

Tactical Communication Forum (TCF) meeting in the E-3A Conference Centre

Story by A-3 Kurt Anker

Photo by Melanie Becker

This year's Tactical Communication Forum (TCF) meeting was held in the E-3A Conference Centre between the 20th and 22nd of September. Around 38 individuals from Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States, attended the meeting. The attendees' background ranged from a communications Subject Matter Expert to the Chief Executive Officer of a large British company. The intentions for

attending were also different for each member.

The TCF was founded by Alan Gore (Defence Materiel Administration, FMV Sweden) in 2017. The first meeting was held at Hotel Kaunas in Kaunas, Lithuania in May 2018. Two representatives from Mission Systems Engineering Centre, Michael Strauss and myself attended this meeting.

The idea for TCF grew from an obvious need in the military and industry for a simple, low cost event, which gave those working in a tactical communications capacity the opportunity to meet and discuss key themes.

We recognized the Tactical Data Links (TDL) space was accommodated in terms of opportunities for peer-meetings, but the scope was not broad enough to include many mission-critical, wider areas. TCF was developed with four main aims:

- Independent/voluntary organized
- Broaden the scope of discussion from a TDL focus to include wider, mission-critical Tactical Communication themes.
- To be impartial and low-cost to attend.
- To meet the exact requirements of attendees by ensuring all attendees are able to contribute ideas.

Alan Gore is the JAS 39 Gripen C3 Capability Manager at the Swedish Defence Material Administration (FMV) in Stockholm, Sweden. He is a veteran within the Tactical Communication world, especially data links.

TCF focuses on providing an environment for presentations and discussions only. The target audience is military, government and industry personnel and is open for all attendees to provide useful presentations. For the first time, two delegates from Eurocontrol attended and presented their view on the

future communication issues within the UHF frequency band.

TCF is not only TDL:s - the meeting will also discuss the interface and boundaries of other tactical communication systems. TCF will explore Interoperability (IO) of Tactical/TDL communication issues, challenges, problems and initiatives

This meeting is a discussion forum, no exhibitions and the emphasis is on discussions during and after briefings. The size of the group is large enough for a variety of viewpoints and small enough to keep discussions productive. The group is open for attendance and presentations accepted from any corner, level and rank of the community. The tone within the group is informal with an emphasis on productive discussions.

This forum is impartial and unbiased, with no commercial interests. It is run by the community, for the community and anyone can help.

Alan Gore as Chairman, and myself in the role of Vice Chairmen, are working together to continue the work of the TCF.



The participants of the Tactical Communication Forum (TCF) in front of a NATO E-3 AWAC.