

JWC supports development of NATO's future Deployability Concept - Joint Warfare Centre

Written by Inci Kucukaksoy, JWC PAO
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The OLRT crisis response exercise for STEADFAST JOIST 12 (SFJT 12) was followed by a Forward Coordination Element (FCE) Seminar from 1 to 3 February 2012, bringing together in Stavanger NATO's top echelon military officers and a distinguished team of military/civilian Subject Matter Experts.

The idea was to provide a venue that allowed for high-level discussions on the roles and responsibilities of the FCE, as the deployed element of the Joint Force Commander, as well as to take forward NATO's new Deployability Concept. The function of FCE will be tested for the first time in May this year during SFJT 12.

Hosted by Major General Jean Fred Berger, Commander JWC, on behalf of SACT, and with an eye to the future, the seminar marked a major contribution to the ongoing efforts by NATO's three Joint Force Commands towards developing a conceptual framework for future NATO operations. The seminar opened with a welcome speech by Major General Berger, who said: "By providing this venue, the JWC has become an enabler in the concept development of the Deployed Joint HQ (DJHQ) model and the FCE. The DJHQ concept is of the utmost importance to NATO; as rapid force deployability is an essential operational capability. It is central to NATO's ability to effectively respond to the challenges of today's security environment. As JWC, it is our mission to fully support ACT and ACO in this transformation effort of the NATO command structure."

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HQ JFC Lisbon has been leading the NRF since July 2011. In his "Commander's Vision 2012", Lieutenant General Philippe Stoltz, Commander of JFC Lisbon, states that his HQ will play a critical role in shaping NATO's future Deployability Concept, in close liaison with Joint Force Command Brunssum and Joint Force Command Naples. HQ JFC Lisbon, indeed, is tasked to develop NATO's new DJHQ model, an initiative which could become a benchmark in support of NATO's expeditionary operations in the future. The SFJT 12 will be a test-bed for the new DJHQ concept and its different steps and processes. Lieutenant General Stoltz was amongst the key participants of the FCE Seminar in Stavanger.



Former Commander of NATO's Libya Operation Unified Protector, Canadian Air Force Lieutenant General Charles Bouchard was also amongst the top-ranking military heads visiting the JWC from across Europe to discuss modern key security issues. Lieutenant General Bouchard addressed the Forward Coordination Element Seminar in a keynote presentation on Operation Unified Protector, defining the biggest lesson learned as the "agility of the mind" and good communication as being "decisive" in winning wars. The General also said that the Operation was a "Libyan victory; for NATO, it is a success."

Other briefers included British Army General (Ret.) Sir John Reith; Mr. Victor Angelo, former Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and Ambassador Peggy Mason, former Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations, who shared their first-hand experiences in different operational theatres, as well as their thoughts on various levels of theatre engagement during expeditionary operations, information strategies, leadership successes and the critical role of a well-trained staff in mission success at all levels.

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Spanish Navy Rear Admiral Bartolomé Bauza (ACO); British Navy Commodore David Wolfe (JFC Lisbon), as well as US Navy Captain Jonathan Picker and British Group Captain John Sullivan provided briefings on the DJHQ concept, its structures and processes, the Command and Control construct in theatre, how to train and sustain a deployable HQ with minimum reach-back capability and ongoing challenges including the provision of Force Protection, Real Life Support, and Computer and Information Systems.

The importance of “flexibility” of the DJHQ was specifically highlighted as the deployability concept brings with it, *per se*, factors such as versatility and flexibility so that the deployed HQ can be tailored to fit any operation.



JWC's Officer of Primary Responsibility for the Seminar, Royal Air Force WG CDR Mark Atrill said: “The FCE Seminar was linked to the conceptual nature of SFJT 12 and it provided an opportunity to work closely with SHAPE, SACT and the three Joint Force Commands. The JWC staff from all of the Functional Areas, from Real Life Support and Protocol through SMC4 to Scenario and the Analysts Section, played their role in supporting this event in the best way possible. As a result, the SFJT 12 Exercise Planning Team now has a sound basis on which to plan and execute the remainder of the exercise.”

A wealth of knowledge, experiences and understandings, strengths, interests and opinions was brought into the DJHQ concept development process at the seminar. As a consequence, and based on the changes to NATO Command and Force structures, the JWC also aimed to hone its own adaptability as an organization during this collaborative effort, while being fully committed to its strategic mission of providing NATO's operational level training in support of ongoing operations and being NATO's premier training establishment and warfare centre.

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