

EDA's Pooling & Sharing: before and after

Below, some examples of capabilities "today" and "tomorrow" (with Pooling & Sharing):

Military Satellite Communication (MILSATCOM)

TODAY: Unlike other military equipment, one cannot keep satellites in service: they would fall. EDA is now setting up an operational tool consisting in a "booking office" to pool military needs for commercial Satellite Communication. The project is to be signed by the end of 2011 and is named "ESCPC" - European SATCOM Procurement Cell.

As the ESCPC is the quick-win to avoid fragmented procurement of commercial SATCOM, EDA is considering now the long term perspective of the next generation of military SATCOM.

The time has come now to take on activities in that strategic asset, firstly because it's been done now for decades in commercial SATCOM, where only a few operators (two of majors are European, i.e. EUTELSAT and SES) are successfully and profitably servicing now the whole Telecom & Media customers, Oil & Gas industries, etc.

There is currently a window of opportunity to replace the existing 5 stovepiped programmes by a cooperative one. The window will close in two years time and may not reappear (if ever) before 20 years from now.

TOMORROW: the next generation - still to be designed - need to be Pooling & Sharing based. This might be done through a common "vehicle" - the satellite - in order to save on R&T, production and operation. This project guarantees MILSATCOM framework Nations full sovereignty (full control of spacecraft) but:

- Give access to non-MILSATCOM owners;
- Give access to institutional users - example: Australia and NATO allies;
- Give access to non-military government users.

Expected economies of scale and synergies could reach at least 1 billion €.

Air-to-air refueling

TODAY: characterized by huge shortfall (20% of Libya sorties - same in Kosovo) and huge fragmentation (too many types - microfleets) of the European capacities resulting in an even more reduced overall efficiency (both from an operational and cost point of view).

TOMORROW: work will be done to take stock of the progressive fielding out of old platforms and of the Libya lessons; of the planned procurement programs; and of the more versatile/multirole future platforms, in order to pool future fleets, establish synergies with existing pooled military transport organisations, in order to achieve a balanced combination of tactical/strategic platforms and systems.

Medical support

TODAY: Medical support to multinational operations is a prerequisite to multinational solutions. The issue is twofold:

- a) The experience shows that multinational medical support is better suited for multinational contingent
- b) The burden in terms of availability and sustainability needs to be better shared.

TOMORROW: the future The Modular Multinational Medical Unit relies on a (permanently updated) matrix of Framework Nations willing/able to take on the role of supplying all non-medical directly related roles: command, support, mobility, communications, infrastructure and of Contributing Nations willing to take on supplying one of the different medical modules (or sub-modules).

The Lead Nation takes also the responsibility to organise pre-deployment force integration in case of an operations.

In case of an operation the matrix allows to tailor the medical support M3U to any political framework (EU, NATO, UN, ad-hoc coalition) and any operational environment (possible Host Nation Support, tactical environment).

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