

Network of CBRN Defence Facilities

Letter of Intent ¹ signed	Memorandum of Understanding ² signed	Delivery
--------------------------------------	---	----------

Participants



What is the scope of Network of CBRN Defence Facilities?

The Network of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Defence Facilities High Visibility Project³ will provide participants with a framework to connect various kinds of CBRN defence facilities, like live agent training sites and biological laboratories, within a single architecture. The goal is to make the associated capacities more widely available, therefore increasing the level of preparedness amongst Allied CBRN defence forces.

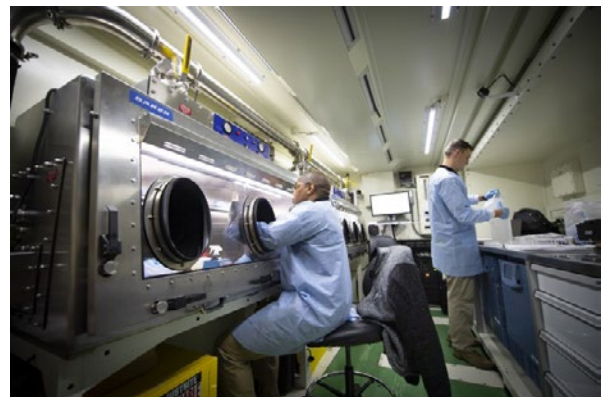
Multinational effort

The Network of CBRN Defence Facilities High Visibility Project originated from the Enabling Multinational Cooperation in the CNAD work strand. Under this approach, individual capability areas are being systematically assessed with a view to identifying specific promising cooperation opportunities. The 2020 cycle of this work strand has focused on CBRN defence and identified concrete cooperation opportunities addressing CBRN protection, detection and identification, as well as CBRN defence facilities.

Based on this analysis and subsequent negotiations, Belgium, Greece, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States launched the multinational Network of CBRN Defence Facilities High Visibility Project through the signature of a Letter of Intent in the margins of the October 2021 Defence Ministers' meeting.

Why is it important?

COVID-19 has painstakingly demonstrated how important it is to protect Allied forces against any kind of CBRN agent. The associated defence capabilities are critical for ensuring that Allies are able to conduct operations even in the case of pandemics, industrial disasters, or the use of weapons of mass destruction by states or non-state actors. A network connecting national CBRN defence facilities will improve the capacity of participants for addressing CBRN requirements, e.g. by expanding training opportunities and broadening access to analytical laboratories.



US National Guard personnel are testing a chemical and biological threat-response system.



NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) live agent training course for CBRN specialists from Egypt, Tunisia and Jordan.

1 Initial non-binding document outlining participants' will to explore the area in question further.
 2 Legally binding document specifying details of cooperation.
 3 High Visibility Projects are multinational initiatives tailored to address key capability areas, usually launched at Defence Ministers' level.
 4 Conference of National Armaments Directors – senior NATO committee responsible for promoting armaments cooperation among nations.

How does it work?

As a next step under this Letter of Intent, participants will define the details and working mechanisms for establishing such a network of CBRN defence facilities.

Did you know?



1. Live agent training is regarded as the most effective way of training CBRN specialist personnel, owing to the use of real CBRN agents, which provides the personnel with a realistic experience in operating in a CBRN environment.
2. NATO Flight Training Europe (NFTE) is another High Visibility Project focusing on the integration of national facilities into a wider framework. NFTE will be a network of training facilities set up for different types of pilots: fighter jet pilots, helicopter pilots, transport aircraft pilots, as well as personnel who remotely pilot aircraft. NFTE's underlying working principles could serve as a template for implementing the Network of CBRN Defence Facilities High Visibility Project.