

## 5th C-IED Lessons Learned Workshop carried out at C-IED COE facilities

The 5th Counter Improvised Explosive Devices (C-IED) Lessons Learned Workshop (LLWS) was held between 01-03 December 2015 at the C-IED COE in Hoyo de Manzanares, Madrid.

This 2015 workshop emphasized the *C-IED Defense Capability Building (DCB) and Security Forces Assistance (SFA)* processes within NATO and others international organizations such as the UN and others. DCB and SFA are NATO initiatives in support of Partners with training, assessment and advice, as well as equipment.

A total of 70 external participants, 24 briefers, from 21 different countries and nine International Organizations attended the workshop. Some of these include EDA, USAFRICOM, PfP, JFC's etc.

The LLWS participants received interesting C-IED findings from experts and deployed personnel in Africa, Middle East, Afghanistan, Colombia and Ukraine.

The aim of the LLWS was to visualize the impact of regional instability and its effects on NATO and European national domestic security. To identify primary lines of effort, programs, challenges regarding C-IED Defense Capability Building (DCB) or Security Forces Assistance (SFA) processes and the possible ways to address those challenges. The results of the LLWS will contribute to the NATO Lessons Learned Database for the improving of NATO and national operations.

With the workshop the CIED COE facilitated an informed practitioner's discussion of missions that different nations and agencies are conducting in countries with a high IED threat. The workshop was able to identify 06 common themes from across the multinational military and civilian audience.

The most significant common themes are:

Increased cooperation between NATO, NATO nations, UN, EDA and other partners will enable NATO to increase regional threat situational awareness and to assess the need of C-IED related DCB in different theatres. To achieve this a standardization regarding reporting C-IED related DCB from the theatre is required. Ideally this would include standardized reporting, language and information technology systems. However understanding the wide variety of participants and agencies, standardization was considered unrealistic and the audience agreed to simply provide broad information on what nations were conducting CIED related training and to what partners. With a matrix including this information, nations can deconflict and coordinate on a bilateral basis.

Senior leaders from the target nations must be involved with the development of the DCB programs. These leaders must embrace the program and have a plan to sustain, or NATO risks wasting time, resources and credibility.

NATO and the nations need to improve information sharing to guarantee member nations to have access to the most recent information regarding enemy TTP. Over-classification prevents member states from sharing appropriate material with the partners. Nations and commands are still not embracing the concept of “write to release” or use of tear-lines in reporting.

DCB needs NATO level planning and coordination with a planning cycle of at least 3 years.

NATO should define a baseline for training that fits the low technology and sustainable requirements.

DCB needs NATO level planning and coordination to cover all the levels, from tactical to strategic. Without national program to sustain a capability, tactical level solutions can only be successful in the short term. Use of a common C-IED lexicon is needed in order to increase effectiveness of the cooperation with different partners and increase the possibility of collecting statistically valid data in support of trend analysis.

NATO will be engaged increasingly in this type of efforts in the future and Lessons Identified during this WS will be the basement for further institutionalization of these missions.

A report of this event is posted within the Joint Analysis and Lessons Learned: <https://nllp.jallc.nato.int/cmnt/ciedcoi/Pages/home.aspx>

In conclusion, the Lessons Learned workshop was an opportunity to share information regarding CIED Defense Capacity Building and to develop possible solutions and recommendations for CIED DCB. It has facilitated and enhanced the interaction within the multinational community.



