Data at the Network Edge.™

Case Studies

Working With CGI For Nato

Exercise Noble Ledger



Project Summary

Client
NATO

Location
Global

Industry
Defence

Profile
Communications and Information Agency providing C4ISR capabilities in support of Alliance decision-makers and missions.

Key Drivers
Proving operational readiness in the field for Alliance transformation.

CGI and iOra in partnership providing collaboration over unreliable networks

Background

The NATO Communications and Information Agency – or NCI Agency – acts as NATO's principal Consultation, Command and Control (C3) deliverer and Communications and Information Systems (CIS) provider. It also provides IT support to NATO Headquarters, the NATO Command Structure and NATO Agencies.

NCI Agency delivers advanced Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) technology and communications capabilities in support of Alliance decision-makers and missions. This includes the acquisition of technology, experimentation, the promotion of interoperability, systems and architecture design and engineering, as well as testing and technical support. It also provides communication and information systems (CIS) services in support of Alliance missions.

Exercise Noble Ledger

The NATO Response Force (NRF) is a highly ready and technologically advanced multinational force made up of land, air, maritime and Special Operations Forces components that the Alliance can deploy quickly, wherever needed. In addition to its operational role, the NRF provides a vehicle to demonstrate operational readiness and act as a "testbed" for Alliance transformation. It can be used in the implementation of NATO's Connected Forces Initiative (CFI) as a vehicle for greater cooperation in education and training, increased exercises and better use of technology.

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The Exercise Noble Ledger 2014 (NOLR14) was a NRF 2015 Land Component Command (LCC) Exercise designed to integrate, to confirm formation's interoperability and validate readiness and capabilities of the NRF 2015 nominated forces under NRF 2015 LCC by exercising NRF missions and tasks. A further aim is to enhance NRF CC HQ joint collaboration and to support NRF 2015 certification plan.

6,500 soldiers from Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, USA and Norway participated in Exercise Noble Ledger. Noble Ledger prepares troops for their responsibilities as NRF, which will be the first to react in case of emergency, such as a humanitarian crisis or armed conflict.

The Geo-Replicator® Solution

iOra, in partnership with CGI, worked with the NCI Agency Team to implement the iOra Geo-Replicator replication and compression software solution to ensure continuity of operations in the field through autonomous replication between the servers at different locations. In actual field operations these servers may be thousands of miles apart and communication would be over wireless networks making transfer of data difficult and intermittent. iOra's patented compression technology ensures that mission critical information that could take hours over slow or disconnected network connections takes just minutes. The compression is unique in how it differences data recognising what has been sent before and then sending only the changes to the document. iOra technology has been proven to send data over network connections as slow as 2kbps.

Founded in 1976, CGI is a global IT and business process services provider delivering high-quality business consulting, systems integration and managed services. With 68,000 professionals in 40 countries, CGI has an industry-leading track record of delivering 95% of projects on-time and on-budget, aligning our teams with clients' business strategies to achieve top-to-bottom line results.

CGI's global reach enables 24x7 'follow the sun services' to International Space, Defence & Intelligence customers including NATO, ESA and EDA.

The Defence Team Germany employs over 100 security cleared professionals with huge NATO and International Defence experience. Since 2006 CGI has developed and implemented the SharePoint based DHS (Document Handling System) platform in more than 23 NATO Commands, 2 NRDCs and for crisis operation scenarios including ISAF and KFOR. The Document Handling System (DHS) is one of NATO's Core Services and is the central work environment in every command. DHS is based on Microsoft SharePoint 2007 but heavily customised to the specific needs and workflows of the operational community.

CGI has been working closely with the iOra team on the implementation of the iOra Geo-Replicator product to ensure continuous service support to the deployed personnel on the ground.

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The Result

This is the first implementation of NATO First Solution under the Multi-Year Program with 1st German / Netherlands Corps and paves the way for continued collaboration with the other NRDCs in partnership with Allied Land Command Izmir, which provides leadership and guidance for the programme.

Geo-Replicator® Benefits

- Continuous and fast access to critical operational information where network access is slow or intermittent, improves efficiency and communication.
- Share only pertinent information with allies making collaboration easy and secure.

Providing massive ongoing benefits to smart decision-making for Commanders as instant information and knowledge is kept accessible and searchable for all users. There is also a dramatic reduction in the amount of data, which uses less of the available network freeing up limited network resources for greater effect.

NATO background informatonwww.nato.int. Informaton retrieved from http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_69332.htm and http://mil.no/excercises/nobleledger/Pages/default.aspx

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