



53RD MEETING OF THE AEROMEDICAL WORKING GROUP (AMDWG)

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Report: The 53rd Meeting of the Aeromedical Working Group (AMDWG) took place on June 18–20, 2024 at RAF Henlow in the United Kingdom, under the chairmanship of LtCol Dr. Denis Bron of the Swiss Air Force.

The meeting was attended by 24 delegates representing 13 NATO member states, as well as representatives of organizations such as SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe), EATC (European Air Transport Command), STO (NATO Science and Technology Organization), and one national partner, Switzerland, together with representatives of private certification services including EURAMI.

The meeting opened with greetings from the chair, who expressed appreciation for the increased attendance, which contributed to a productive exchange of experience and information. Delegates presented their professional backgrounds, including their specializations in aviation medicine, highlighting the diversity of expertise within the group. The group secretary, LtCol T. Burlacu, provided administrative details and discussed the MCASB priorities for 2024, emphasizing the importance of expert support from participating nations in implementing the AMDWG work program and the need to improve STANAG implementation metrics. Innovative projects related to standardization were discussed, including NATO Term 2.0, AI CLAIRE (an artificial intelligence system supporting decision-making processes), and the Defence Planning Management System (DPMS). The secretary stressed that these innovations have the potential to significantly affect all documents and working groups involved in standardization, and participants were encouraged to provide active feedback on these tools.

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REVIEW OF STANDARDS

The group discussed the current AMDWG standards portfolio, which remains stable but requires updates in several key areas. Particular attention was drawn to the need for research on decompression sickness in the context of parachutists, the use of neurotracker technology in aviation, laser protection, and fatigue management strategies. It was agreed that the 54th AMDWG Meeting will take place on June 17–19, 2025, with a proposed location in Bordeaux, France, pending final approval from national authorities.

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Participants reviewed various reports from related working groups, including the Flight Safety Working Group (FSWG) and the Gaseous Systems Working Group (GGSWG). Key issues were highlighted, such as the identification of major flight safety risks, the need for effective safety management systems, and training of personnel in aviation incident response. A report presented by COL Dr. Laetitia Bertrand of France regarding FSWG identified five primary flight safety risks, including deficiencies in safety management systems

and increased complexity in the operational environment. Germany's representative, COL Dr. Ulrich Werner, presented outcomes from the most recent GGSWG meeting, which addressed the use of mobile oxygen generation systems for medical purposes.

SUMMARY AND FUTURE ACTIONS

At the conclusion of the meeting, the chair, LtCol Dr. Denis Bron, thanked all participants for their engagement and contributions. Special acknowledgements were given to the host organization for its excellent arrangements and substantive support. The group agreed that the next VTC meeting will take place on November 21, 2024, and that the next in-person AMDWG meeting in June 2025 will focus on continuing discussions regarding the use of neurotracker technology in aviation medicine and further refinement of aeromedical standards. All these initiatives underscored the importance of cooperation among NATO member states in enhancing aeromedical standards and practices, which is essential for ensuring the safety and effectiveness of aviation operations.

AUTHORS' DECLARATION

Manuscript preparation: Katarzyna Sowa. The Author declares that there is no conflict of interest.