

Simulation training conference successfully concluded - ACT

Written by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Carla Burdt
Tuesday, 10 May 2011 16:38



The 2011 international exhibition and conference ITEC was successfully concluded in Cologne, Germany.

The purpose of this conference has been to share current best practices across the Nations and NATO organization in the use of simulation to support operations. In doing so, it is anticipated that NATO and the nations will be able to identify potential follow-on collaborative opportunities and understand how simulation might better be exploited. A secondary aim is to identify military requirements to be translated to Modelling and Simulation (M&S) technical requirements.

The conference is Europe's leading conference and exhibition for the training and simulation community and works to understand and act upon the current needs of the military.



In his [keynote address](#), Allied Command Transformation's (ACT) Deputy Chief of Staff Joint Force Trainer, German Air Force Lieutenant General Karlheinz Viereck discussed how simulation and training can support operational challenges in the context of fiscal pressures.

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“The Joint Force Training resides within Allied Command Transformation but the command has a responsibility for all NATO training,” said Viereck. “My presence here today is to provide you with a holistic appreciation of NATO training – where we are going and how we work with partners in states, organisations, academia and industry. I hope that at the end you will have an appreciation as to how NATO plans to adopt emerging technologies, how it seeks to reform the training methods in line with nations and what it hopes the future will bring.”

NATO’s Military Committee and Strategic Commanders have identified the need to overhaul the current training system.

“Better coordination needed”

“NATO education and training facilities and centres of excellence need to be involved in a more coordinated fashion in order to enhance training and build training programs more closely in sync with theatre requirements,” said Viereck.

The reduction in military budgets and the responsibility of the nations to provide trained forces coupled with the requirements to avoid duplication of efforts, pool resources and engage nations and partners is a key focus area.

“Training a force multiplier”



According to Viereck, training is a force multiplier and responds to strategy and ACT needs to

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take a closer look at the results of the Lisbon Summit and how these affect the training world.

“For NATO 2020, the twin imperative is assured security for all its members and dynamic engagement beyond the treaty area to minimize threats,” said Viereck. “To succeed, NATO must have the sustained commitment and unified efforts of its members.”

Viereck explained the value of adding virtual world technology. “In light of a reduced NATO Command Structure, more emphasis on NATO Force Structure and better collaboration with nations, the present training and exercise requirements will improve.”

He continued, “In the global approach, modeling and simulation technological advances provide applicable promise to NATO’s training needs. Available modeling and simulation technology and networks are already available to the Alliance for distributed training and exercises.”

Viereck said in the next year ACT will have in place the training of the future, a roadmap to partnerships with industry, a plan to transform from the systems into the holistic approach to training.

Allied Command Transformation (ACT) sees the use of embedded virtual simulation as an essential tool to provide more effective deployed training. In a 5 May 2011 address to the NATO Military Committee General Stephane Abrial, Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (SACT) gave a comprehensive overview of the studies and initiatives launched by Allied Command Transformation, with specific emphasis on Education and Training, the innovative approaches to building capacity through multi-national cooperation and ways to measure effectiveness.

“The meeting of minds has always been stimulating and productive”

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Acting Chief Petty Officer Chris H. S. Longmire, director of the [55th Training Command](#), provided