



MINUTES OF THE 11th ETAP/ETAC STEERING BOARD (SB)

per VTC, 30 Mar 22 organised by ETAC

Participants: The participating main representatives are listed in Annex 1.

Chairman: Col Juan Gonzalo Fernández González (CM)

Secretary: LtCol Alex v. Lengriesser (vL, Sec)

Annexes:

1. - List of Participants
2. - Action Item (AI) list
3. - Agenda
4. - Briefing (available only at www.etac-mil.eu)

Start: 09:05loc

End: 11:37loc

These SB-meeting minutes have been created in accordance with the guidelines for a standard of discussion minutes. They follow the adopted agenda, record the sequence of events and actions and present at the same time the meeting results (summarised at the end).

0.	Verification of attendance
	<p>Prior to the official start of the 11th ETAP/ETAC Steering Board (SB) the different national representatives join the VTC and a proper connection is verified.</p> <p>The SB-representatives from Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Romania are being prevented from participating.</p> <p>vL informs all participants that the SB will be recorded and reminds all on the proper use of the individual microphone and video settings during the VTC.</p>
1.	Opening remarks and introduction by ETACCOM
	<p>Col Fernández (ETACCOM) welcomes all participants to the 11th ETAP/ETAC SB. He focusses briefly on the representative from Lithuania (LTU), who is participating first time and as an observer, since LTU's joining process is not yet concluded. ETACCOM apologises for having to run again this SB-edition as a virtual one and hopes for the overall situation to ease up allowing again to meet face-to face for any subsequent edition. This edition will rather serve for passing information than for decision making. Due to the sense of this SB he abstained from having sent a read-ahead information package.</p>

2.	Validation of the 10th ETAP/ETAC SB minutes and AI review																						
	<p>On ETACCOM's request concerning comments to the 10th ETAP/ETAC SB minutes no representative speaks up. By that the minutes dated of 10 Feb 2022 are approved. Concerning the open Action Items (AI) he continues:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="264 371 1481 1458"> <tr> <td data-bbox="264 371 416 584">AI 07/02</td> <td data-bbox="416 371 1481 584"> <p><i>ETAC prepares and performs a Site Survey (SiSu) in Finland for the Cold Weather Ops proposal</i> Is considered closed, despite the ongoing administrative issues of Finland with the TA. ETAC's proposal to align ANNEX E with the 'Common TA' (dated of 15/02/2022) remained unanswered by Finland. This AI might be re-opened at a later stage, once this issue has been solved.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="264 584 416 658">AI 07/04</td> <td data-bbox="416 584 1481 658"> <p><i>SB - Consideration of TacILM training as a course</i> Investigation regarding a 'stand-alone' ETAP-I TacILM is still ongoing</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="264 658 416 732">AI 07/16</td> <td data-bbox="416 658 1481 732"> <p><i>SB to approve a new ANNEX G</i> AI needs to be reviewed. Related to AI 10/06. AI stays open.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="264 732 416 846">AI 09/03</td> <td data-bbox="416 732 1481 846"> <p><i>RP ESP and ETAC to conduct a SiSu at Salamanca AFB for an ETAP-I TacILM course</i> see comment for AI 07/04</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="264 846 416 960">AI 09/09</td> <td data-bbox="416 846 1481 960"> <p><i>PRT to present a formal request to the SB for sponsoring Brazil to participate in one (1) project in 2022 Or 2023 with KC-390</i> AI remains open, should PRT have the intention to sponsor Brazil in 2023</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="264 960 416 1034">AI 10/01</td> <td data-bbox="416 960 1481 1034"> <p><i>SB-mandate to ETACCOM</i> No proposals received. AI stays open.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="264 1034 416 1108">AI 10/02</td> <td data-bbox="416 1034 1481 1108"> <p><i>SB to provide an answer to the Point paper: 'Legal Service to SB/ETAC'</i> No proposals received. AI stays open.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="264 1108 416 1182">AI 10/03</td> <td data-bbox="416 1108 1481 1182"> <p><i>SB to give feedback to the 'ETAP related draft documents' of ETAC</i> No proposals received. AI stays open.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="264 1182 416 1256">AI 10/04</td> <td data-bbox="416 1182 1481 1256"> <p><i>Offer to receive ETAP-S 22 in Nov 2022</i> No proposals received. AI stays open.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="264 1256 416 1330">AI 10/05</td> <td data-bbox="416 1256 1481 1330"> <p><i>Offer to ETAC to receive a project in 2023</i> No proposals received. AI stays open.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="264 1330 416 1458">AI 10/06</td> <td data-bbox="416 1330 1481 1458"> <p><i>Release of EATC's proposal regarding ANNEX G</i> Proposal for a modified ANNEX G was sent out by Col Raimundo on 20 Jun 21 AI is closed.</p> </td> </tr> </table>	AI 07/02	<p><i>ETAC prepares and performs a Site Survey (SiSu) in Finland for the Cold Weather Ops proposal</i> Is considered closed, despite the ongoing administrative issues of Finland with the TA. ETAC's proposal to align ANNEX E with the 'Common TA' (dated of 15/02/2022) remained unanswered by Finland. This AI might be re-opened at a later stage, once this issue has been solved.</p>	AI 07/04	<p><i>SB - Consideration of TacILM training as a course</i> Investigation regarding a 'stand-alone' ETAP-I TacILM is still ongoing</p>	AI 07/16	<p><i>SB to approve a new ANNEX G</i> AI needs to be reviewed. Related to AI 10/06. AI stays open.</p>	AI 09/03	<p><i>RP ESP and ETAC to conduct a SiSu at Salamanca AFB for an ETAP-I TacILM course</i> see comment for AI 07/04</p>	AI 09/09	<p><i>PRT to present a formal request to the SB for sponsoring Brazil to participate in one (1) project in 2022 Or 2023 with KC-390</i> AI remains open, should PRT have the intention to sponsor Brazil in 2023</p>	AI 10/01	<p><i>SB-mandate to ETACCOM</i> No proposals received. AI stays open.</p>	AI 10/02	<p><i>SB to provide an answer to the Point paper: 'Legal Service to SB/ETAC'</i> No proposals received. AI stays open.</p>	AI 10/03	<p><i>SB to give feedback to the 'ETAP related draft documents' of ETAC</i> No proposals received. AI stays open.</p>	AI 10/04	<p><i>Offer to receive ETAP-S 22 in Nov 2022</i> No proposals received. AI stays open.</p>	AI 10/05	<p><i>Offer to ETAC to receive a project in 2023</i> No proposals received. AI stays open.</p>	AI 10/06	<p><i>Release of EATC's proposal regarding ANNEX G</i> Proposal for a modified ANNEX G was sent out by Col Raimundo on 20 Jun 21 AI is closed.</p>
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3.	Summary/overview regarding actions of the year 21/22																						
	<p>ETACCOM keeps the SB informed (TA Sec. 3 6.g) about the status concerning the Centre's work on projects, that happened after the 10th ETAP/ETAC SB (Project Participant = PP):</p> <table data-bbox="300 1608 1428 1771"> <tr> <td>ETAP-C 21-4.</td> <td>8 PP, all graduated, TacILM module in place (3 candidates)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ETAP-I 22-4/5/6:</td> <td>11 new TacIPs introduced</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ETAP-C 22 Sg N/N:</td> <td>7 PPs, 6 graduated, TacILM module in place (1 candidate)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ETAP-I 22-1/2 TacIP:</td> <td>8 new TacIPs introduced.</td> </tr> </table> <p>He concludes mentioning the expectations regarding the planned projects, here to highlight the ETAP-T 22 with 8 PP, operating 11 aircrafts by 19 aircrews.</p>	ETAP-C 21-4.	8 PP, all graduated, TacILM module in place (3 candidates)	ETAP-I 22-4/5/6:	11 new TacIPs introduced	ETAP-C 22 Sg N/N:	7 PPs, 6 graduated, TacILM module in place (1 candidate)	ETAP-I 22-1/2 TacIP:	8 new TacIPs introduced.														
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4.	Initial Budget Execution Statement (BES)																						
	<p>ETACCOM explains that he plans to release the BES in the last week of April to meet the deadline of 30 Apr. Huge imbalances as in 2020 are not to be expected, since non-spent travel costs on ETAP-C 21-2 and ETAP-T 21 might be eaten up by travel costs arisen by the unconsidered change of location of ETAP-C 21-1 Sg N/N to the Canary Islands.</p>																						

5.	ETAP-S 22
	<p>vL states that no location has been found yet, however, ETAP-S 21 has shown that theoretically any ETAP-S can be performed as 'stand-alone' project not requiring national support. Following this statement the PRT representative announces that PRT at this time is looking into the matter of receiving ETAP-S 22 in the period of 01-04 Nov at the IUM in Lisbon. Final information can be expected within the following days.</p> <p>vL continues and suggests to implement for ETAP-S 22 similar procedures as for ETAP-S 21, which is the takeover of the travel and accommodation costs by the ETAC MB for the speakers in order to make the sending of speakers for Participants more attractive. Though no controversy statement was brought up by any representative, this procedure is not yet approved. All SB-representatives will be approached for approval and the 'Centre' will continue to plan out the project.</p>
6.	PoW 23 including Third (3 rd) Party participation in Pow 23 and height of the 3 rd Party fee in 2023
	<p>vL proceeds visualising the increase in size of PoWs of the past three (3) years 2019, 2021 compared to 2023 by presenting slides, in where the appropriate PoWs are pictured in an overlay.</p> <p>Regarding PoW 23 he briefly describes the standard composition of the table in pillars for the projects ETAP-C, ETAP-I and ETAP-T and states that all letters and figures printed in black are considered to be fixed.</p> <p>He went into deepening the information explaining that Spain (ESP) agreed in receiving twice a combined C-type project for Sg Day and Night/NVG (N/N), one (1) in spring and one (1) in autumn. The dates of these projects are fixed, since moon phase, rise and set times do not allow to deviate from them. Bulgaria confirmed their willingness to receive a C-project in 2023 and prefers to receive the project in Sep 23, specific dates tbd.</p> <p>With a view on the advanced date vL finalises stating that the product 'PoW 23' seems not yet 'mature' enough to be approved. However, a shift of the deadline of the required SB-approval beyond 30 Apr would be against the provisions made in the ETAP/ETAC TA. The submission for a timely approval must be done without an indication of nation's interest. ESP requests to combine the approval of PoW 23 with an approval regarding the acceptance of 3rd party nations to the projects, as long as their consideration do not harm the prioritisation of signatory nations to the ETAP/ETAC TA. Whether a 3rd party fee will be imposed and in which height, can be decided on a later stage.</p>
7.	Job Descriptions
	<p>ETACCOM proceeds with explaining the need for new Job Descriptions (JD) based on the in 2021 modified ETAC Peacetime Establishment (PE). All JDs dated of 2021 are considered to have been approved by the ETAP/ETAC SB in a silent procedure in summer 2021. Regarding the new JDs for the position of the 'Centre's' TacIPs, he received some questions concerning the TacIP's flying duties within the 'Centre'. A requirement to keep a flying currency is not described. ETACCOM stated that his intention is to use them actively as flying TacIPs during projects. Following deeper communication with ITA, ETACCOM will distribute modified JDs for ETAC's TacIPs for the approval of the SB.</p>
8.	Peacetime Establishment (PE) 2022-2025 (rotation of personnel/bidding process)
	<p>Not expecting any statements regarding the sending of personnel to the 'Centre' yet, but for the information of each national representative ANNEX A to the ETAP/ETAC TA (ETAC Peace Establishment) is presented as well as an overview about the 'Centre's' different working positions indicating the actual and future covering by SPs. ETACCOM explains that within the upcoming year some personnel will rotate out of the 'Centre'. He starts with the position of the Cmdr's Asst, which is supposed to become vacant as of Sep 2022. The DEU representative takes the floor and announces that an extension of tour of vL currently is with a high chance of success in the staffing process. As well, DEU offers to send a TacIP as of summer 2023 in order to fill a vacant TacIP position resulting of the expected departure of the PRT TacIP (PE 08).</p>

	<p>ETACCOM replies that no information on the vacancy of this position is currently known. Approached on the fact the PRT representative states that any further personnel commitment is under investigation and further information will be given to ETACCOM in due time. The 'Plans'-position (PE 05) is continuously vacant since its initial creation and so far no filling is projected. Any initial interest by Participants could not be confirmed. ETACCOM announces the probable vacancy of the CISO (PE 12) and the TacILM positions (PE 09) as of summer 2023. Both incumbents are already in their extension period. Thereafter ETACCOM approaches all representatives asking to initiate considerations in their nations regarding the sending of personnel for the periods discussed.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>ETAC actions regarding a better compliance of possible Project Participants (PP) to the specifications made in the ETAP/ETAC TA Sec. 8</p>
	<p>Concerning the timelines given by the ETAP/ETAC TA regarding the Letter of Acceptance (LoAcc) six (6) months prior to a project ETACCOM once again requests the representatives to observe these set timelines, even should the publication date of the Letter of Activation (LoAct) not be as specified in the ETAP/ETAC TA. Delays in returning LoAcc for expected Project Participants (PP) leads to problems for many involved in the planning process of such a project.</p> <p>The data provided in a PoW serves as an indication of interest. The LoAcc turns interest into commitment. The 'Centre' will implement a new procedure, starting after the passing of each deadline for receiving LoAccs: Not receiving a LoAcc in time allows the 'Centre' to initiate actions to invite so far unconsidered nations for a project. The former interested will lose priority, but will have the chance to re-apply once the spare nation has withdrawn or exceeded the deadline as well.</p> <p>As an example ETACCOM presents the upcoming ETAP-C 22-4 in Sep 22, for which the deadline is due on 08 Apr. ETACCOM assumes the intended procedure as fair for all interested on a waiting list, which in most cases will be 3rd party nations.</p> <p>The French and German representatives fall in with statements and questions regarding procedures for the new established bi-national BATS. The LoAct needs to be send to and will be responded by a LoAcc by the designated lead nation – either FRA or DEU. ETACCOM at this stage does not anticipate any implication doing so.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>ETAC way ahead (=> after 2025)</p>
	<p>For the last agenda item ETACCOM informs the representatives that regarding the projected end of the ETAP in the year 2025 time is running. He briefly presents the short history and the achievements made by the 'Centre', however, states that the growth rate of the first 5 years won't be maintainable in the long run, since a consolidation and programme documents review is required. He adds that decisions for the way ahead after 2025 need to be anticipated soon, He informs all that the ETAP/ETAC TA already foresees the possibility to extend the validity for a minimum of three (3) years, should all Participants unanimously agree. Therefore, he requests the representatives to respect that Spain as a Host of the ETAC should be asked first concerning their intentions regarding a possible extension (see AI 11/09). However, he in parallel approaches the representatives of all Participants to already start investigating in their nation about the intention to extend the TA (AI 11/10). Anyhow, other considerations need to be taken into account as well: the initiative started already ten (10) years ago and other initiatives are got going meanwhile (e.g. the EDA initiative Common TA). Since one of the main statements of the ETAP/ETAC TA is to avoid duplication, effects of these new initiatives needs to be investigated on. ETACCOM explains that the process of achieving an agreement in the matter independent of the outcome (extension or modification/renewal) is expected to be very time consuming. He adds that this process should be initiated now in order to prepare a smooth transition. A modification of the TA will offer many chances. One could be the change of the status of the 'Centre' from a purely management function to an e.g. more school character. ETACCOM proposes to run an additional ETAP/ETAC SB before the summer, dedicated solely to this matter.</p>

	<p>The DEU representative takes the floor and congratulates the 'Centre' for its dedication and fruitful work. The ETAP is a unique opportunity for tactical transport training in Europe. He concludes his statement mentioning his intention to receive an early approval from the DEU Air Force Command for the continuation of the basic idea.</p> <p>The BGR representative's contribution to the matter unfortunately was unreadable.</p> <p>ETACCOM closes the discussion on the topic challenging all representatives not to wait until autumn with their constructive proposals regarding the way ahead.</p> <p>The BEL representatives proposes initially to extend the ETAP/ETAC TA as foreseen. The need to change the TA is not obvious to him and requires a 'Point Paper'.</p> <p>The NOR representative states that discontinuing the initiative would be a bad option regarding the fostering of a European 'work-together'.</p> <p>vL concludes the discussion about the matter stating that in his opinion a proposal to extend the ETAP/ETAC TA comes equal to a three (3) year delay of a necessary general discussions and will finally be a lost chance of development and improvement.</p>
11.	Wrap up/new Action Item review
	<p>Prior to a 'tour de table' vL reviews older and the new arisen 'Action Items'.</p> <p>AI 07/02 is considered closed for the moment, but might be opened again after the settlement of the Finnish issues. The representatives can expect as new AIs the distribution of the BES, ETAP-S 22, release of a PoW 23, approval of a PoW 23 and the 3rd party attendance to projects, changes to ETAC's TacIP JDs, investigation on sending personnel to ETAC iaw the presentation and, the investigation on the 'way ahead' (extension or renewal) of the ETAP/ETAC TA by all.</p>
12.	Any Other Business (AOB)
	<p>During the 'tour de table' all representatives take their chance to say goodbye and to re-enforce their statements made already during the SB. Further statements do not contribute to any new findings. LtCol Duverney-Prêt (EATC) and Maj Beguin (BEL) state that they will change positions soon and will leave the circle of representatives.</p> <p>Col Fernández concludes the 11th ETAP/ETAC SB edition and farewells all representatives, especially thanksgiving the two (2) out-rotating representatives. He concludes announcing expectable communication regarding the next ETAP/ETAC SBs either prior to the summer or in autumn as face-to face meeting.</p>


50001 Zaragoza, 08 July 2022

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Approved by Chairman:

Conference content compiled
by Secretary:

Signature
Col Gonzalo Fernández



Signature
LtCol v. Lengriesser (vL)