

# Composite Special Operations Component Command (C-SOCC)

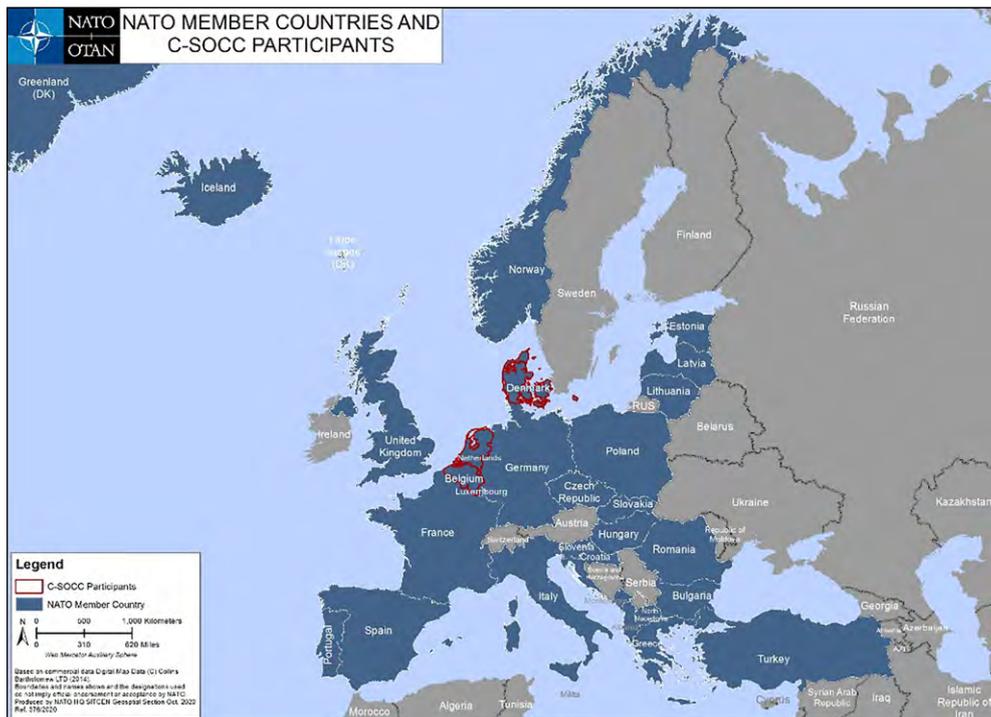
Letter of Intent <sup>1</sup> signed	Memorandum of Understanding <sup>2</sup> signed	Initial Operational Capability	Full Operational Capability
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## Participants



## What is C-SOCC?

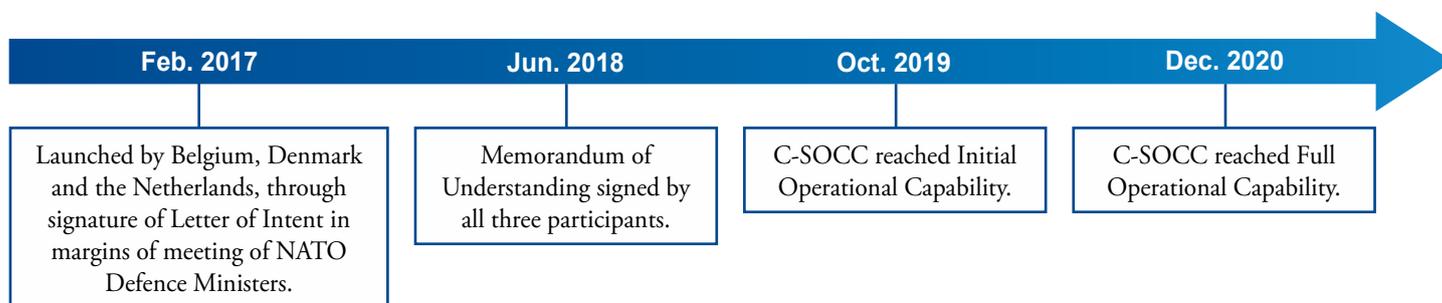
The Composite Special Operations Component Command (C-SOCC) is a temporary deployable command and control (C2) element for Special Operations Forces (SOF). It will combine existing national structures and capacities of three Allies, namely Belgium, Denmark and the Netherlands.



## Multinational effort

The C-SOCC High Visibility Project<sup>3</sup> delivers a complete and rapidly deployable Special Operations Component Command. The integration of the three national contributions will yield a capability that provides operational value in excess of the sum of its individual national parts. This initiative therefore strengthens national SOF capabilities in response to NATO requirements through the establishment of a multinational structure.

1 Initial non-binding document outlining participants' will to explore the area in question further.  
 2 Legally binding document specifying details of cooperation.  
 3 Multinational initiative tailored to address key capability areas, usually launched on the Defence Ministers' level.



## Why is it important?

Special Operations Forces constitute a very versatile tool in modern conflicts as they employ unconventional tactics, techniques and modes of employment. The C-SOCC will provide a key enabler for effectively deploying and directing the operations of multinational SOF contingents. This will allow the three participating Allies to effectively respond to a wide range of operational scenarios.

## How does it work?

Each of the participants owns partial SOF C2 capabilities. By harmonising and combining the existing structures, the participants are able to create one fully Special Operations Component Command capability. The management of the C-SOCC will rotate between the three Allies during peacetime. This allows for equal contributions and responsibility for activation and deployment of the C-SOCC. Currently, the lead nation is Denmark (until the end of 2021).

The C-SOCC will simultaneously lead and coordinate up to seven individual Special Operations task groups within small joint operations scenarios. After having reached Full Operational Capability in December 2020, the participants will commit C-SOCC to NATO in 2021 within the context of the NATO Response Force. Beyond NATO, the C-SOCC could also support United Nations and other multinational operations.

This tri-national initiative serves as an important reminder that Special Operations Forces today increasingly operate in a multinational context, and allow for flexible responses to crisis situations.

## Did you know?

1. While all the participating Allies could respond to their NATO targets individually, addressing them multi-nationally constitutes a more effective operational approach and increases interoperability of Special Operations Forces.
2. C-SOCC has been the first multinational initiative of its kind. It paved the way for other projects adopting a similar approach, including the Regional Special Operations Component Command (R-SOCC), which involves four Allies. These nations are Croatia, Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia, with mentorship roles played by Germany, Poland and the United States.

