

# Federated Mission Networking

The Military Committee agreed upon a concept for a Federated Mission Networking (FMN) capability in November 2012. It provided overarching guidance for establishing an FMN capability that would enable effective information sharing within NATO and between NATO nations and/or non-NATO entities (referred to as Affiliates). The goal of FMN is to connect forces participating in an operation to a federated mission environment at any time, quickly and at an optimised level of interoperability. The purpose of FMN is ultimately to support command and control and decision making in operations. The concept of FMN is a key contribution to the Connected Forces Initiative (CFI), helping Allied partner forces to better communicate, train and operate together.

With Information Management and Human Aspects as two of its Focus Areas, the NATO C2COE is especially interested in the Operational Coordination Working Group (OCWG), as it represents the operators of FMN. The OCWG is responsible for collecting, expressing and managing operational requirements.

Generally speaking, it can be said that FMN is currently a huge, continuous synchronisation effort focused on technology and systems and the ability to share. However, the mental/cultural aspects of FMN, the willingness to share, are hardly ever mentioned. Achieving FMN Ready Forces (at Day One) further requires bridging the gap between users (requesters) and the technical developers, realistic ambitions with regard to the pace of progress and attention for organisational processes such as rigid procurement cycles. Most important, however, is the involvement of the too-busy warfighter who is totally unaware of the structured efforts to better support him and just longs for working solutions.

The NATO C2COE will continue its enduring contribution to the OCWG in 2019, since its participation provides valuable insights and influences the development of FMN-facilitated C2 concepts. There will be three formal meetings, in between which the subject matter experts will comment on the draft Spiral Procedural Instructions as required. The participation in both 2019 TIDE Sprints is also linked to the NATO C2COE FMN commitment.

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