

## Fact Sheet – Scenario Based Discussions (SBD) and Wargaming

**Background:** Since 2016, ACT leadership has expressed a renewed interest in the use of structured techniques to enhance the output of key meetings, workshops and discussions. In response, OPEX has developed and executed Scenario Based Discussions (SBD), while simultaneously growing in-house expertise on wargaming. SBDs provide a dynamic way to engage an audience to think and explore complex issues. Using a narrative to engross an audience on complex issues helps participants consider those issues in the real-world while also fostering retention of the information discussed. The design of an SBD is highly dependent upon the topics under review as well as the audience included in the dialogue.

Wargames are another technique to facilitate exploration of a selected topic. While definitions of wargames vary, they all include a simulation or representation of a selected environment in which to explore decision making and results. Additionally, the inclusion of conflict or competition is a key component of a wargame.

Use of an SBD or wargame requires clarity of purpose and the ability to answer the question, what does success look like? Given the aim of the discussion, consideration to the size and type of audience as well as time available will help identify the appropriate technique to administer during the selected activity.

**Mission:** Employ structured and dynamic experiment techniques to enhance the output of key meetings, workshops and discussions.

**Milestones:** Military Committee Visit to ACT (NOV 2016); Chiefs of Transformation Conference (DEC 2016); Defense Counsellors Visit to ACT (NOV 2017); Military Committee Visit to ACT (MAR 2019); Wargaming Course at ACT (MAR 2019)

**Headquarters:** NATO Allied Command Transformation, Operational Experimentation Branch.

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