

Chapter 7 – SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This chapter offers some conclusions and introduces the follow-on MSG Technical Activity to MSG-048: MSG-085 [59].

The MSG-048 Technical Activity (TA) has conducted a series of experiments from 2006 to 2009 that has led to the conclusion that Coalition BML (C-BML) holds promise for enabling C2-simulation interoperability. The Simulation Interoperability Standardization Organization (SISO) C-BML Product Development Group (PDG) is chartered to elaborate the C-BML specification and MSG-048 has provided inputs to improve and extend the existing draft specification based on a reference implementation and coalition experimentation.

Where MSG-048 was confined to the assessment of the SISO C-BML technical specifications, the new TA will address the technical readiness of existing technologies along with the emerging need for future C2-simulation interoperation – as expressed by military organizations. The new TA will pursue ongoing work to propose relevant recommendations concerning the use of C-BML with respect to current military processes. More specifically, it will investigate approaches for the deployment of C-BML capabilities with existing operational C2IS exchange mechanisms; this will be tailored to specific application domains in order to extend C2IS connectivity to the synthetic environment.

The MSG-048 Technical Activity has contributed to confirming the feasibility and the usefulness of a BML approach for the exchange of military information in support of coalition information exchange requirements. It also has confirmed the need for a specification to standardize this information exchange in line with the forthcoming SISO C-BML specification and has provided guidance and recommendations concerning the requirements for such a specification.

However, although the elaboration of a specification for C-BML is a necessary element toward the operational employment of C-BML, it is not sufficient; there is also a need to define a coherent process by which C-BML-enabled solutions will be deployed and utilized by the coalition.

Ensuring the coherence of a C-BML-enabled approach, from both procedural and technical perspectives, among the Nations, with the MIP and in particular, with the operational community will be addressed by MSG-085 Technical Activity.

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