

GEOCONCEPT is optimising the operations of the **Air Force Special Forces**

Geoconcept is the geographical information system used over many years by the Commando Parachutiste de l'Air n°10 (Commando Parachute Group No. 10), a special forces unit belonging to the Air Force.



— The CPA 10's missions



CPA 10, created in 1956, is an intervention unit primarily assigned for deployment with the Commandement des Opérations Spéciales (COS - Special Operations Command). It possesses important intelligence and commando style operational capabilities.

Its primary operational objective is to facilitate the deployment of aerial assets in depth. It possesses special expertise in:

- target designation and the use of laser guidance of smart munitions ;
- reconnoitring, capturing and bringing airport facilities back into use.

CPA 10 has a strength of somewhat more than 250 personnel. Special operations are specific military activities conducted by appropriately trained and equipped units. They differ from conventional operations in terms of very different space and time constraints, an accepted level of risk and distinctive operational techniques.

CPA 10 is specialised in the use of the aerial dimension including air support (ODESSAA – observation and destruction of targets by the air force) as well as expertise in reconnaissance and marking the ground in preparation for an assault landing by the transport aircraft of the POITOU squadron. All the necessary techniques for seizing an airport are acquired. A very tough initial course called BELOUGA enables new joiners to acquire the basic techniques and familiarity with special procedures.

CPA 10 is constantly drawing on experience derived from its missions. It is a forward looking unit that is on the lookout for new techniques and new equipment.



Geoconcept : a key element in missions

The Geoconcept GIS is involved throughout; in the preparation of the mission, while it is in progress and in the reporting. As with the Special Forces' missions, the software must enable the commandos to adapt to an unusual and evolving situation, it must be versatile and interoperable.

► Versatility that is valued

Geoconcept makes it possible to:

- display the battlefield in real-time;
- navigate in real-time on the ground;
- manage databases (Humint & Imint);
- integrate multi-sensor and multi-source data in multiple formats.

► Interoperability

Used within NATO, it is a tool spanning different sources and data links.

► SITAC exchange

The tactical situation (SITAC) is transmitted between the ground and the aerial vehicle. This exchange of vector data accelerates the decision-making cycle while avoiding friendly fire and collateral damage.

Present throughout all phases of the mission : conception, preparation, reporting and at the very heart of the action proper, the Geoconcept GIS is used in equal measure on the ground (navigation, digitised assistance to air support...) and from a command post (monitoring of the tactical situation and decision-making aid).

Certain tools, such as the SCARABEE digitised air support auxiliary software, have been developed directly in-house by members of CPA 10 using the Geoconcept development kit. Geoconcept has also produced various links with the hardware used on the ground: interfaces with the PLGR and DAGR range of military GPS devices as well as with laser aiming binoculars or camera.

Soon, a new solution derived from version 7 of Geoconcept will make it easy to add new functionality, à la carte add-ons for an even more capable GIS that continues to serve the needs of combatant and command alike.

