

6th NATO CAX Forum Resounding Success with Record Attendance - ACT

Written by ACT PAO

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“A computer assisted exercise (CAX) is a type of synthetic exercise where forces are generated, moved and managed in a simulation environment based on the commands coming from the exercise participants.”

This unofficial definition drafted by the Joint Warfare Centre some years ago is the essence of what constitutes a CAX. Although unofficial, the definition fits well within the official and published Allied Command Transformation’s Modelling and Simulation Vision which is “to exploit modelling and simulation to enable NATO transformation wherever it can enhance capability, increase interoperability, save resources or reduce risk.”

As part of its assumption of duties, planning and execution of the CAX Forum is now the responsibility of the NATO Modelling and Simulation (M&S) Centre of Excellence (COE). The COE leadership selected the Ergife Palace Hotel in Rome as the conference venue.

With 220 attendees the conference has almost doubled in size since last year. Part of the success formula of this year’s conference was that it teamed with the I3M: The 8th International Mediterranean & Latin American Modelling Multiconference with its own 300 mostly academic attendees. With 18 industry partners also in attendance the resulting mélange was a true success and demonstrated well the COE’s mantra to whenever possible work within the triangle of government, academia and industry.

In his closing address to the forum, Italian Army Brigadier General Giovanni Fungo, Assistant

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Chief of Staff Capability Engineering, noted that the forum attendees were not satisfied to allow CAX to continue using only time honoured CAX methods. A number of special topics were also presented and discussed including the comprehensive approach, medical and pandemics, cyber defence, reconstruction and stability, and refugees.

COL Francesco Mastrorosa, Director of the NATO M&S COE, stated at the closing, “due to the spectacular success of this year’s CAX Forum, I invite you to come back again next year to this same venue where the COE will again be pleased to host this event.”

Photo: Brigadier General Giovanni Fungo, Assistant Chief of Staff Capability Engineering, speaks to attendees at the 6th NATO CAX Forum. NATO Photo by Wayne Buck.