INTRODUCING

Space Support to operations

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THE recently completed major exercise TRIDENT JUNCTURE 2016 (TRJE16) not only served as a certification venue for the NATO Response Force (NRF) 2017, but also as a platform for Transformational Activities (TACTs). Space Support to Operations is a TACT-sponsored initiative directed by both the Space Programme Manager at HQ SACT and SHAPE J3 Space Operations (SPOPS), which was designed to advance the effective inclusion of Space-based capabilities in NATO planning and operations. TRJE16 represented an ideal venue to focus on the first integration of Space in a major NATO exercise as it involved incorporation, synchronization, integration and exploitation of Space-based products and services into Joint Task Force (JTF) operations.

Within the JWC's Capability Integration (CI) process, the primary aim is to advance inclusion of Space Support to Operations in NATO planning and operations. The secondary aims are to support the overarching NATO Bi-SC Space Working Group's goal to improve Space knowledge throughout NATO, and improve both collective training and doctrinal reference documents. For the overall NATO Space community, TRJE16 proved to be a suitable and advantageous platform to improve interoperability through appropriate coordination mechanisms between the nations and NATO for the exchange of Space-based products and services.

A dedicated Space Support Core Planning Team (CPT), originally composed of Space experts assigned from the NATO Command Structure (including the Strategic Commands, the Joint Force Commands and HQ AIRCOM), JWC Concepts, Capability Integration and Experimentation Branch, and the U.S. Army Europe, began preparations for this project at the end of 2015. Later in 2016, the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Com-

mand, the U.S. Army Strategic Command, and the French Joint Space Command supported the process with their subject area expertise and by sending dedicated personnel to assist the team during planning and exercise execution. Preparation and planning activities included not only scenario development and Main Events List/Main Incidents List (MEL/MIL) Scripting, but also conceptual and doctrinal work.

The Primary Training Audience during TRJE16 was Joint Force Command Naples (JFCNP). In order to mirror operational reality and to challenge his staff, the Deputy Commander JFCNP, Lieutenant General Alain Parent, requested that Space awareness and capabilities play an increased role in TRJE16 (as compared to previous exercises) early in the planning stages. Training Objectives were identified, and the CPT worked with relevant stakeholders in order to create a realistic and feasible experimental design and construct. This included examining Space priorities, creating an agreed matrix of Space products, obtaining manpower and subject matter expertise to support the project and also development of relevant Space processes and tools.

During the exercise development phase, the team focused on coordinating and integrating Space, based on a fictional near peer adversary's military capabilities in the exercise SKOLKAN scenario. Concurrently, the major Space faring nations (United States, France, Canada, Germany and Italy) also developed and provided Space products for use in line with storyline of the exercise.

Numerous injects, over 50, were created and injected into the process for training and evaluation purposes in order to meet the exercise Training Objectives. All of this work culminated in the exercise execution phase (Phase IIIB) from 19 October to 2 November 2016, where a highly motivated and experienced team of experts was gathered to execute the programme integration from JWC Exercise Control (EXCON) within the JWC ODE deployment organization. The project was led by the Space Programme Manager from HQ SACT Capability Development Directorate, with participation of the SHAPE Bi-SC Lead and Evaluator, a JWC Capability Integration Project Team, Subject Matter Experts from NATO as well as national representatives interacting with the Training Audience, all together consisting of 24 personnel in order to accomplish the aims and objectives in what was viewed as a major step forward for Space in NATO. The effort was truly multinational, with representation from the NATO Command Joint Air Power Competence Centre (JAPCC), the NCIA, and national representation from the United States, Canada, France and Italy. Also included were representatives from the Canadian Space Operations Center (CANSpOC), the French Joint Space Command, COSMOS and the Strategic Command U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces (SMDC/ARSTRAT).

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As a result of this collaboration, the improvement of procedures and exchange mechanisms with nations to access their products and services is well underway. The first Space Support to Operations integration was regarded as a great success for Space support in NATO. The yields from the data collection and analysis process will help to form the foundation for doctrine, organizational constructs, processes and training requirements for the future. The next step will be TRIDENT JAVELIN 17 and TRIDENT JUNCTURE 18, following the goal to make Space visible within the NATO Command Structure, to train NATO on what Space can provide and facilitate and also to explain how it can support the operational assessment, planning and conduct.

▶ Representatives from ACT, SHAPE, AIRCOM and JWC during a MEL/MIL Incident Development Workshop at JWC. Photos by JWC PAO.