



Engineering and Constructing NATO's Technology-Forward Eastern Flank Deterrence Line

Moderator:

Joe Copeland, HQ USAREUR-AF

Speaker:

Col. Brian Sawser, USA, Deputy Chief of Staff,
USAREUR-AF ODCSENG

March 5, 2026 | 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

Take Note of Exits

Silence Your Mobile Devices

Download the fillable PDH form at
www.same.org/event/europe-tri-services-regional-summit/



THANK YOU EXHIBITING COMPANIES



AECOM

 **ARCADIS** **POND**



 **BLACK & VEATCH**

 **BUCHART HORN**
ENGINEERS • ARCHITECTS • PLANNERS

**CDM
Smith**

cellcube

COPLAN MERRICK JV LLP



HDR

Jacobs


Mason & Hanger
A Day & Zimmermann Company

 **Stantec**

 **WAYSS & FREYTAG**
INGENIEURBAU

Wirtmann
Engineering


WOOLPERT



WSP

Joe Copeland

HQ US Army Europe and Africa

Fun Facts



Grew up in:

- Shawnee, OK

Currently binge-reading:

- Reading the Terminal List book series

Proudest accomplishment:

- Being a good Dad

Biggest fear:

- Assembling IKEA furniture without the instructions with my German wife



COL Brian D. Sawser, USA



Grew up in:

- Salem, Oregon

Career

- 26 years of service
- Graduate of THE United States Military Academy

Proudest accomplishment:

Proud husband to Susanne, proud father to Sophia (20), Helena (17), Johanna (15), & Jonathan (9)

Biggest fear:

- Teenage Logic



**U.S. ARMY
EUROPE
AND AFRICA**



SWORD OF FREEDOM

USAREUR-AF ODCSENG EFDL Overview

**Overall Classification:
UNCLASSIFIED**

**Location: Frankfurt, Germany
Date: 03-05 March 2026
Dial-in information: N/A
Name of briefer: COL Brian Sawser
Directorate: ODCSENG**

2 Technology Forward Defense

Establish a defense-in-depth ahead of the FLOT with unmanned lethal and non-lethal systems to defeat enemy 1st and 2nd echelons to preserve combat power for counter-offensive.

1 DETECTION

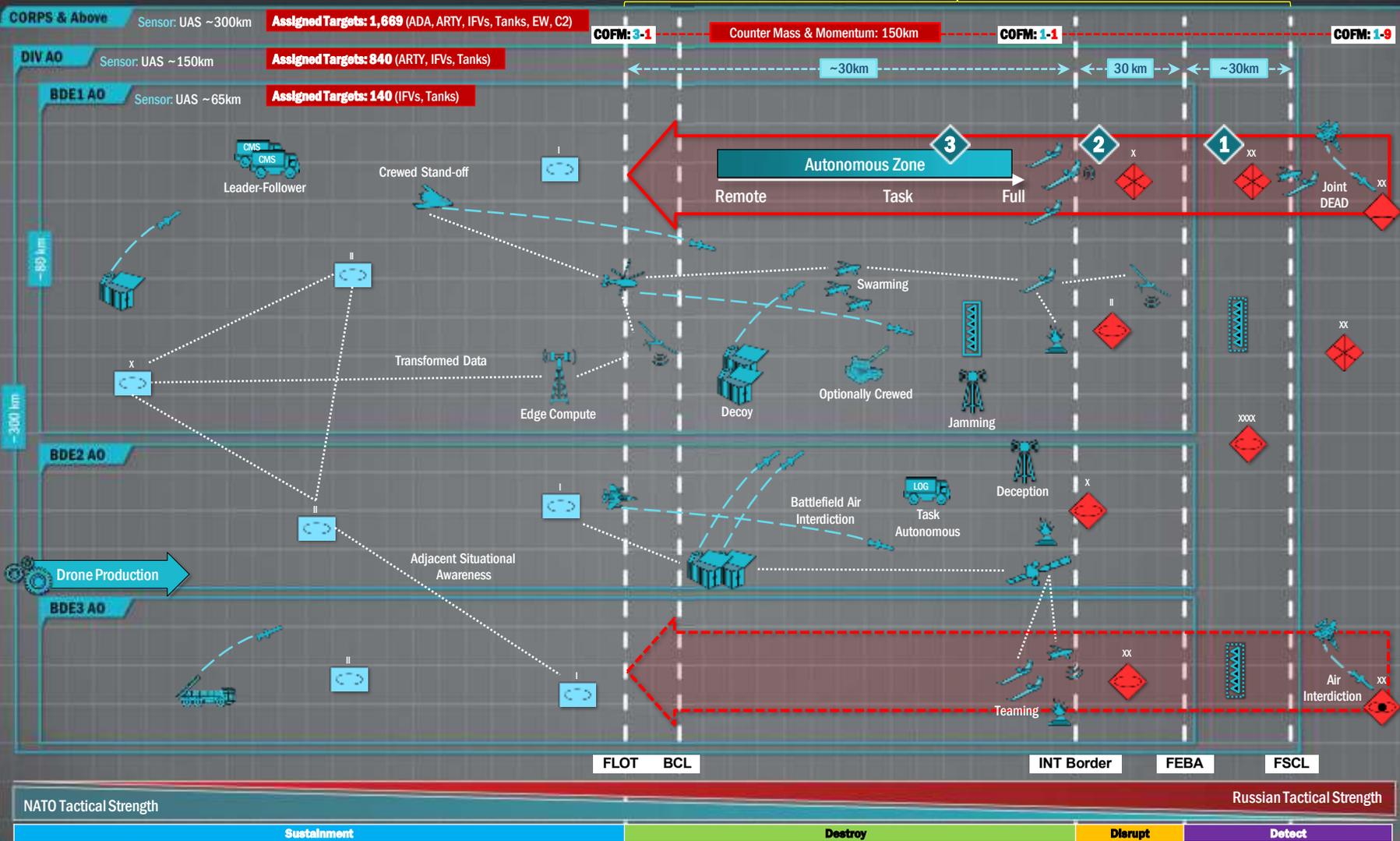
- Confirm/deny indicators and warnings
- Identify enemy ME, SEs, and likely AoAs
- Maintain target custody & initiate BDA
- Integrate kill webs via Global Secure Cloud

2 DISRUPTION

- Neutralize enemy reconnaissance
- Disrupt enemy command and control
- Neutralize enemy EW and UAS/OWA
- Neutralize enemy operational/tactical artillery
- Defeat enemy long-range missile systems
- Delay enemy leading elements
- Disrupt enemy deployment of reserves

3 DESTRUCTION

- Fix enemy leading elements
- Destroy enemy main body forces
- Defeat enemy reserves
- Conduct localized counterattacks
- Set conditions for counter-offensive



Autonomous Zone



1. Connected Sensors and EW
2. Autonomous Sensing/EW, Dynamic Obstacle Emplacement, Anti Personnel, Anti-Armor, Anti-Air (NK/KE), Sustainment
3. Prepositioned Containers with Munitions, Launched Effects, Decoys

C2 & Sustainment

1. Next-gen, high-capacity SATCOM
2. Spread spectrum freq hop radios
3. Unmanned retrans
4. Redundant link fiber/SATCOM/
5. Commercial Space Based EW | QTY
1. Autonomous Container Handling/Movement System
2. Add./Sub. Manufacturing
3. Heavy Transport UAV, (>300kg)
4. Light, Medium, and Heavy UGV
5. AI-Assisted Triage & Treatment
6. Unmanned Ground EVAC Vehicle
7. AI-Assisted Predictive Ordering

Destruction

1. Containerized, Ground Launched Effects (mixed)
2. Aerial-Launched Effects (mixed)
3. Containerized, Rockets
4. Medium-Range Launched Effect EMS Penetrator (mixed)
5. High altitude persistent sense and strike
6. Tailorable fired/launched EMS obfuscation and EW effects
7. Robotic ground systems (anti-tank & anti-personnel)
8. Long-Range, low-cost cruise missile, rotary wing
9. Long-Range Launched Effect, infrastructure target

Disruption

1. ADA Gun Truck, Kinetic
2. MILDEC emitters
3. Laser Seeking SHORAD interceptors
4. Microwave Jammers
5. Drones for Minefield Emplacement
6. Mine Emplace System
7. UGV Dozer for Anti Tank Ditch and entrenching
8. Autonomously-Emplaced Concertina Wire, Aerial or Ground System
9. UGV-enabled dragon teeth emplacement
10. SATCOM Jammer & Directional PNT denial

Detection

1. Unattended Ground Sensors (ELINT, EO/IR, Vibration, Acoustic)
2. Corps, DIV, BDE Mobile, Production, Exploitation Dissemination
3. Recon UGV
4. Mobile Containerized
5. Passive Acoustic Sensors (Operational Level, attributable, dynamically taskable, Persistent, Modular Sensor)
6. Long-Range UAS
7. Auto. SHORAD sensors
8. Directed Airborne Sensor
9. Tethered Drone System



Optionally Crewed Anti-Tank
Ditching and Entrenching Vehicles



Autonomous Minefield
Emplacement



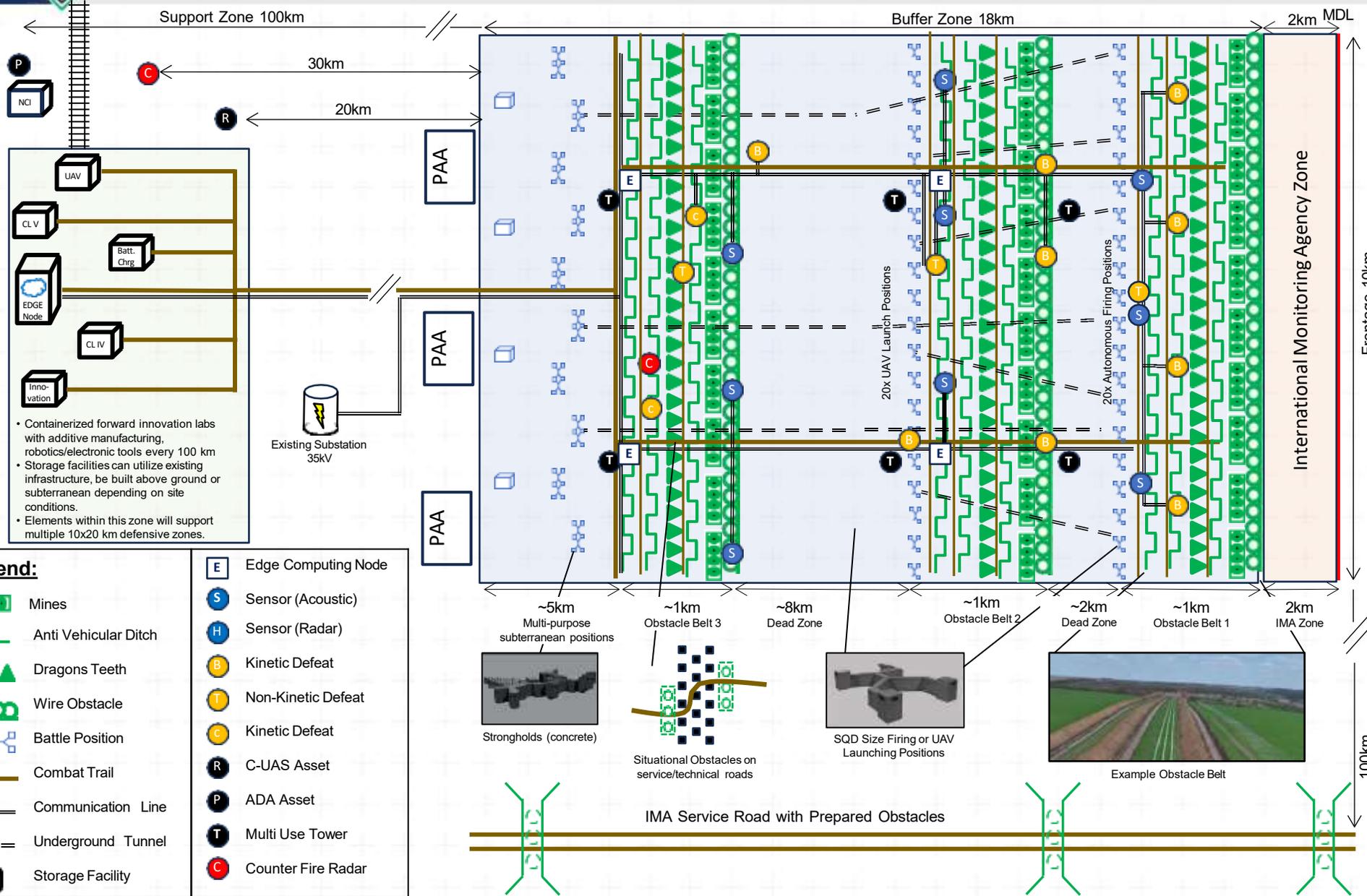
Autonomous Obstacle
Emplacement



RMILENGP/COP
Cloud Integration



EFDL-U Ground Based DOCTEMP



Legend:

	Mines		Edge Computing Node
	Anti Vehicular Ditch		Sensor (Acoustic)
	Dragons Teeth		Sensor (Radar)
	Wire Obstacle		Kinetic Defeat
	Battle Position		Non-Kinetic Defeat
	Combat Trail		Kinetic Defeat
	Communication Line		C-UAS Asset
	Underground Tunnel		ADA Asset
	Storage Facility		Multi Use Tower
			Counter Fire Radar

USACE Technical Drawings

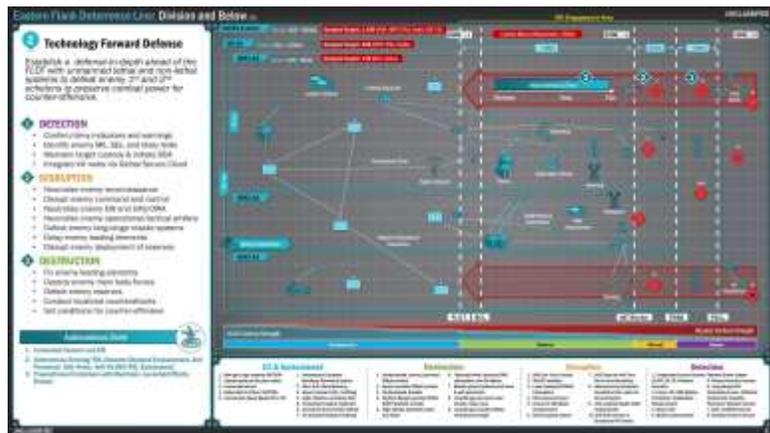
The technical drawings include:

- Top drawing: Detailed view of a subterranean position or obstacle structure.
- Second drawing: Detailed view of an obstacle belt or firing position.
- Third drawing: Detailed view of another obstacle belt or firing position.
- Bottom drawing: Detailed view of an IMA Service Road with prepared obstacles.

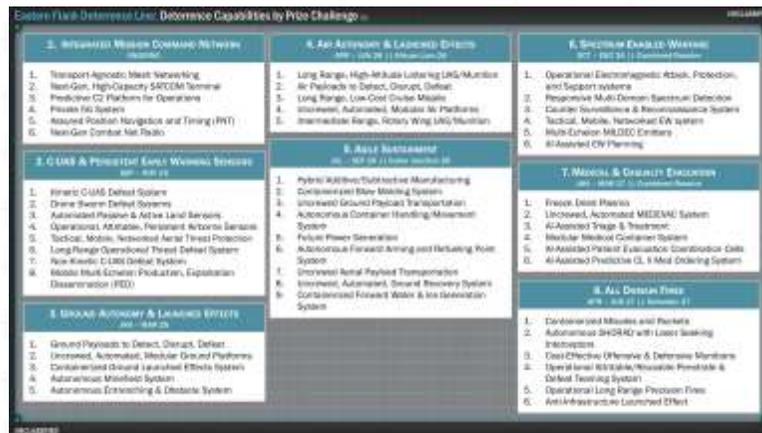


Prize Challenges and Implementation

UNCLASSIFIED



Requirement



Capability



Industry Competition



G-TEAD Prize Challenge Information

“Accelerate experimentation initiatives through the Global Tactical Edge Acquisition Detachment and Task Force-X with a focus on ground robotic capabilities at echelon.”



USAREUR-AF Vendor Intake Form

ACTIVE COMPETITIONS

Our X-TEAD active competitions are in full swing! With submission windows closed, check out the topics being tackled throughout each phase of our competitions.

[LEARN MORE](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)

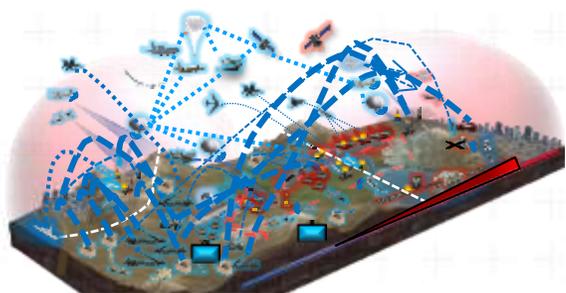
[LEARN MORE](#)

[BROWSE ALL COMPETITIONS](#)

SCHEDULE AND PRIZES

1	PHASE 1: CONCEPT WHITE PAPER SUBMISSION
	Dec 15, 2025 - Jan 7, 2026
	Up to 15 Finalists
	\$25K/each
2	PHASE 2: FINALS
	Mar 3, 2026 - Mar 13, 2026
	Up to 5 Winners
	\$275K/each

Test and Evaluation



Build



Scale



Implementation

UNCLASSIFIED

QUESTIONS?

ANSWERS!



Thanks For Listening!

- Joe Copeland
thomas.j.copeland.civ@army.mil
- Col. Brian Sawser, USA
brian.d.sawser.mil@army.mil