



# Force Readiness through Distributed Synthetic Training

NATO CA<sup>2</sup>X<sup>2</sup> Forum, Rome, ITA

29 Sep 2026

VERSION 06 Sep 2026



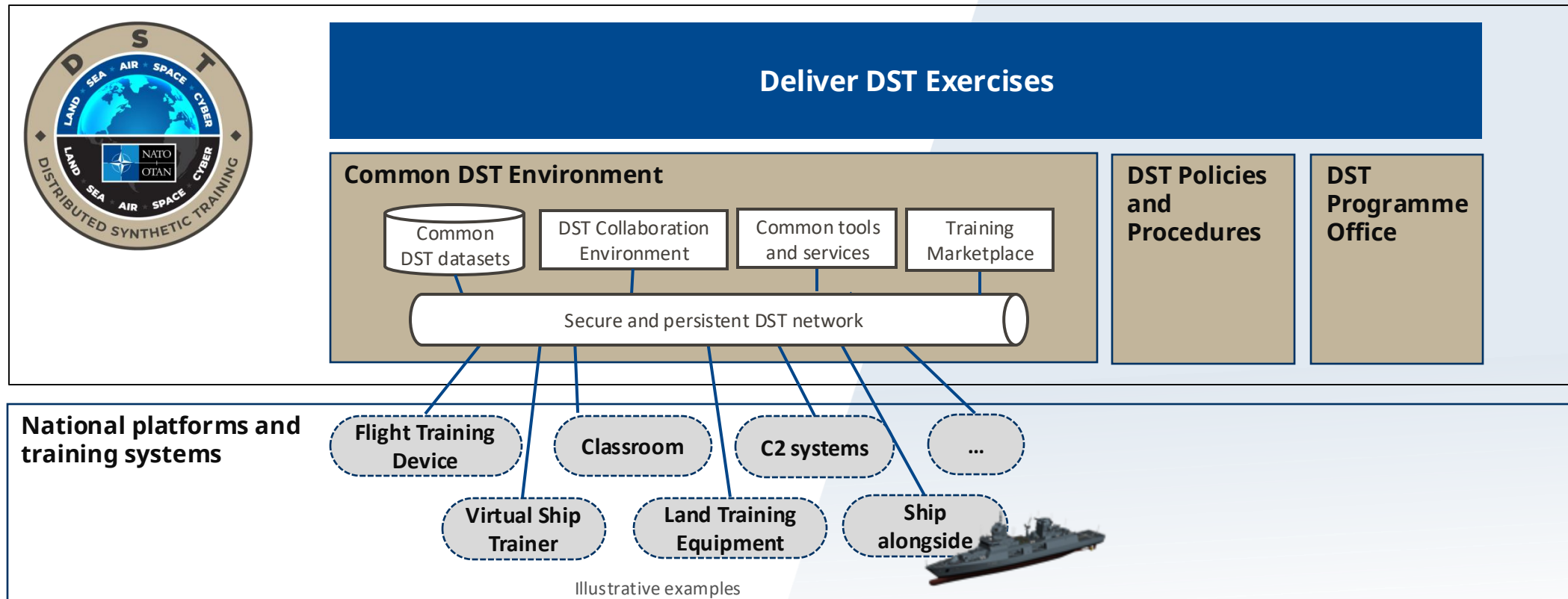
## Objectives

- New training needs
- Provide information about multi-national NATO DST High Visibility Project (HVP)
- Inform about roadmap and engagement opportunities

# Allies face new and evolving training needs



# Distributed Synthetic Training (DST)



# DST augments the existing E&T spectrum

## Road to Force Readiness

### Individual

Education

Individual  
Training

National responsibility

### Force Integration

*Tactical-level multi-national (team) training*

**Force Integration  
Training (FIT)**

**Force Integration  
Exercises (FIE)**

*Examples: 2 ITA pilots + 2 ESP pilots, FRA JFAC  
+ NLD aircraft, DEU+GBR frigates, ...,  
ATHENA/GLADIATOR exercises, etc.*

**Common responsibility of Allies  
(across all domains!)**

**Focus of NATO nations  
Distributed Synthetic Training (DST)**

### Collective

Collective training on operational level,  
focused on HQs, formation and forces

**Collective  
Training**

**Exercises**

*Examples: LOYAL LEDA,  
DYNAMIC MIRAGE, ...*

NATO responsibility

# NATO Allies cooperate on next-generation training capability

15 October 2025

🕒 2 MIN READ



On Wednesday (15 October), 13 Allies (Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Türkiye and the United Kingdom) agreed to initiate the development of a multinational simulated training capability.

The Distributed Synthetic Training High Visibility Project (HVP) aims to respond to the ever-growing demand for multinational military training in a cost-effective way. The project will leverage existing national simulated training capabilities to create a secure network of advanced and immersive virtual training for multinational purposes.

<https://www.nato.int/en/news-and-events/articles/news/2025/10/15/nato-allies-cooperate-on-next-generation-training-capability>



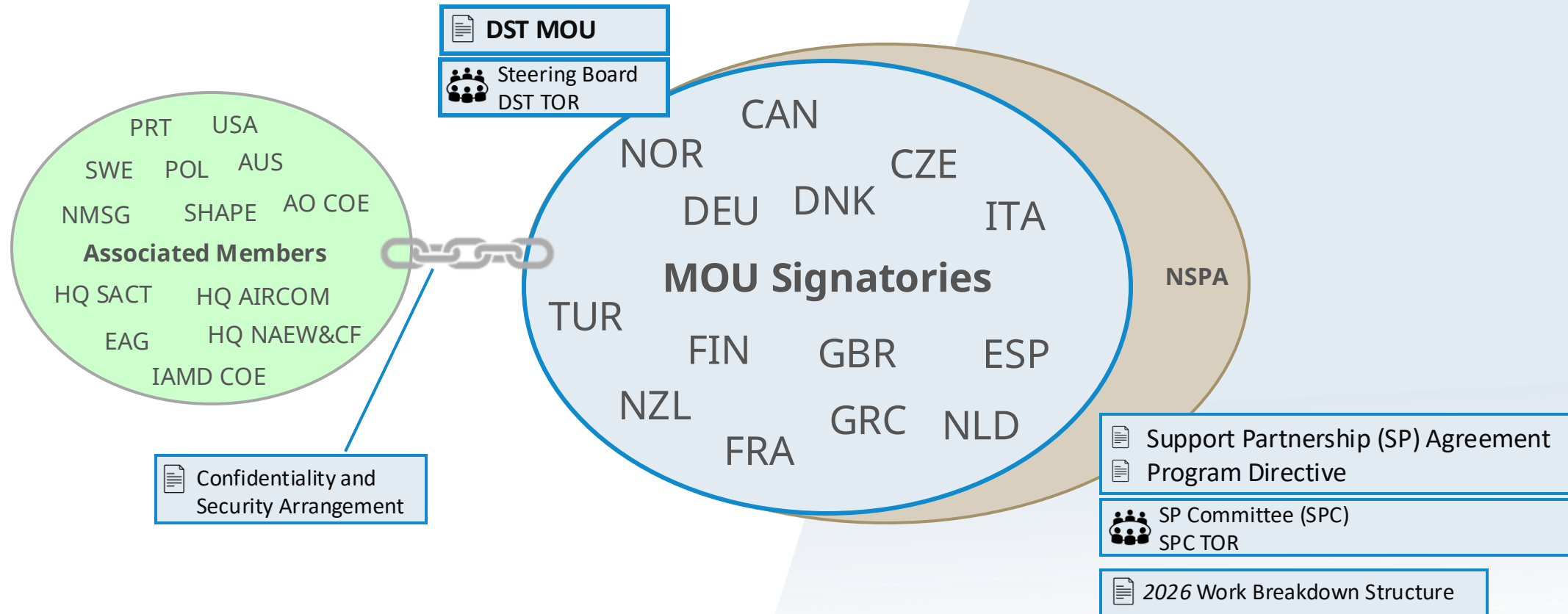
## DST Mission Statement

**Our mission is to increase the deterrence and defence posture of the Alliance by establishing a persistent, readily available NATO DST Capability to prepare our forces for multinational multi-domain operations.**

# DST has ambitious goals!

- DST must become an integral part of Exercise & Training!
  - 50+ DST training events per year
  - 6+ DST exercises per year, with the ability to execute 2+ DST exercises at the same time
- DST must be an enabler for rapid adaptation!
  - Lead time for (recurring) DST training events less than 1 day
  - Lead time for DST exercises less than 3 months

# DST Community



# DST is linked to key NATO efforts!

## NAC

The NATO Joint Air Power Interoperability Action Plan (JAP IAP) defines a dedicated Action Item for CNAD and STB (with ACT and IMS in supporting role) to implement DST.

## DefMin

The Alliance Concept for Multi-Domain Operations recognizes that “the creation of blended live-synthetic training to generate multi-domain realism is essential to the development of an MDO-enabled force”. It emphasizes explicitly that the “progression towards MDO will need investment in technology-enabled training at the national and NATO levels”.

## C3B, Summit 23

NATO’s Digital Transformation Implementation Strategy defines a Line of Effort (LoE) to “Leverage collective exercises to train combat forces to be digital-ready and MDO ready”. This LoE specifically asks to “incorporate modelling and simulation, including distributed synthetic training into NATO exercises” and sees MC and ACT in lead, with CNAD, IS/DI and ACO in supporting roles.

## SHAPE, MC

Guidance to CHODs to move from “live” to DST (MCM-0328-2024 => MC Endorsement on 13 Jan 2025, and subsequent endorsement by the DPPC on behalf of the NAC in their Pol/Mil advice)



## Outline

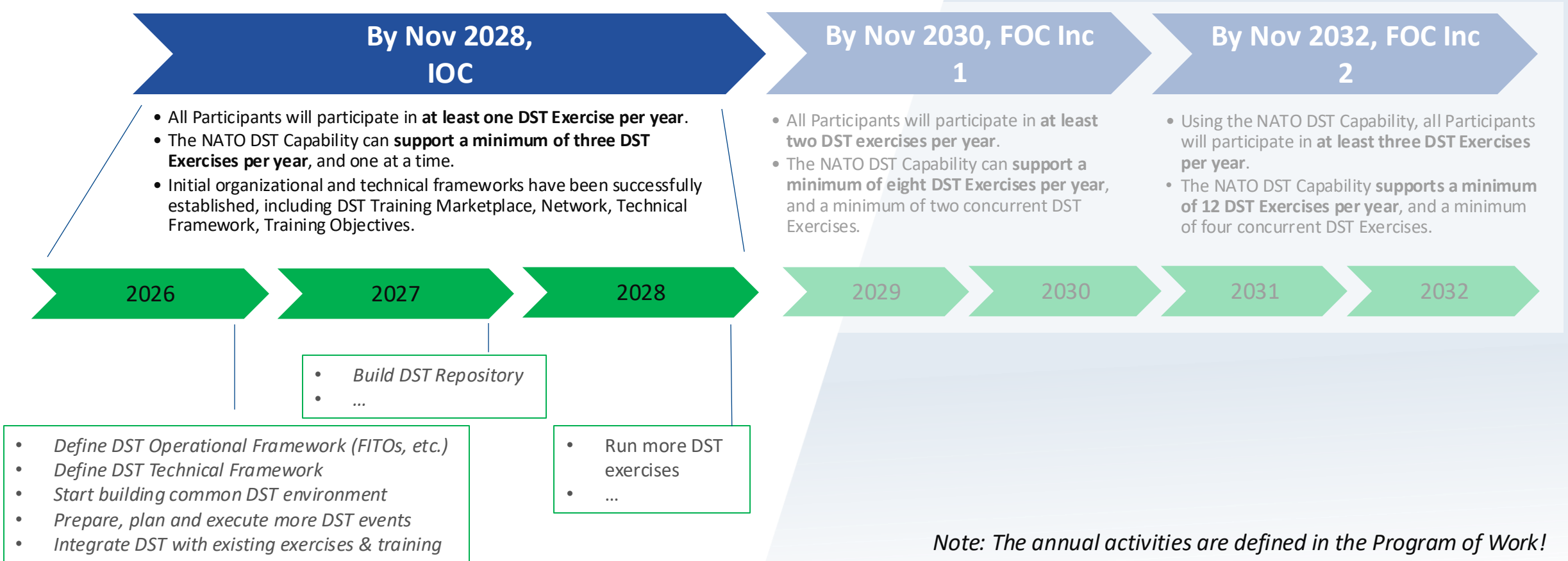
- Provide information about multi-national NATO DST High Visibility Project (HVP)
- **Inform about roadmap and engagement opportunities**

# DST Vision Statement

The vision for Distributed Synthetic Training (DST) in NATO is to establish:

**“A coalition-wide federation of national synthetic mission training capabilities powered by coherent architectures and security procedures, common standards and training objectives, and shared data; delivering regular and frequent access to high quality, secure, immersive operational training opportunities at team, collective, joint and coalition levels.”**

# Roadmap



# DST Program of Work (POW)

- POW is initially defined for the next 3 years (2026-2028) and will be updated annually (for the next 3 years). It defines four “Lines of Effort”:
  - LOE 1: Participants will execute DST Exercises.
  - LOE 2: Participants will establish a common DST environment.
  - LOE 3: Participants will establish common DST policies and procedures.
  - LOE 4: Participants will establish a Programme Office
- **Important:** Some items of the POW
  - will be delivered by nations (information, expertise, etc.)
  - will be delivered by NSPA (Programme Office, joint procurements)

# Subgroups and Teams

**SB Chair + Vice-Chair**

Dr. Robert Siegfried (DEU)  
Major Leon van der Heijden (NLD)

**Steering Board (SB)**

**Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) of DST HVP**

All Participants and Associated Members may nominate Subject Matter Experts.

**SG-1**

**"DST Exercises"**

LOE 1

LOE 3.1

Lead:

- Duncan Walkey, GBR
- Rich Meadows, USA

**Exercise  
Planning**

**National  
Roadmaps**

**FITOs**

**SG-2**

**"DST Environment"**

LOE 2

LOE 3.2

Lead:

- Arjan Lemmers, NLD
- Wim Huiskamp, NLD

**Resource  
Repository**

**DST  
Technical  
Framework**

**CDS**

Lead:

- Duncan Walkey, GBR
- Rich Meadows, USA

Lead:

- Harm Cazemier, NLD

Lead:

- Gary Stone, CAN
- Stuart Osborne, EAG

Lead:

- MSG-232 (Robert Siegfried, Agatino Mursia)

Lead:

- Arjan Lemmers, NLD
- Arno Gerretsen, NLD

Lead:

- Ruari Henderson-Begg, GBR

# DST Exercises

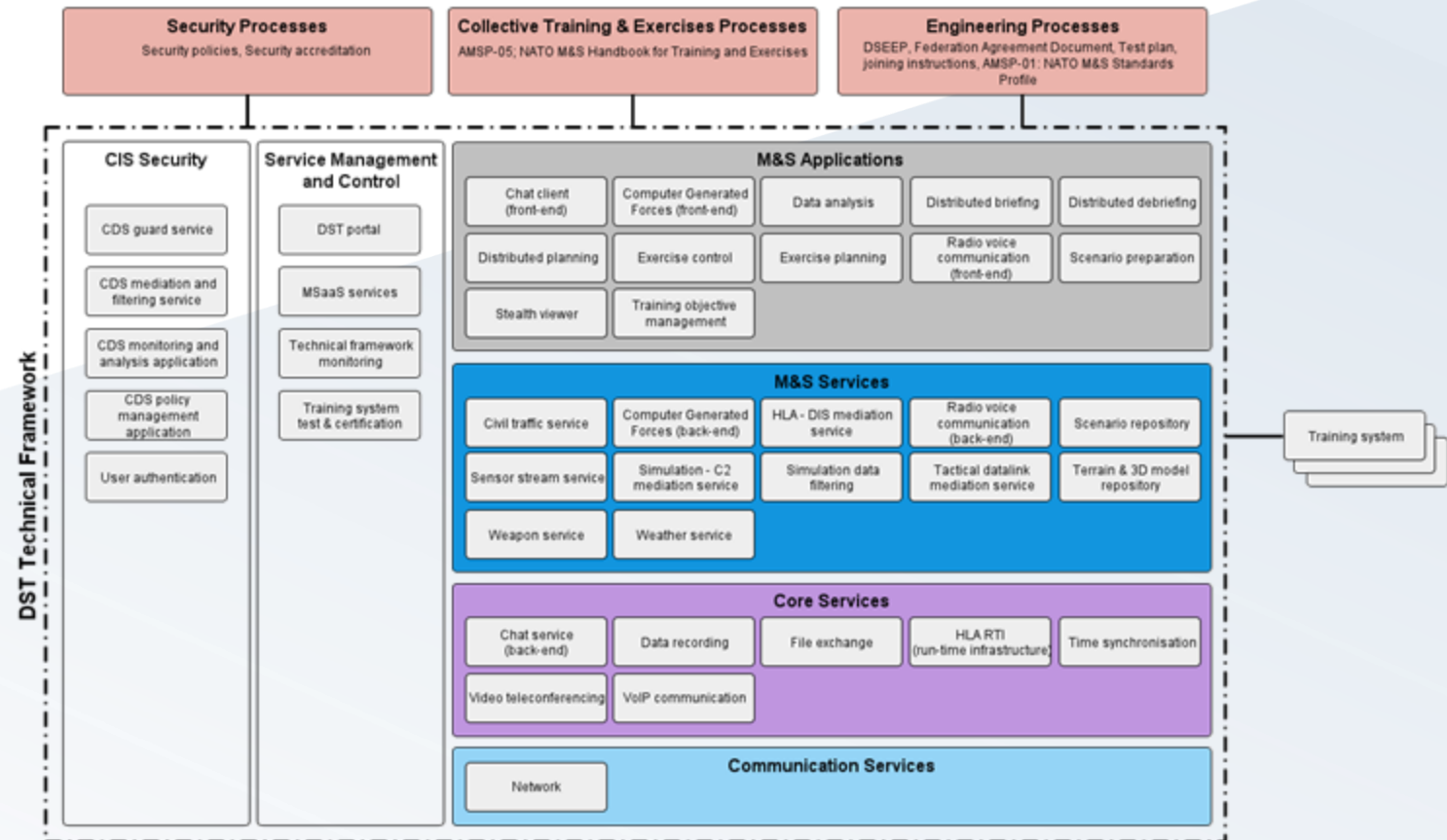
| Colour Code Key          |                                                                                     | DST CALENDAR 2026 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | NATO DST CALENDAR 2026 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | NATO DST CALENDAR 2026 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | NATO DST CALENDAR 2026 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Air                      |                                                                                     |                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Land                     |                                                                                     |                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Maritime                 |                                                                                     |                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Multi-Domain             |                                                                                     |                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Live / Synthetic Blended |                                                                                     |                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Experimentation          |                                                                                     |                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Test Event               |                                                                                     |                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| UPDATE DATE              | 29/01/26                                                                            |                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| RAF ABTC                 |    |                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| UAWC                     |    |                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DEU Navy Hub             |    |                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| FRA DMOC                 |    |                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| HAF STS                  |    |                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ITAF Hub                 |   |                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| RCAF DSOC                |  |                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

# Force Integration Training Objectives (FITOs)

- AMI and ALI FITOs complete, ready for review by national SMEs.
- Discussion on level of detail required:
  - Enabling objectives inform exercise design but higher detail may be too great for efficient assurance of training / may be replicating training audience's tactical level trg objs.
- Ongoing: Internal SME review and validation on exercises.
- Validation opportunities
  - AMI: DYM27 (in coordination with MARCOM)
  - ALI: Athena Dragon (Oct 26)

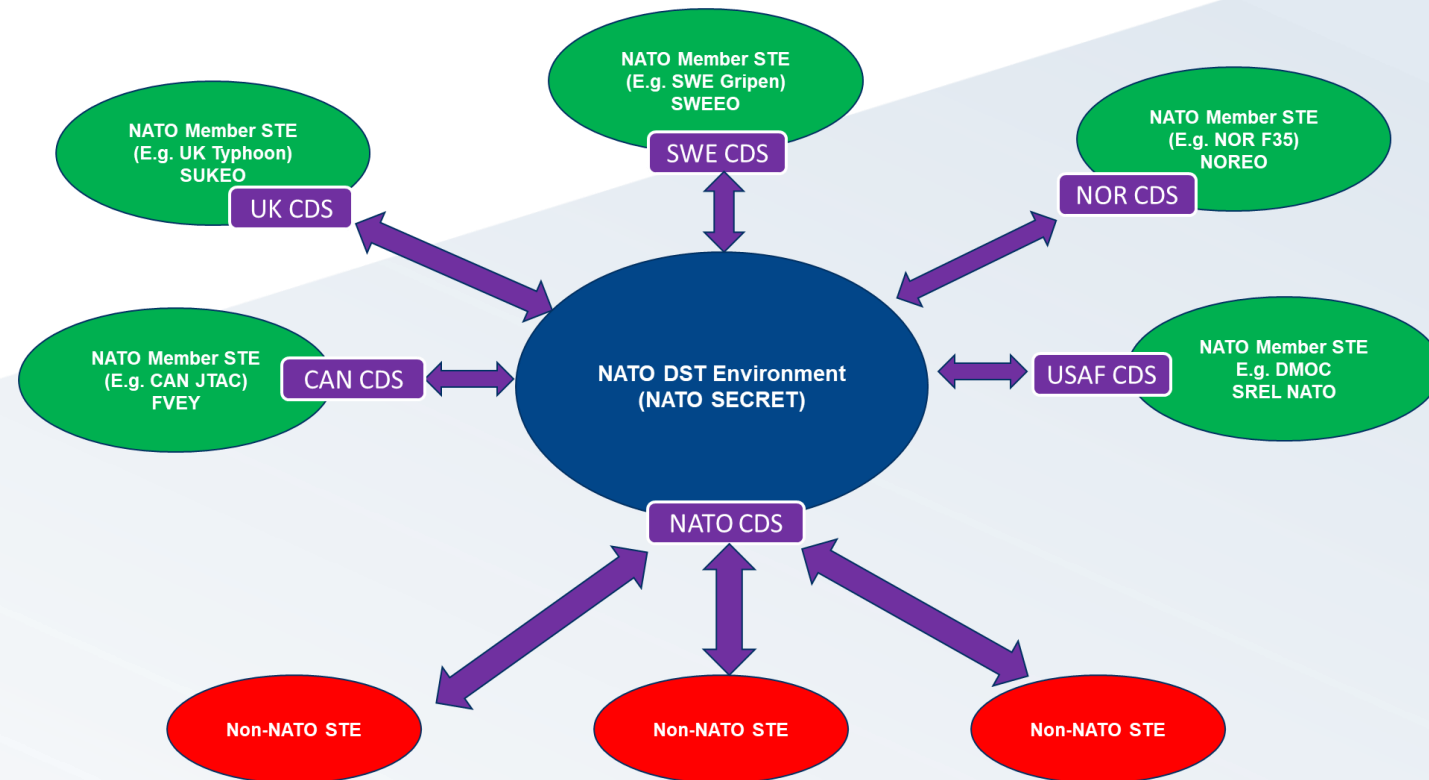
# DST Technical Framework

- Building Blocks defined
- Next steps:
  - Validate Technical Framework and publish as STANAG
  - DST Environment Agreement Document Template
  - DST Test Plan Template



# Cross-Domain Security

- Develop CDS CONUSE/CONOPS
- Start working on “Federation Policy Definition Language” as candidate NATO DST Standard
- SG1 and 2 to organise a workshop to assess impact of CDS integration on exercise design and delivery
- (When appropriate) organise a CDS development workshop to support nations in CDS testing and validation



# How to get involved

- Main formats:

- DST Steering Board
- Support Partnership Committee
- Plenary DST
- Subgroups/Teams
- Thematic workshops

In-person or Virtual  
(as required)

# Dates of next meetings

## Steering Board (only SB members!)

- 10 Sep, 1530-1630
- 6-8 Oct, Kingston, CAN (during DST Workshop)
- Nov/Dec, annual meeting on DST progress, D&G

## Support Partnership Committee (SPC)

- 1<sup>st</sup> SPC meeting: 13-14 Oct 2026 at NSPA, Capellen, Luxembourg
- In future, usually in conjunction with SB!

## Plenary (all subgroups/experts)

- 6-8 Oct 2026, Kingston, CAN
- Mar 2027, ...*some nice location*...
- Each 1st Tuesday, 1500-1600 Brussels time, Webex
  - Tue, 8 Sep // Tue, 10 Nov (invite follows)



## Industry Engagement

- 30 Nov 2026, 0900-1030, Orlando, USA during I/ITSEC



NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION  
ORGANISATION DU TRAITÉ DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD



<http://nmsg.sto.nato.int>

# Points of Contact

## Distributed Synthetic Training (DST)

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Vice-Chair

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