

FACTSHEET

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EXERCISE FIRE BLADE 2025 (FB25)

Context & Objectives

The **Exercise FIRE BLADE 2025 (FB25)** is another sequel of the successful series of the Multinational Helicopter Exercises under the Helicopter Exercise Programme (HEP) module of the **Multinational Helicopter Training Centre (MHTC)** framework and will take place at Pápa Air Base in Hungary from the 19th until the 30th of May 2025.

The **exercise FB25** is the 3rd edition of FIRE BLADE hosted by Hungary after 2017 and 2022, and is designed to provide an opportunity to helicopter operators from multiple European Nations **to train together using common helicopter Tactics, Technics and Procedures (TTPs)** and to plan **and execute complex missions** in a multinational environment, **in accordance with the MHTC HEP Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)**, previously known as the European Defence Agency (EDA) HEP SOP.

The focus of the exercise FB25 is on live firing, where aircrews can train and further develop skills in the proper and effective use of own weapon systems to enhance interoperability at the tactical level between rotary-wing as well as fixed-wing aviation units by using a COMposite Air Operations (COMAO) concept in a realistic and challenging joint and combined scenario, combining land and air operations including the use

of Electronic Warfare (EW) threat simulators / emulators and real assets.

Missions will contain a wide spectrum of realistic and live training objectives, including Air Assault (AA), Attack, Aeromedical Evacuation (AE), and Special Recce, NOE flights, live-firing, counter air-defence TTPs including actions of Ground Forces and Special Operations Forces (SOF).

Concept

The BLADE exercise is not a “usual” exercise. The BLADE is another phase, a continuation of MHTC’s training activity supported by the Mentor Team, in the frame of the exercise.

The exercise will follow a building block approach, meaning that it will start with an academic session, a familiarisation phase and cross-training activities on small COMAO missions to create mutual understanding of each participant and to ensure the safe operational environment. As the exercise progresses, the complexity of each COMAO mission will also increase, as well as the number of flight assets involved.

Distinguished Visitors Day (DVD)

The DVD will be held on the 29th of May. Representatives will attend and observe a live training session performed in COMAO concept with live firing.

Mentor Team

The whole conduct of both planning process and flying phase will be supervised by the MHTC **Mentor Team**, composed of tactics/weapon instructors **from, Austria, Hungary, the Netherlands, Portugal and Sweden**, who are graduates from Helicopter Tactics Instructors Course (HTIC) at European level or equivalent course at national levels. **The Mentor Team is led by the MHTC Chief Instructor (CI).**

Participants

The expected participation includes total of **19 air assets** from helicopter and fixed wing units of **Austria, Hungary, Serbia, Slovakia and Switzerland**. Participating **ground elements (GE)**, mission planning and EW experts and assets are coming **from Austria, Belgium, Hungary and Slovenia**.

More than 300 participants will take part **only from the aviation elements**, not including the number of Ground, SOF and Air Defence and the hosting Hungarian personnel.

Observers

FB25 provides excellent opportunity for observers also from non-MHTC countries to see the preparatory process, execution and evaluation of the multinational helicopter force together with the ground force elements in the COMAO with increasing complexity, performed in accordance with the MHTC HEP SOP, programme's backbone document.

Observers will have a deep insight into the exercise flow and the MHTC community's Activity, which enables experts to evaluate and decide if their

Nation is willing to become MHTC Participant (Member).

Observers will attend from Bulgaria, France, Greece, Italy, Poland and from the organization **“Defence Leaders”**.

Participants

		89	 1 x S70	 3 x AB212	 2 x OH58	 1 x PC6	+ GE
		120	 2 x H225M	 2 x H145M	 2 x JAS39		+ GE
		37	 1 x H145M	 1 x Mi17			
		20	 1 x UH60				
		41	 3 x AS532				
		4					GE
		8					GE

Observers

		8 Observers
		2 Observers
		2 Observers
		1 Observers
		9 Observers
		2 Observers

