Exercise TRIDENT JAVELIN 2017

JALLC PROJECT FACTSHEET

Project Overview

Exercise TRIDENT JAVELIN 2017 (TRJN17) was a Command Post Exercise (CPX) conducted as a joint operation larger than a Major Joint Operation (MJO+) using a new Article 5 exercise scenario. TRJN17 was the largest CPX conducted by NATO in a generation and represented a sea-change in the focus of exercises as NATO adapts and realigns to its Collective Defence core task.

The Joint Analysis and Lessons Learned Centre (JALLC) was tasked by Supreme Allied Commander Transformation to analyse selected aspects of the Exercise Control (EXCON) in order to provide lessons that may be relevant to future MJO+ exercises. The scope of the project focused on three components of EXCON: the exercise scenario; the exercise simulation system; and the provision of Response Cells (RC).
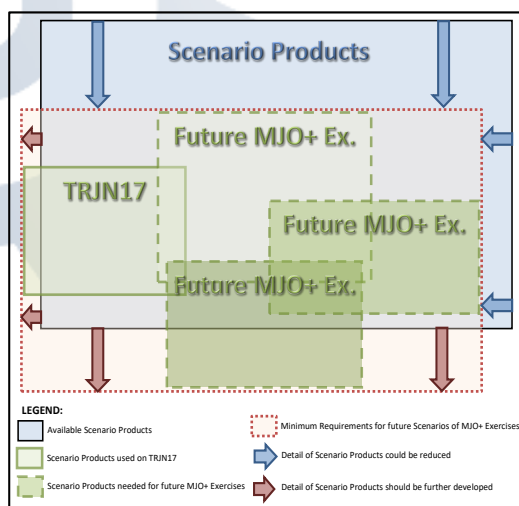
Exercise Scenario

The exercise scenario is the foundation upon which any exercise is built; it is the background story, composed of specific modules, that describe events and circumstances—such as political, military, historical, and humanitarian—that have led to the crisis or conflict being played out during the exercise. The scenario is designed to support the exercise and training objectives and can be real, fictional, or a combination as required to train the Training Audience (TA) accordingly.

For TRJN17, a new scenario titled *SKOLKAN 3* was created by NATO's Joint Warfare Centre (JWC). The project team was tasked to assess the extent the scenario provided an appropriate scale of detail and geographic size for the TA to conduct an MJO+.

The JALLC's analysis concluded that SKOLKAN 3 was a challenging scenario that appropriately stress-tested the TA. The project team went on to make recommendations for further improvement such as ensuring that timely advice can be given regarding the level of detail in the written products that are used in the exercise scenario, and that exercises could be more realistic if information classification requirements are better tailored to the TA.

A graphic representation of the extent of detail in exercise scenario products

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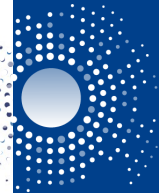
Joint Theatre Level Simulation (JTLS)

TRJN17 was conducted as a computer-assisted exercise (CAX) using simulation tools to stimulate the command and control of the exercise. Simulation is an interactive tool used (among others) to model Joint Air, Land, and Maritime environment and behaviour. The simulation is designed to be as real as possible so that the TA can train as they would need to act in a real world operation. JTLS is the simulation system used at JWC to support CAXs.

The JALLC was tasked to assess the extent that JTLS, as configured for TRJN17, supported and simulated an MJO+ CPX. A multi-dimensional approach to this task was conducted by the project team which, aside from the functional aspects of JTLS, also included a review of the technical support arrangements, training of the system operators, and validation process of the modelling data. The project team f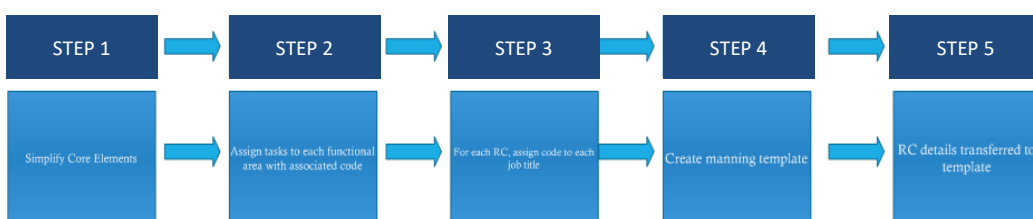ound that the provision of JTLS to future MJO+ exercises could be enhanced if a study was conducted to assess the optimal number of operators needed to adequately support the exercise play. Additionally, it was found that the training needs of JTLS operators should be revised, and that the technical support arrangements should be reviewed in order to enhance the flexibility within the JWC to fix system issues.

Response Cells

RCs are an essential component of the EXCON. RCs represent subordinate, higher or flanking units and formations providing a continual, direct, and realistic interface with the TA through modifications to the exercise scenario, reports on the conduct of the exercise, press releases, media stories, and so forth. During TRJN17, a total of 12 RCs, comprising 506 personnel, supported the exercise play.

The project team was tasked to assess the extent that the RCs adequately supported the exercise. The project team reviewed the structure of each RC, revised the minimum requirement for the size and composition of the RCs, and assessed the extent of RC preparedness for the exercise.

STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5
Simplify Core Elements	Assign tasks to each functional area with associated code	For each RC, assign code to each job title	Create manning template	RC details transferred to template

The model above represents the methodology used to review the templates that contributed to the recommendation regarding analysing the size and composition of RCs.

From the size and composition of the RCs at TRJN17, the project team was able to develop manning templates that could be used as a baseline for the execution phase of future MJO+ CPXs. The project team also suggested the use of distance learning courses which could be developed in order to provide pre-exercise training and awareness opportunities to enhance preparedness of personnel assigned to RCs.

Project Team

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COL Ramalho is an Artillery Officer and graduate of the Portuguese Military Academy and Universidade Autónoma de Lisboa. He has held multiple command and staff positions, including acting Regiment Commander at Madeira Military Region, NATO Joint Command Lisbon, and Counsellor at the National Defence Policy Directorate in the Portuguese MOD. He has been a military analyst at the JALLC since 2013.

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