

# NATO Allied Command Transformation Operational Experimentation



## Backgrounder – ASSOCIATE Experiment in London

London, England (October 10-12, 2017) -- A fully operable concept demonstrator for the Adaptive Scalable System for Operational C2 Integrating Ad hoc Teams Effectively (ASSOCIATE) experiment was deployed at the International Concept Development & Experimentation Conference.

The concept demonstrator enabled delegates to experience hands-on the ability of ASSOCIATE to help share information, under careful control, among NATO forces and ad hoc non-NATO team members on a robust network.

Several use cases examined included:

- NATO teaming-up with indigenous forces
- Emergency responders comprising NATO and civilian emergency services
- Search & Rescue
- NATO alerting a community, including NGO's, to the presence of a hazard



The ASSOCIATE concept demonstrator formed part of the conference's Command & Control (C2) Workshop led by the Ministry of Defence, Great Britain.

Looking ahead, Headquarters Supreme Allied Command Transformation (HQ SACT) envisages a live field experiment with ASSOCIATE in the summer of 2018. This is expected to be a small-scale event for which a diverse audience will be sought, including NATO and non-NATO participants. The field experiment is likely to include familiarization on the ASSOCIATE concept demonstrator followed by several practical exercise phases. Feedback from the audience will enable improvements to the draft ASSOCIATE concept of employment which, in turn, will be used to inform NATO's future C2 requirements.

Work on ASSOCIATE is conducted within NATO's Concept Development and Experimentation programme. The ASSOCIATE initiative originated from collaboration between HQ SACT's Operational Experimentation (OPEX) Branch and USA's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

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