Koninklijke Landmacht

Co-Creating a European Training Facility in the NATO Simulation Ecosystem

Integrating the Leopard 2A8 company-level trainer in TACTIS at SIMCEN-LAND

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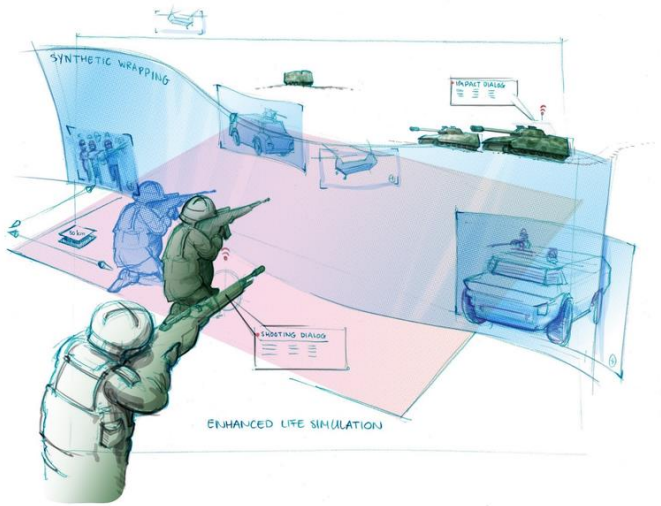
ARMY SIMULATION CENTRE

THE CLAIM

MDO readiness at scale will not come from national simulators working in isolation.



Ten years of co-creation rhetoric.

Where is the product?

Are we winning?

"Show me the fielded capability co-created in under 18 months."

THE FORCING FUNCTION

The calendar does not care about our governance

IOC

2028

The platform

The Netherlands reintroduces main battle tank capability with the Leopard 2A8.

The training capability

Ready with the platform, not years after it.

What is at stake

Speed of introduction. Interoperability. Credible deterrence.

The consequence

Every process that cannot deliver inside that window is, for this purpose, the wrong process.

Shorter loops, not better engineers

What transfers

- The end-user embedded with the maker
- Iteration cycles of weeks, not years
- Permission to field imperfect products, update fast

What does not

- Casualty-driven urgency
- Absence of procurement law
- Single-nation decision speed

What the simulation must reflect

Fast sensor-to-shooter connections. Resilience and responsiveness, with more than one way to deliver an effect. In the training and the simulation, not only in the field.

The lesson

Design peacetime structures to approximate wartime loop length.

FIRST

Defence and industry

Shortening the path from concept to usable capability.

Warfighter-led requirements

The end-user at the whiteboard, not only at the acceptance test.

Industry-grounded delivery

Scoped to what can realistically be fielded.

Proven technology first

Optimise current general-purpose technology. Limit dependencies on critical elements.

Testable intermediates

A usable product every iteration.

WHAT MAKES THAT HARD

On the defence-industry axis

The process

Sequential procurement separates users from developers by design.

The tempo

Funding instruments such as EDF and EDIP often appear bureaucratic, with lead times longer than the operational need allows.

The ownership

Requirement, risk and result: often three answers, none written down.

The way through

One loop, not a sequence. User, developer and decision-maker in the same room from the first iteration.

Tempo from the calendar. IOC 2028 sets the loop length, not the instrument.

Ownership on paper, requirement in motion. Risk and result assigned before the first iteration. The requirement matures with the product, not years ahead of it.

SECOND

Nations and the shared environment

Making collective training and interoperability real.

Scenarios

Jointly built, collectively trained.

Data

Shared terrain, entities and behaviours under agreed release rules.

M&S standards

Grown on working products, then codified.

WHAT MAKES THAT HARD

On the multinational axis

The consortia

Competitors tend to protect IP rather than share it.

The standards

Waiting for standards before building postpones the ecosystem indefinitely.

The data

National release rules lag the training need.

The way through

Community, not polarisation. One ecosystem with shared rules, not competing camps.

Direction and tempo. Someone has to give direction and set the pace. A node can do that.

Embrace serious gaming. Civilian infrastructure and means have accelerated BMS. Simulation can ride game technology the same way.

It already works bilaterally. NLD and DEU share data and current insight in adversary tactics in a joint battle-lab environment.

THIRD

Governance and integration

Ownership
Risk and result in writing, the requirement in motion.

Mandate
A small team empowered to decide at working level.

Partnership
Long-term. Equal in standing, not identical in role.

Interfaces
Open standards over proprietary lock-in.

Funding
National base, EU instruments where the tempo allows.

From demonstration to durable node.

WHAT MAKES THAT HARD

On the governance and integration axis

The mandate

Decisions tend to travel upward. Each escalation adds weeks, and the working level waits.

The interfaces

Every simulator has its own naming, order of battle and API. Each integration starts from scratch.

The continuity

Demonstrators are funded as events. A node needs a standing team, standing data rules and a standing budget line.

The way through

One counterpart per integration. One industry partner, one loop from requirement to fielded iteration.

Interfaces in the agreement. Open standards and data access written in before the first iteration, not negotiated after it.

A standing node. Persistent team, persistent data rules, a mandate at working level. The demonstration ends, the node stays.

THE STARTING POINT

What is in place today

TACTIS trains today

1 Individual soldier

2 Team

3 Squad / section

4 Platoon

5 Company

Planned

6 Battalion

7 Brigade

8 Division

TACTIS · Amersfoort

Synthetic Wrapping

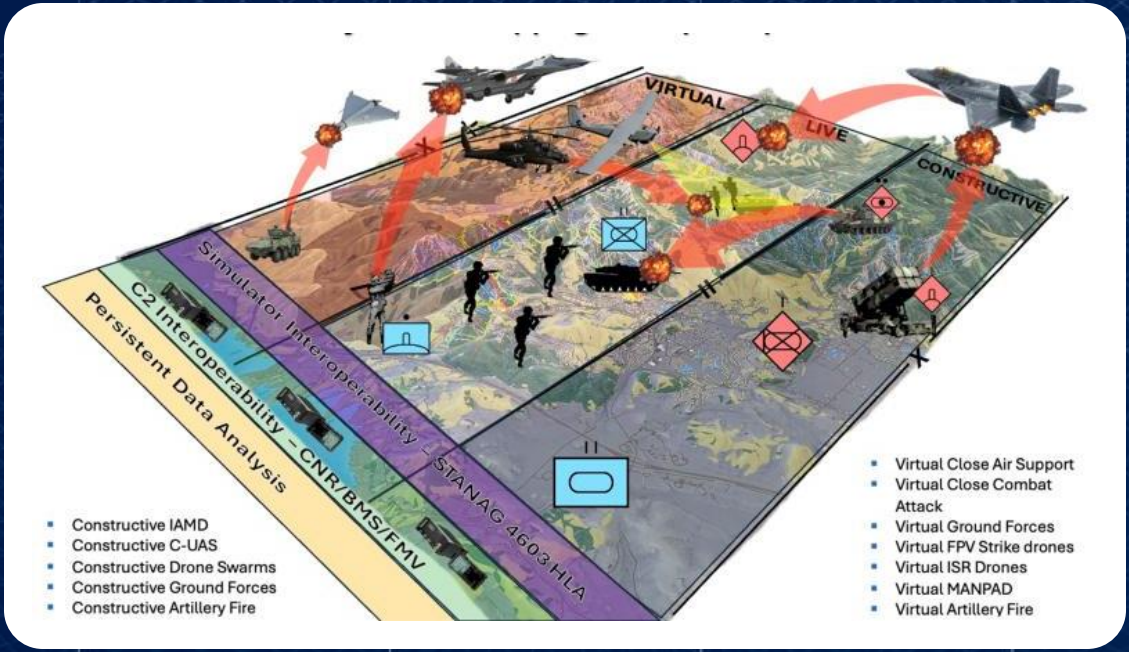
Leopard 2A6 · today

European Training Facility (ETF), planned

TACTIS as the base, Leopard 2A8 in integration, synthetic wrapping around it. One open node, one **community** of nations and industry.

WHAT ALREADY WORKS

LVC synthetic wrapping, demonstrated at level 5+



FTX/CPX FIGHTER LION, June 2026. NLD and DEU.
A live exercise wrapped in virtual and constructive layers by the Royal Netherlands Army Simulation Battlelab.

Deepen

Virtual depth beyond the live box: ISR, fires, air, EW and long-range effects.

Widen

Synthetic flanks alongside the live force. Scarce assets represented virtually, still visible to the trainees.

Thicken

Virtual red injected against live blue. The force ratio is set in the scenario, not by the live red available.

The result

Level 5+ multi-domain, measured and evaluated. With TACTIS, the base of the **ETF community**.

THE TEST CASE, HONESTLY

The setup is designed to remove the usual causes of friction. It is not proven yet. That is the offer.

Direct lines

Between user, developer and decision-maker. No layered governance.

Iterate on fidelity

A usable intermediate beats a perfect end product.

Friction at working level

Where it occurs, it stays practical and solvable.

SAAB

Industry in the loop. SAAB as first preferred partner, in preparation. Open to the next one.

FOR DISCUSSION

Three statements to disagree with

1. If your co-creation project needs a consortium agreement before the first prototype, it is procurement with better marketing.

2. Standards follow working products. A simulation ecosystem will not be built by nations waiting for standards.

3. Every month between end-user feedback and product update is a month of training value lost.

Koninklijke Landmacht

Simulatiecentrum
Landoptreden

Come to Amersfoort. Test it. Break it. Join the community.

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