

## Conceptual Framework on Command and Control

Command and control (C2) is the core business of the NATO C2COE. It constitutes the essence of the centre's daily work. However, the actual concept behind the term "command and control" or "C2" remains somehow confusing and vague, especially among the international community. Today we are experiencing a variety of theories/approaches which are complicated because of the absence of a commonly accepted definition of C2 within NATO.

Pigeau and McCann found that if an infinite number of different ways of spanning spaces exists, the use of a structure immediately reduces the space for describing the problem to a smaller, more manageable size.[1] Alberts and Hayes found that our current state of understanding can be presented in conceptual models.[2] Accordingly, they describe a conceptual model as a structured way to represent a theory that consists of a set of facts or assumptions (variables) and the relationships among them.



As stated before, despite past efforts, the concept of C2 has remained somehow confusing and vague. Building a conceptual model in order to structure our current knowledge, thereby reducing the space of C2 to a smaller, more manageable size, allows the NATO C2COE to better deal with the concept, and consequently maintain greater focus in the support that we provide to NATO. A more in-depth study into C2 has been ongoing since 2015. The draft version of the C2 framework identifies the prevailing and most essential components and contains a model which can be used in C2 assessments. This version was useful when discussing the work on ACT's C2 Focus Area in 2016 and the GBR/DCDC's work on the Joint Concept Note 2/17 Future of Command and Control, and when introducing new Centre members. However, the current version needs a strong editorial hand.

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[1] Pigeau, R. and McCann, C. 2002. Re-conceptualizing Command and Control. Canadian Military Journal: Spring 2002, p. 54.

[2] Alberts, D., S. and Hayes, R., E. 2006. Understanding Command and Control. Washington, DC: CCRP Publication Series, pp. 16-17.