

12th ICCRTS
“ADAPTING C2 TO THE 21ST CENTURY”

IMPROVING THE COMMANDERS' SPEED AND AGILITY IN DECISION-MAKING

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Abstract:

In the project “Military Decision Support Tools” we developed and tested two types of decision support tools: a Critical Thinking Tool (CTT) and a Simulation tool. To test these tools we set up an experiment with four command teams formed by Dutch military staff. Each team consisted of four team members forming two units, an operational unit and a planning unit. During a realistic peace operation scenario the operational unit had to monitor the area of operation and prepare for redeployment and the planning unit had to develop new plans.

The results indicate that using these tools in the near future in the military decision process have several advantages. However, there are also some preconditions to take into account.

The CTT supported the operational team to explicitly log the relation between incoming messages and three courses of action for redeployment. The color coding functionality provided by the CTT was appreciated and appeared relevant to be incorporated in existing support tools. A possible improvement was an addition of a rating-functionality on the importance of the messages.

The Simulation tool supported a critical review of new plans and effects. Preconditions for using this tool in the near-future are the incorporation of non-kinetic effects and a straightforward user- interface.