

Close Combat 2026

Tuesday 30th June

0900 - 1000 Registration and Coffee

1000 - 1010 Conference Administration

Trevor Lawrence, *Head of Centre/Director of Operations (COTEC)*

1010 - 1040 **MOD Keynote**

Major General Matt Cansdale CBE, *Director Capability, Army Headquarters.*

Session 1: Close Combat Robotics and Autonomous Systems

1040 - 1100 Session 1 Introduction

Lieutenant Colonel David Macklin MBE, *SO1 Close Combat Robotics and Autonomous Systems, Army Headquarters.*

1100 -1130 **Coffee**

1130 - 1150 A Roadmap for FPV Integration and Land Force Transformation

TBC, Level Peaks – Croatia Partners ORQA

1150 -1210 Fight, Flight, Freeze or Fuss: Soldier Capability in the UK Defence Reality.

Dr Duncan Stewart, SIG Sauer

1210 - 1230 The Glue That Binds: Trust in an Age of System Ignorance

Tom Scott, N:SYM

1230 - 1250 Plenary Session

1250 -1340 **Lunch**

1340 - 1410 Cranfield Defence and Security Research

Cranfield University Students

Session 2: Counter-Uncrewed Aerial Systems

1410 - 1440 Session 2 Introduction

Major Dan Berry, *SO2 Mounted Close Combat Armoured and Project AURION lead, Army Headquarters*

1440 - 1510 Product: Drone Shredder

Stanislav Induchny, MDS

1510 - 1540 **Tea**

1540 - 1610 CUAS for Close Combat

Ash Franks, AEI/CANiK

1610 - 1640 Detection to Defeat: FN Dismounted, Networked Counter-UAS Solution

Michelle Cantoni and Jim Williams, FN UK

1640 - 1655 Range Day Instructions and Range Safety Brief

Trevor Lawrence, *Head of Centre/Director of Operations (COTEC)*

- 0730 - 0930 Exhibitors and Range Staff set up range including check FoS and Zeroing
- 0830 - 0945 Delegates transported from **Churchill Lecture Theatre** (Officers' Mess), **Blunsdon House Hotel** and **Leonardo Hotel** to COTEC, West Lavington.
- 1000 - 1015 Range Safety Brief and Brief on Range Detail
- 1015 **Breakfast Available**
- Vehicle Display** CANiK AEI Systems, GhostHood ,Level Peaks and BCB International Ltd
- Tabletop Display: Perfect Bore Defence Ltd, Flame Pro, **Magpul Ind** and Brigantes.*
- 1030 Live Firing begins
- Demonstrations provided by:
- | | |
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| FN UK | Edgar Brothers |
| CANiK AEI Systems | Level Peaks |
| SIG Sauer | Saab |
| Beretta Defence Technologies UK | Teledyne Qioptiq |
| Colt CZ Group | UTM |
| Anartes | Viking Arms |
| Beechwood | |
| Brolis Photonics Solutions Ltd | |
| Cervus | |
- 1200 - 1215 *Firing Demonstration –*
- 1215 - 1230 *Firing Demonstration –*
- 1230 - 1330 **Barbeque Lunch**
- 1330 - 1345 *Firing Demonstration –* **CANiK AEI Systems TBC** *Timings to change*
- 1345 - 1530 Live Firing
- 1530 Live Firing Ends
- 1530 - 1700 Delegates transported from COTEC to **Churchill Lecture Theatre** (Officers' Mess), **Blunsdon House Hotel** and **Leonardo Hotel**
- 1905 - 1930 Delegates transported from **Churchill Lecture Theatre** (Officers' Mess) **Leonardo Hotel** to **Blunsdon House Hotel** for Symposium Dinner
- 1930 - 2000 Pre-dinner drinks Tawny Room, **Blunsdon House Hotel**
- 2010 - 2300 Symposium Dinner, Garden Room Blunsdon House Hotel, then transported back to **Leonardo Hotel** and **Defence Academy**

Thursday 2nd July

Session 3: Data and Decisions

- 0900 - 0920 LIVEX to Project CONVERGENCE CAPSTONE 6 – Deployment of a Robotics and Autonomous Systems (RAS) Enabled Recce-Strike Brigade
Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Dawe, *Chief of Staff Experimentation and Trials Group*
- 0920 - 0940 Assured Intent Messaging (AIM), the New Standard for Networked Lethality
Chris Moore, *On Behalf of Dstl*
- 0940 - 1000 Autonomous Systems Data eXchange (ASDX)The OPEN ARCHITECTURE Data Layer for Autonomous Systems
Chris Moore, *INVERGEX/Dstl Sponsored project.*
- 1000 - 1020 Making Integrated Close Combat a Reality
Tony White, *Ultra PCS*
- 1020 - 1045 Plenary Discussion
- 1045 - 1115 **Coffee**

Session 4: Survivability and Lethality

- 1115 - 1145 **MOD Keynote**
Major General Chris King CBE, *Director Integrate, Army Headquarters.*
- 1145 - 1205 The Age of Visibility
Pete Botham, *BCB International Ltd*
- 1205 - 1225 Weapon Mounted Thermal Cameras for Non-Emissive Range Estimation, Object Detection/Tracking and Target Acquisition
Ralph Wilhelm, *VECTED*
- 1225 - 1245 Exploiting Materials Technology to Enhance Performance of the Army's Future Small Arms Ammunition.
Dr Peter McCutcheon, *Post Doc Researcher Cranfield University*
- 1245 - 1305 Integrating Autonomous Robotic OPFOR
Nate Whelan, *Marathon Targets*
- 1305 - 1325 Plenary Discussion
- 1325 -1330 *Closing Remarks*
- 1330 -1415 **Lunch and Depart**