



**The New Leader  
in European  
Helicopter Crew  
Tactics Training and  
Interoperability**

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2. Mission
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After more than a decade of success the Multinational Helicopter Training Centre (MHTC) has taken over all the Helicopter Training Programmes' activities, namely the Helicopter Exercise Programme (HEP), the Helicopter Tactics Course (HTC) Programme and the Helicopter Tactics Instructors Course (HTIC) Programme from the European Defence Agency (EDA) and on the 1st of January 2024, the MHTC declared its Initial Operational Capability (IOC).

*The MHTC's mission is to **improve** European military helicopter **interoperability and capability** through a **coordinated approach** to training **Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs)** and doctrine. The aim is to **improve and strengthen proficiency** by delivering **high-value multinational courses and exercises**, **harmonizing TTPs**, and **building up a European** helicopter **community**, a top-level **cadre of instructors**, and a **lessons learned repository**.*

# Participants



Currently there are 14 countries as signatory of MHTC Technical Arrangement (TA):

AT, BE, CY, CZ, FI, DE, EL, HU, IT, NL, PT, RS, SI, SE (SK, CH) [DK, FR] [SOFCOM, EPRC, NFTE, MSAP]





## MHTC Steering Board

*1 representative from each Participant (Member Nation)*



## MHTC Commander

*(multinational rotation post)*

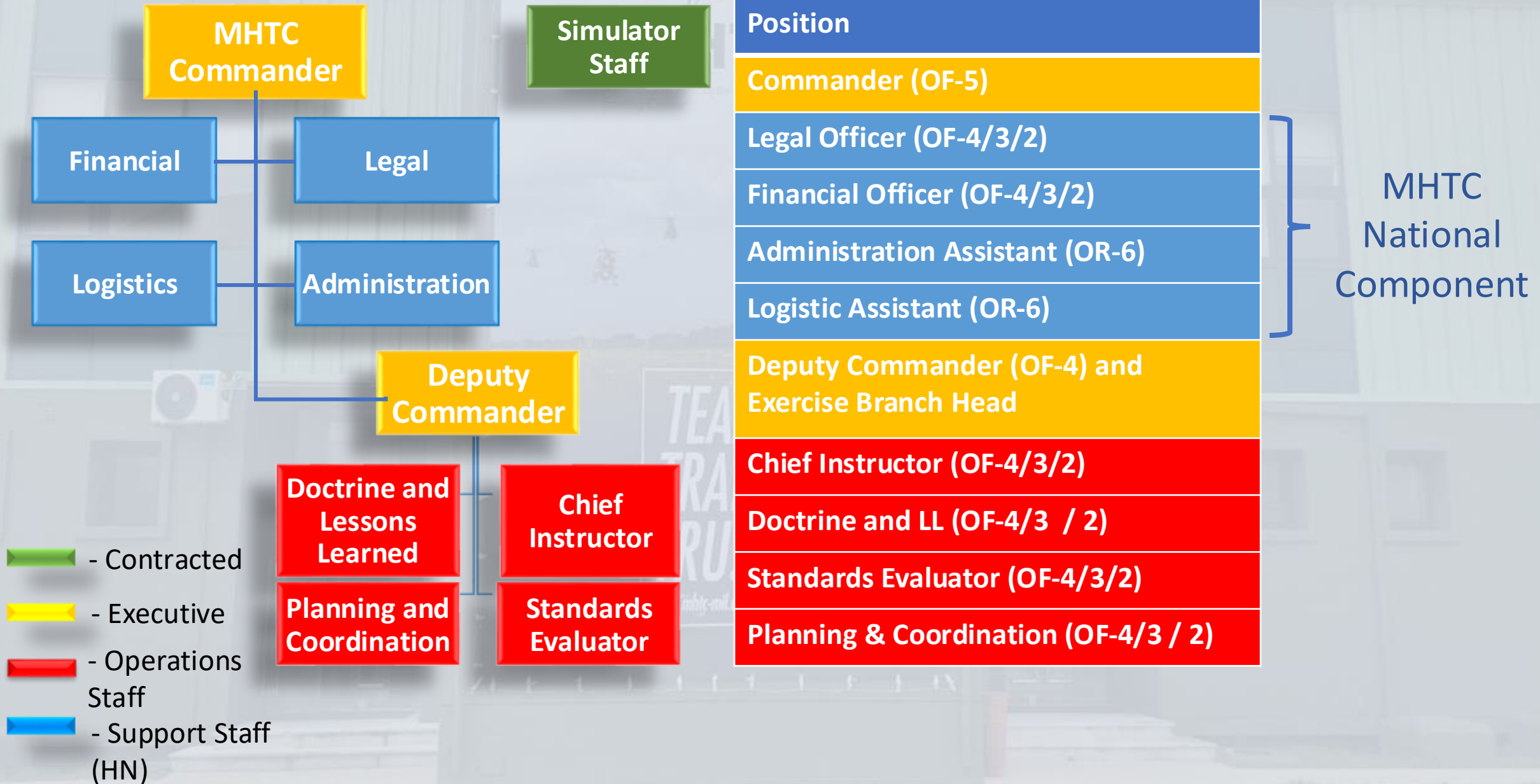


## MHTC

*Permanent Staff*



# MHTC permanent Staff



- █ - Contracted
- █ - Executive
- █ - Operations Staff
- █ - Support Staff (HN)

MHTC National Component

# MHTC permanent Staff - schedule 2023 – 2039

Position	2023 2027	2027 2030	2030 2033	2033 2036	2036 2039
<b>Commander (OF-5)</b>	PT	IT	DE	HU	TBD
<b>Doctrine and LL (OF-4/3/2)</b>	(TBD)	HU	AT	IT	TBD
<b>Standards Evaluator (OF4/3/2)</b>	NL	NL	SE	TBD	HU
<b>Legal Officer (OF-4/3)</b>	PT	PT	PT	PT	PT
<b>Financial Officer (OF-3/2)</b>	PT	PT	PT	PT	PT
<b>Administration Assistant (OR-6)</b>	PT	PT	PT	PT	PT
<b>Logistics Assistant (OR-6)</b>	PT	PT	PT	PT	PT

Position	2023 2026	2026 2029	2029 2032	2032 2035	2035 2038
<b>Deputy Commander (OF-4) and Exercise Branch Head</b>	HU	PT	PT	PT	PT
<b>Chief Instructor (OF-4/3/2)</b>	SE	DE	HU	TBD	TBD
<b>Planning &amp; Coord 1 (OF-4/3/2)</b>	DE	CZ	IT	TBD	TBD

Currently empty



**Approx. 2 million EUR / year and growing**

## Activities by MHTC modules:

- Helicopter Exercise Programme (HEP) [every MHTC participant is member of HEP]
  - “BLADE” exercise
  - EW course
  - COMAO planning course
  - Helicopter Tactics Symposium
- Helicopter Tactics Course (HTC)
- Helicopter Tactics Instructors Course (HTIC)
- Future : ?

# ACTIVITIES – annual “BLADE” exercise

The “BLADE” exercise is a 2–3-week exercise (EX) and is hosted by one of the MHTC Participants on a “rotational” base and is scheduled already for 10 years in advance (2026 is subject to change the location). **During the exercise MHTC will support attendees with mentors (HTIs), provided by the MHTC Participants – continuation of training.**

“Blade” exercise will provide an opportunity to train together using **common** helicopter Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (**TTP**) and to plan and execute complex missions in a multinational environment, in accordance with the **EDA/MHTC** Helicopter Exercise Programme (HEP) Standard Operating Procedures (**SOP**). The focus of this exercise is to enhance interoperability at the tactical level between rotary-wing as well as fixed-wing aviation units by using a COMposite Air Operations (**COMAO**) concept in a realistic and challenging joint and combined scenario, combining land and air operations.

# ACTIVITIES – annual “BLADE” exercises history (EDA)

## "BLADE" exercises

N°	Year	Name (BLADE)	Host Nation	Remarks		
1	2009	GAP	FR	South France	prior EDA	
2	2010	AZOR	ES	Agoncillo (Logroño)	prior EDA	
3	2011	ITALIAN CALL	IT	Viterbo	prior EDA	
4	2012	HOT	PT	Ovar Air Base	by EDA	
5	2012	GREEN	BE	Air Base Kleine-Brogel	by EDA	
6	2013	HOT	PT	Ovar Air Base	by EDA	
7	2014	HOT	PT	Ovar Air Base	by EDA	
8	2015	ITALIAN	IT	Viterbo	by EDA	
9	2016	COLD	FI	Ivalo	by EDA	
10	2016	BLACK	BE	Florennes Airbase	by EDA	
11	2017	FIRE	HU	Pápa Air Base	by EDA	
12	2018	HOT	PT	Beja Air Base	by EDA	
13	2019	DARK	CZ	Náměšť airbase	by EDA	
14	2020	SWIFT	NL-BE	Gilze-Rijen Air Base	CANCELLED due to COVID	by EDA
15	2021	HOT	PT	Beja Air Base	by EDA	
16	2022	FIRE	HU	Pápa Air Base	by EDA	
17	2023	HOT	PT	Beja Air Base	by EDA	
18	2024	HOT	PT	Beja Air Base	RTHB24 - REAL THAW / HOT BLADE: combined exercise	by MHTC
19	2025	FIRE	HU	Pápa Air Base		by MHTC

Host Nation (HN) of the annual “BLADE” exercise is agreed by the MHTC Participants

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
PT	HU	CZ	PT	DE
2029	2030	2031	2032	2033
IT	PT	SE	HU	PT



The aim of the **2 weeks** EW Course is to provide helicopter crews and support personnel with an in-depth look at **EW theory and how it can be applied operationally**. By the end of the course, trainees should have a thorough understanding of Radio Frequency (RF), Infra-Red (IR) and UltraViolet (UV) spectrum, Electro-Optical (EO), Low-Observable, Laser and Counter-Measure theory, as well as an understanding of how the Electro-Magnetic spectrum plays a part in operations and the manner in, which it can be exploited.

**Delivered by the contractor.**

The 1<sup>st</sup> simulator-based EW “pilot course” was delivered in September 2024.  
Based on the Lessons Learned (LL), a new course development has started by MHTC.

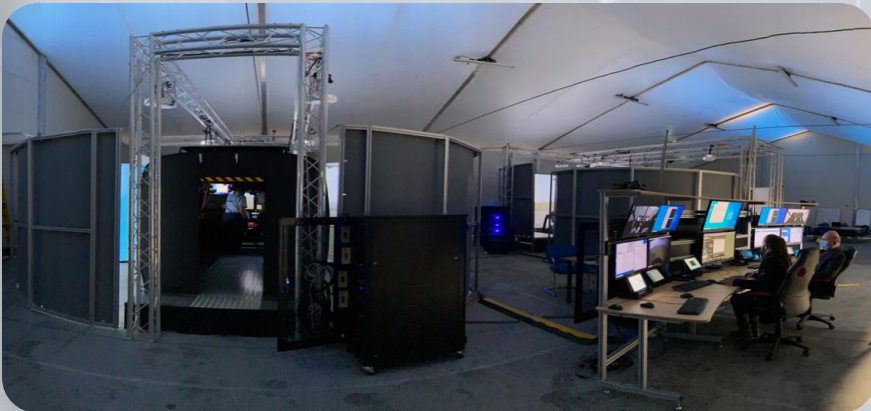
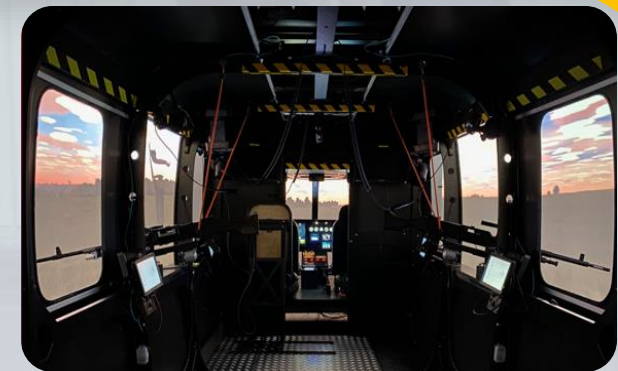
The aim of the **2 weeks COMAO Planning Course** is to provide **helicopter aircrew** and support personnel with an in-depth look at the **academics required for COMAO planning**, a good understanding of complex rotary wing tactics and relevant experience in planning **and briefing complex COMAO missions**. By the end of the course, **trainees should understand** the roles required for COMAO planning, **the “4Ts process”** and **the ability to deliver professional** and well briefed **products**. Additionally, trainees will have an understanding of interoperability requirements and knowledge of the capabilities of a wide range of supporting and supported assets.

**Delivered by the contractor and MHTC Chief Instructor (CI).**

# Helicopter Tactics Course (HTC) – currently 6 times / year

Participants (7):  
DE, SE, PT, SI, RS, FI, CY  
(SK) [MSAP]

HTC is a 3 weeks tactical SIM  
based training delivered by  
contractor (currently: Inzpire).





HTIC is a **7 weeks training, delivered by MHTC Chief Instructor (CI):**

- 3 different syllabi (Silver, Bronze, Gold)
- 4 weeks Ground Phase (PT) classroom + SIM
- 3 weeks Flying Phase (HU) [supporting assets]

**Supporting HTIC:**

- HU: with Airspace, Trg. Ranges, Infrastructure & social activities
- AT: with EW emulator & Smokey SAM & HTIs
- SI: with EW emulator
- CZ: with 4 x L159 (Alca) jets
- DE & SE & **NL**: with HTIs & **HWI**
- The door is open for ALL 😊

**Participants (4) with crews and helicopters:**  
AT, DE, HU, PT, (**CZ, SK**) [**EL**]



## TRAIN THE TRAINER - ENSURES INTEROPERABILITY AND STANDARDIZATION

1st  
year

- **BRONZE** course graduate or “**TACTICS TRAINEE**”
- *learn to adapt to new skills with the vehicle of “generic tactics” and fly tactically*

2nd  
year

- **SILVER** tactics instructor or “**HELICOPTER TACTICS INSTRUCTOR**”
- *learn to instruct generic tactics on ground, in the simulator and in the helicopter instructs Bronze student*

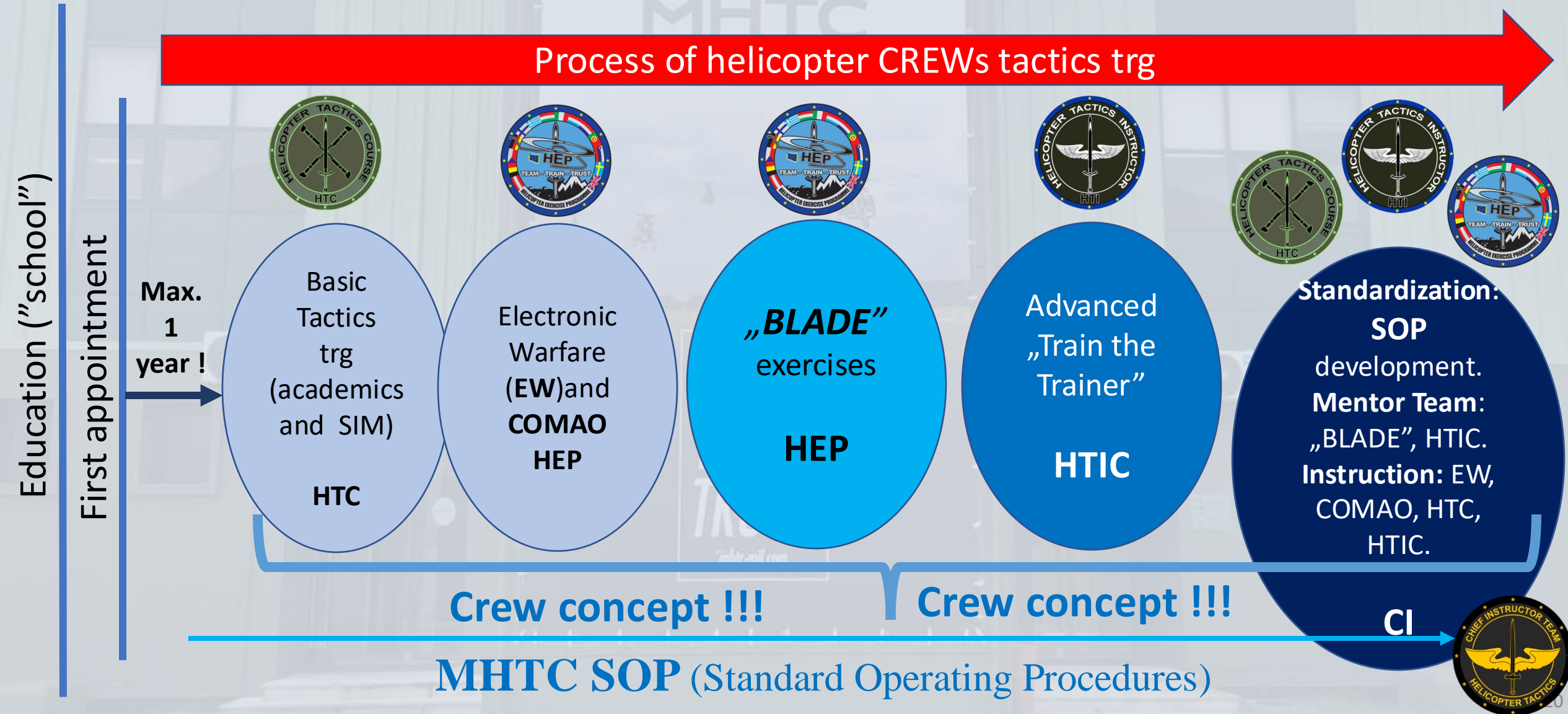
3rd  
year

- **GOLD** tactics Instructor or “**TRAIN THE TRAINER**”
- *successfully mentored trainee during international course*

4th  
year

- **Staff instructor**
- *can be recommended to join Blade Ex mentor team or return as staff instructor proven and self-propelled staff supporting on all levels*

# ACTIVITIES – Holistic approach to Helicopter Tactics trg.



The 3-day Helicopter Tactics Symposium (HTS) is held in different places across Europe, hosted by one of the MHTC Participants. HTS is:

- to share operational experience and knowledge of current threats
- to discuss appropriate TTP
- **delivered by operators to operators**
- **to introduce SOP update if relevant**
- to introduce 3<sup>rd</sup> party invited SMEs who share their knowledge

1. Constant revision and update of the tactical procedures (TTP)
2. Classified areas – currently only unclassified



# ACTIVITIES – Training calendar 2024

**January '24**

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**February '24**

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

**March '24**

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**April '24**

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

- HTC
- HTIC Ground Phase
- HTIC Flying Phase
- EW
- COMAO
- Tactics Symposium
- Hot Blade 24

**May '24**

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**June '24**

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**July '24**

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**August '24**

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

**September '24**

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

**October '24**

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**November '24**

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

**December '24**

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

EW SIM based "Pilot Course"

SB-5:  
at MHTC

38 weeks  
Training  
+ HTS

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## Participants at MHTC Activities:

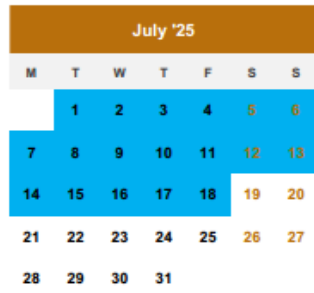
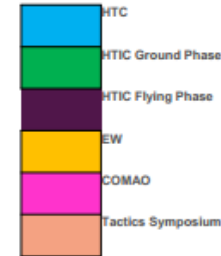
- TOTAL number of trainees (as of today): **174**
- Youngest age: **22 years**
- Oldest age: **56 years**
- Average age: **34 years**
- 2 x observers attended HTC from MSAP TC Staff

Visits / negotiations: SOFCOM, MSAP, NFTE, EPRC,

# ACTIVITIES – Training calendar 2025



## Working Plan 2025

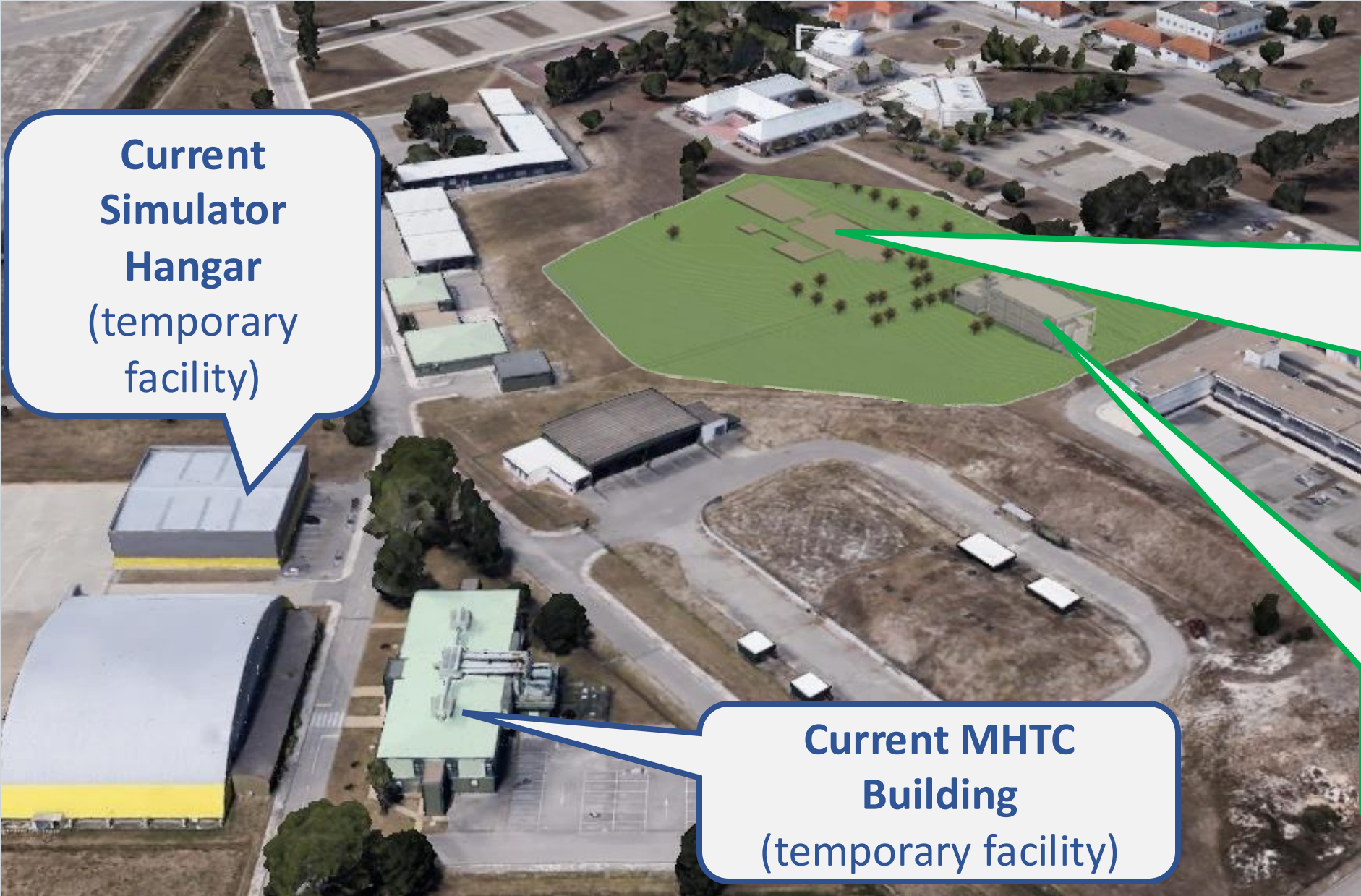


**FB25**



36 weeks  
Training  
+ HTS

# INFRASTRUCTURA (current & future)



Current  
Simulator  
Hangar  
(temporary  
facility)

Current MHTC  
Building  
(temporary facility)

**New MHTC  
Building**  
(permanent facility):  
offices, classrooms,  
briefing rooms  
+  
Simulator Hall

**New  
Accommodation  
Building**  
(permanent facility)



# INFRASTRUCTURA (future permanent facility)

## Simulator Hall in the new MHTC Building

### New MHTC Building + Simulator Hall

- Preliminary Design concluded:
- 18mx14m Simulator Hall
- ≈ 1300 sqm of gross area
- **Estimated delivery: in 2026**

### New Accommodation Building

- **32 bedrooms (single-bed with private bathroom)**
- ≈ 1120 sqm of gross area
- **Construction in progress**



# Construction of the new MHTC accommodation bldg.



As of 2024. 05. 10

Estimated delivery: early 2025



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As of 2024. 10. 10

Estimated delivery: early 2025

# SIMULATOR (current & future)

MHTC SB recognized the need of grow in:

- Training capacity
- Technological quality

## New simulator establishment tendering is in progress:

- Based on EU tendering process and in line with Portuguese legislation
- Supported by EDA Project Officer Rotary Wing
- Tender is going to be published in 2026

- Consolidation
- New simulator establishment
- Grow

TEAM  
TRAIN  
TRUST  
mhtc-mil.com





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