DEFENCE R&D DÉFENSE

Defence R&D Canada – Valcartier

COPlanS - Collaborative Operations Planning System

- **Distributed collaborative environment facilitating critical thinking, analyses and syntheses**
- **Collaborative planning**
- **Decision aids**
- **Business process (Workflow) management**

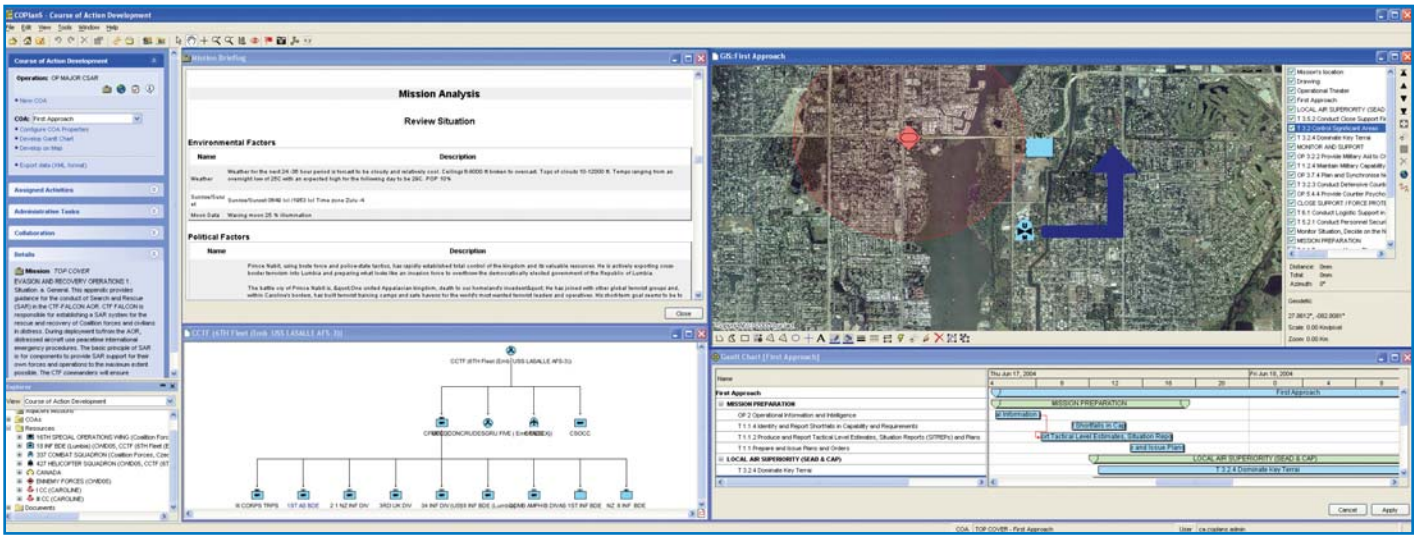
Background

COPlanS is an integrated flexible suite of planning, decisionaid and workflow management tools aimed at supporting a distributed team involved in the Military Operations Planning Process (e.g., CFOPP). COPlanS provides the ability to plan an operation in a net-centric environment with integrated collaborative tools. The system offers functions to design and manage multiple concurrent distributed battle rhythms at different planning levels. It helps synchronize workflows, document processes and permits replaying the decision-making path.

The planning tools allow sketching of Courses of Action (COAs) on maps, performing time and space synchronization, managing resources and ORBAT, and performing limited logistics analyses. The decision-aid tools rationalize the process, improve COA evaluation and comparison and rapidly produce documents to support the Commander's decisions.

Enhanced Collaborative OPP Functions

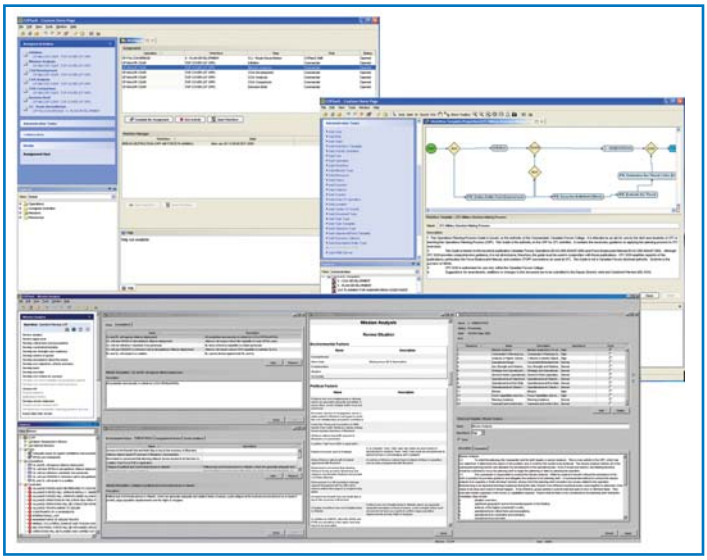
Initiation - Higher HQ Initiating Directives Review; Initiation Assessment and Commander's Initial Guidance (Initial Warning Order (Wng O) in case of time sensitive planning); Planning Staff Check and Activation; Battle Rhythm; Planning tool selection.



COA Development tools

COPlanS - Collaborative Operations Planning System

Orientation - Condensed Intelligence Preparation of the Battlespace (IPB) Estimates; Staff Estimates and Deductions; Operational Design Support; Strange Analysis; Initial Forces Estimates; Mission Analysis Brief production; Planning Guidance.
COA Development - Campaign Designer and Concept Development; Time and Space Synchronization for Friendly and Adversary COAs; OnMap Collaborative Planning; ORBAT and Command and Control (C2) Structuring Tool; Simulation; Analysis; Comparison; Information and Decision Briefs; CONOPs.
Plan Development - Automated Statement of Operational Requirements (SOR); OPLAN / Campaign Plan; Management of Annexes; Plan Review; Possibility of redoing any step and updating any output.
Automated Production - Automated and tailored reports and outputs; information in accordance with organizational templates; Choice of formats; Web Information Publication and Protection; Interoperability.



Generic functions

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Process Management - Graphical Design and implementation of Process Templates (e.g. OPP, Crisis Action Planning and Condensed IPB); Automated Staff Check and Activation; Management of staff, roles, activities and workflows; Management of approval process (brainstorming, revision, pre-approval and approval).
Distributed Collaboration - Distributed Collaborative Workspace with integrated tools to foster sharing of data and tools across workgroups / agencies; Direct Conduit to MS Outlook and Exchange Server; Chat with Possibility of integrating SameTime; Possible Interfacing with video-conference (VTC).
Distributed Document Management - Automated document management; Distributed document editing (Check in/check out); Change Management (Version control); Handle any document format (doc, ppt, avi, etc.).
Automated WEB Master - Self Maintained WEB Consultation Center for Real-Time Information Access; Supports XML/XSL; Document Handling; Possible bridging with CommandView.

COPlanS Status and Way Ahead

Through its project life, COPlanS has demonstrated how distributed and collaborative planning support might be provided in order to achieve mission centric Command and Control:

- Version 1.0 - Proof of concept developed and tested during JWID'04 part of COP21 TD (June 2004).
- Version 1.3 - Robust prototype tested during the Coalition Interoperability trial CWID'05. (May 2005).
- Version 1.4 - Re-alignment of the application with the CFOPP doctrine, completion of the Initiation and Orientation Stages, COA Development Stage at 60%, improved functions at all levels, rigorous content control, addition of various templates (May 2006).
- Version 1.4.1 - Deployable version for pilot to be conducted at CEFCOM, with COA Development stage fully developed, improved shared workspace, functions and templates within the first three stages of the CFOPP. (September 2006).
- Version 1.5 - End State Version to include all stages of the CFOPP, with integrated Web Portal (Command View), Plan Development and Plan Review stages, Campaign Plan and various templates (September 2007).

Version 1.4.1 and 1.5 will be interoperable with Canadian Forces Command and Control Information Systems. The certification and accreditation process of COPlanS will be performed for these two versions.

For more information

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