

FACT SHEET

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Coalition Warrior Interoperability Demonstration

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CWID EVOLUTION

Since 1994, the Coalition Warrior Interoperability Demonstration, or CWID, has evolved to fit the needs of warfighters, Homeland Security/Defense forces and First Responders worldwide. Beginning as a U.S. Army initiative, CWID has grown into a global event continuing to discover new and emerging technologies and create a low risk venue to evaluate and test trials.

History in the making:

CWID was formerly known as the Secure Tactical Data Network (STDN) and JWID (Joint Warrior Interoperability Demonstration). Over the years, the program has expanded to include Coalition members and Homeland Security/Homeland Defense (HS/HD) agencies. The STDN 1 and 2 series were originated by the U.S. Army to demonstrate emerging Command, Control, Communications and Computer (C4) capabilities and concentrate on Army issues. STDN 3 brought the first multi-service participation, which garnered the attention of Joint Staff who recognized advances in communications and information technology in the public sector were outpacing Department of Defense (DoD) capabilities. In 1993, Joint Staff assumed sponsorship of the STDN series and the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) became Executive Agent in conjunction with a lead Service. They were tasked to organize network experiments, bring emerging technologies into DoD projects to assist warfighters, and improve joint C4 interoperability.

Highlights over the years:

Annual STDN efforts led to the first JWID in 1994. US Air Force was the lead service and US Atlantic Command took on the role of host combatant command. The idea of moving from a static, one-dimensional picture of the battlefield to a near real-time, multi-dimensional battlespace picture became a reality to joint and combined warfighters. Key elements included a demonstration of baseline segments which became the Global Command and Control System (GCCS). This system was deployed to the US Atlantic Command six weeks after demonstration to support military operations in Haiti, and full operational deployment to all combatant commanders within 12 months. This program is still an essential part of the CWID environment.

In 1997, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff mandated interoperability in the Joint Vision 2010 report, which anticipated future conflicts as coalition operations. JWID assisted as a coalition interoperability forum through invitations to Combined Communications Electronics Board (CCEB) nations (Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States) and NATO. These participants used JWID to perform technology demonstrations, test joint interoperability trials and enhance C4 interoperability with the US. JWID evolved to a two-year process in 1998, and the first demonstrations and interoperability trials were conducted. "Gold Nuggets" were selected for support and continued improvement during the second year with eventual fielding to combatant commands.

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In 1999, the program became a one-year process to focus on US Y2K concerns and the coalition interoperability trials (IT's). The Coalition Wide Area Network (CWAN) was established and evolved into the standing Combined Federated Battle Laboratories Network (CFBLNet). This offered an easier way to promote trials and other Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence (C4I) experiments. The network permitted C4I experimentation among the U.S. and nations of CCEB/NATO year-round. JWID 2000 - 2001 returned to the two-year cycle. Distributed Collaborative Tool Set, now called Defense Collaboration Tool Suite (DCTS), was refined and subsequently selected for worldwide fielding to the Unified Commands. DISA fielded the capability to multiple DoD networks within 72 hours to support the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) requirements following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

JWID 2002 was led by US Pacific Command (USPACOM) and focused on coalition interoperability. The demonstration included Pacific Rim nations in a Pacific Theater Initiative (PTI). Participants included Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and Thailand while Malaysia and the Philippines observed operations. Coalition partners were integrated on the Multinational Task Force (MTF) and component staffs to maximize opportunities. In JWID 2003, DISA was appointed lead agency to provide management of JWID activities. A key element was the management of information exchange between the traditional 6-eyes to a larger, more robust, 10-eyes network. The larger system was vital to JWID's success because Pacific Rim nations needed effective information to serve in MTF staff positions.

U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) was the host combatant command in JWID 2004. They brought a Homeland Security/Homeland Defense (HS/HD) focus to the demonstration and invited various US agencies to participate including Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), and the National Guard Bureau (NGB). The Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada (PSEPC) joined in the interoperability trials, which created the potential for more extensive cooperation among other coalition homeland security organizations. JWID 2004 also involved 25 countries, military services, and government agencies participating in a scripted scenario over a global network. This led USNORTHCOM to move forward with a name change in 2005. Coalition Warrior Interoperability Demonstration (CWID) highlighted the shift from "Joint" to "Coalition" and described the larger community of participants, including national and international government agencies. USJFCOM formally assumed oversight for planning and execution of CWID 2005. Successes included several IT's selected for fielding; support in Hurricane Katrina; spiral development as Programs of Record; funding via a Congressional Plus-up for further research and development and a Limited Acquisition Authority candidate.

USNORTHCOM, the HS/HD lead, orchestrated a live exercise in CWID 2006 involving local Colorado Springs first responders boarding a jet to reenact elements of a hijacking scenario. The Dahlgren, Va. site was also linked in the scenario as part of the Coalition Task Force (CTF) operations using the CWID network. U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) coalition participants drove development of a multi-tier network to access HS/HD networks while still operating in the CTF military scenario. NATO used CWID 2006 to advance Transformation within the Alliance. The NATO Response Force (NRF), designed to be agile, joint and expeditionary, participated as a Coalition entity in the scenario. CWID provided a network

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to explore a robust and flexible Computer Information Systems (CIS) environment, key to the NRF concept.

CWID 2007 marked the first year a concerted effort was made to involve programs of record. This resulted in several ITs being more rapidly fielded by emergency responders and warfighters. During CWID 2008, several technologies awaited implementation and another was used in the 2007 U.S. Open and 2008 Kentucky Derby. In 2009, the USJFCOM commander directed U.S. CWID to use Afghanistan as the operational backdrop for the simulated, operational scenario, providing richer context to the demonstration and more meaningful capability assessments. HS/HD increased their interaction with worldwide organizations to improve interoperability.

CWID looks forward to a bright future advancing capabilities to warfighters, HS/HD forces and first responders.

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(CURRENT AS OF March 2010)