

MULTINATIONAL COOPERATION IN CIVIL-MILITARY INTEROPERABILITY

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Abstract: Opening speech to the 1st NC3A Multinational Civil-Military Interoperability workshop, held in Brussels on 14 June 2011, addressing NATO's roles in supporting the development of non-military capabilities by nations, avoiding duplication, and providing civil-military interoperability.

Keywords: Comprehensive approach, crisis management operations, civil-military cooperation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for inviting me to speak to this 1st NC3A Workshop on Multinational Cooperation in Civil-Military Interoperability.

The subject of this Workshop is particularly relevant, so thank to NC3A for this initiative, because it targets several of the practical challenges NATO and its international partners face regarding civil-military or wider international cooperation in complex operational theatres, humanitarian missions or crisis management scenarios. Indeed, you will hear some very practical examples of cooperation on the ground – its associated challenges in ‘real-life’ emergency humanitarian relief situations, from other speakers, OPS/Planning colleague and next speaker, the Head of the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Relief Coordination Centre (EADRCC) Mr. Günter Bretschneider.

In considering multi-national civil-military cooperation, our point of departure should be NATO's New Strategic Concept (NSC), which provides NATO's overall vision and framework—its political and military priorities—for the next decade.¹ It underpins our efforts to ensure that NATO remains focused, modern and relevant by building upon and further developing our current roles and responsibilities. It also reflects the complex global security challenges and the multi-dimensional nature of cri-

ses we face in the 21st Century and recognizes that dealing with them effectively will require a holistic approach involving greater international cooperation and synergy between nations, governmental and non-governmental actors, partners and international organizations. Indeed, I am particularly pleased to see representatives of a number of international organisations amongst us here today.

But, in addition to the New Strategic Concept, I also want to refer to current efforts underway within the framework of the NATO Defence Planning Process (DDPP). As part of this process, requirements in areas such as Stabilisation and Reconstruction, are identified which nations can choose to fill using non-military or civilian capabilities. This is left up to nations to decide. The newly established CMPS section ² within the OPS/Planning directorate supports various stages of this process, the results of which will give us a better overview of the civil or non-military capabilities nations have or intend to develop.

I have to issue a word of caution here: the political guidance clearly states that “NATO has no requirement to develop capabilities strictly for civilian purposes.” But, having said this, through the use of existing structures, we can support national efforts and promote cooperative solutions to shortfalls. Recognising that NATO has limited influence on development of civil capabilities, the sharing of best practices and minimum standards offers some degree of influence on national capability development. In addition, being able to bring together requirements from the civil and military sides and finding common solutions makes good business sense reinforcing the value of this workshop.

As I stated above, the New Strategic Concept guides our work here at NATO. Indeed, it impacts very directly on the activities of the Operations Division and my OPS/Planning area in particular. Built on the current OPS/Civil Emergency Planning structure, the tasks of Civil-Military Planning and Support Section, established in February 2011, are numerous and varied and the New Strategic Concept has ensured that we focus to a number of new priority areas including:

- enhancement of integrated civil-military planning;
- establishment of a ‘modest’ civilian crisis management capability;
- identification and training of civilian specialists;
- civilian support to Operations;
- civilian support to all issues related to Missile Defence, CBRN issues, Cyber and Energy Security and
- enhancement of partners’ involvement in Civil Emergency Planning (CEP).

These priority areas also cover many of the stated aims of NC3A's Multinational Cooperation Civil-Military Interoperative (MN-CMI) Initiative and one common theme seems to me to be of particular relevance to today's deliberations. This is *Crisis Management*. The New Strategic Concept recognises that, in a world of increasing interdependency, a comprehensive approach to crisis management, involving a wide community of international interest and civilian/military interaction, is critical. In particular, such a comprehensive approach envisages involvement by NATO and its national and international partners in all stages of a crisis, including stabilization and reconstruction efforts, and focuses on a broad range of tools to achieve this purpose.

But, clearly, while recognising the potential contribution NC3A's MN-CMI Initiative might make in this regard, a key additional focus of the Comprehensive Approach is to avoid duplication. Being able to link civil and military actors in the field and to facilitate information sharing and situational awareness, is a vital aspiration but the development of any such platform or architecture should not reproduce tools that already exist for this purpose. One such tool is UN OCHA's Virtual Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC), which is designed to facilitate continuous and simultaneous information exchange between governments and organizations responding to disasters.³ It may be more cost-effective to use this existing platform or architecture which, in turn, might also attract the participation of a greater number of stakeholders, particularly among those actors who may find somehow difficult to work with NATO.

I also note with interest that, among the potential applications of the MN CMI is its Emergency Warning and Alert capability. One possible development for this tool might therefore be in the WMD field, including CBRN, where warning systems and dissemination of real time information to the public are crucial. Such would be the case in the event of a missile attack or intercept in which a very limited time frame of 5-20 minutes is available to inform responsible national civil authorities. My staff is involved in civil/military cooperation to develop policies and procedures on WMD/CBRN and would be delighted to provide input to any subsequent Workshop discussion on this potential use of the tool in this context.

Another theme is civil-military interoperability. The New Strategic Concept clearly places emphasis on interoperability and on the importance of pooling resources. Indeed, OPS restructuring is a tangible example of bringing civil/military resources together for planning purposes. While I would applaud such efforts in the NATO framework, we must be realistic about what is achievable internationally, at least in the shorter-term. There are currently no common civilian/military services and interfaces for the access and sharing of information in operational, crisis or humanitarian situations within the NATO framework and, in view of broader political considera-

tions and sensitivities, to achieve such interoperability with, or between, other international partners might seem to some to be somewhat ambitious.

Let me conclude my introductory remarks by underlining that, in gathering together today, we all recognise the need to seek coalitions of common interest where and when possible including optimal ways to cooperate, exchange information and share intelligence in international theatres of operation; on humanitarian missions, or in crisis management situations. I think we also recognise that we have an obligation to look at economies of scale where possible and practicable.

Against this background, I see real value in this Workshop and I will be looking forward keenly to seeing its results and proposed recommendations on the Way Forward for the MN CMI initiative, including the range of its most pertinent potential applications.

Thank you Ladies and Gentlemen.

Notes:

¹ *Active Engagement, Modern Defence*, Strategic Concept for the Defence and Security of the Members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, adopted by Heads of State and Government in Lisbon, 19 November 2010, <www.nato.int/lisbon2010/strategic-concept-2010-eng.pdf>.

² Civil-Military Planning and Support section.

³ For details see the web page of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs at www.unocha.org/what-we-do/coordination-tools/osocc-rdc/overview.



Ambassador **Francesca TARDIOLI** (Italy, September 1965) holds the position of Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Plans in the operations Divisions of NATO's International Secretariat Since October 2010. On secondment to NATO by the Italian Foreign Ministry, she joined the Diplomatic Service in March 1991 after having completed her studies in Political Science and obtaining a Master's in International Relations. She has held numerous positions at Italian embassies abroad (Albania, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Belgium – at the Permanent Representation of Italy to the North Atlantic Council as Political Counsellor for Operations, and Libya), as well as at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome.

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Amb. Tardioli has two sons, Ariberto and Riccardo. She has been awarded of the Official Knight of the Order of Merit to the Republic of Italy.

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