Multinational Projects

Multinational projects are a concrete illustration of the Smart Defence initiative, a new way of co-operation among NATO nations. As defence budgets are under pressure, Smart Defence represents a renewed emphasis on multinational cooperation in order to provide cost-effective security in a period of economic austerity.

I. Smart Defence multinational projects

There are currently 26 Smart Defence multinational projects that will deliver improved operational effectiveness, economies of scale and connectivity between national forces. In addition, there are 6 Smart Defence multinational projects that have been successfully closed after achieving their goal[1].

Nations continue to discuss promising areas for multinational cooperation such as logistic cooperation, collaborative training opportunities, and protection of forces. Smart Defence projects are funded by participating nations.

The projects are:

1. **NATO Universal Armaments Interface**. This project will enable fighter jets to use munitions from various sources and nations. It will facilitate the flexible use of available munitions across the Alliance and promote multinational cooperation. The air operation over Libya has demonstrated the importance of such a project.

2. **Remotely controlled robots for clearing roadside bombs**. Based on experience gained in Afghanistan, the project will identify the best remotely controlled robots for route clearance operations. This equipment avoids exposing military personnel to explosive devices. The project will promote joint procurement of state-of-the-art equipment and facilitate multinational cooperation on deployment.

3. **Pooling Maritime Patrol Aircraft**. This project will bring different maritime patrol aircraft from various nations into a multinational pool to be available to all participating nations, and, upon request, to other nations as well, thus enabling a more flexible use of available assets.

4. **Multinational Aviation Training Centre**. Building on operational experience gained in Afghanistan, this project will provide top quality training to helicopter pilots and ground crews. The training will focus on the deployment of helicopter detachments in support of NATO operations as well as preparing Aviation Advisory Teams which provide training to Afghan National Security Forces.

5. **Pooling & Sharing Multinational Medical Treatment Facilities**. A project to develop standardised modular medical facilities for effective and efficient multinational deployments in support of operations. This will allow nations to make the best possible use of existing medical assets.

6. **Multinational Logistics Partnership for Fuel Handling**. This project optimises the provision of fuel to deployed forces through a multinational partnership.

7. **Deployable Contract Specialist Group**. This project will develop the creation of a pool of contract specialists with expertise in NATO procedures to establish and monitor contracts in theatres of operations.

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1 Multinational Logistics Partnership – Helicopter Maintenance Dismantling, Demilitarization and Disposal of Military Equipment (D3)
Centres of Excellence as Hubs of E&TE
Multinational Logistics Partnership – (MRAP) Vehicle Maintenance
Multinational Munition Life-Cycle Management
Weapons systems – Managing spare parts

8. **Immersive Training Environments**. This project will enable nations to share the development and use of advanced computer systems that can simulate realistic environments for the training of soldiers, airmen and sailors.

9. **Computer Information Services (CIS) E-Learning Training Centres Network**. This project will assist nations to develop personnel to plan, install and maintain computer networks through national CIS training institutions.

10. **Individual Training and Education Programmes**. This project will provide more efficient, effective and affordable training for personnel assigned to NATO peacetime and crisis establishment training institutions. The project will bring together the training requirements of different NATO and national training institutions using online tools.

11. **Multinational Joint Headquarters Ulm**. This project will transform a national joint command in Ulm, Germany, into a deployable multinational joint headquarters. This new permanent headquarters will contribute to Alliance and EU operations. The project supports the current NATO command structure review.

12. **Female Leaders in Security and Defence**. This project will develop human resources by integrating diversity and gender perspectives into strategic planning, capabilities development and force preparedness. The project will promote the role of women as key contributors to innovative approaches to defence and security, in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

13. **Joint Logistics Support Group (JLSG HQ)**. This project will save manpower and resources with the establishment of a trained multinational joint logistics support group headquarters, providing more efficient logistics at theatre level.

14. **Pooling of Deployable Air Activation Modules (DAAM)**. This project will create a deployable airbase by pooling components required for deployable airfields in support of operations (called deployable air activation modules). A multinational pool of deployable air activation modules will be built from capabilities available across various nations.

15. **Theatre Opening Capability**. This project will provide savings in the opening of ports of debarkation in theatres of operation. The project will establish a joint expeditionary capability for cooperation in the establishment, operation and conduct of cargo handling in forward nodes.

16. **Multinational Military Flight Crew Training**. This project will allow the shared use of basic and undergraduate pilot and flight crew training, providing for savings in the costs for maintaining national flight training facilities.

Multinational JHQ Ulm

17. **Counter IED – Biometrics**. This project will provide a comprehensive strategy for common standards and multinational training in countering improvised explosive devices (IEDs) making use of forensic analysis based on biometric techniques.

18. **Establishment of a Multinational Geospatial Support Group (GSG)**. Through this project, a Multinational Geospatial Support Group (MN GSG) will provide enhanced standardised geospatial information, such as mapping and terrain imaging to NATO operations and planning.

19. **Multinational Cyber Defence Capability Development (MNCD2)**. This project will facilitate the development of cyber defence capabilities within NATO nations to prepare for, prevent, detect, respond to and recover from attacks that could affect confidentiality, integrity and availability of information.

20. **Harbour Protection**. This project will provide a deployable multinational harbour protection capability to protect vessels and infrastructure. The capability is based on a modular system that can be tailored to specific operational situations.

21. **Pooling CBRN Capabilities**. This project will pool existing national chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear (CBRN) protective capabilities to create a multinational CBRN battalion framework and to conduct multinational training and exercises. The project will increase the number of CBRN battalions and improve interoperability through exercises and training.

22. **Development of Personnel Reserve Capabilities**. This project will develop cost-effective personnel reserve capabilities that can be used either domestically or in multi-national operations. This will include multinational training and educational programmes with participating nations.

23. **Alliance Defence Analysis and Planning for Transformation (ADAPT)**. The ADAPT project will provide contributing nations with access to common analytic expertise in defence planning. It will contribute to more interoperability, a better balance of defence investment decisions and efficiencies through economies of scale.

24. **Defensive Aids Suite (DAS)**. The project will enhance interoperability between threat warning/detection and countermeasure systems necessary to protect aircraft against threats they are likely to encounter in a combat environment. Expected benefits will be increased allied interoperability, higher operational flexibility within fleets and cost savings."

25. **Integrating Explosives Safety and Munitions Risk Management (ESMRM)**. The project will reduce munitions-related risks in NATO by developing and implementing standardized processes and doctrine within the NATO structure.

26. **Malware Information Sharing Platform (MISP)**. The project will ensure a faster detection of cyber incidents and cyber malware through an information-sharing platform that will be accessible to national Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS)

II. Completed Smart Defence Project

1. **Multinational Logistics Partnership – Helicopter Maintenance**. The project to develop a multinational logistics partnership on helicopter maintenance in Afghanistan has been successfully completed. The United-States-led project established helicopter facilities in Afghanistan allowing Allies to pool their spare parts, tools and technicians to make the most of their deployed resources. The project was completed in August 2013 and has led to significant cost savings, reducing the time needed to repair helicopters. The project will serve as a model for future deployments.

2. **Dismantling, Demilitarization and Disposal of Military Equipment (D3)**. The project to provide for the joint logistic support of various pieces of equipment that require demilitarization, dismantling or disposal by the D3 Support Partnership Member States has been successfully completed. The overall intent of the D3 project has been achieved, ensuring that appropriate procedures including environmental regulations, are applied.

3. **Centres of Excellence as Hubs of Education and Training**. With this project, specific centres of excellence have been given a lead role in education and training within their areas of expertise with more efficient, effective and affordable training for the benefit of all nations. Programmes developed are now fully integrated into the Annual Guidance on Education, Training, Exercises and Evaluation issued by SACEUR.

4. **Multinational Logistics Partnership - Mine Resistant Ambush Vehicle (MRAP) maintenance**. With this project, the operational availability of MRAP vehicles has been improved through the establishment of a multinational logistic support approach for ISAF and for future deployments. Nations making use of the project's logistic support solutions could significantly improve the operational availability of their MRAP vehicles and achieve significant financial savings.

5. **Multinational Cooperation on Munitions (Munitions Life-Cycle Management)**. The aim of this project was to establish an overall framework for strengthening multinational cooperation by collectively managing the life-cycle of munitions.. The project has delivered a concept to manage national holdings of munitions more efficiently that is universally applicable to any equipment or item with a life-cycle.

6. **Weapons Systems – Managing spare parts**. The project delivered additional opportunities for multinational cooperation on spare parts of weapons systems through partnerships facilitated by the NATO Support Agency.

III. Continued multinational cooperation on strategic programmes

Smart Defence has given an impulse to ongoing projects that depend on multinational cooperation. The Chicago Summit has reinforced the need to further strengthen multinational cooperation, in particular on some strategic programmes.

1. **NATO's Missile Defence capability**. At the Lisbon Summit in November 2010, NATO Heads of State and Government decided to develop Ballistic Missile Defence as a collective capability for the Alliance. Through multinational cooperation, Allies can achieve more and better protection from ballistic missiles than any one Ally could provide alone. The United States is providing the majority of assets at this stage. Several European Allies have agreed to host elements of the US system. European nations will also provide complementary assets such as Patriot missiles and radar-carrying ships. And NATO as a whole is providing the communication network and the missile defence command within its Air Command in Ramstein, Germany.

2. **Alliance Ground Surveillance programme (AGS)**. 15 Allies are coming together to provide a capability which will benefit the whole Alliance. This is a system which will employ Unmanned Air Systems with sophisticated radars providing live pictures of ground conditions from high altitude. The system will be made available to the Alliance in the 2017-2018 timeframe. All Allies will contribute to the development of the AGS capability through financial contributions covering the establishment of the AGS Main Operating Base as well as to communications and life-cycle support of the AGS fleet. Some Allies will replace part of their financial contribution through 'contributions-in-kind' (national surveillance systems that will be made available to NATO).

3. **NATO Air Policing**. Providing fighter aircraft for use by Allies in NATO Air Policing missions offers an example of Alliance solidarity through avoiding additional defence spending on capabilities already adequately available in sufficient numbers. This allows economies of scale through the pooling and sharing of fighter aircraft. This approach is of particular interest for Allies faced with the replacement of ageing aircraft in the coming decade.

4. **Joint Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (JISR)**. Enhanced cooperation between Allies will provide for a more powerful network linking national and NATO surveillance assets (such as AWACS and AGS), as well as collaborative training and education programmes and improved procedures for the exchange of information. Cooperation in this area aims at enhancing the tasking, collection, processing and sharing of key information in support of political and military decision makers. At the Chicago Summit, Allies agreed to launch an initiative in this area. Building on experience gained in Afghanistan, work is ongoing to develop a JISR network facilitating the sharing of information coming from various national surveillance assets.

IV. Past experience with multinational cooperation

NATO Allies are not starting from scratch. They have a long experience of working together. Here are some examples of longstanding multinational cooperation:

1. **The Strategic Airlift Capability**. This initiative has brought together 10 Allied and 2 Partnership for Peace nations in a consortium to procure and operate C-17 heavy transport aircraft. By doing this together, these nations have acquired an important capability that individual members of the consortium could not obtain individually.

2. **The Strategic Airlift Interim Solution (SALIS)**. A multinational consortium of 14 NATO member countries and 2 partner nations pooled resources to charter special aircraft that give the Alliance the capability to transport heavy equipment across the globe by air. The airlift consortium charters Antonov An-124-100 transport aircraft capable of handling 'outsize' (unusually large) cargo.

3. **AWACS**. NATO operates a fleet of seventeen Boeing E-3A 'Sentry' Airborne Warning & Control System (AWACS) aircraft, which provide the Alliance with an immediately available airborne command and control, air and maritime surveillance and battle management capability. This is one of the few military assets that are owned and operated by NATO.

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