

## **ISMS 2023 Abstract – Norway's Defence Transformation: Network based Defence - lessons for future defence innovation**

*Author: Lt.Col. Stig T. Aannø - [saanno@mil.no](mailto:saanno@mil.no) (Norwegian Defence University College)*

Working group: War Studies

In December 2017, as Norwegians began their Christmas cleaning, the Norwegian Ministry of Defence (MOD) was discarding remnants of the Network-Based Defence concept (Skinnarland, 2018). This concept, after seventeen years of development, quietly met its end.

Norway's transition towards a networked defence force paralleled a transformation that impacted all NATO members at the start of the millennium. This transformation originated from the concept of Network Centric Warfare (NCW), initiated by the newly established Allied Command Transformation (ACT) (Cebrowski & Garstka, 1998) (Tjøstheim, 2001). ACT developed its version of the concept, NATO Network Enabled Capability (NNEC) (NATO, 2015). Norway stands out, having continued with the concept ten years beyond its momentum with other allies.

This study forms the initial part of a doctoral dissertation. It seeks to elucidate how a small state like Norway navigates the demands from its closest allies and how military innovation is both achieved and constrained during the process of adopting a concept of warfighting invented by a major power. The research aims to enrich the field of Military Innovation Studies (Grissom, 2006).

The research employs a qualitative empirical case-study approach, supported by document analysis and interviews (Yin, 2017). Based on empirical data and findings from a recent master's dissertation, the study anticipates identifying factors that impede successful military innovation despite structured and methodical processes.

The study is highly pertinent as the ACT currently leads a new transformation of NATO through its NATO Warfighting Capstone Concept (NWCC) and the implementation of Multi-Domain Operations (MDO) as its theory of victory (Sweijts et al., 2020). Analysis of the most recent alliance-wide transformation is expected to reveal valuable lessons for the impending shift towards Multi-Domain Operations.

# Bibliography

- Cebrowski, A. K., & Garstka, J. J. (1998). *Network-Centric Warfare: Its Origin and Future*. 124(1).
- Grissom, A. (2006). The future of military innovation studies. *Journal of Strategic Studies*, 29(5), 905–934. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01402390600901067>
- NATO. (2015). *NATO Network Enabled Capability (NNEC) (archived)*. NATO. [https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics\\_54644.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_54644.htm)
- Skinnarland, T. (2018). Åpning av Luftmaktseminaret. In A. K. Larssen (Ed.), *Air Power in future Joint Operations—A Multi-Domain Battle? Sjef Luftforsvarets luftmaktseminar 2018*. Luftkrigsskolen. <https://fhs.brage.unit.no/fhs-xmlui/handle/11250/2670843>
- Sweijs, T., Osinga, F., Zilincik, S., Vorm, M., Wiltenburg, I., & Torossian, B. (2020). *The NATO Warfighting Capstone Concept: Key Insights from the Global Expert Symposium Summer 2020*. Hague Centre for Strategic Studies. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep26765>
- Tjøstheim, I. (2001). *Introduksjon til nettverksbasert forsvar*. Forsvaret stabsskole. <https://www.nb.no/items/e155340291f7e312b0d03c0a7a6911cf>
- Yin, R. K. (2017). *Case Study Research and Applications: Design and Methods* (6th edition). SAGE Publications, Inc.