

- NATO, Nations need to better choreograph engagements with industry - ACT

Written by U. S. Navy Chief Chris Carrothers
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The Chief of Staff, Allied Command Transformation (ACT) Royal Navy Vice Admiral Robert G. Cooling delivered a plenary address Thursday 12 May at the 2011 Joint Warfighting Conference (JWC) at the Virginia Beach Convention Center.

Cooling spoke to the assembled crowd addressing his “Thoughts on Allied Command Transformation’s Role in preparing for future Operations.” He highlighted the need to better choreograph engagements with industry, and that if ACT is driving the requirements, there will be more incentive for us to be fully engaged with industry.

He added that a comprehensive approach is a force multiplier, but that interoperability among all allies is critical and that operations must be politically supportable.

“During the last year, theatre-wide Counter-Improvised Explosive Device (C-IED) trends in Afghanistan showed a reduction in effective IED attacks and casualties against coalition forces despite and increased operational tempo and persistent high volume of IEDs.” Cooling stated. “We must now take the next giant step and begin sharing more information throughout the entire Civilian, Military, Security, and Financial domains.”

Cooling said that capability is not just a piece of equipment, it is the entire range of activity from doctrine development to training and maintenance and that the Lisbon summit directed NATO to focus on these critical capabilities.

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The JWC is an annual event that brings DoD officials together with representatives of industry, academia and multinational partners. The conference is co-sponsored by the Armed Forces Communication and Electronics Association and the U.S. Naval Institute with support from the AFCEA Hampton Roads and Tidewater Chapters, and the National Defence Industry Association Greater Hampton Roads Chapter.