

Welcome to our monthly newsletter, through which we intend to keep you updated on the outcomes of our work and events in our community.

The calendar section of events remains unavailable this month due to the ongoing changes and reassessments driven by COVID-19 preventive measures.

## JOINT ISR

The importance of the revision of the **JISR Capability Development Strategy** was addressed by Allies in the JISR Project Group, the Military Intelligence Committee and in the Conference of National Armaments Directors meetings held at the beginning of July.

Key observations and solutions have been discussed and are taken forward in the revised draft Strategy to provide opportunities for improving future JISR capability development, facilitate the implementation of JISR requirements and improve coherence and coordination across capability development processes.

Advance notice for JCGISR representatives: the JCGISR Fall meeting is scheduled during the week of 26-30 October as a virtual conference. Any items of interest to be tabled for the group's discussion can be raised with the JCGISR Secretary.

## Welcome to ILM's New Maritime Officer

In July, the ILM team will welcome **Commander Sean Treveltham** in his new position as **Maritime Officer and Coordinator for the NATO Naval Armaments Group**.

Sean joins us from the UK's Royal Navy, where he was the **Fleet Robotics Officer** within Maritime Capability, the Division within Navy Command which plans the future capability of the Royal Navy. His role was cross cutting, looking at Autonomy in all domains and how it can be exploited by the Navy of the future. Sean brings a wealth of experience from the UK's participation in the Maritime Unmanned Systems Initiative and is already a familiar face in many NATO circles.

Sean will be a tremendous asset for guiding and supporting the naval armaments community – welcome!

## AFSC

The assessment process for the **AFSC High-Level Technical Concepts** is reaching a conclusion. A whole-of-NATO team has undertaken

the assessments, involving NSPA, ACO, ACT, the NCI Agency, the Science and Technology Organization, and a wide variety of national subject matter experts. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic means this assessment was a unique and challenging undertaking. The assessment teams found innovative and new ways of working to review the industry findings in a distributed manner.

Much more work is to follow, but this marks a major milestone in refining the future direction of AFSC. The assessment reports are being submitted for Allies' consideration, and the **AFSC Support Partnership Committee** will meet in informal format on 22-23 July to take stock of progress. The intent is to prepare a decision on the future of the AFSC concept in time for the CNAD Plenary meeting planned for November.

## Farewell to Commander Thomas Smith

"You say goodbye and I say hello" (Beatles). We are saying goodbye to **Commander Thomas Smith** who has served the **JISR Taskforce** in different roles over the last years. His finesse and talent as moderator and translator between military and civilian communities across NATO was instrumental in delivering a number of high profile JISR efforts. On a staff level, Tom helped to foster a culture of direct and open communication and never lost eye on common goals beyond institutional differences.

While we are sad to see Tom leave our community, he won't set sails and conquer the Seven Seas. Instead, he has now retired from the Navy and started his next career in the situational awareness branch in **NATO's JIS Division**. We congratulate you and thank you for your hard work and friendship over the last years.

## MARITIME

During the course of the summer the Capability Groups unrelentingly continued to persist to progress against the NNAG business continuity guidance:

- Prioritizing the 2021 study proposals for the NATO industrial Advisory Group;
- Promoting and advancing the development of standardization within the Ship Design Capability Group, Under Water Warfare and Above Water Warfare and the Joint Capabilities Group Unmanned Aircraft Systems.

This has helped to keep the work of the NNAG on track despite the COVID-19 pandemic. The hope is that the NNAG Capability Groups would be able to physically meet in the Fall to be able to ensure continuity of their POWs and are seeking viable virtual platforms if physical meetings cannot take place.

## LAND

After the months-long COVID-19 lock-down and the cancellation of official meetings, the Fall 2020 meetings cycle will mark the reopening of the regular business for the **NATO Army Armaments communities**. It is important to note that the background work such like STANAG development, administration of documentation, and off-committee information exchange continued unabated during this time of Corona. However, meetings are crucial for the health of the communities, and are key to the NATO decision making process.

The meetings cycle will start with the Land Engagement (LCGLE) meeting in virtual space during the third week of September. Over the second and third weeks of October, Madrid and Lisbon will host the Army Aviation (JCGVL) and Ground Based Air Defence (JCGGBAD) meetings, respectively. The Prague Future Forces Forum (FFF 2020) in October will be the venue for the CBRN Defence (JCBRND CDG), Non-Lethal Weapons (JNLWCG) and Dismounted Soldier Systems (LCGDSS) meetings. Prague will also host the Artillery meeting (ICGIF) in early November. The cycle will be completed with the meetings of Military Engineers (MILENG WG) in Ingolstadt and the NATO Army Armaments Group (NAAG) at NATO HQ in January 2021. The excellent efforts of the host Nations are greatly appreciated.