GULFNET:
A GCC Network-Enabled Capability for Regional Education, Training and Exercises

“from Challenges... to Opportunities... to Solutions”
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An Arab World, Global Visionary

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“The foremost challenge is that of the knowledge revolution. Economic power will depend on creativity and innovation. Creation of wealth will move from traditional resources to the one asset: knowledge.”

-- Talal Abu Ghazaleh
A New Era of Security Challenges...

• Globalization has brought new *challenges* that appear to be beyond the ability of our current institutions to address

• In response there is a need to generate new education and training *opportunities* on a global basis

• This will allow the exploration of more partnership-oriented *solutions* to contemporary threats and risks
In 1987, the GCC countries approved a **comprehensive security strategy**, in the form of a general framework for organizing cooperation to support mutual security. It covers cooperation in multiple aspects of defense and security.

Primary concerns: illicit trafficking, punishing and rehabilitating threat-based organizations, immigration, passports, airport security, drug fighting, weapons, explosives, border guards, coastal guards and civil defense.
A New Response – Unified Command and a Gulf Academy

• Leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in December 2013 announced the formation of a **unified military command** for the GCC countries

• The council also announced the establishment of the **Gulf Academy for Strategic and Security Studies** in the United Arab Emirates

*The academy will aim to bolster military cooperation through a unified education based institution. Its initial focus to include missile defense, border security and counter terrorism*

**Saudi Minister:**

**GCC To Set Up Joint Force of 100,000 troops!**
Challenge

- When incidents grow in numbers and severity – a crisis situation is not far away

- This is when you most need trained risk and crisis management organizations with allocated resources and procedures to manage the situation effectively, and depending on scale – the ability to work together

Organizations are at different levels of scale and maturity and readiness, which can have severe consequences!
Opportunity

• Most civilian and military organizations have to manage complex and interconnected operations in the event of a crisis

• To minimize losses, casualties and to maintain trust and continuity, both common procedures and training are required

• Network-connected simulated exercise scenarios can build shared readiness and capability

• There are no “lessons learned” until behavior is changed
Solution

Establish GULFNET to promote effective risk and crisis management through a Simulation Network linking the GCC Joint Command with member states

• Lessons Identified/Learned by “others”
• Evaluate all the relevant parts that need to be in place for a fully functioning risk and crisis management system
• Build methods, models and capabilities to achieve GCC-shared objectives and goals in support of the new Joint Command!
GULFNET: A GCC Network-Enabled Capability

**GULFNET is an Education, Training and Simulation Network to address emerging security threats. It is:**

- **A persistent network** to link the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Joint Command to member state national command centers, and....

- Focuses on **new and expanded security missions**, including Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HA/DR) using “best of Web” technology to enable participation by leading institutions and individuals, by....

- Taking advantage of an explosion of **next generation training tools** and designed to **evolve as technology changes**, primarily through....

- **Scenario-based thinking** that ties together and integrates diplomacy, defense and security, as well development and humanitarian threads for holistic national security solutions.....

**Result: Enhanced GCC Joint readiness and interoperability**
The Viking Exercise
Concept As Example

- Viking is the world’s premier distributed Civil-Military Computer Assisted Exercise
- In VIKING 11; 2500 participants from 30 nations and 40 organizations
- 9 distributed remote sites
- Real time Exercise Control
- The exercise is a joint venture between Sweden and USA
- 15 years of continuous success in delivering a venue for Commander and Staff interoperability!
GULFNET Plan (notional)

- **Start with member nations** – nations choose the nodes/locations that play
- **Over time, invite external nations that GCC wants to incorporate**
- **GCC Secretariat and Joint Command together lays out roadmap for multi-year capability**
What are the Requirements?

- Build-Verify-Track
- Identify Common Procedures/Risks
- Supervise Progression
- Connect the Forces/Organizations
- Implement Interoperability
- Implement Lessons Identified
- Implement Standards
- Minimize Resources
- Visualize Aggregated Real Time Overview
- Advanced Methods Guidance in Handbooks
To enable an affordable and incremental build out of training and exercises capability under GULFNET construct, it should employ:

**Cloud Technologies incorporate:**
- Virtualization
- Data Center Management
- Grid Computing

**Service Oriented Architecture offers agility in integration**
HLA RTI – Run Time Interface based on the FOM – Federation Objective Model

Exercise Management

Theater Level View

Constructive Simulation

Virtual Simulation

HLA-bridge

HLA-bridge

HLA-bridge

HLA-bridge

Middleware

Middleware

HLA-bridge

HLA-bridge

Command & Control

Tactical Picture

UAV Simulation

Air Simulation
Enhanced by Collaborative Portal and Social Media

- Mouthbook
- Chirpy twitter
- Web News
- WebTV & Radio
- Collaborative Portal
- Information Management
- Event, Scenario & Exercise Management
- Mission Planning
- Lessons Identified
- Feedback Management

Collaborative Portal

- Start
- Planet group
- ESCM
- Modulare
- Exercises
- Papers
- Lessons
- Feedback

Identified

- Information
- Management

Mouthbook

Chirpy twitter

Web News

WebTV & Radio

Collaborative Portal

Information Management

Event, Scenario & Exercise Management

Mission Planning

Lessons Identified

Feedback Management
Results in Integrated Capabilities

GULFNET FEDERATION (HLA IEEE 1516)
Transferring Lessons Learned

- GULFNET Lessons Learned can be transferred to the proposed Gulf Academy for Strategic and Security Studies for analysis and dissemination

- GULFNET proposal includes establishment of a complementing program of “Leadership Education for the Advancement of Development and Security” through a “LEADS Institute”

- First proposed by Talal Abu Ghazaleh
Network-Enabled Knowledge

GULFNET enabled by The LEADS INSTITUTE can provide uniquely tailored online professional development courses and Professional Military Education (PME) for the Arab World:

- Gulf Knowledge Online (GKO)
- GCC Defense University (GDU)
Summary

- **GULFNET can build the education, training and exercise component of an integrated GCC Unified Command mission network for member states:**
  - Incrementally Affordable
  - Modular -- allows individual GCC states to implement those parts of GULFNET that meets their needs – while enhancing overall GCC capabilities through the integrated architecture
  - GCC Secretariat and Joint Command could be responsible for Strategic Thinking, Capability Development and Education and Training Roadmap
  - GCC Academy complemented by LEADS Institute for Online Learning
  - Any GCC nation can lead the entire concept (example of Sweden for NATO and Partners) and help define and drive the continuous evolution