



ON EXERCISES AND DOCTRINE

NATO Involvement in Conventional Arms Control

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One of the key issues affecting a NATO force structure, which impacts directly on the Operational Planning Process (OPP), is compliance with Arms Control (AC) commitments. Responsibility for integrating the requirements of AC into the OPP resides with G5 Plans & Policy, thus making G5 the primary knowledge base within the HQ and the Commander's advisory team on AC issues. The new Comprehensive Operational Planning Directive (COPD) indicates that future analysis of a military response within the Comprehensive Approach is to include a consideration of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD): a concept that encompasses Conventional Arms Control issues as well. Work continues within G5 to examine the implications the COPD has on the ongoing revision of NRDC-ITA Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and Standard Operating Instructions (SOI).

What is Conventional Arms Control?

Conventional Arms Controls are any legally or politically binding 'instruments' between sovereign states, which aim at achieving one or more of the following: to limit the production, procurement, transfer and holding of military equipment and/or personnel; to constrain or prohibit military activities; to modify or eliminate certain types of conventional weapons or provide transparency and predictability of an armed force and its activities. AC measures may include Confidence and Security Building Measures (CSBM) which are actions taken to reduce the 'fear of attack' by two (or more) parties in peace or more often in situations of tension which may or may not involve physical conflict. AC measures must encompass a wide range of considerations across multiple lines of operation in order to conform to a comprehensive and co-operative approach to security.

Arms Control Instruments

There is a broad spectrum of 'instruments' that formalises the detail of AC such as treaties, conventions, agreements, protocols, arrangements and documents. They may be bilateral or multilateral in nature and may also focus on regional or specific areas of applicability. The Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), the Vienna Document (1999), the Open Skies Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWG), the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, the Ottawa Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions are the most prominent AC instruments that have an impact on NATO planning, operations and eventually on G5 Plans & Policy and Operational Planning Group (OPG). These instruments place the requirement for notification, inspection and observation schedules on member states. A more detailed overview of the AC instruments highlighted above and NATO AC references are available on SHAPE J5 PWX Wise page.



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Arms Control and Alliance Military Activity

All NATO member states have individually accepted legal and political commitments under AC agreements. NATO, as an alliance, is not a signatory of such agreements. Forces assigned to NATO for collective military activity by member states remain subject to the AC commitments of their individual governments. When national contingents are deployed as a part of a larger alliance, it will be necessary to coordinate the handling of those AC commitments, which by nature require coordination within that force. For example, AC limits affect the size of force that can be deployed in the area of operation where the CFE treaty is applicable.



Arms Control Responsibilities within NATO

The North Atlantic Council (NAC) gives its guidance. The Military Committee (MC) translates NAC guidance into military direction for SACEUR who addresses AC considerations in the preparation of relevant OPLANs and activities, ensuring the OPLANs contain provisions that meet NAC guidance. Subordinate NATO commanders or the deployed force commanders coordinate compliance with AC commitments in theatre, in line with SACEUR's direction. Troop Contributing Nations (TCN) indicate, as soon as is practical in NATO plan development, their obligations in order to permit timely NATO planning.

Notification of AC Inspection Activities

If NATO troops are involved as the subject of an inspection activity (e.g. Arms Control reconnaissance, contingency planning and escort duties), SHAPE Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Directorate will immediately notify the SHAPE Strategic Direction Centre, who will in turn send a warning to the appropriate command. At the same time SHAPE WMD Directorate will contact the JFC/JHQ Arms Control points of contact, through the AC network, to advise them of the impending activity. The JFC/JHQ staff will then inform the appropriate subordinate HQ's AC staff with sufficient warning time to conduct inspection preparations and provide them, as soon as possible, with supplementary guidance.

Planning Implications and Requirements

When NATO forces are to be deployed into a territory where AC instruments are applicable, an AC staff officer at operational level must be part of the OPG from the start of planning process concerning the operation in order to ensure a timely flow of AC





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related information between higher and subordinate HQ's. This officer's role is to advise the commander on relevant AC issues that may arise and prepare the AC contribution to any OPLAN, normally found in Annex M in accordance with COPD as well. The outline of AC guidance depends on the applicability of AC treaties and agreements in the area where the forces will be deployed. Therefore, it is not possible to standardise the format of an Annex M. However, the AC guidance in an OPLAN should provide as a minimum: all relevant AC references for the operation; all applicable AC treaties and agreements; general information highlighting the AC impact on the operation; operational security provisions; responsibilities and tasks; ceiling/threshold that require reporting to higher HQ if applicable and the deployment of arms control specialists from nations as applicable. At HRF (L) level, the designated staff officers with AC responsibility, as a secondary function, will be provided

with AC guidance (Annex M) by JFC/JHQ through the AC network. They will then ensure that the AC commitments are taken into account during the Operational Planning Process (OPP) at the appropriate level. In accordance with COPD, it is incumbent upon this staff cell to ensure specific consideration is given to the full gamut of pan theatre force protection issues, from the tactical to strategic level. Moreover, this must be set against the backdrop of a thorough and detailed appreciation of the strategic factors contributing to the crisis. Furthermore, critical to this context is the political and legal landscapes that underpin the legal basis, and therefore international legitimacy, of NATO intervention in the first instance; in the long term ultimately affecting the level of NATO member support to a given mission.

Conclusion

Compliance with the legal obligations and political responsibilities of AC is a national responsibility. Nevertheless, the NATO chain of command has an important role to play. Commanders will give importance to the preservation of operational security and force protection balanced against the imperative for openness and transparency required by the instruments of AC. Within the framework of the COPD, G5 is ideally placed to understand how AC fits into the strategic context of a given mission, thereby enabling the Operational Planning Group (OPG) to strike an informed balance between the conflicting interests and provide the Commander with viable Courses of Action (COA). Whilst operating as the leading agency for the operational planning activities within HQ NRDC-ITA, G5 Plans & Policy still remains the "Pro-Active Eyes" for complying with AC commitments.

