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The utility of Mission Data



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How does Mission Data (MD) help Warfighters achieve an Information Advantage?

The production and effective use of MD for military platforms, sensors and systems significantly enhances their operational utility above a baseline technology standard. In a similar way to a modern smartphone 'out of the box' with good hardware and OS, it has low potential unless combined with the best applications and supporting data. MD optimises hardware, both individually and collectively, to enhance operational performance and the likelihood of mission success.

Effective MD, when combined with the best technology and tactics, increases the prospects of favourable operating conditions. A host platform has the potential to persist longer in the battlespace with greater tactical influence and is able to increase the levels of information gained and shared to support operational and strategic aims. Furthermore, with platform persistence comes the ability to assess MD in live representative environments, thereby



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gaining valuable performance feedback for the MD community who, in turn, refine MD products. This valuable feedback is combined with common data formats and production processes, as well as efforts to build strategic governance frameworks to maintain MD community unity. The end result is the production of high-fidelity and interoperable data that is easily shared as part of a growing community of allied MD production centres and Intelligence Agencies; this creates an Information Advantage for the Warfighter.

How does MD need to evolve?

To continue building an Information Advantage through MD, the host technology (platform) needs to be designed with interoperability from the outset, with open architecture by design to allow for agile adaptation when future change occurs. The people element of MD production needs to be nurtured across the 'Whole Force' to maintain unity. Specialists in MD production need to be grown and then retained by providing them with rewarding, flexible and modern career paths that

complement their specific terms of service. Embracing intergenerational strengths, novel thinking, experimentation and challenging historical norms all need to become commonplace in order to produce the fidelity of MD needed both now and in the future. Finally, building sustainable and positive partnerships between Defence and Industry, through the removal of adversarial contracts and establishing higher degrees of trust, will bring clear mutual benefits and lead to an operational and information advantage.

What role does collaboration play in enhancing MD in order to maintain an operational advantage for Defence?

Collaboration is, and will continue to be, an integral part of producing the high calibre of MD needed to maintain an advantage. At an international level, bilateral and multilateral collaboration between nations allows for the 'pooling' of data and ideas to bring a greater result for each individual participant.

At a national level, collaboration between Defence and Partners Across Government (PAGs) builds richer source data, which is required for continuous MD improvement. At an organisational level, collaboration between Defence and Industry is essential for combining the very best tools and equipment with operationally focused people to ensure timely delivery of MD to the front line.

Encouragingly, activity is already taking place at all levels of MD collaboration, and none more so than at the organisational level between Defence and Industry. Leading companies in MD production have already formed strategic intercompany partnerships to bring together the required niche tools and skills in one place to support Defence in this vital activity.