



MINUTES OF THE 12th ETAP/ETAC STEERING BOARD (SB)

per VTC, 06 Oct 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: 09:02loc

End: 12:15loc

These SB-meeting minutes have been created in accordance with the guidelines for a standard of discussion minutes. Except for agenda item 10., which for a better overall view starts with a summary followed by specific national comments in alphabetical order of the nations, 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). Agenda item '9. Coffee break' is not considered in the subsequent enumeration.

0.	Verification of attendance
	Prior to the official start of the 12 th ETAP/ETAC Steering Board (SB) the different national representatives join the VTC and a proper connection is verified. The SB-representative from Luxembourg has been prevented from participating. 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.
1.	Welcome by ETACCOM
	Col Fernández (ETACCOM) welcomes all participants to the 12 th ETAP/ETAC SB. Since the majority of representatives are the usual ones, he gives the floor only to 'newcomers' to introduce themselves. Not being visual he introduces LtCol Cardiello, ETAC's Chief Tactical Instructor, who is attending the SB from the ETAC premises. ETACCOM continues to explain briefly the 'tentative agenda'. He apologises for having to run this SB-edition again as a virtual one and hopes to meet for a face-to face type meeting for any subsequent edition.
2.	Validation of the 11th ETAP/ETAC SB minutes and Action Items (AI) review
	On ETACCOM's request concerning comments to the 11 th ETAP/ETAC SB minutes no representative speaks up. By that the minutes dated of 08 Jul 2022 are approved. Concerning the Action Items (AI) he continues presenting an overview about all AIs, open and closed ones.

AI 07/04	Consideration/establishment of the project ETAP-I TacILM
AI 09/03	ETAC to conduct a Site Survey (SiSu) with Receiving Participant (RP) ESP at Salamanca AFB for the implementation of an ETAP-I TacILM course
AI 09/09	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
AI 10/01	To consider a suitable way (method) of coordinating and to formulate ETACCOM's mandate until the 11 th ETAP/ETAC SB
AI 10/02	To provide an answer to the point paper about legal service required to SB/ETAC: No proposals received. AI stays open.
AI 10/03	To give Feedback to the ' <i>ETAP related draft documents</i> ' of ETAC (to be found on ETAC's website)
AI 10/04	Offer to receive ETAP-S 22 in Nov 2022.
AI 10/05	Offer to ETAC to receive a project (ETAP-C, ETAP-T, ETAP-I, ETAP-S) in the year 2023
AI 11/01	Creation/distribution of a Budget Execution Statement (BES) (nlt. 30 Apr 22)
AI 11/02	PRT to confirm its intention to receive ETAP-S 22 beginning of Nov 22 (nlt. 30 Apr 22)
AI 11/03	NOR - Possibility to receive an ETAP-T 23 nlt. 15 Apr 22
AI 11/04	Release of a PoW 23 for the approval by the SB nlt. 22 Apr 22
AI 11/05	Approval of the PoW 23 (nlt. 30 Apr 22)
AI 11/06	Approval of 3 rd party attendance to PoW 23 and height of 3 rd party fee
AI 11/07	Proposal for modification of ETAC's TacIP Job Descriptions (JD)
AI 11/08	Consideration and announcement of intention to send personnel to ETAC iaw the presentation
AI 11/09	Investigation on the offer to continue to host the ETAC after 04/2025
AI 11/10	All to investigate on the desire to extend the TA iaw TA Sec 20.2
AI 11/11	Offer to receive the 12 th or 13 th ETAP/ETAC SB as face-to-face meeting

 closed

 open

He continues counting up the closed ones:

10/04 - ETAP-S 22 is scheduled to be run at the IUM in Lisbon (PRT),
10/05 - PoW 23 was created considering the national offers,
11/01 - The Budget Execution Statement (BES) has been distributed,
11/02 - ETAP-S 22 is scheduled at the IUM in Lisbon (PRT)
11/03 - NOR is unable to receive an ETAP-T 23,
11/04 - Pow 23 was released,
11/05 - and approved by the SB,
11/06 - the 3rd party fee keeps the height of the national contribution to the ETAC MB,
11/11 - the originally scheduled live edition of the 12th SB in AUT had to be cancelled.

Pending AIs:

07/04 - Considerations regarding the establishment of a project ETAP-I TacILM,
+09/03 at Salamanca AFB will be picked up again in the year 2023, time provided,
09/09 - PRT may request participation of Brazil in projects,
10/01 -
10/02 - no feedback has been received by ETAC for AI 10/01, 10/02 and 10/03
10/03 -
11/07 - proposal for new Job Descriptions for Tactical Instructor will be released soon
11/08 - no biddings have been received for attaching personnel to the 'Centre'
11/09 - ESP has no final answer on its continuation to host ETAC
11/10 - SB-representatives are challenged to state the intention of their nation later the meeting.

3.	PoW 22 - review/outlook
	<p>ETACCOM informs the representatives briefly about those projects, which have been accomplished following the 11th ETAP/ETAC SB. Two (2) projects in FRA (ETAP-I 22-3 and ETAP-C 22-3 ran without problems. Four (4) candidates have successfully introduced into their role as TacIP. The Element Lead-project (MultiShip) suffered some interest (4 of max 8 possible Project Participant's (PP)).</p> <p>ETAP-T 22 can be called a huge project regarding the number of PP crews (18). The big effort PRT made, led to a positive feedback by the PPs.</p> <p>ETAP-C 22-4 in Zaragoza ran very well with 8 PPs. An increase of the max. number of PPs had been impossible, so that single 3rd party nations could finally not be considered.</p> <p>ETAP-I 22-1 TacILM had not been launched.</p> <p>vL takes the floor and briefs the pending projects of PoW 22:</p> <p>ETAP-I 22-4, ETAP-I 22-5, ETAP-I 22-6 and ETAP-S 22. All ETAP-I suffer candidates. For this reason the 'Centre' attempts to merge the projects. The 'Centre' presently coordinates with the Receiving Participants (RP) and PPs. The cost-free cancellation is put in promising by the ITA representative.</p> <p>ETAP-S 22 will be shifted from beginning of Nov to mid Dec in coordination with the RP PRT. PRT will send an official request iaw the ETAP/ETAC TA for a Brazilian C-390 military pilot/crew to participate in ETAP-S 22, briefing the aircraft's capabilities.</p> <p>ETACCOM adds that he recommends the PPs to ETAP-Is to better have a substitute for the original candidate on hand, should the scheduled candidate must withdraw. He stressed the point that although availability is obviously a problem, instructors are not linked to the originally selected unit, and any other candidate in the nation should be considered. Recent ETAP-I candidate cancelations during last part of project planning phase, or even trying not to provide a TacIP together with the crew (participation requirement) must not forecast a trend.</p>
4.	Status of PoW 23 following an inclusion of an ETAP-T 23
	<p>ETACCOM briefly explains the history behind the necessity for a new approval of PoW 23. The SB needs to approve the subsequent inclusion of an ETAP-T 23 in Beja (PRT) and some facts that might influence the execution of projects. With the Dutch approval given on the occasion of the 12th SB on request, the inclusion was accepted by unanimity by the SB. He continues that with this decision ETAP-T 23 will become one of the projects in 2023 and needs to be handled as such despite some risks (late approval, execution period in July).</p> <p>He continues giving some information regarding the project ETAP-C 23-1 a/b and matters that contribute to a delay in launch. A decision regarding the 'total estimated project costs' as well regarding the maximum allowed/possible number of PPs is still pending.</p> <p>vL stresses out on anew that PoW 23 is quite a huge PoW and invites EATC to state their intentions regarding their support knowing their business in respect to their 'Lighthouse project (LHP)' (A400M) and the planned participation in projects and exercises in 2023.</p> <p>Col Melillo (EATC HFunDiv) replies that the LHP will not have any negative impact on EATC's will to support ETAP/ETAC. LHP activities in 2023 are planned to be scheduled during ETAP-C 23-2. He uses the chance to present the aim of the LHP to the SB and to assure that the LHP is not supposed to interfere negatively with ETAP-projects.</p> <p>Regarding ETAP-T 23 vL specifies that additional potential PPs could be found among the 3rd party nations like GBR, DNK and POL. The PRT representatives approaches the SB-representatives asking them to consider to withdraw from their intentions to participate in ETAP-C 23-1a Sg Day in order to allow PRT to participate in the this project. He excuses this late request stating that operational reasons led to the late change of intentions. No representative replies to the request at that state. A modified PoW 23 reflecting the information of the 12th SB (ETAP-T 23, PRT request for ETAP-C 23-1a Sg Day) will be released the next days.</p> <p>Regarding the status of various projects vL states that for several projects the Letters of Activation (LoAct) should have already been sent, however, the 'Centre' is unable to launch these projects due to missing administrative information (financial estimate) from the RP's side. The 'Centre' had informed the SB about the issue already by email listing</p>

	<p>ETAP-C 23-1a/b, ETAP-C 23-2, and ETAP-I 23-3 and -4 as being affected. vL requests in this respect a speedy provision of the total estimated project costs for ETAP-T 23 by PRT in order to be able to launch the project iaw the TA-provisions.</p> <p>The BGR representatives presents information about ETAP-C 23-3 Sg Day scheduled for Sep 2023. Plovdiv airfield won't be available due to construction works. The project will have to be run out of Bezmer airfield.</p> <p>ETACCOM picks up the information and thanks the BGR representative for having given the 'Centre' the opportunity to attend the European Spartan Exercise (ESE) 22 at Bezmer and to draw first conclusions in order to prepare the upcoming project.</p> <p>The BEL-representative stated interest in attending ETAP-I 23-6 with one (1) candidate, the AUT-representative refers to the uncertainty about a working Mission Planning System (MPS) in 2023 and the possibility to withdraw their interest in participating in ETAP-T 23 and ETAP-C 23-4 Sg Day because of that.</p> <p>Thereafter PRT requests to be considered as well for one (1) slot in an ETAP-I TacIP and with two (2) candidates for the TacILM-modules planned to be given on ETAP-C 23-1 a. The written confirmation will follow per email.</p> <p>The BEL-representative proceeds offering the topic Air Mobile Protection Team (AMPT) to be briefed by Belgium AMPT personnel on ETAP-S 22. ETACCOM and vL reply that AMPT might become a topic of such symposium, however, the origin of the presenter (BEL, NLD or EAG) is not finally decided upon yet.</p>
5.	ETAP/ETAC TA – Way ahead assignment of tasks and responsibilities
	<p>ETACCOM initiates the next topic by presenting information to the SB about when the current ETAP/ETAC TA is going to be concluded (04/2025) and where this information is to be found (TA). He continues explaining the necessity for a solid distribution of tasks regarding the necessary investigations concerning the way-ahead of the Programme. ETAC's responsibility is the day-to-day management of ETAP and this task does not give room for additional tasks, which need to be taken care of at a higher level. Since <i>'the SB is the governing body of the ETAP'</i> (ETAP/ETAC SB ToRs) he considers the SB/nations to be responsible for paving the way regarding the approach on how to decide on the future of the Programme and the TA.</p>
6.	ETAP/ETAC – impact on the 'Centre's' work until 2025 due to the concerning of the future of ETAP
	<p>He continues giving an overview about the impact the uncertainty of the continuation of the Programme already has on the 'Centre'. A first very considerable effect is noticeable on the issue ETAC Peacetime Establishment (PE). The existing understaffing of the 'Centre' is expected to become worse as of summer 23. Out-rotating personnel might not be replaced by Sending nations (SN). Reason for this are to be found in the current end of the TA in 04/2025. Nations fall short of the minimum time required for attaching personnel abroad. Up to 50% of the ETAC PE positions are affected by this (Cmdr's Asst, TacIP, TacILM, CIS).</p> <p>The prevailing uncertainty as well does not allow a proper planning in respect to modifications of Hard- and Software, since the period remaining is considered to be too short to enter into financial commitments. Consequences will to be expected by a lower output of the 'Centre'. The draft PoW 24 will presently be the last PoW compiled by the 'Centre' and will take into account the current status and the capabilities of the 'Centre' in 2023.</p> <p>Effects, however, might be noticeable already in PoW 23. All projects scheduled for the 2nd semester (ETAP-C 23-3, ETAP-C 23-4a/b., ETAP-T23, ETAP-I 23-5 and -6) will be affected, should out-rotating personnel not be replaced in time.</p>
7.	ETAC PE 22-25 Bidding process
	<p>Considering the above ETACCOM gives the floor to the representatives for the intentions regarding the attachment of personnel to the 'Centre'. The BEL representative offers OPS and AMPT for single projects and announces that the possibility to attach a TacILM as of summer 23 to ETAC is currently under investigation in BEL.</p>

	<p>The DEU representative still offers to send a TacIP to fill ETAC's PE, however, close coordination is required regarding the period of being attached to ETAC. An extension of the current person employed as Cmdr's Asst (vL) is in the staffing process.</p> <p>Since with the attachment of a DEU TacIP the number of the three (3) outlined TacIPS in the current ETAP PE would be exceeded by one (1) for the period of three (3) months, ETACCOM reflected upon the need of a SB approval to do so, or to consider him for this period as national voluntary contribution. A prolonged Hand over/Take over (Ho/To) process might be considerable as well. ETACCOM concludes that he does not expect any problems regarding the issue and asked the audience if anyone had a different opinion, no representative comments this.</p> <p>After the NOR representative receives the answer on his question that 'Military Aviation' does not mean pilot, he states that he will investigate on the possibility to find a Norwegian staff officer for the vacant 'Plans and Policy' position (PE05). Commitments abroad, however, cannot be ordered in NOR and are a matter of individual willingness.</p> <p>That individual willingness of a person designated to be sent abroad is mandatory for doing so by several nations is known by the 'Centre'. However, vL states that so far no volunteers could be found and he challenges all SB-representatives to explore on reasons. Should for example the position/Job Description (JD) be unattractive, information should be passed to ETACCOM to be considered for a modification of the JDs. ETACCOM adds that he will distribute the actual Job Descriptions on anew. Any representative should contact him, if he has questions regarding the JDs, or want to investigate on options for possible candidates partly missing any of the JD listed skills or requirements.</p> <p>The French representative requests the affected JDs for information and agrees that all positions of a PE should be filled to allow proper working.</p>								
	<p>PoW 24 –considerations regarding the creation</p>								
	<p>vL presents an empty matrix for PoW 24 and opens the process for the nations to volunteer to receive a project (C-type, I-type, T-type or S-type) in the year 2024. He requests that offers are to be sent to etac@mde.es.</p> <p>He projects that PoW 24 most probably will be far smaller than PoW 23, should the uncertainty about the way-ahead persists and the rotation of personnel be unsatisfactory.</p>								
<p>10.</p>	<p>Intentions of the signatory nations/representatives regarding the future of ETAP (AI 11/09 and 11/10)</p>								
	<p>ETACCOM introduces into the next topic referring to information given prior to the coffee break and on the occasion of the 11th ETAP/ETAC SB. Basically all representatives welcome a potential continuation of the multinational programme ETAP, however, most of the statements have unofficial character, since the matter is in most nations is still in a staffing process at higher military or even ministerial level. Following overview exemplifies the different additional national positions or statements made by each national representative in alphabetical order of the nation:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="268 1574 1369 2078"> <tr> <td data-bbox="268 1574 379 1809">AUT</td> <td data-bbox="392 1574 1369 1809">Based on the experience of the representative regarding multinational project working, as well under the umbrella of EDA, anything other than an extension or an extension including an amendment of the TA will be too time consuming. He suggests to wait on the answer of ESP and their decision to continue hosting ETAC. Thereafter with the help of EDA an amended TA could be staffed and distributed for approval within the timeframe of a year.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="268 1809 379 1910">BEL</td> <td data-bbox="392 1809 1369 1910">Explains that no matter if an extension, an amendment or a renewal of this TA, all solutions will have to be staffed in BEL, however, he is sure that an agreement could be found.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="268 1910 379 2045">BGR</td> <td data-bbox="392 1910 1369 2045">Based on the experience as a witness of the creation of the current TA, which took around 4 years, the representative states that a rebuild of a similar TA is not feasible in time and suggests like NLD and AUT the extension of the TA with amendments.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="268 2045 379 2078">CZE</td> <td data-bbox="392 2045 1369 2078">Supports the idea of an extension.</td> </tr> </table>	AUT	Based on the experience of the representative regarding multinational project working, as well under the umbrella of EDA, anything other than an extension or an extension including an amendment of the TA will be too time consuming. He suggests to wait on the answer of ESP and their decision to continue hosting ETAC. Thereafter with the help of EDA an amended TA could be staffed and distributed for approval within the timeframe of a year.	BEL	Explains that no matter if an extension, an amendment or a renewal of this TA, all solutions will have to be staffed in BEL, however, he is sure that an agreement could be found.	BGR	Based on the experience as a witness of the creation of the current TA, which took around 4 years, the representative states that a rebuild of a similar TA is not feasible in time and suggests like NLD and AUT the extension of the TA with amendments.	CZE	Supports the idea of an extension.
AUT	Based on the experience of the representative regarding multinational project working, as well under the umbrella of EDA, anything other than an extension or an extension including an amendment of the TA will be too time consuming. He suggests to wait on the answer of ESP and their decision to continue hosting ETAC. Thereafter with the help of EDA an amended TA could be staffed and distributed for approval within the timeframe of a year.								
BEL	Explains that no matter if an extension, an amendment or a renewal of this TA, all solutions will have to be staffed in BEL, however, he is sure that an agreement could be found.								
BGR	Based on the experience as a witness of the creation of the current TA, which took around 4 years, the representative states that a rebuild of a similar TA is not feasible in time and suggests like NLD and AUT the extension of the TA with amendments.								
CZE	Supports the idea of an extension.								

	DEU	The matter is already staffed, the decision making authority is the German Ministry of Defence (MoD). Given this fact some time will be needed before being able to state the official German intentions.
	ESP	Confirms that an official staffing process is currently ongoing in Spain. No intentions have been stated yet by his leadership. He encourages to state existing issues of the current TA to all Participants in order to set up an 'amendment proposal'. He will distribute the official Spanish position once he has received it. He can imagine that to lower the decision making level from MoD to SB might speed-up the approval process.
	FRA	A continuation of ETAP is not in doubt for France. He considers as best practise the drafting of a modified (amended) TA, allowing to be signed on a lower level than any national MoD, since omitting this level might save some valuable time. The duration/validity of a new TA must be discussed as well in this context. He offers to send a proposal as soon as practicable.
	ITA	Presents the intention to go for an extension of the TA, the matter is already staffed at MoD level in Italy. A potential amendment would concern the shortening of the lead-time of the launching process of projects to less than eight (8) months.
	LUX	-/-
	NLD	Welcomes the continuation of ETAP based on the current TA by an amendment of the current TA. An amendment would probably be approved by the Dutch MoD in relatively short time.
	NOR	Would agree on an extension of the TA, as well with amendment.
	PRT	Forecasts an expectable agreement of PRT for an extension of the current TA.
	ROU	Has the same expectation about the continuation of ETAP.
	EATC	The EATC representative prefers not to comment the matter.
	LTU	Of course would support an extension of the TA.
	EDA	Offers support disregarding the decision of extension, amendment or renewal.
	ETAC	The quickest possibility for a continuation of ETAP would be an extension of the current TA, which might not be the best option, however, it would allow a smooth transition and to overcome the present existing uncertainty and out of this resulting issues (manning, PoW 24, etc.).
	<p>ETACCOM and vL summarise briefly that Sec 20 of the TA refers to an extension of the current TA without the possibility of amending. The length of the extension will be a matter of discussion. The 'Centre's' task, however, is the daily management of the ETAP. The overall management of the ETAP is a matter and responsibility of the SB. The chronic understaffing of ETAC does not allow a tasking of the 'Centre' with the processing of such tasks. The majority of representatives suggests to extend the TA for at least for six (6) years, if not for nine (9) years again.</p> <p>ETACCOM closes the topic announcing to the representatives that they will have a look into and consider to set up new AIs.</p>	
11.	Any other business (AOB)	
	<p>The AOB-topic starts with EATC's Lighthouse Project already presented by the EATC representative during an earlier stage. The project concentrates on A400M and improvements to cross- (x-) training activities (Maintenance, mission preparation, x-parachuting, etc) multinational A400M-operator. ETAP-projects are considered by EATC as a good opportunity to enhance operations in these fields, knowing that all related processes must not have a negative effect on the projects.</p> <p>ETACCOM continues notifying the representatives about the intention to negotiate an exchange of information between EAG and ETAC. He suggests that the SB should approve a 'Letter of coordination' at a later stage, after they have set up the arrangements.</p>	

	<p>Regarding the ETAC Multinational Budget (ETAC MB 23) he apologises for the delay in delivery, however, he was in hope for a more speedy access of Lithuania (LTU), which would have an impact on the share between the Participants in the year 2023.</p> <p>He closes the AOB-topic proposing the next regular SB to be a 'live' meeting again and suggests the next meeting to be in April 2023. The AUT representative keeps the offer to host the SB at Salzburg alive, best in week 17 from 24-28 April 2023 prior coordination with ETAC provided. The PRT representative suggests to have all live SBs, for which there are no hosts, in Zaragoza. ETACCOM replies that Madrid would be the better options since much easier to travel to, however, this would be a national decision of ESP.</p> <p>The ITA representative suggests to change the amount of simulator hours given to TacIP-candidates on the occasion of ETAP-Is. This might be easier to handle and would lead to a considerable decrease in cost. ETAC will consider the option.</p>
12.	Wrap up/new Action Item review
	<p>vL wraps up the 12th SB briefly highlighting that the 'Centre' is ready to receive offers from the Participants regarding PoW24, whether they volunteer to receive one of the projects. Regarding the further Als he states that next to the still 'open' ones, the official national positions regarding the continuation of the ETAP in any way will be considered likewise the willingness of the Participants to attach personnel to the 'Centre'.</p>
13.	Farewell
	<p>Not to exceed the scheduled time more as necessary ETACCOM thanks all representative for having been present and communicative and says goodbye.</p>

50001 Zaragoza, 31 Jan 2023

Approved by Chairman:

Signature
Col G. Fernández

50001 Zaragoza, 30 Jan 2023

Conference content compiled
by Secretary:


Signature
LtCol v. Lengriesser (vL)