



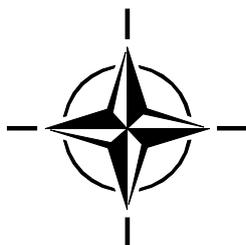
**RTO MEETING PROCEEDINGS**

**MP-AVT-144**

# **Enhanced Aircraft Platform Availability Through Advanced Maintenance Concepts and Technologies**

(Amélioration de la disponibilité des plateformes  
d'aéronefs au moyen de concepts de  
maintenance et de technologies évolués)

RTO AVT-144 Workshop held in Vilnius,  
Lithuania, 3-5 October 2006.



Published June 2011





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RTO is the single focus in NATO for Defence Research and Technology activities. Its mission is to conduct and promote co-operative research and information exchange. The objective is to support the development and effective use of national defence research and technology and to meet the military needs of the Alliance, to maintain a technological lead, and to provide advice to NATO and national decision makers. The RTO performs its mission with the support of an extensive network of national experts. It also ensures effective co-ordination with other NATO bodies involved in R&T activities.

RTO reports both to the Military Committee of NATO and to the Conference of National Armament Directors. It comprises a Research and Technology Board (RTB) as the highest level of national representation and the Research and Technology Agency (RTA), a dedicated staff with its headquarters in Neuilly, near Paris, France. In order to facilitate contacts with the military users and other NATO activities, a small part of the RTA staff is located in NATO Headquarters in Brussels. The Brussels staff also co-ordinates RTO's co-operation with nations in Middle and Eastern Europe, to which RTO attaches particular importance especially as working together in the field of research is one of the more promising areas of co-operation.

The total spectrum of R&T activities is covered by the following 7 bodies:

- AVT Applied Vehicle Technology Panel
- HFM Human Factors and Medicine Panel
- IST Information Systems Technology Panel
- NMSG NATO Modelling and Simulation Group
- SAS System Analysis and Studies Panel
- SCI Systems Concepts and Integration Panel
- SET Sensors and Electronics Technology Panel

These bodies are made up of national representatives as well as generally recognised 'world class' scientists. They also provide a communication link to military users and other NATO bodies. RTO's scientific and technological work is carried out by Technical Teams, created for specific activities and with a specific duration. Such Technical Teams can organise workshops, symposia, field trials, lecture series and training courses. An important function of these Technical Teams is to ensure the continuity of the expert networks.

RTO builds upon earlier co-operation in defence research and technology as set-up under the Advisory Group for Aerospace Research and Development (AGARD) and the Defence Research Group (DRG). AGARD and the DRG share common roots in that they were both established at the initiative of Dr Theodore von Kármán, a leading aerospace scientist, who early on recognised the importance of scientific support for the Allied Armed Forces. RTO is capitalising on these common roots in order to provide the Alliance and the NATO nations with a strong scientific and technological basis that will guarantee a solid base for the future.

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<b>14. Abstract</b>	<p>Aircraft availability is a key component of military capability and an important measure of the readiness and effectiveness of a force. For years, NATO accepted trade-offs between reliability and technical performance in tactical systems because it was compelled to pursue technological superiority over the Soviet Union during the Cold War. There is now a need to place more emphasis on availability, together with an enduring ability to provide it in tactical deployments with a small logistics footprint. Therefore, a Workshop was held in Vilnius, Lithuania, from 3 to 5 October 2006, to identify advanced maintenance/support concepts and technologies which could help to improve aircraft availability. It was attended by over eighty invited specialists from thirteen NATO Nations and two partner Nations. The topics of the papers were individually prearranged to ensure the widest possible coverage of this large topic, and fell into four main categories: national perspectives; metrics and key performance indicators; maintenance/support management concepts and technologies; and aircraft and support equipment technologies. Most speakers provided manuscript papers, which are contained in these proceedings. The AVT-144 Technical Team has also prepared a report which blends information from the Workshop with additional research. This has been published separately as RTO-TR-AVT-144.</p>																				





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