

Regional Special Operations Component Command (R-SOCC)

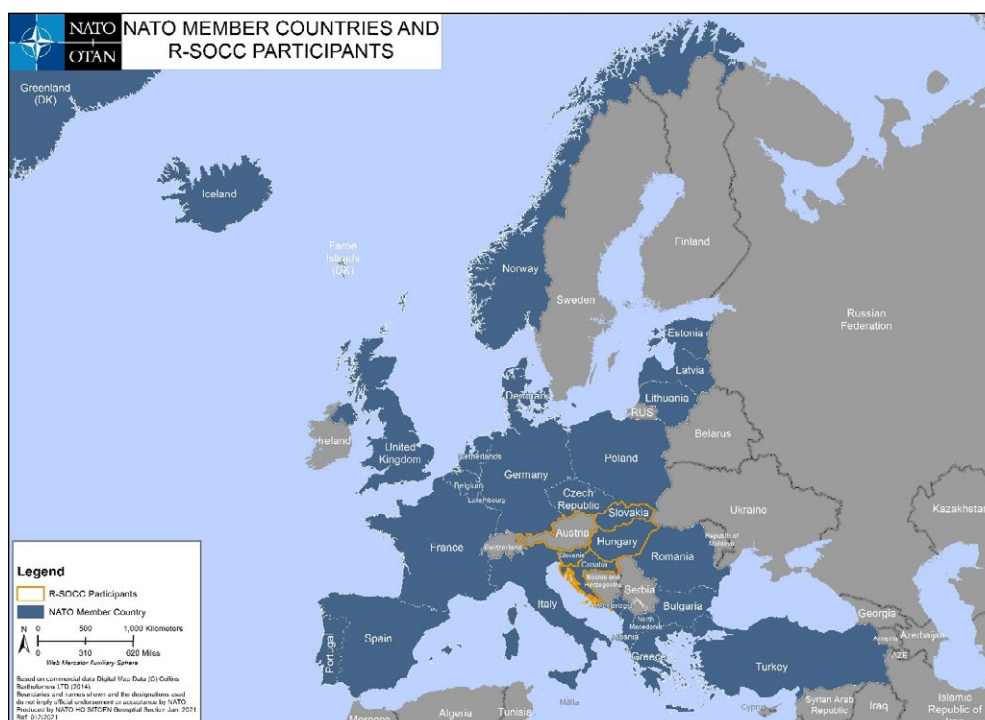
Letter of Intent ¹ signed	Memorandum of Understanding ² signed	Initial Operational Capability	Full Operational Capability
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Participants



What is R-SOCC?

The Regional Special Operations Component Command (R-SOCC) will be a temporary deployable command element for Special Forces. By combining their individual contributions, the participants – Croatia, Hungary, Slovenia, Slovakia and Austria – will put together one deployable SOCC.



Multinational effort

The R-SOCC High Visibility Project³ brings together four Allies and one partner nation from Central and Eastern Europe, with Hungary acting as a framework nation⁴. As all of the participating Allies have NATO targets to contribute to the formation of Special Forces Command and Control (C2) elements, they have decided to work together to create one Regional Special Operations Component Command.

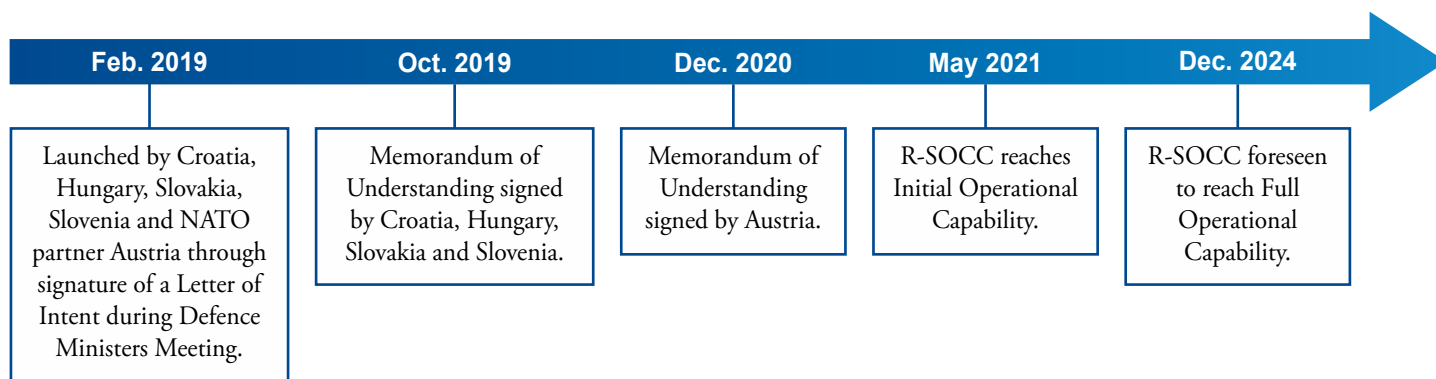
This initiative therefore strengthens national Special Forces' capabilities through the establishment of a multinational structure.

¹ Initial non-binding document outlining participants' will to explore the area in question further.

² Legally binding document specifying details of cooperation.

³ NATO High Visibility Projects are multinational initiatives tailored to address key capability areas, usually launched at Defence Ministers' level.

⁴ Nation responsible for providing 50 per cent of the R-SOCC manning, the R-SOCC Commander and responsible for the overall coordination.



Why is it important?

Special Forces constitute a very versatile tool in modern conflicts as they employ unconventional tactics, techniques and modes of employment. The R-SOCC will deliver increased interoperability and greater operational value to the participants, as well as the entire Alliance. Cooperation in the region will strengthen partnerships, deter aggression, prevent conflict and help the Alliance respond to future crises with greater agility.

How does it work?

Each of the participants owns partial Special Forces C2 capabilities. By harmonising and combining the existing structures, the participants are able to create one fully functioning SOCC. The purpose of the R-SOCC is to establish such a common SOCC headquarters capability multinationally in order to provide a component-level C2 facility for Special Operations. This will improve the value of the overall capability, leverage synergies and increase preparedness and efficiency for the Special Forces deployed by the participants, other Allies and partners.

By truly integrating the contributions of the individual participants, the R-SOCC creates a capability that delivers value in excess of its individual parts. In simple terms, the idea can be illustrated through the metaphor of baking a cake. In order to be able to bake a cake, we need flour, eggs, milk, baking soda, and sugar. Only if we put all the five ingredients together in the right way are we able to produce one complete cake. Similarly, only if the five participants pool their Special Forces C2 structure elements together in the right way are they able to create one full SOCC.

The individual components will be permanently based on their home territories. When needed, they will come together and be deployed as one. This capability can be used in NATO, EU and UN missions and exercises. It will be deployed primarily to face security challenges like hybrid threats and terrorism.

Did you know?

1. While all the participating Allies could meet their NATO targets individually, addressing them multinationally constitutes a more effective operational approach and increases interoperability of Special Forces.
2. R-SOCC is the second C2-focused multinational High Visibility Project. It is modelled after the Composite Special Operations Component Command (C-SOCC) with contributions from Belgium, Denmark and the Netherlands.
3. Although the initiative itself consists of four Allies and one partner, Poland, Germany and the United States play a vital role through advisors and mentors.

