

THE NATO EXTRA PORTAL

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PROJECT OVERVIEW



The NATO EXTRA Portal is available on the NATO Secret WAN (<http://nllp.jallc.nato.int/cmmt/extra>)

Exercises and training are an important part of NATO's transformation and of ensuring that NATO *trains as it fights and fights as it trains*. Lessons Identified (LI) and learned during an exercise must be captured and institutionalized within NATO effectively and efficiently so that the Alliance can obtain maximum benefit from each exercise.

In this respect, to enhance the information sharing in the training and exercises field, the Supreme Allied Commander Transformation tasked the Joint Analysis and Lessons Learned Centre (JALLC) to develop and promote the NATO Exercises, Training, Reporting and Analysis Portal (EXTRA) Information sharing platform. The EXTRA Portal is to be the focal point for sharing exercise and training related knowledge and lessons.

This report documents the efforts of the JALLC to refine the requirement for the NATO EXTRA Portal; describes the NATO EXTRA Portal as it has been designed, developed, and tested; and offers recommendations on the way ahead for the future use and management of the NATO EXTRA Portal.

DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING

Before considering how the NATO EXTRA Portal should be structured, the project team first conducted a review of the two Strategic Commands' (Bi-SC) Collective Training and Exercise Directive 075-003, as the only document within NATO that sets out the initial requirements for the NATO EXTRA Portal.

However, for any such portal to be truly useful for its target audience, the expectations, needs, and requirements of its users also had to be ascertained. Therefore the project team visited a number of NATO bodies and HQs, based on their involvement in NATO exercises and training in general, interviewed staff officers—including personnel from both Strategic Commands and both Joint Force Commands (JFC), as well as the Joint Warfare Centre (JWC), the Joint Forces Training Centre (JFTC) and the JALLC—and subject matter experts, in order to collect data on functional requirements for the NATO EXTRA Portal.

The functional requirements identified during the document review and user interviews were combined into a single list of NATO EXTRA Portal required functions. The project team added some functions based on the experience of developing, upgrading, and managing the NATO Lessons Learned Portal. Each functional requirement was then developed into a suitable software solution or tool, delivering the required functionality. Based on required functionalities, the NATO EXTRA Portal was developed

Finally, the NATO EXTRA Portal was subjected to internal and external review and testing in two stages: Test 1 examined whether the constructed NATO EXTRA Portal worked as it was designed; and Test 2 elicited feedback from initial—and potential future—users in order to further refine the NATO EXTRA Portal to meet their needs. The results of both tests were used to further develop and refine the NATO EXTRA Portal in terms of its functionality and user-friendliness.



The structure of the NATO EXTRA Portal

PROJECT FACT SHEET





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THE PURPOSE OF THE NATO EXTRA PORTAL

The NATO EXTRA Portal is an information sharing platform dedicated to those individuals and institutions that are closely engaged in the NATO exercises and training field and for the benefit of the NATO EXTRA Community of Interest in general. It has been developed in accordance with Bi-SC 075-003 and is designed to reflect its users expectations and requirements.

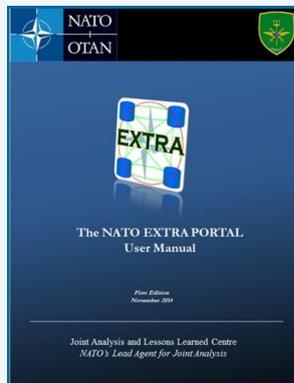
The NATO EXTRA Portal is a hub of exercise-related links, tools and functions, including: a library, an archive, and a lessons database, all of which enable users to filter exercises and training event-related information by their specific stage, phase, and sub-phase, as well as other specific criteria.

The NATO EXTRA Portal is designed as a one-stop-shop for exercises and training related information and is divided over two levels: Level One covers general information and Level Two covers Exercises and Training related information.



The NATO EXTRA Portal is the single centralized exercises and training related information sharing platform within NATO

THE NATO EXTRA PORTAL MANUAL



The NATO EXTRA Portal User Manual

In order to ensure that the NATO EXTRA Portal can be, and will be, used to its maximum effect, the project team developed a NATO EXTRA Portal User Manual Guide.

This comprehensive guide provides users with a website page by website page explanation of the various uses, tools, functions, and other important elements of each page. The manual also includes step-by-step guidance—including screenshots—on how to perform certain key actions as well as useful additional information to help users take advantage of all the NATO EXTRA Portal has to offer.

The manual follows the structure of the website and covers such topics as how to access the NATO EXTRA Portal, who the users are and how it is managed, and the life cycle of an exercise training site. The manual includes a useful aide memoire and a list of all the (expected) exercise deliverables that should be uploaded to the NATO EXTRA Portal during the course of an exercise.

PROJECT FACTSHEET

PROJECT MANAGER, LIEUTENANT COLONEL NERIJUS STANKEVICIUS

LTC Stankevicius has served in the Lithuanian Army since 1994. After graduating from the Lithuanian Military Academy, he served in a variety of positions including infantry platoon commander, motorized infantry company commander, intelligence officer, mechanized infantry battalion commander and in 2011 he was deployed to Afghanistan as ISAF PRT commander. LTC Stankevicius attended the Joint Command and General Staff Officers course at the Baltic Defence College and holds master's degrees in public administration and international relations and diplomacy. He was assigned as a JALLC military analyst in 2012.

PROJECT TEAM

MR. PAULO DA SILVA, INFORMATION MANAGER

Mr. Da Silva is a retired Portuguese Navy NCO and graduate of its Electronics School, specializing in various Communication Information Systems (CIS) fields. He has been the Webmaster and Information manager at JALLC for more than 10 years, overseeing the JALLC Information Management (IM) systems, supporting projects, and advising on IM&CIS tools. Mr. Da Silva has numerous academic credentials and holds a master's degree in Information Systems Management.



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All JALLC Reports, the LL Portal, and NATO LL Items may be found in their entirety under the *Products* section on the NS WAN:

<http://www.jallc.nato.int>

Non-classified reports and LL Items, Project FactSheets, the Joint Analysis Handbook and the Lessons Learned Handbook can be found on JALLC's Internet site at the same [address](http://www.jallc.nato.int).

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