



Combined Operational Access

Multinational Capability Development Campaign

Supporting the development of required concepts and capabilities for joint, multinational, and coalition operations through multinational concept and capability development efforts in order to meet present and future operational needs.

Advantages:

- Shared/Reduced Development Costs
- Innovative/Non-traditional Solutions
- Interoperability
- Agile Development Environment
- Bottom-up Solution Development

The **Multinational Capability Development Campaign (MCDC)** series is a follow-on to the Multinational Experiment (MNE) series initiated by United States Joint Forces Command in 2001. It is designed to develop and introduce new capabilities to enhance the coalition force's operational effectiveness in joint, interagency, multinational, and coalition operations. While it maintains the foundational blocks that made the MNE series successful, MCDC incorporates significant changes in scope, mission, and governance that improve responsiveness, agility, and relevance.

The theme of MCDC 2013-2014 is Combined Operational Access. While the last campaign of the MNE series was focused on ensuring access to and freedom of action within the Global Commons, MCDC 2013-2014 takes the next logical step in addressing the Operational Access challenge by focusing on the versatile, agile capabilities required to project combined forces into an operational area with sufficient freedom of action to accomplish their mission.

Key Campaign Events		
Date	Location	Events
October 2012 – March 2013		Socialization and Formulation of Focus Area Proposals
18-22 March 2013	Portsmouth, Virginia	Campaign Planning Workshop #1
10 April 2013	Telecon	Executive Steering Group Meeting #1
12-16 May 2013	Ottobrunn, Germany	Campaign Workshop #2
21-22 November 2013	The Hague, Netherlands	National Directors Meeting
14-16 January 2014	Vienna, Austria	Executive Steering Group Meeting #2 (15 JAN) National Director Meeting (14 & 16 JAN)
8-10 April 2014	Helsinki, Finland	National Directors Meeting
15-17 July 2014	Ottobrunn, Germany	National Directors Meeting
3-8 November 2014	Budapest, Hungary	Executive Steering Group Meeting #3 (7 Nov) National Director Meeting (3 & 8 Nov)

Contributors

- Austria
- Canada
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- European Union
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Great Britain
- Hungary
- Italy
- NATO
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Poland
- Republic of Korea
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- United States

Any nation or organization interested in participating in the campaign is encouraged to contact the MCDC Secretariat at:

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MCDC 2013-2014: Combined Operational Access

Program of Work

Contributors

Combined Operational Fires (COF)

Develop a framework of standardized repeatable processes, tools and lexicon for multinational mission partners to: (1) perform national self-assessments of standing rules of engagement (ROE), fire support C2 systems, and joint fire support C2 organization requirements, (2) present that information to a multinational working group in a standardized format, and (3) integrate the information with other nations of the multinational force to quickly develop a coalition joint fire support capability.



Combined Operations from the Sea Through the Littoral (COSTL)

Explore the opportunities and challenges that Joint Sea-Based Operations (JSBOs) provide to the Multinational Joint Operational Commander by identifying when and how to use JSBOs along with the essential capabilities needed to retain superiority in COSTL. A successfully executed JSBO will create a wide range of effects ashore from an operating base at sea across the full spectrum of operations with a minimized footprint ashore.



Cyber Implications for Combined Operational Access (CICOA)

To develop a support tool to integrate cyber into the joint planning process, which follows the Comprehensive Operations Planning Directive (COPD) and other multinational planning processes for joint and combined operations and to analyze a technical approach to support the COPD process by making use of real-time understanding of the cyber environment faced by a multinational coalition.



Maritime Approach to Combined Operational Access (MACOA)

Determine how to best employ forces in Phase 0 and Phase 1 to set the conditions that will enable coalition forces to swiftly and effectively combine in the littoral. The MACOA team will produce a Concept and Best Practices Manual describing how to engage stakeholders, identify regional issues and prepare combined maritime forces in order to establish or maintain operational access to accomplish complex littoral missions.



Role of Autonomous Systems in Gaining Operational Access (AxS)

Develop guidance for policy-makers, defence and operational planners, and industry, to steer technical development, operational employment, interoperability, and understanding of legal issues concerning Autonomous Systems (AxS) capabilities in a variety of peace and conflict scenarios. Multinational coalition partners will benefit from improved awareness and understanding of the opportunities and challenges presented by AxS.



Strategic Communication in Combined Operational Access-Information Activities and Emerging Communication Practices (StratCom)

Develop guidelines for the approval of communication plans and the appointment of heads of communication at the strategic-political and operational levels; develop a concept for implementing communication plans considering the principle of transparency and a project management approach; develop a concept for the employment of Social Media in support of situation awareness.



Understand to Prevent (U2P)

Develop concepts whereby nations' defence capabilities can be used to support conflict prevention. Conceptual thinking on the Defence contribution to conflict prevention will consider a wider understanding of the Human domain and identify the causes of conflict. Methods such as Defence Engagement to support long term structural initiatives or provide immediate deterrence will be explored, eliciting alternative views where needed.

