

Enhancing ACO Intelligence Capabilities

Project Overview

In June 2016, NATO Heads of State and Government highlighted in their Warsaw Summit Declaration the importance of comprehensive intelligence arrangements and Joint Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (JISR) capabilities for NATO's timely and informed political and military decision making:

"We will further improve our strategic anticipation by enhancing our situational awareness, particularly in the east and south and in the North Atlantic. Our ability to understand, track and, ultimately, anticipate, the actions of potential adversaries through Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities and comprehensive intelligence arrangements is increasingly important. These are essential to enable timely and informed political and military decisions. We have established the capabilities necessary to ensure our responsiveness is commensurate with our highest readiness forces."

(NAC; Warsaw Summit Communiqué; 09 July 2016; PR/CP(2016)0155)

As head of Allied Command Operations (ACO), responsible for overall command of NATO military operations and the provision of advice to NATO's Military Committee and the North Atlantic Council, Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) has a distinct requirement for Situational Awareness. The ability of ACO's strategic level HQ, SHAPE, to provide SACEUR with timely and effective Indications and Warning (I&W) and JISR capabilities to enable this is of particular importance in this regard.

In order to support SHAPE's continuous efforts to enhance SACEUR's Situational Awareness, the JALLC was tasked by Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (SACT) to assess the future development of the I&W and JISR capability at SHAPE.



recommendations on the way ahead for SHAPE's approach to enhance SACEUR's Situational Awareness.

The project team reviewed relevant documentation, conducted interviews with identified stakeholders, and participated in a number of relevant conferences and workshops to generate an evidence-based analysis of SHAPE's I&W and JISR capability. Based on the project team's findings and conclusions, the JALLC was then able to make



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Project Key Terms

Within NATO, certain key terms regarding Intelligence are often used. But what do these key terms mean? Below we have set out some of the key terms from the project that are useful to understand in the context of this report.

What is Situational Awareness?

According to NATO's Glossary of Terms and Definitions (AAP-006), NATO defines Situational Awareness as: the knowledge of the elements in the battlespace necessary to make well-informed decisions. Establishing and maintaining Situational Awareness is crucial when it comes to NATO's posture in a crisis or during missions and operations.

What is I&W?

Indications and Warning (I&W) refers to the monitoring of defined indicators and the provision of warnings to relevant NATO authorities in case of changes in indicators to support effective decision making. These intelligence activities are intended to facilitate the detection and reporting of time-sensitive intelligence information regarding developments that could involve a threat to NATO.



What is JISR?

Joint Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (JISR) is vital for all military operations. It provides information and intelligence to decision-makers and action-takers, helping them make informed, timely, and accurate decisions. Although surveillance and reconnaissance can answer the questions: *What? When?* and *Where?* the combined elements from various intelligence sources and disciplines provide the answers to: *How?* and *Why?* When all of the answers to the questions are combined, you create JISR.

You can find out more about NATO's JISR capability on the NATO website and at: http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_111830.htm.



Project Team

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