

The modern day military actions of western societies have since the end of the cold war been focused on alliance-based wars and interventions. Most significantly is the Global War on Terrorism, where mainly The United States led changing coalitions through a series of military confrontations, with both state and non-state adversaries. This strategic focus has challenged the relevance of NATO's tactical military concepts, where the interactions of NATO countries are, and were, coordinated through a comprehensive doctrinal background founded in NATO standards of warfare which led to the development of The NATO Standardization Agreement (STANAG).

However, the changing composition of coalition partners can on a bilateral level affect the tactical output of coordinated military actions. Mainly due to the individual countries primarily relying on their own military standards for equipment, organizational structures and tactical planning. Added to this, the aspect of cultural differences in both military and civilian context should be relevant to address.

The purpose of my presentation is to outline these potential areas of friction on basis of the tactical military cooperation between Danish and British forces in Afghanistan 2006-2014. During these years a Danish Battlegroup was embedded within a UK Brigade Taskforce in the Helmand province of Afghanistan. The immediate challenges with bilateral Danish/British tactical military cooperation, could be both clear and obvious to observe, might also be obscured within post mission reports and after-action reviews. To this date there has been little research on this topic.

In my presentation I have identified potential challenges within this cooperation on four major categories of interest; **1) Technology**, e.g. where different tactical systems either can't be compatible or available out of national interest. **2) Doctrine**, e.g. which can be different in both planning and execution of tactical maneuvers. **3) Organizational structures**, e.g. where the different national structures complicate direct cooperation between national entities. Most distinctively with the Danish practice of conducting temporarily field rank promotions in order to accommodate British staff organizations. **4) Culture**, e.g. where the cooperating countries' military- and national cultural structures collides and thereby complicates effective operational procedures.

The above identified areas of focus provides the framework for an upcoming paper that holds a sharp focus on the bilateral cooperation between NATO countries tactical military deployments.