

CHIEFS OF TRANSFORMATION CONFERENCE: YOUNG DISRUPTORS

“Expanding the Alliance Open Innovation Network”

Background:

COTC 2018 was conducted with the young disruptors separated with their own forum. For COTC 2019 the young disruptors were integrated into each of the syndicate sessions. The young disruptors also conducted a separate meeting with DSACT in order to exchange views on innovation and receive information regarding ACT activities and responsibilities.

Premise:

NATO needs to find better ways to cooperate with partners. This also includes actors outside of the military world such as industry that are essential in identifying problems and finding compromises, solutions and opportunities. Cooperation also includes data sharing. To achieve this, it is important to define a minimum level of classification of data and understand what data needs to be protected and which needs to be shared. Overall, there is a need for a cultural shift that can be facilitated by cultivating human capital and implementing trainings.

Aim: To share the vision, chart progress, and recognise best practices, in order to identify possible common/shared efforts and to establish a robust network for cooperation in the area of innovation.

Young Disruptors Discussion with DSACT:

Topic: Human capital: bilateral cooperation between Nations but no coherent structure between 29 Nations. How can we create this structure?

- Human capital initiative from NATO aims at pulling resources together.
- Innovation work needs to go through a mindset change both at senior leader level and at the young leader level.
- How to better combine and share info to deliver capabilities in human capital arena?
- Young Disruptors initiatives needs to be spread around the Nations, expand the Young Disruptors network and ask also other Nations and Partners to the network.

Topic: Views and perspectives on NATO

- ACT open to incorporate academia, industry, private sector, civilian world.
- Rust within NATO starts to be overcome when NATO invites young people to these fora.
- Exposure to younger audiences like high-school student: NATO should let them know what NATO is and what does, so that young people become more familiar with NATO from the beginning.
- Innovation initiatives between NATO and national innovation centers. ACT needs to support the Innovation Hub.
- Human capital: educate leaders in diversity thinking. Also teach to think bottom-up.
- Communication gap: NATO needs to be more receptive and learn to communicate to public opinion the info that matters and is relevant. Improve public diplomacy.

Topic: NATO Model Event with University of Bologna, George Washington University, ODU, Wesleyan University.

- Innovation hub can be utilized with students and other stakeholders. Innovation Hub synergies with Norwegian Defense Programme: students in accelerating programs to focus on what are the real problems in the defense fields, and link the various stakeholders that can fix the problem.

Topic: There seems to be lack of awareness of what NATO is and does even within the military.

- Need to integrate younger officers more into the decision-making process to avoid indoctrination.

Proposal: create exchange programs between national militaries to experience other national military environments.

- This stays at national level but NATO should be the sponsor of this program and the initiative should come from NATO itself. This also allows to have a mix of Nations and interaction between different cultures, and also to discover that Nations have common problems and common solutions (e.g. logistics could be coordinated at international level so that Nations can pool resources together).

Topic: Need to promote more what whole NATO structure is doing (e.g. NATO ACT is not well known around among public opinion).

Topic: Next priority ACT: NWCC in next 20 years.

- Is a living document that reacts to changes in technology and geopolitics. Assumptions change over time, so the document will be regularly updated. Part of document will be classified and part of it unclassified and releasable.

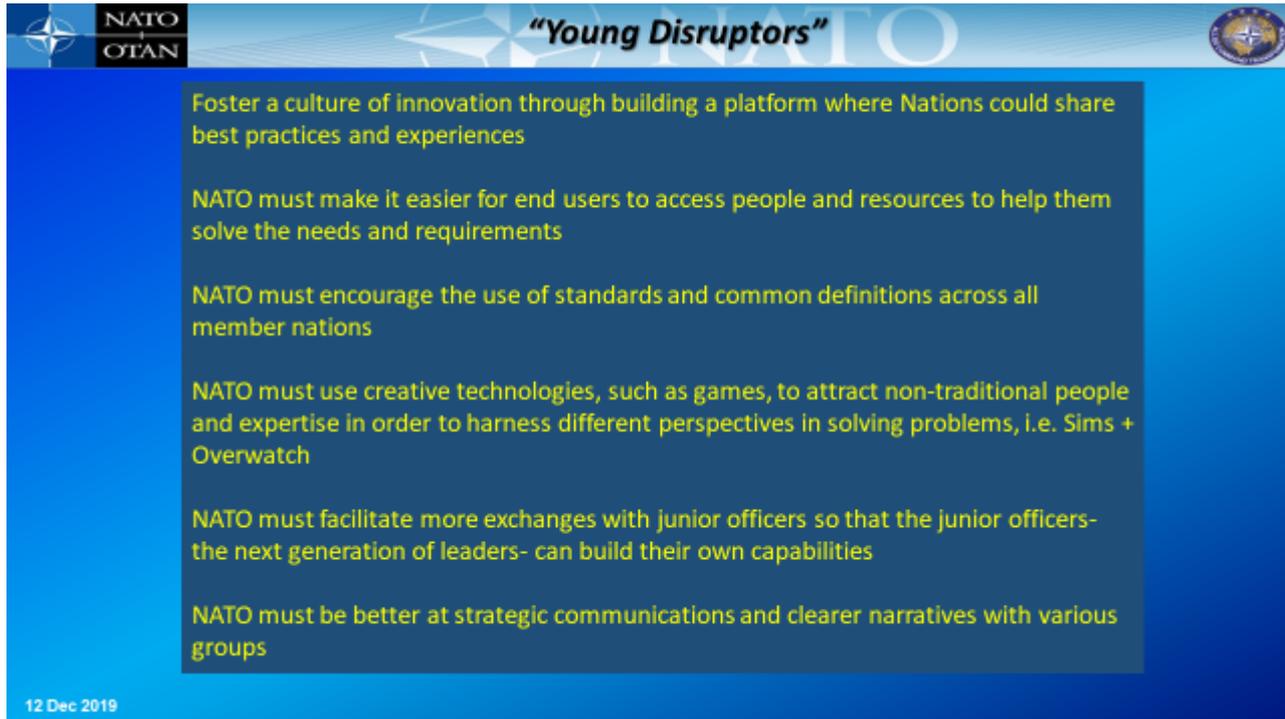
Young Disruptor Main Points:

- The divide between the military and civilian mind set still very visible and tangible. Need to get the two worlds closer together.
- Finding ways to share data with key stakeholders is essential to enhance cooperation.
- Innovation can be more effective if it develops a culture that is accepting of failure.

Young Disruptors Closing Conclusions

- Foster a culture of innovation through building a platform where Nations could share best practices and experiences
- NATO must make it easier for end users to access people and resources to help them solve the needs and requirements
- NATO must encourage the use of standards and common definitions across all member nations
- NATO must use creative technologies, such as games, to attract non-traditional people and expertise in order to harness different perspectives in solving problems, i.e. Sims + Overwatch
- NATO must facilitate more exchanges with junior officers so that the junior officers- the next generation of leaders- can build their own capabilities
- NATO must be better at strategic communications and clearer narratives with various groups

Young Disruptor Closing Plenary Slides:



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