At the Lisbon Summit in November 2010, NATO Heads of State and Government agreed upon a framework for a new NATO Command Structure designed to be leaner and more affordable. As a consequence, where in the past NATO Command Structure HQs were able to provide NATO’s full Deployable Joint Command and Control Capabilities, from 2011 on NATO would also rely on NATO Force Structure (NFS) HQs for such capabilities to meet the agreed NATO Level of Ambition. The concept for how NFS HQs would be used as Joint Task Force (JTF) HQs was set out in the Bi-SC Conceptual Framework for Alliance Operations (CFAO).

To identify best practices and capture lessons on implementation of the NFS JTF concept, Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (SACT) tasked the Joint Analysis and Lessons Learned Centre (JALLC) to conduct a study, based on an analysis requirement submitted by Joint Warfare Centre (JWC).

This report presents a discussion of the origin of the NFS JTF HQ concept, and observations and a discussion on the implementation of the concept with NATO Rapid Deployable Corps Spain (NRDC-ESP) as the NFS JTF HQ during Exercise TRIDENT JAGUAR 2014 (TRJR14), and provides recommendations for the future development of the JTF HQ concept. It also presents observations on exercise preparation, build-up, and NRDC-ESP’s implementation of the JTF HQ concept during TRJR14.

This report is designed to be the first in a series of reports that will support the maturation of the NFS JTF HQ concept.

**Main Findings and Recommendations**

Considerable uncertainty remains about the precise characteristics of a Smaller Joint Operation (SJO), or a land-, maritime-, and air-heavy SJO; further complicated by the introduction of an SJO minus (SJO -) in the Bi-SC Agreed Capability Codes and Capability Statements.

Within the context of a land-, maritime-, or air-heavy SJO without single service components, the supported and supporting interrelationships (SSI) concept as described in CFAO is pivotal. It is recommended that:

- the JALLC proposals presented in this report for command and control (C2) arrangements for SJOs be examined by the Strategic Commands (SCs) and, if endorsed, the ideas incorporated within the CFAO and other relevant NATO documents;
consistency be ensured between future exercise scenarios used for the certification of NFS JTF HQs, and the environment characteristics appropriate for the C2 arrangements as defined in NATO policy and concepts;

- further work be carried out by the SCs on establishing the characteristics of an SJO, SJO - , and their land-, maritime- and air-heavy derivatives;

- follow-on analysis be carried out by the JWC and the JALLC to analyse further the NFS JTF HQ concept and turn lessons identified into lessons learned.

**PROJECT EXECUTION**

After thorough review of the relevant NATO documents, the JALLC team collected observations and conducted surveys and interviews during Stages Two (Planning & Product Development) and Three (Operational Conduct) of TRJR14 to understand how NRDC-ESP interpreted the NFS JTF HQ concept.

Additionally, formal reports produced during Stage Four (Analysis & Reporting) of TRJR14 by SHAPE, the Officer Scheduling the Exercise (OSE), the Officers Conducting the Exercise (OCE), and the Officer Directing the Exercise (ODE) were used to substantiate and build on the collected data.

The reporting for this project has been done in two stages. Firstly, and in collaboration with the JWC, raw observations were developed from the collected data which were written in the Observation-Discussion-Conclusion-Recommendation (ODCR) format and shared with JWC during Stage Four of the Exercise. Secondly, the raw observations were reviewed and categorized to identify issues worthy of further analysis and these issues form the basis for this report.

**PROJECT TEAM**

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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 an ISAF PRT commander. He attended the Joint Command and General Staff Officers course at the Baltic Defence College and holds masters’ degrees in Public Administration (Law University) and International Relations and Diplomacy (Vilnius University). He was assigned as a JALLC military analyst (Joint Plans) in 2012.

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**NATO’S LEAD AGENT FOR JOINT ANALYSIS**

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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.