



Commandants' Conference_2015_Italy

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Framework
for the
co-operation of
European Air Force Academies (EUAFA)

I. GENERAL

In 1993 the European Air Chiefs Conference (EURAC) was established with the main objective finding new methods of study and co-operation among European Air Forces – within and out of NATO.

In this context, ranging from identifying a common view of the role of airpower to sharing training resources, of considerable importance was the pursuit of a possible European common identity in the areas of education and training for future officers. It was, therefore considered necessary to have a forum in which experts in these areas meet and seek solutions.

Regarding legal and administrative aspects all EUAFA activities shall be covered

- either by existing bilateral agreements between the participating nations
- or by international agreements, such as NATO SOFA for NATO- members or PFP SOFA for PFP-nations.

In case agreements do not exist the participating nations are to seek the guidance and decisions of their national MODs:

- to amend the basic guidelines of the framework to read: "The Framework will be considered as a general guideline for EUAFA activities and will not interfere with international bilateral agreements.

To review changes to framework since 2015, see last page.

II. EUAFA Commandants' Conference

1.Objective

The **European Air Force Academies (EUAFA) Commandants' Conference** is established as a forum in order to exchange information, co-operate and identify areas of common interest to carry out activities, with the largest possible participation of all the member nations, in the field of officer education and training.

~~EUAFA mission is to encourage mutual education through the sharing of information on officer training by promoting academic and military exchanges concerning cadet and instructor training~~

MISSION

To share information on Officer Training and Education to implement Common Modules, Courses, Training and Seminars in order to facilitate cadets and instructors exchange.

VISION

A forum of European Air Force Learning Institutions to share best practices, experiences and valuable information in order to guarantee the future Air-Force Officers world-class education for continuous improvement.

2.Composition

The **(EUAFA) Commandants' Conference** will comprise of the Commandants of the Air Force Academies of the following European countries:

AUSTRIA
BELGIUM
CZECH REPUBLIK
DENMARK
FINLAND
FRANCE
GERMANY
GREECE
HUNGARY
IRELAND
ITALY
NETHERLANDS
NORWAY
POLAND
PORTUGAL
ROMANIA
SPAIN
SWEDEN
SWITZERLAND
TURKEY
UNITED KINGDOM

It is up to each nations to determine which academy and or school will represent the nation within the EUAFA Commandants' Conference

Upon decision of the EUAFA Commandants' Conference the acting Chairman may invite further European Air Force Academies to join the conference.

3.Guidelines

Mutual information shall be the basis for co-operation.

The EUAFA- Commandants' Conference shall be a working conference to:

- analyse problem areas and options for co-operation,
- develop proposals for exchange programs and common training activities,
- conduct exchange programs and common training activities after approval by the Chiefs of Air Staffs,
- inform each other on major changes in their training program,
- report to the EURAC via the Chairman of the EUAFA Commandants' Conference.

4.Chairman

The members of the conference will annually elect a **Chairman**, who shall be responsible for the preparation of the meetings and who shall act as **Point of Contact** (POC) for all members.

The Chairman, who is appointed for one year for the period between two Commandants' Conferences, shall be the Commandant of the Academy that is designated to host the conference at the end of his term.

The Commandants shall meet annually – preferably in June /July.

5.Secretariat

The **Secretariat** shall be run by the Chairman of the EUAFA Commandants' Conference. The secretariat gathers, updates and disseminates

- a **Contact List** of all member academies,
- a **Cadet Exchange Catalogue** of the various Exchange Activity Proposals.
- the community homepage www.euafa.eu

The secretariat prepares and publishes

- the **Minutes of the Annual EUAFA Commandants' Conference and Experts' Working Group meeting.**

6.Experts' Working Group

Following the EUAFA Commandants' Conference 1998 in Salon de Provence, a Working Group was established in order to find common elements within the syllabi of the EUAFAs. The ultimate goal was **Experts' Working Group is established** to identify portions of the individual training and education programs that might be suitable for common training and/or mutual exchanges. **The Commandants of the EUAFA academies decide on who to send to represent their schools at the Experts' Working Group' Meeting.**

The EUAFA **Experts'** Working Group is responsible for the following tasks:

- view the member nations syllabi and focus on common fields within which to provide a basis for future co-operation in training and cadet exchanges
- **discuss a common areas for academic research and collaboration**
- gather, update and disseminate the **Databank** (available at the website), and updated by the appropriate Working Group member) containing:
 - An overview of educational systems.
 - The structure organisational diagram of each participating country.
 - The educational syllabus of each academy.

- The pilot education, training and timeframes in each academy.
 - Document sharing (Academy Magazines and articles on the EUAFA webpage)
- provide an update on upcoming seminars, conferences **and Common Module**, as well as academic competitions
 - discuss experiences and lessons learned from academic exchanges and future challenges/opportunities
 - discuss and prepare new suggestions for academic exchange for the following EUAFA Commandants' Conference.

In order to achieve a better understanding regarding main areas of training in each country's officer training syllabus and from which common areas of interest could be found,

- discuss and prepare agenda items for the following EUAFA Commandants' Conference
- present the findings of the ~~Working Group~~ **previous** Meeting including proposals for future activities to the following EUAFA Commandants' Conference

All nations participating in the EUAFA Commandants' Conference shall also be members of the **Experts' Working Group**.

The EUAFA **Experts' Working Group** ~~meets~~ **convenes** annually at least two months prior to the EUAFA Commandants' Conference at the Academy that is designated to host the conference.

The **Chairman of the Experts' Working Group** and the location of **Experts' Working Group** meetings are normally provided by the forthcoming host nation.

The Chairman of the **Experts' Working Group** shall provide all nations during the Commandants' Conference with

- the minutes of the Working Group Conference,
- proposals for future activities
- the latest update of the Databank.

Each AFA should provide their own higher echelons/ MODs with the data from the databank in order to avoid similar requests for data- exchanges for example via Military Attaches.

7. Deans' Meeting

~~During the EUAFA Commandants' Conference in 2014 in Trondheim Norway, it was decided that a section be added to the EUAFA framework concerning the Deans' Meeting. The WG and Deans' Meetings are to be held at the same time and place, but as two separate meetings, with their own agendas. The commandants of the EUAFA academies decide on who to send to represent their schools at the Deans' Meeting.~~

~~The Deans' Meeting should be responsible for the following tasks:~~

- ~~• View the member nations' syllabi and focus on and discuss common areas for academic research and collaboration.~~

- ~~Provide an update on upcoming seminars and conferences, as well as academic competitions.~~
- ~~Discuss experiences and lessons learned from academic exchanges and future challenges/opportunities.~~
- ~~Discuss and prepare new suggestions for academic exchange for the following EUAFA-Commandants' Conference.~~

~~The Dean of the host academy shall provide all nations during the Commandants' Conference with:~~

- ~~The minutes of the Deans' Meeting~~
- ~~Proposals for future activities~~

7. Costs

The above mentioned activities of the EUAFA Commandants' Conference shall be conducted on an invitational basis.

The **host nation** shall provide conference facilities, administration and support, to include transportation from and to the point of arrival/ departure as well as between conference facilities and accommodation.

The **delegations** shall be responsible for travel arrangements and costs (military or commercial) as well as accommodation costs.

Additional obligations, i.e. costs for food and or special activities shall be accounted for by a conference fee paid by the participants.

III. EXCHANGE PROGRAM

1.Guidelines

During past EUAFA Commandants' Conferences it was decided to set up a common **Program for Exchanges** between European Air Force Academies.

This program consists of various **Exchange Activities** that are offered by the member academies.

The objective is to gather and exchange cadets from different nations for a common activity on a mutual basis as balanced as possible.

These activities should be related to initial officer training under control of the respective academy:

- **Cadets and instructors from host nation have to be involved**
- **the activity should be in line with a typical program at the Host Academy**

In particular the following programs and activities should be offered (examples given in brackets):

- **Academics Programs** (Air power studies, leadership/management studies, defence studies)
- **Cultural Programs** (cultural visits, knowledge of host nation)
- **Military Training Programs** (teambuilding, weapon skills, practical exercises)
- **Aviation Programs, military experience** (air experience flying, visit to military facilities)
- **Sports Programs** (physical and sports training and competitions)
- **Annual Paper/Essay Contests**
- **Seminars (European Security and Defence Politics, Air power, international politics)**

Activities shall be conducted by one **Lead Nation** and two or more **Project Nations** interested to send cadets as well as to provide training in accordance with the standards set.

Activities must fit in with national training syllabi and shall be co-ordinated by a Lead Nation, which

- proposes standards
- plans details
- plans administrative framework

EUAFA Bilateral Activities

All other activities as listed in the Cadet Exchange Databank shall be booked on a bilateral basis.

2.Planning

Planning of Exchange Activity Proposals should be forecast as early as possible.

The invitations shall be non-compulsory and may be non reciprocal.

Each Academy remains free to offer activities (**Host Academy**) or to send students abroad (**Parent Academy**) in response to similar invitations.

The total number of cadets/instructors to be invited by the **Host Academy** shall be limited to 10 as a general rule.

Stays shall be short, normally from 3 to 10 days.

Special offers may exceptionally exceed this planning rule, to include instructors / long term exchanges, based on mutual interest and agreement.

Exchange Activity Proposals shall be published with a standardised format and shall include a short description (with the objectives) of the respective event in order to give the sending academy as well as the cadets more than a rough idea of what is to be expected.

3. Administration and Reporting

The basic Exchange Activity Proposal should be reported to the Secretariat by the end of September of each year.

The catalogue laying out the Exchange Activity Proposals shall be published on the EUAFA website **by October 1st each year. The proposals can be updated later on during the year.**

Changes to the Cadet Exchange Databank should be published by the Secretariat on a quarterly basis (i.e. January, April, July) or when deemed necessary.

Parent nations may request their own participants to fill out an internal report. Only findings that deviate from successful completion may be sent to the host nation, as feedback.

Parent Nations may request an evaluation of students' behaviour and/or performance when a special interest exists (to be worked out on bilateral basis).

4. Organisation of the Exchange

The Host Academy shall select the countries to be invited among all applications received, according to various criteria (bi-national agreements, activities led in previous years, country's first participation in this activity, least participating country, etc.).

The parties designate the cadets, according to the definition of the Parent Academy, as well as the personnel appointed as such to accompany them from the Parent Academy to the Host Academy, for one or several activities offered by the databank.

As **leader of the delegation** a cadet in-charge or an instructor shall be designated by the Parent Academy- He/she shall be thoroughly briefed on his/her responsibilities and duties prior to departure.

Personnel participating to the exchange shall be sent TDY under the provisions of their parent country.

Selected cadets shall report to the Commandant of the Host Academy on a date set by the Host Academy.

The personnel participating to the exchange shall comply with the regulations in force in the host country and shall refrain from any activity deemed incompatible with the spirit of the exchange, in particular political activity.

Moreover, the parent authorities, in particular the Parent Academy, are obliged to take the necessary measures to that purpose.

The Offices of the Military Attaches shall be answerable for their nationals during the stay.

Emergency leaves shall be granted to cadets with the authorisation of the Parent Academy and sought through the Military Attaché at their respective embassies.

For official missions exchange personnel shall be generally authorised to use all types of transportation, including military or civil air assets.

A standardised EUAFA certificate shall be awarded for participation in EUAFA activities.

5. Financial Responsibilities

a) Parent Academies:

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable bilateral agreements and to the extent authorised by its regulations, the Parent Academy shall be responsible during the stay for the following:

- Transportation costs including per diem and other travel allowances to and from the Host Country,
- Special Expenses exceeding regular training costs (already to be announced in the proposal),
- Expenditures resulting from special duties performed on behalf of the parent country.

b) Host Academies:

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable bilateral agreements, the host Academy shall be responsible during the stay for all billeting, training and transportation costs related to missions that it has ordered.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable bilateral agreements, the host Academy shall – in accordance with national rules and policy - provide cadets with the use of the following services

- Accommodation
- Subsistence
- Medical and dental care up to the necessary extent (first aid),
- Access to military exchange facilities and clubs,
- Laundry, dry cleaning services, miscellaneous supplies (soap, polish...) to the extent covered by national regulations of the Host Nation,
- Academic supplies and other necessary materials/ equipment. Such supplies are provided on a loan basis, except for expendables, and will be returned to the host Academy before departure.
- Admittance without charge to athletic contests and other events attended by host Academy cadets.

IV. STATUS OF APPROVAL

Austria	Approved
Belgium	Approved
Czech Republic	Approved
Denmark	Approved
France	Approved
Finland	Approved
Germany	Approved
Greece	Staffed at MOD
Ireland	Staffed at MOD (Air Staffs)
Italy	Approved
Netherlands	Approved
Norway	Approved
Poland	Approved
Portugal	Approved
Spain	Accepted as a general guideline
Switzerland	Staffed at MOD (result known by Apr 2003)
Sweden	Staffed at MOD
Turkey	Approved
United Kingdom	Approved
Romania	Approved

V. Corrections and changes

<u>Date</u>	<u>Details of change</u>	<u>Approved</u>
05.06.2014	Added Romania to section "IV Status of Approval" and changed status of Poland from "staffed by MOD" to "Approved upon request by Poland"	CC meeting Norway 2014
05.06.2014	<u>From III. Exchange Program – removed:</u> "sciences, current affaird, foreign languages, basic military training issues, flying training and parachute jumping" and " In order to enhance multinational co-operation in training EUAFA Exchange Activities shall consist of: a) EUAFA Multinational Activities: Basic Land Survival Courses Basic Sea Survival Courses Glider Flying Camps European Security and Defence Politics Seminars Cadet Meetings and Cultural Exchanges Annual Paper/ Essay Contests Sports Championships.	CC meeting Norway 2014
05.06.2014	Removed "Multinational activities" from section III Exchange Program	CC meeting Norway 2014
05.06.2014	In II. EUAFA Commandants' Conference , added section " 7: Deans' Meeting" and changed the former point 7 " costs" to point 8. costs	Awaiting approval
05.06.2014	Added "section V: Correction and changes"	CC meeting Norway 2014
05.06.2014	Added to III Exchange Program : Annual Paper/Essay Contests Seminars (European Security and Defence Politics, Air power, international politics) In particular the following programs and activities should be offered (examples given in brackets): Academics Programs (Air power studies, leadership/management studies, defence studies) Cultural Programs (cultural visits, knowledge of host nation) Military Training Programs (teambuilding, weapon skills, practical exercises) Aviation Programs, military experience (air experience flying, visit to military facilities)	CC meeting Norway 2014
05.06.2014	Added to II Commandants' Conference point 6 ". •Document sharing (Academy Magazines and articles on the EUAFA webpage) "	CC meeting Norway 2014

10.06.2015	<p>In II. EUAFA Commandants' Conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - modified section 1. Objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) modified EUAFA Mission; b) added EUAFA Vision; - deleted sections 6. Working Group and 7. Deans' Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Experts' Working Group is established (new section 6.); b) merged and modified WG and Deans' functions; - changed the former point 8. "Costs" to point 7. Costs 	
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