoE plans to use a Comprehensive Approach to face up the challenge, with the support of not only military personnel, but also the contribution from law enforcement, police, intelligence community and civilians from research & technology industry and Academy. The synergy of all these elements will contribute to the identification of terrorist/insurgent networks.

The C-IED CoE is the natural venue for all C-IED issues in NATO arena. Its director chairs related working groups in NATO and the Centre cooperates with the European Defence Agency C-IED Project Team, in order to create synergies between both organizations.

The C-IED CoE mission is to provide subject matter expertise in order to support the Alliance, its Partners, and the International Community in the fight against IED and co-operate to increase security of Allied Nations and also all the troops deployed in theatres of operations, reducing or eliminating the threats from improvised explosive devices used or for use, in particular by terrorists or insurgents. Products and services are focused on the analysis of IED information, the investigation and development of new material and technology, and education and training.



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