

The NSHQ is the primary point of development, direction and coordination for all NATO Special Operations-related activities in order to optimise employment of Special Operations Forces, to include providing an operational command capability when directed by the SACEUR

ACME Vision

To bring about seamless special operations and conventional medical interoperability by spearheading innovation to save more lives.

ACME Mission

The ACME serves the medical community as the primary source for special operations medical expertise through advocacy, networking, simulation, technology management and NATO SOF Medicine Development Initiative courses. The ACME creates collaborative opportunities for nations, academia and industry to improve military medicine.

Our motto is:

“Saving lives at the point of the sword.”



To learn more about NATO and Partner SOF medical support please go to <http://www.nshq.nato.int/SOMB>



NATO Special Operations Headquarters

Special Operations Allied Centre for Medical Education (ACME)





SOF Allied Centre for Medical Education

Medically supporting SOF operations can be challenging due to the unusual constraints and limitations of the SOF environment. Mitigating risk to SOF units through good medical support requires a combination of education, training, simulation and coordination. The SOF Allied Centre for Medical Education (ACME), located in SHAPE, Belgium, is a state-of-the-art medical education and simulation facility designed to help nations improve their SOF medical system.

Built by the NATO Special Operations Headquarters, the ACME will help nations meet their SOF training needs while advancing the body of SOF medical support doctrine and knowledge by leveraging the NATO and Partner SOF medicine collaborative network. Through collaboration, shared facilities and focus, the ACME will serve as a Smart Defence solution that saves lives and improves SOF mission success.



SOF Allied Centre for Medical Education Key Objectives

Educate: The ACME is home to all NSHQ NATO SOF Medicine Development Initiative (NSMDI) Courses. Five educational offerings will be taught at the ACME, each designed to improve the capabilities of nations SOF medical systems.

Evaluate: The ACME, using its simulation capabilities, will provide a testing facility for new and emerging medical technology, enabling the NSHQ medical section to make recommendations on product procurement.

Facilitate: In a fiscally challenging environment, the ACME will assist nations by teaching trainers how to plan and develop combat medical simulation that will improve long-term skill retention. Nations could use the simulators in the ACME or borrow them for use at home station.

Advise: The ACME, by being engaged in SOF medical systems, training and education, while serving as the hub for NATO and Partners SOF medicine, will be well positioned to broker lessons learned across the SOF medicine footprint



SOF Allied Centre for Medical Education

Publish: Building the body of medical knowledge is only effective if that knowledge is published and available. The ACME will facilitate publication of national SOF related medical research, lessons learned, tactical medical guidelines and other information that may save lives on tomorrows battlefields.



Educational Offerings

- Special Operations Medical Leaders Course
- Special Operations Medical Engagement and Partnering Course
- Advance SOF Medical Leaders Course
- SOF Combat Medical Simulation Course
- SOF Surgical Team Development Course
- SOF Research Workshops OCT and APR

