



General Philippe Lavigne

French Air Force
Supreme Allied Commander Transformation

I see the most important aspect of NATO's transformation, and its main objective, in collectively ensuring NATO's decisive advantage. This is critical for maintaining our relevance and ensuring we preserve the status of the most successful Alliance in history. We owe it to the one billion people we protect and secure. To do that, we have to take into consideration all the challenges we face, in order to adapt our military instrument of power at the right pace.

The critical milestone to achieve this vision will be the implementation of the Concept for the Deterrence and Defence of the Euro-Atlantic Area (DDA) and the NATO Warfighting Capstone Concept (NWCC), and through the Warfare Development Agenda and NATO Defence Planning Process.

In addition, to increase our readiness, we need to train together and be able to operate together. Interoperability is at the heart of our capability development. Our core task is the transformation of the military capacity of the Alliance, which is accomplished by taking the lead in improving the military capabilities of Allied and partner forces and adapting them to the changing security environment. Here, the Joint Warfare Centre (JWC) has a unique role.

Ever since the JWC was established in 2003, it has been an essential force of transformation throughout NATO. Today, the JWC is the Alliance's active link between warfighting effectiveness and warfare development, providing NATO with the best collective training at the operational and strategic levels.

NATO's defence posture requires this high level of training that the JWC provides, and it is the JWC's mission to take into account emerging threats so that NATO is ready and relevant to the full range of missions. This is a huge task and involves the cultivation of a "multi-domain mindset" to ensure our military transformation encompasses all five operational domains: land, sea, air, space and cyberspace.



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The JWC's robust exercise programme is a clear and visible demonstration of our ability to maintain a high state of readiness across a full mission spectrum, and it serves as the cornerstone of the Alliance's credible deterrence. This is precisely why the JWC's work is so important and contributes immensely to the core tasks of the Alliance.

The JWC houses some of the most complex capabilities in the NATO Command Structure, such as modelling and simulation technologies to provide realistic training environments, 360-degree synthetic scenario generation, high-end media simulation capabilities, an adaptive advisory team and subject matter experts, and recently, wargaming. There is no better example than the JWC that highlights such a great fusion of training, conceptual advances, new ways of thinking, experimentation, doctrine, and wargaming — all contributing to the Alliance's strength and safety. Or as the JWC team likes to say it: to make NATO better!

The Russian aggression in Ukraine and the consequences that war has produced for the security of the Euro-Atlantic area is an additional trigger to accelerate the path of transformation. Facing an unprecedented range of threats, the NATO Alliance has shown that it is capable of changing its posture swiftly and effectively.

The JWC is NATO's main provider of multi-domain, realistic and challenging command post exercises at the operational and strategic levels. Moreover, operationalizing warfare development is core to the JWC's mission, which the Centre accomplishes with an unwavering commitment to Allied Command Transformation and the transatlantic security bond that links both sides of the Atlantic. The work of the JWC allows us to Win as a Team! ✦

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