

NATO ALLIED COMMAND TRANSFORMATION (ACT)

History

NATO's Allied Command Transformation (ACT) was formally established after the 2002 Prague Summit where a decision was made to reorganise the NATO Command Structure. Prior to this re-arrangement, the two Supreme Commands had a geographical focus (Europe and Atlantic) but nowadays it has a more functional approach: Allied Command Operations (ACO) focuses on all NATO operations while ACT focuses on the transformation of the Alliance.

The current Supreme Allied Commander Transformation is General Jean-Paul Paloméros from the French Air Force, confirmed by the North Atlantic Council on 6 August 2012 and assumed Command in Norfolk (Virginia, USA) on 28 September 2012.

Mission

ACT is the leading agent for change, driving, facilitating, and advocating continuous improvement of Alliance capabilities to maintain and enhance the military relevance and effectiveness of the Alliance.

Its strategic objectives are to

- provide appropriate support to NATO missions and operations,
- lead NATO military transformation and
- improve relationships and practical cooperation with partners, nations and international organisations

Role and Structure

The main role of ACT is promoting transformation and development as continuous and essential drivers for change, to ensure the relevance of the Alliance in a rapidly evolving global security environment.

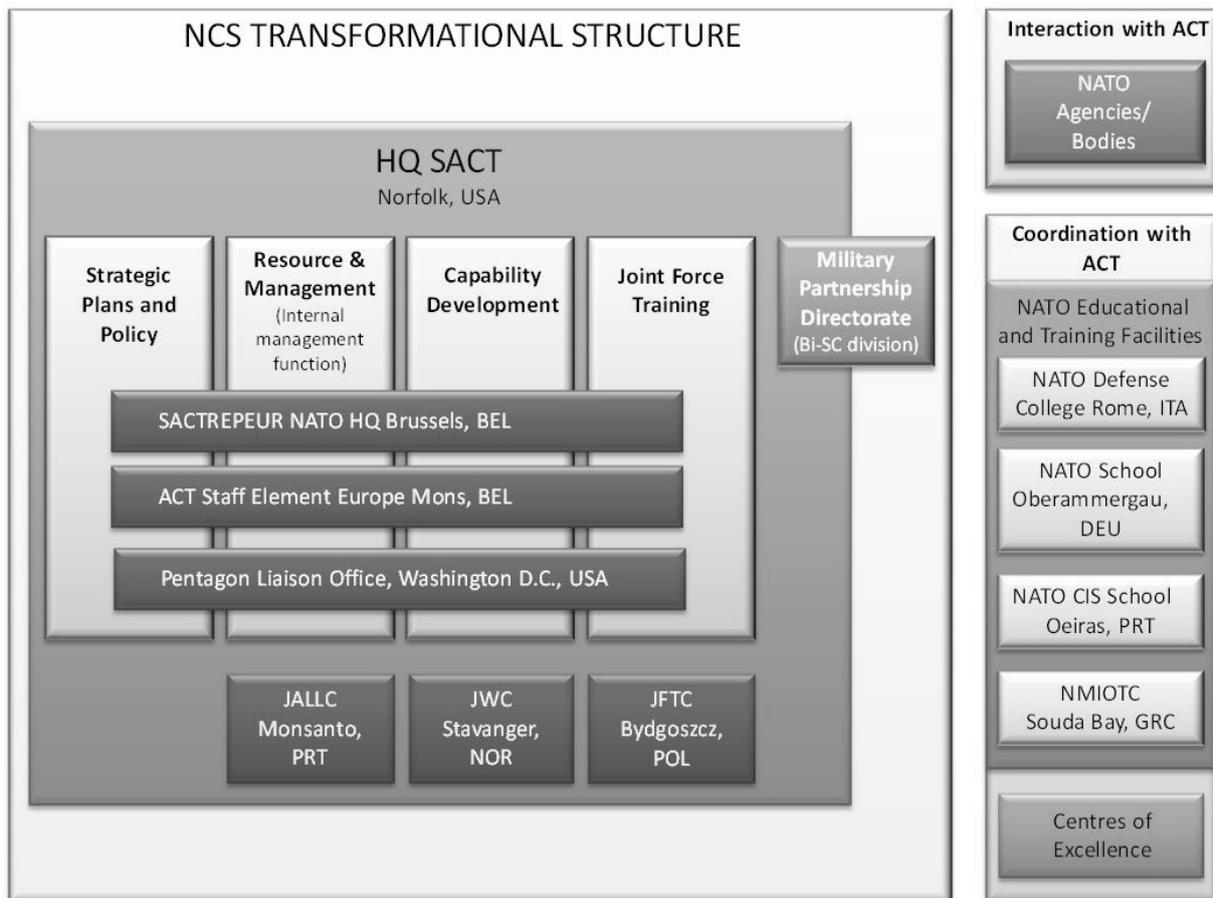
ACT is organised around four principal functions:

1. Strategic thinking
2. Capability development
3. Education, training and exercises
4. Co-operation and Engagement

To fulfil these functions ACT is comprised of the Norfolk Headquarters (HQ SACT) and three subordinate entities: Joint Warfare Centre (Norway), Joint Force Training Centre (Poland) and Joint Analysis & Lessons Learned Centre (Portugal). Moreover, other NATO education and training facilities as well as nationally-run entities (which are not part of the Command Structure) also coordinate their activities with ACT. To carry out these functions the ACT has several Divisions, each has a defined set of competences:

- **Strategic Plans and Policy (SPP)** – encompasses the three strategic branches: Strategic Analysis (SA), Strategic Plans & Policy (SP), and Strategic Issues & Engagement (SIE) with the intent to develop and promote issues of strategic importance to transformation, articulate policies to direct Alliance transformation efforts and supports the development of NATO strategic level concepts which clarify how transformation may be achieved.

- **Integrated Resource Management (IRM)** – primary function is to maintain ACT as a strategy driven organisation by ensuring that the Strategic Plan drives planning, programming, resource bidding, allocation, execution and reporting.
- **Capability Development (CAP DEV)** – acts as the Supreme Allied Commander Transformation's Director for guidance, direction and coordination of the activities and resources of the Capability Development Directorate. This Directorate consists of 26 branches that are functionally grouped to form 5 Divisions, which together with the Joint Analysis and Lessons Learned Centre, have responsibility for the entire Capability Development Process (CDP) from Step 2 (Identify Capability Needs) through to the final Step 6 (Conduct Implementation).
- **Joint Force Trainer (JFT)** – is responsible for the planning and delivery of NATO education and training programmes using NATO national facilities. These programmes are delivered under the e-NATO approach: efficient, effective, affordable, and open.
- **Military Cooperation Division (MCD)** - Its mission is to plan, program, coordinate, implement and assess NATO military outreach policies, activities and events at the Strategic Commands level.



Source: <http://www.act.nato.int/>