



SUPPORT TO CSDP OPERATIONS

One of the key tasks of the European Defence Agency (EDA) is to support Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) operations. The Agency offers tangible services to Member States, military and civilian CSDP missions/operations as well as other EU bodies, institutions and agencies. EDA's support hereby is twofold. We offer access to existing projects as well as contracted support solutions, many of which are outlined in this factsheet.

1. Projects and expertise

The Agency systematically promotes projects and expertise developed within its framework to EU Operation Commanders. The objective is to increase value for money with a view to fulfilling the requirements of the end users with tailored high-quality capability.

HELICOPTER INITIATIVES

For over a decade, EDA has managed three helicopter programmes, which collectively aim to improve European helicopter capability for crisis management operations and to support preparation for deployment. The Agency's focus is to provide a through-life and holistic approach to advanced helicopter tactics training during the complete operational life of a helicopter crewmember.

In the frame of the Helicopter Exercise Programme (HEP), the Agency organises an annual multinational helicopter exercise (BLADE series), an annual helicopter tactics symposium, and regular Electronic Warfare (EW) and Composite Air Operations (COMAO) planning courses, mainly oriented to air operations. In addition, common Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) related to helicopter operations, collected within the HEP

Standard Operating Procedures, have been developed and are used for all EDA training activities.

Similarly, the Helicopter Tactics Course (HTC) delivers basic multinational tactics training to helicopter crews with the use of an advanced mission simulator. The Helicopter Tactics Instructors Course (HTIC) is reserved only for the most capable and experienced crewmembers (e.g. pilots, gunners, loadmasters...) in order to qualify as internationally recognised Helicopter Tactics instructors (HTI). This top tier of personnel forms the international cadre of HTI managed by EDA. The best of this exclusive group may become part of EDA HTIC Chief Instructor Team, who provide expert oversight and mentoring during the helicopter exercises, maintaining the highest standards of safety and operational knowledge.

Between 2009 and 2019 a total of 289 helicopters, 2,000 aircrew members and over 12,000 military personnel have been deployed to exercises in France, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Finland, Belgium and Hungary. 794 aircrew members from 17 different countries have graduated from the EDA Helicopter Tactics Course (HTC). In addition, 110 helicopter crew members from 6 different countries have graduated from the Helicopter Tactics Instructors Course (HTIC).

CYBER AWARENESS SEMINARS

Cyber defence is a key concern for CSDP operations. The Agency is active in the fields of cyber defence capabilities as well as in the research & technology domain. It also plays a role in the context of the EU Cyber Security strategy and the implementation of the EU Cyber Defence Policy Framework.

Once activated, the core nucleus of OHQ is augmented by staff coming from different Member States with differing levels of cyber awareness. On request, EDA provides dedicated cyber awareness seminars to train OHQ personnel on cyber threats, international rules and the EU concept for cyber defence in EU-led military operations. This activity is supported by the Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (CCD COE) in Tallinn and the EU Military Staff (EUMS).

To support the OHQ/FHQ/MPCC-internal cyber awareness training in the future, but also in support of a standardised Cyber Awareness training in EU Member States and EU Institutions, EDA is currently developing a “Cyber Awareness Train the Trainer course”.

The pilot course will be conducted under the auspices of the German EU Council Presidency during the last week of November 2020. Once the pilot course has been delivered, the amended course will be handed over to the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) for future iterations.

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

EDA developed a software tool to help the personnel branch (J1) of EU headquarters manage the in-processing and out-processing of personnel at all phases of a CSDP operation. First demonstrated in 2012, the project showed a method of quickly mapping routine HQ processes through development of a software application. The tool, called J1 Functional Area Service (J1 FAS) was refined to prototype and trialled within the Operation Headquarters of EUFOR RCA in 2014. Starting in 2015 it has also been deployed in Rome OHQ for EUNAVFOR MED operation Irini. Since the end of 2016, it is being used as an operational tool and has been further developed.

As a result, and following additional demand, a catalogue of support arrangements for a rollout of the J1 FAS to HQs is in place. Most recently, the J1 FAS software has been completely updated to include a modern open architecture allowing further additional components to be included at low cost. The new version will be demonstrated to EUMS/ Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) in early 2021 with a view to wider deployment.

MARSUR NETWORKING

The Maritime Surveillance (MARSUR) project is one of the longest-running EDA projects. MARSUR allows to improve maritime situational awareness, to produce and share a maritime picture, to improve interoperability and cooperation, both between military and civilian maritime authorities, and with other international actors. MARSUR’s decentralised architecture uses civilian technology. It works independently of national equipment and provides the ability to interface different information systems to exchange data automatically, without a central server. MARSUR is already connecting the Maritime Operations Centres (MOCs) of 21 Navies and EU SATCEN.

MARSUR was implemented with support of the Italian Navy in the Rome OHQ for EUNAVFOR MED operation Sophia (now Irini). In May 2017, a demonstration showed the benefits of connecting a CSDP Maritime Operations Centre to the MARSUR Network to enhance the regional Recognised Maritime Picture shared by the different EU Navies. At the same occasion, the added value of a deployable MARSUR capability as a complementary means to the existing C2 networks was demonstrated.

OHQs can be provided with an access point to the existing MARSUR network via a national node, enabling OHQ staff to access services such as chat, e-Mail, voice-over-IP (VOIP), and file sharing.

MARSUR capabilities have also been used in support of the OCEAN 2020 trials conducted in November 2020. During the demonstrations, MARSUR was one of the networks providing services (track exchange and video streaming) from deployed units to the EU MOC set up in EDA premises.

Currently, MARSUR is selected by EEAS as the network to be used for the pilot case of the EU Coordinated Maritime Presence concept. The modalities of its use and deployment are under discussion.

GEOHUB

The availability of geospatial information is key for the planning and execution of operations. The GISMO project is a joint venture of EDA and the EU Satellite Centre to address this requirement. GISMO developed the GeohuB tool which provides seamless access to geospatial information for EU missions and operations and facilitates reporting. The GeohuB prototype was developed in cooperation with Member States, EUMS, the OHQ for EUNAVFOR MED operation Sophia (now Irini) and the Multinational Geospatial Support Group. It enables information sharing and analysis with a set of services such as maps, images, gazetteers, raster, and vector products, etc.

The GISMO GeohuB prototype has been used to support EU Military Exercises. It is currently being used in OHQ EUNAVFOR MED, in the Multinational Geospatial Support Group and in EUMM Georgia. After achieving a full operational capability, the GeohuB tool is aiming to be deployed to different sites and continue the enhancement of its functionalities. Enlarging the number of users, either at Member States or at the EU Operation Headquarters, is a trend that could generate benefits such as fostering an EU Military Geospatial Information Capability through the adoption of common requirements.

SMART ENERGY CAMP– ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES

EDA funded a Smart Energy Camps Technical Demonstrator at EUTM Mali Koulikoro Training Centre (KTC) in 2015 to analyse the benefits of integrating innovative technologies into traditional power grids for deployed military camps. The system installed within a single building comprised intelligent energy demand management, fixed solar photovoltaic panels, flexible soldier-portable solar photovoltaic panels and energy storage, as well as monitoring and metering equipment for water and electricity. The system provided greater operational resilience with significant energy savings and reduced periods of environmental noise from the generators.

Currently, the formal hand-over of the infrastructure to EUTM Mali Koulikoro Training Center is under way.

2. Contractor support

Procurement of contracted solutions has become increasingly relevant for EU military operations not only to fill capability gaps in the force generation process, but also as a general planned support for ongoing operations. The Agency combines industry knowledge, in-house technical expertise and experience in procurement, which can support CSDP operations/missions and Member States in their procurement procedures and save scarce resources. EDA offers support for ad-hoc procurement as well as pre-mission solutions.

ARRANGEMENT WITH THE ATHENA MECHANISM

Based on successful test cases in support of the German-led EU Battle Group 2012/2 and operation ALTHEA in Bosnia-Herzegovina, a Cooperation Arrangement with the Athena Mechanism was signed in 2015. This arrangement opens the option for the Athena Administrator or any Operation/Mission Commander as Contracting Authorities to call upon EDA to drawing, upon its expertise and available means and capabilities, technical and overall administrative support for procurement.

Under this arrangement, the Agency provided support to EUTM Mali for the procurement of a medical incinerator in Europe and

to EUFOR ALTHEA for a cost-benefit analysis of camp management in Sarajevo.

CONTRACTOR SUPPORT TO OPERATIONS (CSO) PLATFORM

EDA's web based CSO platform serves as a platform for interaction between contracting authorities and economic operators. The platform offers a pool of potential suppliers looking for business opportunities who can respond to the requirements of EU stakeholders. The platform has been used by EUTM Mali and EUTM Somalia to conduct market surveys for special and armoured vehicles. Missions can also advertise their tenders through this tool as foreseen by Athena procurement rules. EUFOR Althea has been regularly posting call for tenders on the platform.

PRE-MISSION SOLUTIONS (LONG-TERM FRAMEWORK CONTRACTS)

In national and CSDP operations and missions, the provision of certain key capabilities is a challenge. Typically, operations or missions are deployed on short notice, in remote areas. In many cases, capabilities are not available, and outsourcing is necessary to provide services from private companies. Experience shows that contracting on the spot under time pressure is not a cost-effective solution. Having in place ready-to-use arrangements proved beneficial in order to reduce the administrative burden and achieve economies of scale.

EU SATCOM MARKET

The overall purpose of the EU SatCom Market is to provide contributing members with an effective and efficient option to commercially source Satellite Communications (SatCom) as well as wider Communication and Information Systems (CIS) services through EDA. EDA coordinates requirements and purchases the services from commercial providers. The project uses a 'pay-per-use' model, with no regular fees so that end users only pay for what they order.

EU SatCom Market is used by military operation EUNAVFOR ATALANTA and military training missions EUTM Somalia, EUTM Mali and EUTM RCA for fixed and/or mobile satellite communications. In addition, EDA is also able to provide contracted networks and communication services. This possibility is used to connect MPCC with all three EUTMs (Mali, Somalia and RCA) over a secure network (EU-R). These specialised services began in autumn 2018 and have been vital for MPCC and EUTMs.

In addition, EDA supports 19 Member States plus Serbia and nine CSDP civilian missions (EUCAP SAHEL NIGER, EUCAP SAHEL MALI, EUAM UKRAINE, EUCAP Somalia, EUMM GEORGIA, EUAM Iraq, EUBAM Libya, EUPOL COPPS and EUAM RCA), EEAS and FRONTX

demonstrating that a joint approach to commercial resources efficiently can deliver civ-mil synergies in the CSDP framework.

EDA GOVSATCOM POOLING AND SHARING (GSC) DEMO PROJECT

Complementary to the EU SatCom Market, the overall purpose of the GSC Demo project is to provide contributing members with quick and easy access to secure and guaranteed governmentally owned Satellite Communications services through EDA. This project pools SatCom resources currently from satellites owned by Spain, France, Italy and Luxembourg and shares this pool with all contributing members. The EDA is supporting the execution of the project by coordinating the service request process and managing the financial transactions for service delivery that takes place on a pay-per-use basis, without any overhead or surcharge costs.

The ATHENA Mechanism is a member of the project and can make use of it for any military mission or operation in need of SatCom services in the X- or military Ka-satellite bands.

In addition, 14 Member States have decided to contribute to this project demonstrating for the first time that a collaborative approach to governmental resources can work efficiently.

IN-THEATRE AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION SERVICES – AIRMEDEVAC

The scope of this project is the provision of in-theatre AIRMEDEVAC services to evacuate patients from the point of injury to the initial Medical Treatment Facility (Forward AIRMEDEVAC) or transfer between in-theatre Medical Treatment Facilities (Tactical AIRMEDEVAC) to be used in the framework of national and/or international defence and/or security operations.

It builds on the EU SatCom Market model to provide aero medical services through multiple contractors offering fixed and rotary-wing services in Europe and Africa. It is based on the EU Military Committee agreed military technical requirements developed by the EU Military Staff and Member States' experts.

The project aims to promote ease of access, interoperability, operational effectiveness and efficiency, reduce the administrative burden and costs and achieve economies of scale. On these grounds the project is expected to encourage Member States to pool their demands. It will offer them economies of scale with competitive prices but also, and importantly, a quick to use option which can be implemented to meet end user requirements.

The project currently involves five Member States and could also offer a quick and easy solution for military operations and missions to contract AIRMEDEVAC services with less burden on mission's staff, subject to the Athena Special Committee deciding to join the project. The tender process to establish the related framework contracts was completed in 2019 and the Agency is currently supporting Belgium and Germany with support services in Africa.

Outlook

The Agency's support to operations is an evolving task but is proving popular with Member States who are benefitting from reduced cost and lower administrative burden. EDA is keen to further support Member States and EU missions and operations with additional projects should an operational need be defined.

Several areas could benefit from commercial arrangements with selected contractors. Building on the successful model of the EU SatCom Market, EDA is exploring new areas to alleviate shortfalls in operations, such as: Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems, infrastructure and camp management, medical facilities and strategic transportation. This work includes supporting the definition of technical requirements and mapping commercially available solutions, which could fulfil possible future requirements and identifying associated risks or limitations.

The Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) enables the European Union to take a leading role in peace-keeping operations, conflict prevention and in the strengthening of international security. It is an integral part of the Union's comprehensive approach towards crisis management, drawing on civilian and military assets. The EU has undertaken many overseas operations, using civilian and military instruments in several countries across three continents (Europe, Africa and Asia), as part of the CSDP.