NSHQ SSG Panel Discussion on:
“How Do We Apply Afghanistan Lessons-Learned to Current and Future Operations?”

NATO SOF Commanders’ Conference

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NATO’S NEW STRATEGIC CONCEPT —  
“ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT, MODERN DEFENSE”

NATO SOF Core Missions (i.e., Military Assistance (MA), Special Reconnaissance (SR), Direct Action (DA)) provide solid basis for future NATO planning with respect to:

Contingencies and Mission Taskings calling for Legacy Skills and New Core Competencies within the context of

- Article-5 Collective Defense Missions
  - Iran?
  - Russia?
- New Taskings derived from Article-4 Crisis Consultations
  - C-WMD
  - CT/COIN
  - CP/Illlicit Trafficking

**Cooperative Security**

- Building Partner Capacities
- Training of NATO and Partner SOF and Other (e.g. Police) Forces
- Building Relationships to Support the Comprehensive Approach
  - EU
  - NGOs
  - IGOs
NATO SOF and Preventive Planning

Pre-Crisis or Pre-Conflict Planning is Central to NATO’s NSC
NATO SOF Can Facilitate and Leverage Comprehensive Approach
MA missions enhance capacity building in and outside of NATO
SOFFC promotes situational awareness and information-sharing

The NSHQ and its Deployable Component Command (SOCC) element offer SACEUR and SAC-T enormous potential:
For New Mission Taskings (e.g., Counter-WMD, with NATO’s Combined Joint Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear Defense Task Force)
As a Basis for NATO/non-NATO Partner Collaboration
In Conjunction with NRF Force Generation and Crisis Deployments
And, with respect to Training and Education
SOF Lessons-Learned from Current Operations

Afghanistan

- Flexibility and Agility of SOF to Tailor CT/COIN Strategies
- NATO SOF are Essential to ISAF’s Exit Strategy
- Partner Relations are Key to Operational Success
  - Within NATO
  - Global Partners
  - NGOs and IGOs
- Paradigm Shift between Supported and Supporting Agencies/Forces
  - BICES/MESH
  - SOFFC

And, with Libya

- Enablers
- Mobility
Into the Future

NATO SOF Storyboard

Change Existing Perceptions of SOF (e.g., Capabilities and Gaps, Legacy Spetsnaz)

Differentiate from Conventional Forces (i.e., Where and How do SOF Fit?)

Optimize SOF Roles in New Mission Areas with Respect to:
  - Collective Defense
  - Crisis Management
  - Cooperative Security

“Smart Defense” and Pooling of NATO SOF Aviation-Relevant Assets

  - Creation of a Dedicated NATO SOF Air Component
  - Establishment of a NATO SOF Air Education Program

NSHQ is a SOF Force Multiplier and Catalyst for Operationalizing NATO’s Comprehensive Approach