



## ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 13TH COMPUTER ASSISTED EXERCISE FORUM 2018 (NATO CAX FORUM 2018)

1. The **13th NATO Computer Assisted Exercise Forum (NATO CAX Forum 2018)**, organized by the NATO Modelling and Simulation Centre of Excellence (NATO M&S COE) in cooperation with the NATO Crisis Management and Disaster Response Centre of Excellence (CMDR COE), will take place from 24 to 28 September 2018 in Sofia (BGR). The CAX Forum is NATO's only CAX-related conference held annually, and the 12th Edition, hosted in Florence, Italy, was attended by more than 250 participants coming from 29 NATO, PfP, ICI, Mediterranean Dialogue and Contact Nations.
2. The 13th Forum will focus on technical items and operating procedures related to simulation-based exercises and training support in order to promote an exchange of information and best practices among the Staffs of NATO and National simulation/training centers. Addressees coming from Military Organizations, as well from Academia and Industry, are encouraged to participate by providing presentations on the CAX related topics, including but not limited to the following:
  - Modelling & Simulation in support of CAX;
  - Modelling and Simulation in support of Crisis and Disaster Management;
  - Simulation and models: approaches, architectures, algorithms and systems;
  - Modelling and Simulation for combined joint operations;
  - Modelling Human Behavior in military operations;
  - Command and control (C2) systems, operational planning process (OPP) tools and their interactions with CAX tools;
  - Gateways between C2 and Simulation;
  - CAX Interoperability & Standards;
  - CIS requirements and architectures in support of CAX;
  - CAX Exercise support tools;
  - Organizational challenges in CAXs;
  - CAX simulation support tools;
  - CAX Planning Process;
  - CAX support tools exploitation,
  - CAX Multi-level and cross-level distributed exercises;
  - M&S Concept Development & Experimentation
3. This year's CAX Forum will be held under professional patronage of:
  - Research Associate Prof. Imre BALOGH, Director, Modeling, Virtual Environments and Simulation Institute, MONTEREY, USA;
  - Prof. Erdal CAYIRCI, University of Stavanger, Norway;
  - Prof. Stefan PICKL, Universität der Bundeswehr MÜNCHEN, Germany;
  - Lt. Col. Associate Prof. Jan HODICKY, Centre for Security and Military Strategic Studies at the University of Defense In BRNO, Czech Republic;
  - Adjunct Prof. Andreas TOLK, Old Dominion University NORFOLK, USA.
  - Vice Admiral Emil Eftimov Deputy CHOD, BGR
  - Professor Velizar Shalamanov, Bulgarian Academy of Science

4. Commercial organizations directly involved in supporting simulation centers and activities are also encouraged to propose presentations and demonstrations. Dedicated booths will also be available for the demonstrations of CAX and simulation related products.
5. The program will be further consolidated over the next months, and in the beginning of September, it will be available at the page: <https://mscoe.org/educational-and-training/cax-forum.html>
6. The form for the proposal of presentations or demonstrations is available at the M&S COE website at the page: <https://www.mscoe.org/event/nato-cax-forum-2018/>  
This form should be forwarded to the M&S COE Point of Contact (POC) listed below via e-mail, NLT August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018. The NATO M&S COE POC for the submission of presentations is:  
**Lt. Col. Jan Mazal**  
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7. Conference Registration: Register yourself at your earliest convenience - but no later than 21 September - using the link below:  
[https://www.cmdrcoe.org/menu.php?m\\_id=2&c\\_id=66](https://www.cmdrcoe.org/menu.php?m_id=2&c_id=66)

Hotel Accommodation: rooms will be available in the Marinela Hotel, the venue of the CAX Forum. Reservations window applies for Sep 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> 2018. Reservations before Sep 24<sup>th</sup> and/or after Sep 28<sup>th</sup> should be coordinated with the Marinela Hotel Booking Dept. End date for the hotel booking is 04<sup>th</sup> Sep 2018.

To book a room during online registration, check the box on the registration form on the CMDR COE site: [https://www.cmdrcoe.org/menu.php?m\\_id=2&c\\_id=66](https://www.cmdrcoe.org/menu.php?m_id=2&c_id=66)

The CMDR COE PoCs for logistics and host nation support are:

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Please feel free to pass this invitation to those who might be interested in.

**Capt. ITA Navy  
Vincenzo MILANO  
NATO M&S COE DIRECTOR**

