

### Geospatial Support for the NATO Response Force

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JALLC PROJECT FACTSHEET

#### Project Overview

Geospatial Support is a key to NATO forces' operational readiness and effectiveness.

*"Geospatial Support comprises those activities necessary to meet the recognised need for Geospatial Information and its subsequent analysis and interpretation."*

*"Geospatial Information is the foundation for any operational picture, because it identifies the geographic location and characteristics of natural or constructed features and boundaries on earth."*

*"NATO's Common Geospatial Framework is the basis for geospatial interoperability and in essence ensures the principle of "operating off the same map" to be implemented in NATO planning, training, exercises and deployments."*

(MC; NATO Geospatial Policy; 31 October 2016; MC 0296/3; NATO UNCLASSIFIED)

As a consequence of the increased readiness and operational requirements in the Readiness Action Plan for the NATO Response Force (NRF) and its Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF), the need to provide these forces with appropriate Geospatial Information to the required timescale, has also increased substantially.

In order to support the Geospatial Community's continuous efforts to meet this new and more demanding requirement, the JALLC was tasked to identify the measures that would further develop NATO's capability for Geospatial Support to the Land component of the VJTF (VJTF(L)).

The results from the JALLC's analysis provided those within the Geospatial Community and beyond with a comprehensive assessment of Geospatial Support to the VJTF(L) across the strategic, operational, and tactical levels, supporting a more mature understanding of Geospatial Support capability and its relevance for the overall operational readiness and effectiveness of the NRF.



The project team reviewed documentation, conducted interviews with identified stakeholders, and participated in a number of conferences and workshops to gather data for an evidence-based analysis of NATO's capability for Geospatial Support.



**"...the need to provide [the NRF and the VJTF] with appropriate Geospatial Information to the required timescale has also increased substantially.**





## Recommendations

Based on findings and conclusions drawn from the analysis, the project team was then able to make recommendations on the way ahead for ACO's Geospatial Support. Four areas were identified for the future development as follows:



### The quality of Geospatial Information:

There is a need for Geospatial Information to be current, comprehensive, and user friendly so that it is as helpful as possible to those on the ground.

### The quality of Geospatial Support governance:



There is a large number of stakeholders involved in Geospatial Support to the VJTF(L) at various levels and an annual rotation involving changes in the contacts within the taskforce. There is therefore a strong need for effective direction for organizational structures and processes to ensure collective memory.

### The coordination of Geospatial Support across NATO and the Nations:

NATO's policy on the matter explains that Geospatial Support is primarily an information discipline requiring responsive requirements processes and well-coordinated provision. The coordination of the Nations' plans to produce Geospatial Information, their operational/tactical perspectives and the exchange of related Lessons across NATO is of high importance.

### The adequate resourcing of Geospatial Support:

The breadth of the need for Geospatial Support during a VJTF(L) operation highlights the need for adequate Geospatial Support staffing, skills and competences across NATO. There is also a need for training and the exercise of Geospatial Support capabilities.



## Project Team

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