



# Major General Piotr Malinowski

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Commander Joint Warfare Centre

I felt honoured to assume command of the Joint Warfare Centre (JWC) on October 8, 2021. The JWC is a unique organization focused on making NATO better by delivering high-intensity and high-value training at the operational and strategic levels, as well as warfare development to keep and hone our military edge.

The JWC's broad record of achievement is an output of its One Team, who ensures every day that the Centre remains fit for the future in the continuously changing, challenging, and competitive security environment we face. We ensure this not only through our existing mission strands, but also by identifying new initiatives to serve the Alliance.

The JWC's internal optimization programme has resulted in a new vision and a new set of innovative capabilities for NATO, such as wargaming design, which achieved full operational capability in early 2022.

The aim of the JWC's organizational approach is clear: As NATO's premier training establishment at the operational and strategic levels, the JWC is determined to ensure that NATO forces are well-trained and ready to meet all the requirements of the Alliance, providing 360-degree protection of NATO territory in an era of increased uncertainty.

This is especially important since we have all observed how the world has changed over the past decade.

The key is that NATO is ready and prepared: The Alliance will always firmly respond to any deterioration of our security environment, including through strengthening our deterrence and collective defence to prevent conflict and preserve peace.

As you will read in this book, the JWC has been one of the key contributors to the rapidly deployable NATO Response Force (NRF): The JWC's first exercise took place in February 2004 for the NRF, mere months after the Centre's activation on October 23, 2003.



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Almost 20 years later, through its operational- and strategic-level collective training, the JWC continues to test Allied forces' readiness and preparedness, thus making the Alliance even stronger — in all warfare domains.

Computer-assisted command post exercises remain the JWC's top priority; however, we are an organization focused on innovation, and so our output is multifaceted. As the Alliance evolves to meet the challenges that lie ahead, we must monitor and acknowledge these challenges to ensure that we deliver the high-quality outputs that are required from us.

The JWC is keen to support the delivery and implementation of Allied Command Transformation's (ACT) Warfare Development Agenda (WDA), as well as the NATO Warfighting Capstone Concept (NWCC) — a cornerstone of our military adaptation. Together, both initiatives describe the near- and long-term operational and transformational intent of the Alliance at the strategic level. As NATO's trusted advisor bridging the worlds of Operations and Transformation, we have an exciting task ahead of us in assisting our strategic headquarters to test many of the new concepts brought forth by these initiatives. I am especially keen on further integrating cyberspace and space support to operations into our operational-level exercises and supporting a new flow of experimental activities now and in the future.

We also aim to establish a link between the Concept for the Deterrence and Defence of the Euro-Atlantic Area (DDA) and the WDA, focusing particularly on our new wargaming enterprise. The JWC's Wargaming Branch is indeed Headquarters Supreme Allied Commander Transformation's (HQ SACT) premier wargaming spoke, able to deliver up to four large wargames per year to satisfy the needs of NATO and the member and partner nations.

All this comes in addition to the JWC's delivery of NATO's most complex computer-assisted command post exercises — no small feat altogether, especially considering the approximately 20-month planning process for each exercise, which requires meticulous attention to detail.

The JWC is home to a diverse, flexible, creative and innovative workforce from 17 NATO nations. Our One Team ethos is key in our achievements; not only to prove that warfare is our business, but to display that we are the best at it!

In closing, I would like to thank our Norwegian partners. I greatly appreciate Norway's outstanding host nation support for the JWC, built on trust, close cooperation and open dialogue. We are all proud to serve NATO here in Stavanger, ensuring our common security for present and future generations.

Together, we make NATO better. ✦

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