Challenging Times for National Security – Technologies for Better Cyber Defence and Battlefield Resilience

Event organised by AFCEA Europe in cooperation with the AFCEA Portugal Chapter and held under the patronage of the Minister of Defence, Portugal.

Session Overview

Session 1: The Defence and Security Situation Post-COVID 19 – On the Quest for New Technologies

This session lays the groundwork not only for the following discussions during TechNet Europe, but for the foreseeable future of security and defence in Europe, in close cooperation with the trans-Atlantic community. The common elements in all the chaotic and unprecedented times in which we are currently living are that cyber security is challenged at a higher frequency, and the push for digitisation in society and government has gained momentum.

Subjects (amongst others) to be covered during the keynotes and panels:

- The new geostrategic balance and the general threat landscape
- Cyber attacks on employees during the pandemic while working remotely
- Shift of priorities in technology and budgets (nationally, internationally) post-COVID
- Renewed international cooperation (e.g. new EU defense initiatives such as Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) and the European Defense Fund (EDF))
- Recovery of the economy: The EU approach (“Invest EU”) to enhance digitisation
- Lessons learned by NATO

Session 2: A Nation’s Cyber Defense – Never Successful Alone

A nation’s cohesion and resilience with regard to defending its values and resources in a holistic Governmental approach is more at stake than ever. Even prior to the pandemic, there were growing challenges. The newest initiatives for improved cyber defence
capabilities, both in technological and non-technological ways, should be able to counter today’s attacks from state and non-state actors. Their presentation is at the core of this session.

Subjects (amongst others) to be covered during the keynotes and panels:

- Hybrid threats (in particular, the increased role of fake information)
- New European cyber security certification and standards
- The PESCO project of the new Cyber Innovation and Knowledge hub (Portuguese initiative)
- Quantum-safe encryption (status)

Session 3: More Resilience on the Battlefield – It Is a Must!

Digitisation on the battlefield clearly is an undisputed necessity and proceeds with high speed in all domains, at least conceptually. Beyond equipping forces with software-defined radios and introducing new battle management systems, however, digitisation goes as far as using artificial intelligence in support of situational awareness and decision making. It all requires new, much more capable and secure communication systems and technologies such as 5G. Resilience also has become an indispensable ingredient for any technology employed on the tactical edge. What are the obstacles for fielding new technologies more swiftly?

Subjects (amongst others) to be covered during the keynotes and panels:

- Military communication (5G) as a driver for interoperability
- Mobile CIS solutions
- Chief Digital officers’ experience
- The new NATO OpNet approach for efficient digitization
- Data analytics on the battlefield and at Headquarters
- Multi-domain Operations and its requirements on the way from concept to reality