

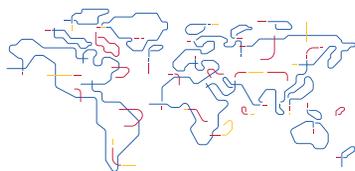
# Multi-Domain Setting



The Joint Warfare Centre's

# 360° MDS

# Scenario Design and Development



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**T**HE JOINT WARFARE CENTRE (JWC) Scenario Branch provides comprehensive and realistic scenario background and supporting documentation to the JWC-directed exercises, tailored to meet both NATO and national requirements, and covering the Alliance's 360-degree view geographically. The mission of the Branch is to support Allied Command Transformation (ACT), one of NATO's two strategic commands that are part of NATO's Military Command Structure, in delivering training and exercise programmes to the Alliance. To this end, a setting as close to reality as possible as well as realistic exercise scenarios of the highest standard are being designed and developed, based on NATO's current and future concepts for the changing, complex strategic environment.

In line with today's intensified security challenges, the JWC has developed 360° Multi-Domain Setting (360° MDS), which serves as a basis for the development of all future training scenarios. This setting closely resembles reality, but is still adapted to meet exercise objectives.

The exercise scenarios to be developed for each particular exercise from 2024 onwards include a fictitious but realistic political, military, socio-economic, infrastructural, informational and geospatial environment, as well as the encompassing narrative on the political, strategic and operational levels of warfare.



**Above**  
The author, Lieutenant Colonel Jürgen Moteka.  
Photo by JWC PAO

Those combinations of the 360° MDS and the individual scenarios strengthen NATO's readiness and responsiveness and allow the Alliance to practice and exercise its fundamental tasks: deterrence and defence; crisis prevention and management; and cooperative security. The narratives are relevant to the particular operational- and strategic-level exercise programme, as each exercise is based on the 360° MDS and particular scenarios to be developed separately.

Scenario support is one of the cornerstones of the JWC's mission portfolio, funded through a multi-million NOK annual budget within the Centre's overall financial plan.

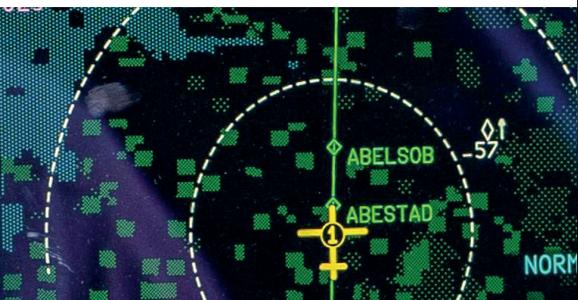
The scope of the 360° MDS and these individual scenarios allows for command post exercises (CPX) and computer-assisted exercises (CAX) in both Article-5 collective defence and non-Article 5 crisis response operations mode on various levels of effort, from divisional up to multi-corps, and in all domains and dimensions.

Within this broad spectrum, and in addition to the conventional spectrum of warfare, the JWC scenarios can also accommodate a wide range of modern warfare threads, such as space and cyber defence, civil-military interaction, hybrid warfare, state and non-state terrorism, and other measures aligned with the respective exercise and training objectives.

Before each exercise, military and civilian experts from a wide variety of fields and with extensive experience at all levels of command develop the information and documentation needed to support the training audience with the advice and content to replicate key actors and entities during the execution phase. Focus teams for military-political, strategic and operational planning; intelligence; targeting; and geospatial development assist in channelling the information flow in order to create a realistic

**Below**  
Scenario Branch staff discuss geospatial aspects of the training scenario for NATO Exercise STEADFAST JUPITER 2023. Photo by JWC PAO





"The JWC's Scenario Branch continues to follow geostrategic developments and prognoses in order to allow NATO to exercise not recent, but future challenges."

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Scenario Branch staff, scenario managers and mission partners from various JWC branches, August 25, 2023. Photo by JWC PAO



information environment as the source for the training audience's knowledge development.

As a whole, scenario support is coordinated by a small team of scenario managers who provide the interface to other critical elements and branches of the JWC's overall exercise programme. In the past, the JWC Scenario Branch has developed several generations of various settings, sub-settings and scenarios. Some of these exercise foundations have achieved prominence in NATO. SKOLKAN, SOROTAN, OCCASUS and FIKSO, for example, are names that are remembered by many and that have been used extensively in the past 20 years. Times have changed and this affects the NATO exercise process, the individual exercises, and thus also the foundations to be developed and provided by the JWC. OCCASUS and FIKSO will be used for the last time during the exercises STEADFAST JUPITER 2023 (STJU23) and STEADFAST JACKAL 2023 (STJA23), respectively.

**FOR THE NEW EXERCISE** series beginning from 2024, the JWC Scenario Branch has already started updating and redeveloping its products and adapting their design to the new requirements. The changing global security situation will be reflected in our products and mirror reality as closely as feasible and permissible. As an example, we will not give individual names to sub-settings anymore. The previous scale "setting – sub-setting – scenario" will be dissolved and reduced to the categories of "setting" and "scenario" only. It is important to clearly separate these two.

The 360° MDS will be managed exclusively by the JWC and cannot be changed by external entities. Our newly implemented setting management process is designed to ensure that the product is constantly and consistently updated, further developed and made available in the latest version for the next upcoming exercise through incoming information requirements (IR) as well as requests for in-

formation (RFI). Based on this continuously updated 360° Multi-Domain Setting, we then model the scenario required for the JWC's new respective exercise series: STEADFAST DETERRENCE, STEADFAST DUEL and STEADFAST DAGGER.

As in the past, these scenarios will also be designed to support the NATO Command Structure (NCS) and the NATO Force Model (NFM) in the training and exercise process, even if there should be further fusions of national and NATO exercises. The variety and design of challenging "problem sets" and the ability to combine them into a multitude of different scenarios are critical in flexibly tailoring major joint exercises (MJX) as well as smaller joint exercises (SJX) to existing and emerging requirements. As a key facilitator in this, the JWC's Scenario Branch continues to follow geostrategic developments and prognoses in order to allow NATO to exercise not recent, but future challenges. ✦