

*First established in 2005, the TIDE Sprint and its semi-annual meetings have been instrumental in aligning information technology initiatives in the Alliance and coordinating interoperability efforts between the Nations and other stakeholders.*

Military operations entail a wide variety of missions making it difficult to pre-design and pre-integrate information technology (IT) solutions. The Alliance and its member nations initially developed numerous capabilities that were powerful in support of singular functional services, while seemingly continued to fail to integrate horizontally between these services. As a result, in 2003, Allied Command Transformation (ACT) endorsed the *Technology for Information, Decision and Execution Superiority (TIDE)* concept, which is focused on the promotion of flexible and innovative IT capabilities that support the full integration of applications and services.

"If you aren't planning to talk, learn, contribute or get your hands dirty, you are coming to the wrong  
- Mr. Johan Goossens at the opening of the previous TIDE Sprint.

### **TIDE Sprints**

TIDE Sprints, a successful TIDE initiative, are sandbox events to discuss and rapidly solve C4ISR issues through a set of collaborative and educational think-tank sessions. TIDE Sprints use a combination of show-and-tell brain-storming, collaboration, education, demonstration, coding and testing to further select issues.

The TIDE Sprints bring together the members of the TIDE community, ACT and NCIA staff as well as representatives from nations, academia and industry. All NATO Member Nations, Partnership for Peace (PfP) Nations and Contact Nations are invited to the TIDE Sprints in hopes of fostering participating for the different tracks and working groups.

### **Proven Concept**

TIDE Sprints have been organized since 2005, and are bi-annual with a Spring event in Europe, and a Fall event in the Norfolk, Virginia area. Kromhout Barracks in Utrecht, Netherlands, home of the Command and Control Centre of Excellence (C2COE) hosted the Spring 2012 event. Over 144 participants from 10 different NATO commands and agencies, 15 nations (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United States) and 14 academic and industrial organizations attended this event.

# TIDE Sprint: Thinking Through a Better Use of Technology - ACT

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