

# NATO Allied Command Transformation Operational Experimentation (OPEX)



## Fact Sheet – OPEX

**Background:** OPEX is a compact, yet versatile organisation within NATO's Headquarters Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, based in Norfolk, Virginia, USA. OPEX is responsible for experimenting, using controlled investigations to gain evidence in support of developing new concepts, ideas, and capabilities. As an operationally-focused Branch, OPEX works extensively with field operators and niche experts such as deployed NATO forces, civilians, academics, industry, other international organisations, and non-government organisations. Experimentation enable the Alliance to better understand what works, and what does not, and why.

**Mission:** The OPEX mission is to plan, design, and conduct and analyze experiments in support of concepts and capabilities development.

**Why Experiment?** To reduce uncertainty, to evaluate innovations objectively, identify solutions that may not be clear through study and analysis alone, and reduce the risk of selecting a poor solution.

**Types of Experiment:** *Discovery.* Introducing novel systems, concepts, organisations, or technologies to a setting where their use can be observed and recorded.

*Hypothesis.* Testing of educated, testable predictions about what will happen; if we do x then, y will happen.

*Validation.* Provide the final demonstrated evidence of whether or not a prototype can operate within the operational theatre and improve effectiveness or efficiency.

**Venues for Experiments:** Operations, Exercises, Scenario Based Discussions, Wargaming, Table-Top Exercises, Workshops, Surveys, etc.

**Headquarters:** NATO Allied Command Transformation, Operational Experimentation Branch.

**POC:** OPEX [opex@act.nato.int](mailto:opex@act.nato.int)

PR Contact: Allied Command Transformation  
Public Affairs Office (ACT PAO)  
Address: 7857 Blandy Road, Suite 100  
Norfolk, VA 23551-2490  
Email: [pao@act.nato.int](mailto:pao@act.nato.int)  
Telephone: +1 (757) 747-3600  
Fax: +1 (757) 747-3234

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