As part of its process of transformation, the UK Ministry of Defence (MOD) is considering whether it is possible to enhance Command and Control (C2) in the networked era. Evidence from a broad range of studies, experiments and operational lessons suggests that Network Enabled Capability (NEC) will allow UK forces to operate quicker and better, and with reduced risk of fratricide. It also highlights that enabling dynamic collaborative working can improve operational capability, particularly when agility of command and control (C2) is combined with improvements in the quality of information available.

In 2006, the UK MoD held a senior workshop to explore how C2 might be adapted and optimised for expeditionary operations in the 2020 timeframe. A co-ordinated programme of science (analysis, experimentation and human factors research) was put in place to test the ideas for future C2 that emerged from the workshop. This involved a diverse range of methods to address the impact of ideas across all lines of development.¹

The workshop and its associated programme of scientific testing was described at ICCRTS11. This follow-on paper presents further detail of the testing now underway and the emerging findings that are supporting the development of the UK MOD’s Concept for Future C2.

¹ Training, Equipment, Personnel, Information, Doctrine, Organisation, Infrastructure, Logistics