



# NATO Centres of Excellence

Specialized centres  
boost the Alliance's  
capabilities

By per Concordiam Staff

NATO began developing Centres of Excellence (COE) in Europe and the U.S. in 2005 with the goal of creating specialized intellectual centres that would address critical security shortfall areas among NATO member countries. Today, 18 COEs provide a broad scope of work along four main pillars: Analysis and Lessons Learned, Concept Development & Experimentation, Education and Training, and Doctrine Development and Standards. Three more COEs are in the accreditation process.

The innovative multinational partnerships have achieved success. Each centre specializes in a precise subject matter area and is home to experts within that field. Funding is either national or multinational, and although the centres cooperate closely with the Alliance, they are not part of the NATO command structure. The Allied Command Transformation, located in Norfolk, Virginia, coordinates the COEs.

Using a "smart defense" approach, the centres expand interoperability and work under the principle of no duplication with existing assets and resources among the NATO community. They help strengthen and build relationships between international organizations, nongovernmental organizations and academic groups. The locations, spread across Europe, including several from the old Eastern Bloc, emphasize the cooperative nature of the centres. NATO centres of excellence showcase effective multinational partnerships at a time when cooperation is vital.

For more information, visit [www.act.nato.int](http://www.act.nato.int)

## COMBINED JOINT OPERATIONS FROM THE SEA (CJOS)

**Location:** Norfolk, Virginia, United States  
**NATO accredited:** 2006.

**Purpose:** Supports the transformation of NATO's maritime capabilities. Its goal is to improve the ability of NATO countries to conduct combined joint operations at sea.

## COLD WEATHER OPERATIONS (CWO)

**Location:** Bodø, Norway  
**NATO accredited:** 2007

**Purpose:** Specializes in establishing efficiencies and best practices for extreme cold weather operations. Works with the Mountain Warfare COE in Slovenia.

## CIVIL-MILITARY COOPERATION (CIMIC)

**Location:** Enschede, the Netherlands  
**NATO accredited:** 2007

**Purpose:** Strives to improve civil-military cooperation between NATO, supporting nations and other military and civilian groups.

## COMMAND AND CONTROL (C2)

**Location:** Utrecht, the Netherlands  
**NATO accredited:** 2008

**Purpose:** Works to hone joint and combined interoperability proficiencies. It advises NATO member countries on the best ways to cooperate for maximum results.

## JOINT AIR POWER COMPETENCE CENTRE (JAPCC)

**Location:** Kalkar, Germany  
**NATO accredited:** 2005

**Purpose:** Develops and implements innovative use of air assets from all service branches. Perfects best practices for space power.

## NAVAL MINE WARFARE (NMW)

**Location:** Oostende, Belgium  
**NATO accredited:** 2006

**Purpose:** Partners with the Ecole de Guerre de Mines or War College of Mines. Provides state of the art naval mine countermeasure courses for NATO, Partnership for Peace and non-NATO countries.

## CENTRE FOR ANALYSIS AND SIMULATION FOR THE PREPARATION OF AIR OPERATIONS (CASPOA)

**Location:** Lyon, France  
**NATO accredited:** 2008

**Purpose:** Specializes in joint and multinational air operations that utilize Computer Assisted Exercise (CAX) and Command Post Exercises (CPX). It is the only NATO COE in France.

## COUNTER IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES (C-IED)

**Location:** Madrid, Spain  
**NATO accredited:** 2010

**Purpose:** Develops capabilities to counter, reduce and eliminate threats from improvised explosive devices.

## MODELING AND SIMULATION (M&S)

**Location:** Rome, Italy  
**NATO accredited:** 2012

**Purpose:** Focuses on education, improving interoperability in the field of modelling and simulation, and assistance on data interconnectivity.

### OPERATIONS IN CONFINED AND SHALLOW WATERS (CSW)

**Location:** Kiel, Germany  
**NATO accredited:** 2009

**Purpose:** Sharpens the Alliance's confined and shallow water fighting capabilities. Contributes to concept development and academic papers.

### COOPERATIVE CYBER DEFENCE (CCD)

**Location:** Tallinn, Estonia  
**NATO accredited:** 2008

**Purpose:** Advances cooperation, capabilities and information sharing between NATO countries regarding cyber security. Assists NATO countries to detect and fight cyber attacks and studies cyber warfare. Stems from the 2007 cyber attack on Estonia.

### JOINT CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIATION AND NUCLEAR DEFENCE (JCBRN DEFENCE)

**Location:** Vyškov, Czech Republic  
**NATO accredited:** 2007

**Purpose:** Develops standards for interoperability and capabilities of CBRN defense. Trains and certifies the CBRN Defence Task Force of the NATO Response Force.

### ENERGY SECURITY (ENSEC)

**Location:** Vilnius, Lithuania  
**NATO accredited:** 2012

**Purpose:** Advises NATO on all aspects of energy security. The need for integrated multinational cooperation grows as pipelines expand and energy producing nations grapple with instability.

### MILITARY ENGINEERING (MILENG)

**Location:** Ingolstadt, Germany  
**NATO accredited:** 2009

**Purpose:** Advises NATO partner countries on joint and combined military engineering for optimum interoperability. Home to some of the world's leading military engineers.

### MILITARY POLICE (MP)

**Proposed Location:** Wrocław, Poland

**Purpose:** Will provide expert MP guidance to advance NATO's capabilities in the field.

### EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL (EOD)

**Location:** Trenčín, Slovakia  
**NATO accredited:** 2011

**Purpose:** Delivers explosive ordnance disposal know-how to NATO and Partnership for Peace nations.

### MILITARY MEDICAL (MILMED)

**Location:** Budapest, Hungary  
**NATO accredited:** 2009

**Purpose:** Improves military medical competencies by offering courses through the NATO School and sets standards for military medicine. Supplies mobile training teams to certify deployable multinational medical teams.

### HUMAN INTELLIGENCE (HUMINT)

**Location:** Oradea, Romania  
**NATO accredited:** 2010

**Purpose:** Brings human intelligence expertise to strategic commanders to improve interoperability and standardization.

### CRISIS MANAGEMENT FOR DISASTER RESPONSE (CMDR)

**Proposed Location:** Sofia, Bulgaria

**Purpose:** Will build and develop crisis management and disaster relief capabilities of NATO and member nations.

### MOUNTAIN WARFARE (MW)

**Proposed Location:** Bohinjska Bela, Slovenia

**Purpose:** Will enrich operations in difficult terrain and extreme weather.

- Country With COE
- COE in Development
- Centre of Excellence (COE)

### DEFENCE AGAINST TERRORISM (DAT)

**Location:** Ankara, Turkey  
**NATO accredited:** 2006

**Purpose:** Provides anti-terror expertise to defend against terrorism. Publishes the Defence Against Terrorism Review twice a year, and hosts conferences, workshops and training courses.