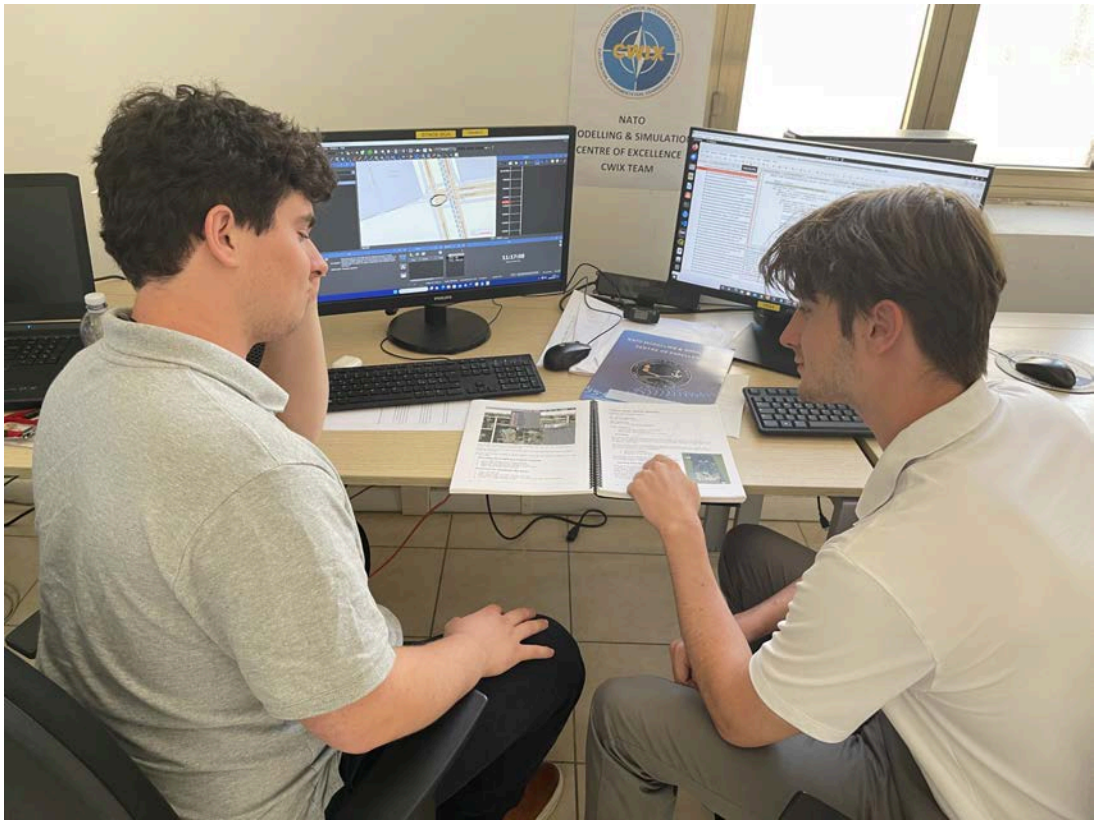
Logan Saunders & James Ghirardo
Story of Working in NATO M&S COE



Introduction

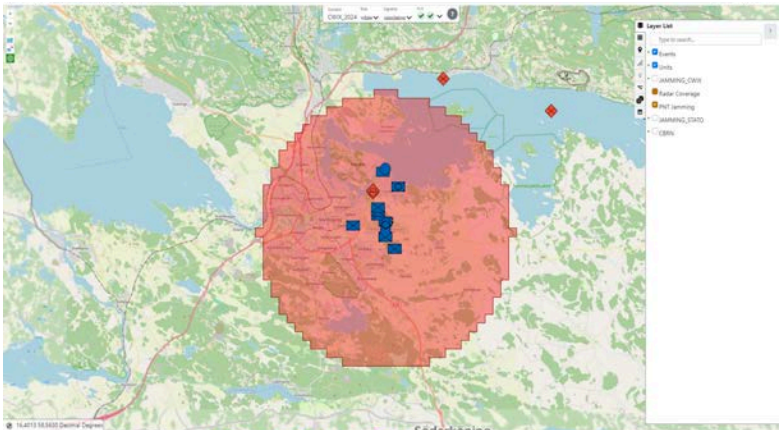
The NATO Modeling and Simulation Center of Excellence (NATO M&S CoE) is a NATO accredited facility that aims to support NATO in developing the capabilities of all modeling and simulation activities. One of their many goals is to create a bridge between military and academia by supporting the training of modeling and simulation tools. They also specialize in concept development to help with NATO operations. Because of their core foundations, being able to intern at NATO was a no-brainer. When first presented with the opportunity, James and I jumped at the chance to explore what this all means at the NATO M&S CoE.

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First Impressions

Through the collaboration of our respective universities with the CEA CAPA Education Abroad Program, we were presented internship positions at the NATO M&S CoE. Moving from the United States to Rome was daunting, but we were certainly excited for the opportunity. Arriving on the first day we learned how the Center operates, what NATO M&S CoE's purpose is, and what we were tasked to do over the course of our stay. Truthfully, it was a lot of information at once, so in terms of how first days go, it did make us a little nervous about working here. However, that feeling quickly changed. As we got more comfortable at the Center, and as we were able to get into the workflow, we saw that our supervisors and the other personnel at the Center were extremely willing to work with us and bring us into the work environment. Our supervisors, while determined to keep us working and learning, always made sure that we felt welcomed while at the NATO M&S CoE.

Projects



The project that was assigned to us was the CASTLE Project. With this project, we were tasked to integrate and display CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear) data into their already built wargame simulation systems, called WISDOM and SWORD. During our time working on this project, we learned a lot, more than we thought we would during the short eight weeks of our internship. While expanding the capabilities of the WISDOM software, we gained a greater proficiency in coding with computer programming languages like Javascript and C# and we learned about how to connect different simulation tools using an HLA

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client. At the same time, we also gained great insights and mentorship from our supervisors and mentors from other technology companies who assisted us during the early stages of our project.

Takeaways

After working at the NATO M&S CoE for two months, we were able to see below the surface of what looks like a typical military center. We saw a center filled with brilliant, professional, and fun people who are constantly working on what they enjoy doing to better NATO as a whole. It is an environment that lends itself to creativity through its leaders and "fail to learn" formula. We want to express our utmost gratitude for the opportunity to learn at such a place as the NATO M&S CoE and work alongside such incredible individuals. Interning at the NATO M&S CoE is an experience we cannot recommend enough to anyone who has the means to be able to work here. It is truly indescribable just how much there is to learn at this Center and from these people until you dip your toes into the vast sea that is the NATO M&S CoE.

***Written by Logan Saunders & James Ghirardo**, Logan is a Mechanical Engineering student at Texas Tech University, and James is a Mechanical Engineering student at the University of California, Berkeley*

*Pictures by **NATO MS COE**. For further information or internship click on:https://www.mscoe.org/contact-us/*

The NATO Modelling & Simulation Centre of Excellence is dedicated to the promotion of Modelling & Simulation in support of operational requirements, training and interoperability. The Centre act as a catalyst for transformation through the involvement of NATO, governments, academia, industry, operational and training entities, by improving the networking of NATO and nationally owned Modelling & Simulation systems, the cooperation between Nations and organizations through the sharing of Modelling & Simulation information and developments and serving as an international source of expertise for transformation in the related domain. https://www.mscoe.org

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