

Written by Inci Kucukaksoy, JWC PAO  
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The 2012-2013 NATO Collective Training Support Program of Work meetings were held from 13-14 April 2011 at the Victoria Hotel in Stavanger, Norway. Under the lead of NATO's Headquarters Allied Command Transformation (HQ SACT), this annual workshop is organized as a unique interface between the operational commands and the training establishments of the NATO Alliance.

In depth discussions during the workshop aimed to identify the future roles and responsibilities of NATO's two training establishments, the Joint Warfare Centre and the Joint Force Training Centre, in order to create an exercise and training curriculum for 2012 and 2013.

The aim is to pinpoint the 2012-2013 exercise and training support requirements for the delivery of quality training. Based on those requirements, a "prioritized list" in a Program of Work document is produced, which will be finalized and signed in July.

"This is basically a contract of what ACT and its subordinate commands will offer to the operational commands," said ACT's Lt Col Mike Bristow.

During his welcome speech, Lieutenant General Wolfgang Korte, Commander Joint Warfare Centre said: "Our primary focus is on quality training and effectiveness. We have a unique opportunity to create this in Norway by setting standards of quality training and driving forward continuous development of our NRF and ISAF Training Audiences."

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Lt General Korte also highlighted that in order to be effective and efficient, the training establishments needed to adapt their mission rehearsal trainings to complex modern military operations. He pointed out the interdependence of civilian and military organizations in demanding environments and said that the dynamic joint multinational training at the Joint Warfare Centre has blended civil-military aspects successfully in all its training events. “The inclusion of the Comprehensive Approach concept challenged the traditional NATO military way of thinking and as a result training events witnessed a growth in the number of international organizations and non-governmental organizations as well non-military elements in exercises,” he said adding: “We also need to deal with new areas that are not covered in our Peacetime Establishment such as Space Operations, Cyber Defence, Knowledge Development and Comprehensive Approach concept.”

ACT’s Lt Col Mike Bristow said that the workshop provided the basis for an improved mutual understanding, support, cooperation and better coordination of the JWC and JFTC to the benefit of their customers. “The heart of what we try to achieve is syndicate working groups. It is all about NATO training facilities and what they offer to the Force Commands. We want to ensure we provide access to the highest quality training, tailored to the needs of the Force Commands.”

During the workshop, the Centres of Excellence were also represented and it is agreed that there is further need to integrate COEs in the development phase of each exercise.

The Collective Training Support Program of Work meetings also included a visit to Camp Madla, which offers an affordable accommodation for the JWC’s Training Audiences. Camp Madla

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comes to the rescue because many Nations find hotel accommodation in Norway quite expensive. The camp provides an excellent low-rate military accommodation for the Training Audiences.

Overall, the workshop achieved the following end state goals:

- Accurate and coordinated CTS POW for all exercises in 2012;
- Best estimate for the exercises in 2013;
- Detailed support request added to the CTS POW;
- Accurate dates for all exercises;
- HQ ACT/JWC/JFTC have accurate information to complete their support analysis;
- All issues for exercise support is identified.