

ATP 3.3.4.2(C)

**STANDARD RELATED DOCUMENT –
EUROPEAN AIR TRANSPORT COMMAND**

1. Introduction. The European Air Transport Command (EATC) was established in September 2010 in Eindhoven, the Netherlands. Participating Nations include Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Spain.

The aim of this multinational command is to contribute to a more efficient use of Air Transport (AT) and Air-to-Air Refuelling (AAR) capabilities of the Participating Nations by transferring and integrating into one single command all relevant national responsibilities with respect to Fixed Wing military AT, and to direct the force generation and the mission execution of the combined AT capabilities for the Participating Nations.

The EATC is responsible for all aspects of military Fixed Wing AT, ranging from the early planning until the end of mission execution and controlling. The Command will also ensure harmonisation of, and set, the highest levels of standardisation in training and employment matters in addition to technical and logistical support.

The overall objective of the EATC initiative is to enhance the combined operational capabilities in delivering AT and AAR support.

2. Mission. The Command plans and tasks assigned assets against the combined EATC Nations AT/AAR requirements, aiming at the overall optimisation of resources.

The EATC specifically aims to develop procedures, and related processes, to efficiently and effectively employ existing and future multi-role platforms in its dual AAR and AT role.

The conditions under which the Command may be used to support operations and the framework for the deployment of Command elements and forces will be established by its executive body - the Multinational Air Transport Committee (MATraC).

3. Organisation and Procedures.

As Participants' structures and fleet compositions significantly differ, the EATC is organised in a modular way, allowing each Participant to tailor its participation in accordance with its national structures and processes.

The EATC publishes SOPs which contribute to the harmonisation and standardisation of the working processes between the EATC and Participating Nations. With respect to the operational process, specific documents describe the EATC action to be taken to undertake complete mission planning and to issue the AT or AAR mission order; i.e. flight preparation, cargo-load planning and aerial refuelling preparation.

The overall aim of the EATC planning & tasking process is to match valid incoming AT and AAR requests with all available assets under the OPCON of the EATC and, in doing so, create AT/AAR missions. This process is supported by a dedicated IT tool - Management European Air Transport (MEAT) - with tasked missions controlled by the EATC Mission Control, operating around-the-clock.

The basis for the cross-national exchange of flying hours between EATC nations is the ATARES system. This multinational framework facilitates mutual support through exchange of services rather than direct financial payment.

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