

**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/Illicit 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***