



Talking shop with Austrian partners

The annual Austrian-Swiss technical conference (Fachgespräche A-CH) was held this year in Bregenz on 30-31 August 2016. The varied programme attracted a considerable number of participants from the BMLVS and the DDPS. Four important findings were made in the areas of lead-free ammunition, drones, cruise missiles and modelling/simulation.

These technical discussions between Switzerland and Austria have been taking place for over ten years. They were an opportunity to address current military issues such as simulated defence against a hypothetical ballistic rocket attack and possibilities for combating drones, as well as the specific results of tests investigating changes in gun barrels brought about by deposits from shot ammunition.

These were the main findings from this year's technical talks:

- Lead-free ammunition is not without its problems. Reasons include the increased release of copper into the environment and the sometimes challenging production conditions.
- Increasing attention must be paid to anti-UAV systems, not least in view of the increasingly robust drones available and the problem of mini-drones.
- Cruise missiles represent a growing threat for land-based targets. Combating such weapons is very difficult, and calls not only for suitable sensor and effector systems but for resilient structures to ensure adequate endurance.
- Modelling/simulation is an internationally recognised means of investigating concepts and hence identifying misguided assessments at an early stage in the development process.



A crucial topic in the area of military security: combating drones (picture: Peter Wellig, armasuisse S+T)