Aviation Catalyst Team

Lines of Effort

Support to SAG-U:

- Support & Engagements with UKR Partners (R/W & UAS-Focused)
- Provide R/W & UAS expertise to SAG-U Staff
- Integration with SAG-U Science & Technology Directorate
- Integration with SAG-U J37 Lessons Learned
- Integration with NSATU & Coalition Partners

Integration with External Agencies:

- Direct Reach back to AVCOE TID
- USAREUR-AF & V Corps Staffs
- USAREUR-AF Ukraine Lessons Learned TF
- CJSOTF UAS SMEs
- JMRC
- JMTG-U
- 12th CAB & RAF CAB

Outputs:

- White Papers
- Bi-Weekly O&I Update: Share current UKR/RUS TTPs
- Recommendations for Changes to UALC POI
- Lessons Learned Briefs
- Answer RFIs from the Community of Interest
- Participation in International Combat Aviation Safety Summit (ICASS)

Collect, Assess, and Deliver emerging TTPs to refine DOTMLPF-P Framework

Ongoing Key Initiatives:

- USAREUR-AF TiC Next Initiative
- (UKR USF) UAS Training Support to JMRC Rotation CbR 26-07 in April 2026
- cUAS Lessons Learned Conference (24-26FEB26)
- AVN-Focused MDMP Training for UKR Forces
- Drone Dominance Program: Six Separate Working Groups
- LPD & Lessons Learned Briefs (Best Drone Competition, Exp Man (Air) Summit, XVII ABN Corps, 7th ATC, 12 CAB, ICASS)

Current ACT Team Members:

OIC: LTC Mary Kate Schuster
UAS SME: CW5 Chris Motley
LNO: CW3 James Andreasen

Battle Rhythm Events with AVCOE*

Weekly: SITREP to MG Gill cc: LTG Buzzard, AVCOE Key Leaders, and MCoE & FCoE "Community of Interest" (NIPR & SIPR)
- UAS Lethality Program DISC (THUR, 1100 CST)

Bi-Weekly: OPS & Intel SVTC Update focused on Lessons Learned w/ AVCOE "Community of Interest" (TUE,1300 CST)
- AVTID Observations Review & Prioritization Board (MON, 1000 CST)
- UAS Advanced Lethality Course Working Group (TUE,1300 CST)

* + additional activities as designated by LTG Buzzard and MG Gill

UAS-Focused Operational Insights & Lessons Learned

Training

- Assume **GPS Denial** as the baseline; navigation skills (terrestrial & dead reckoning) require **deliberate, repetitive training** to build and maintain crew proficiency
- Integrate **Survivability and Force Protection** into all training to ensure the preservation of personnel and equipment
- Train UAS operators to operate in a **contested and degraded operational environment (CDOE)** using pre-planned briefs that identify EW and radar threats to enable mission and route planning against real threat constraints
- Emphasize **Mission Command** and teach **Mission Planning** at all echelons to enhance survivability and mission accomplishment

Task Organization

- At a minimum, establish a **dedicated UAS battalion** with every maneuver brigade and a **UAS company** in every support battalion to provide persistent, scalable, and responsive support to maneuver formations.
- Establish an **Innovation Hub** within AVCOE (UAS Proponent) connected to **Division and Brigade-level Spokes** (Cells) to replicate Ukrainian innovation cells to **rapidly solve problems, accelerate learning**, and **disseminate innovative solutions** across the force
- Transition from **MOS-immaterial approach** for Group 1 and 2 UAS operators; unmanned warfare requires professionalization and **full-time specialization** (specific ASIs) to build and maintain operator proficiency

UAS

- Reassess UAS classification by **mission function** rather than solely by size, range, or group
- Improve **frequency agility** through rapid channel switching, operation outside known jammer bands, and enabling **terminal-guidance autonomy** and crew coordination with navigators to increase survivability

UGV

- Leverage **UGVs** for **high-risk, repetitive tasks** in coordination with UAS platforms for overwatch, route clearance, and target identification, enabling safe execution of trench breaching, sustainment operations, and rapid CASEVAC under fire

cUAS

- Design cUAS platforms for **continuous updates, rapid field modification**, and **decentralized innovation** to counter adversary adaptation cycles (frequency changes & TTPs), which occur in weeks rather than months
- Synchronize friendly cUAS and EW operations with UAS missions to **ensure frequency deconfliction** and **prevent friendly jamming, misidentification, and fratricide incidents**

EW

- Continuously adapt EW systems to **counter adversary frequency agility** and channel hopping behaviors
- Integrate EW into a **layered defense** to mitigate gaps caused by **jamming limitations** (i,e,. Fiber-Optic FPVs, range of EW systems) and adversary countermeasures