



FMN

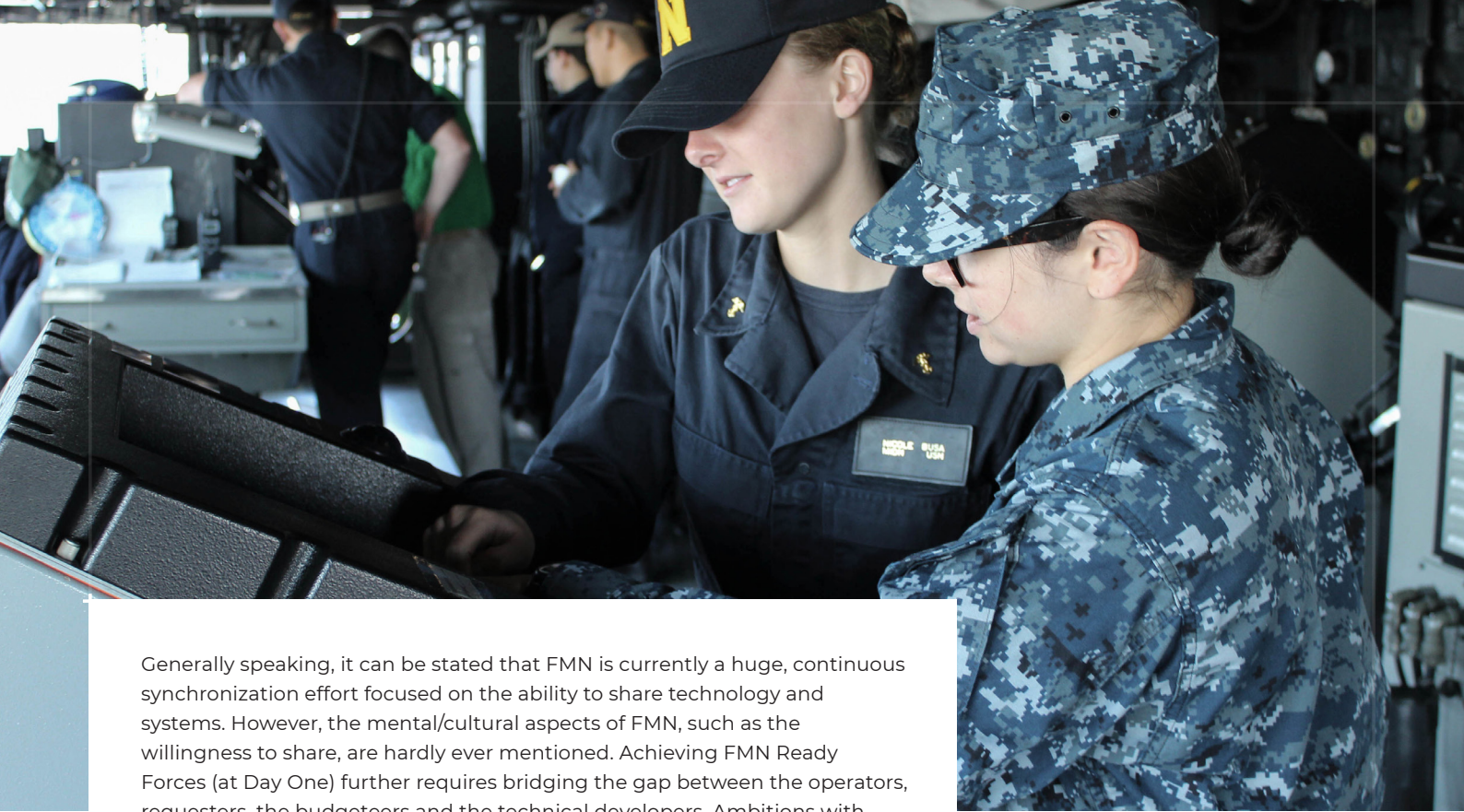


NATO
C2COE

Federated Mission Networking (FMN)

In November 2012, the Military Committee provided overarching guidance for establishing a Federated Mission Network (FMN) capability. This will enable effective information sharing among NATO, NATO nations, and/or non-NATO entities; the so-called Affiliates. FMN will connect forces participating in an operation to a federated mission environment at any time, quickly and at an optimised level of interoperability. The ultimate purpose of FMN is to support command and control and decision-making in operations. This FMN concept is a key contribution to the Connected Forces Initiative (CFI), helping NATO and partner forces to better communicate, train and operate together.

The NATO C2COE, that has information management and human aspects as two of its focus areas, 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 stated that FMN is currently a huge, continuous synchronization effort focused on the ability to share technology and systems. However, the mental/cultural aspects of FMN, such as the willingness to share, are hardly ever mentioned. Achieving FMN Ready Forces (at Day One) further requires bridging the gap between the operators, requesters, the budgeteers and the technical developers. Ambitions with regard to the pace of progress have to be realistic and have to pay attention to organisational processes such as rigid procurement cycles. No Affiliate should be left behind. But most important is the involvement of the war-fighter, who longs for working solutions but is often weighed down by his workload and often totally unaware of the structured efforts to better support him. He might even be unaware of the current improvements developed for him by successive FMN implementations.

The NATO C2COE will continue its enduring contribution to the OCWG in 2020, since its participation provides valuable insights and influences the development of FMN-facilitated C2 concepts. In 2020, there will be two formal meetings, in between which the SMEs will comment on the draft Spiral Procedural Instructions as required. Participation in both 2020 TIDE Sprint (Stockholm and Norfolk) is also linked to the NATO C2COE FMN commitment.

For more information on the NATO C2COE activities related to this topic, please read our articles in previous Annual Overviews or contact our project officers

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