

C2Sim: C2 and Simulation Systems that have been Implemented

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ABSTRACT

This paper is one of a coordinated set prepared for a NATO Modelling and Simulation Group Lecture Series in Command and Control – Simulation Interoperability (C2Sim). This paper provides examples of C2 and simulation systems that have been implemented using C2Sim standards (C-BML and MSDL) and discusses some of the technical approaches used to achieve interoperable systems.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This paper reprises examples of C2 and simulation systems that have been implemented using C2Sim standards (C-BML and MSDL). The work covered relates specifically to the UK systems discussed in other papers in this set of lectures but in many cases will apply equally well to other countries' national systems. It also looks at some of the implementational aspects and gives a number of observations drawn from experiences of their use.

2.0 EXAMPLE FEDERATIONS

The earlier papers in this series looked at specific national and coalition C2Sim developments, including¹:

- FRA-GBR: Support to Anglo-French Interoperability Readiness (SAFIR)
 - C2: SIR, SICF, BCIP 5.4
 - M&S: APLET, SWORD, JSAF
- FRA-DEU COMELEC Co-operation Programme
 - C2: SICF, FIS-H, C2LG-GUI
 - M&S: SWORD, KORA
- MSG 085 and Earlier Experimentation
 - C2: SICF, ICC, 9LANDBMS, SITAWARE, ESRI COP Viewer, JADOCS, ISIS, CAPES, C2PC, JCHAT, TALOS, C2LG-GUI, BattleView
 - M&S: APLET, JSAF, OneSAF, TALOS-SIM, VBS2, VR-Forces

This gives at least sixteen C2 systems and eight simulations. It is neither definitive nor exhaustive, not including the various robotic systems and experimental prototypes, but indicative of the range of systems used and investigated. Over time lessons identified and learned from these events have been used to enhance the capabilities of the systems used, the supporting C2Sim standards, MSDL and C-BML and the necessary processes needed to create new configurations.

¹ Where known, acronyms are expanded at the end of this document.

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3.0 ACHIEVING C2SIM INTEROPERABILITY

This section describes some of the technical aspects which need to be considered to achieve interoperability in a C2Sim system with particular reference to the UK. The UK has taken a number of legacy systems to form interoperable systems, informing C2Sim research activities: looking at the utility of such systems; supporting the development of new approaches to training, mission rehearsal, doctrinal development; and so forth. This is all encapsulated in the concept of a C2Sim Test-bed. This test-bed provides an architecture capable of being adapted or extended for new use cases. Other nations have also developed national architectures and some of these have been referred to in other lectures in this series, e.g. the French Expertise et Logiciels pour les Liens d'Interopérabilité Permanents des Simulations et de leur Environnement (ELLIPSE) system [1]; the German-developed C2LG-GUI, web services and KORA simulation extensions and the work of the USA Simulation-C4I Interoperability (SIMCI) programme.

3.1 Architecture Models

The UK C2Sim test-bed has been recorded in a [UK] Ministry of Defence Architectural Framework [2] (MODAF) model. Similar frameworks are available in the USA and NATO: DODAF and NAF. The UK MODAF model currently includes:

- Operational views (high and low-level operations, roles of participant players, initialisation and execution phases);
- System views (systems participating, linkages and main data flows);
- Technical views (processes and standards referenced).

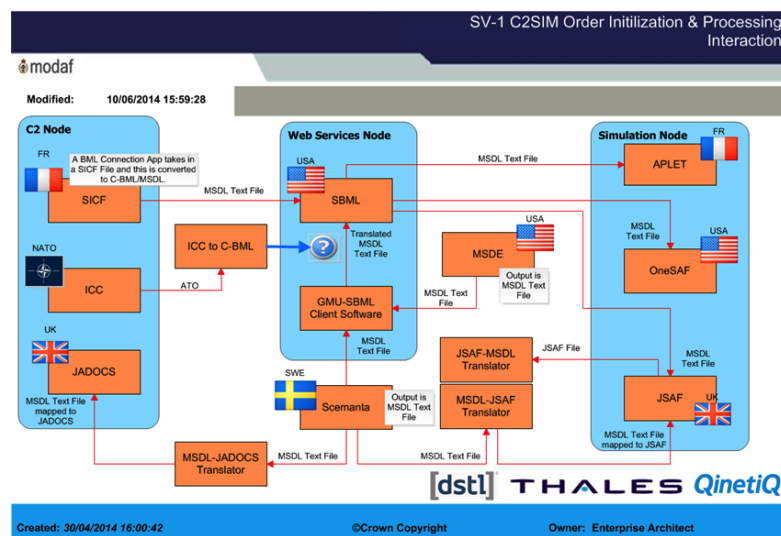


Figure 1 – MODAF System View of UK C2Sim Test-bed

Figure 1 shows one of the MODAF System Views of the UK C2Sim test-bed architecture, in this case as configured for MSG-085 experimentation and connected to other NATO systems. The architectural framework provides a way of organising and linking use cases, requirements, ideas and concepts, information, processes, system and services specifications, etc. This approach can be particularly useful in a collaborative environment.

3.2 Systems Engineering

The related but more detailed systems engineering aspects may be developed and recorded using the Unified Modelling Language (UML) [3]. The UML model allows the system components to be defined at the different levels of application and may also be used to link user and system requirements with their

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component and sub-component designs.



Figure 2 – System View of C2Sim Test-bed

Figure 2 shows a UML diagram, in this case developed for Defence Research & Development Canada (DRDC), with system components for C-BML tasking and reporting through a common C-BML messaging web-service middleware (Scripted Battle Management Language (SBML) or Coalition Battle Management Services (CBMS)). This particular framework had its origin in the UK as an experimental prototype, was refined in Canada and has been extended again in the UK to bring in more C2 and simulation systems.

At this point some of the specific systems used in the UK C2Sim test-bed will be discussed further.

3.3 Specific Systems

3.3.1 ICC

The NATO Integrated Command and Control system (ICC) is one of a number of Functional Area C2 tools used in NATO (see [4] for full list). ICC supports air C2 planning and operations at Joint Force Command (JFC), Air Component Command (ACC) and Combined Air Operations Centre (CAOC) levels. It may also be integrated with a number of other NATO C2 tools. The software is client/server system supported by an underlying Oracle relational database. The application consists of a number of components of which the principal ones are: for preparing Airspace Control Means (ACMs), Airspace Coordination Orders (ACOs) and Air Tasking Orders (ATOs); and displaying a Common Operational Picture (COP) or Recognised Air/Surface Picture (RAP/RSP).

ICC may be used in conjunction with pre-planned and time-sensitive targeting tools, Joint Targeting System (JTS) and Flexible Advanced C2 Services for Time-Sensitive Targeting (FAST). It may also be used with Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition, and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) systems including the NATO Coalition Shared Database (CSD).

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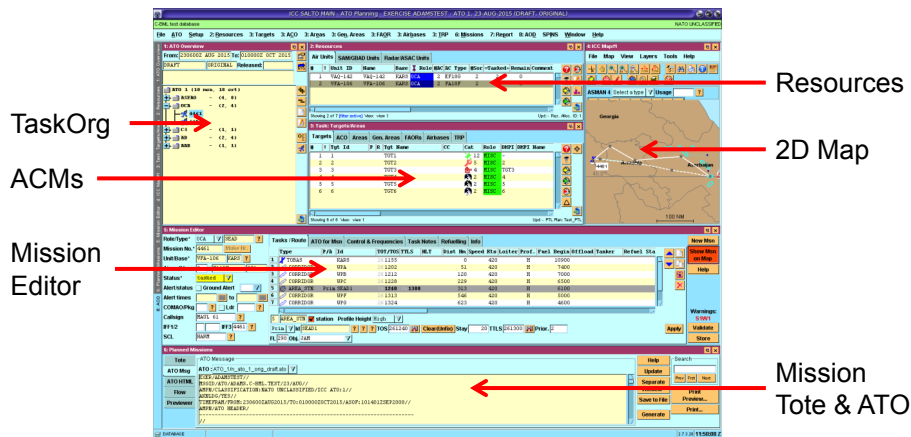


Figure 3 – ICC Mission Planning Interface

Figure 3 shows the ICC mission planning interface used to prepare ATOs.

3.3.2 NIRIS

The Networked Interoperable Real-time Information Services (NIRIS) provide a number of capabilities designed for use with operational information systems but equally of use in the C2Sim domain. Of these the Network Port Manager (NPM) and Trackstore Synchronisation Server (TSS) are used in the test-bed. The NPM provides basic network connectivity and the TSS creates tracks from operational messages in a number of standard formats, LINK-11, LINK-16, Over The Horizon-Gold (OTH-G), NATO Friendly Force Identification (NFFI), etc, received using the NPM services. The track store may be realised by ICC as a COP, RAP or RSP with real-time tracks shown on an ICC map using APP6-A symbology.

3.3.3 JSAF

JSAF is the Joint Semi-Automated Force simulation. It is a Computer Generated Force (CGF) model which operates at the entity and unit level. The JSAF architecture provides:

- Physics-based models for platforms: aircraft, ships, vehicles, etc;
- Components: mobility, sensor, weapon, communication, etc;
- Natural environment: topography and feature, atmospheric and ocean, illumination;
- Organisational representations: unit and equipment hierarchies, allegiance;
- Behavioural models for explicit, implicit and reactive behaviours;
- Overlays and graphics;
- Graphical User Interface (GUI) components; and
- Run-time services: DIS/HLA simulation interfaces, schedulers, event handlers, status look-up, etc.

JSAF is usually run as a networked, distributed real-time simulation. JSAF can be modified for C2-Sim because it can be initialised with structured data and has accessible, non-scripted behavioural models. Its Federation Object Model (FOM) supports: tasking interactions, tasking state, tasking and background parameters and behaviour status.

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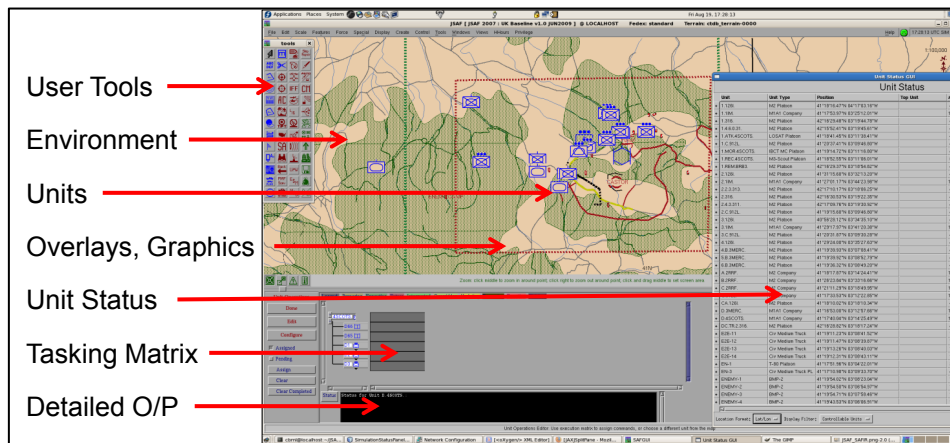


Figure 4 – JSAF User Interface

Figure 4 shows the JSAF simulation interface with some of the salient details highlighted.

3.4 Implementing Interoperability

This section shows how two of the system-specific interoperability tasking modules are implemented. The corresponding two reporting modules have much in common and are therefore not discussed further here. Initialisation using MSDL has been covered in some depth in another of the lectures in this series.

3.4.1 ICC Interoperability

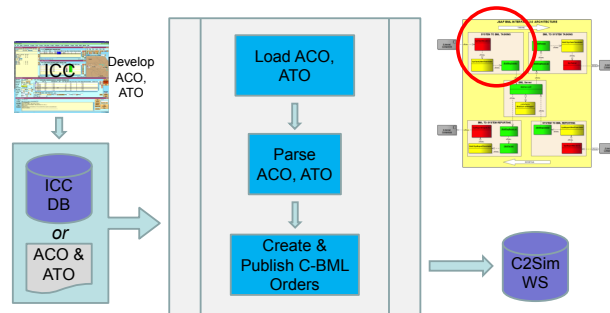


Figure 5 – Processing ACO and ATO Information

Figure 5 shows (with reference to Figure 2) the main processes used when developing C-BML orders from an ICC ATO. The ATO and its associated ACO is loaded into the processor for translation either from the ICC database (close-coupled input) or as a file. The system-specific parsing breaks down the operational order into core components: ACMS (C-BML Where), aircraft missions (Who and What), scheduling (When) information. These are then used to build and create C-BML orders (XML documents) which are finally published to the C2Sim web services.

3.4.2 JSAF Interoperability

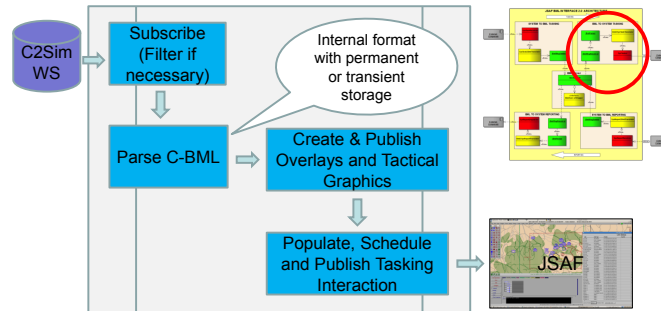


Figure 6 – JSAF Processing C-BML for JSAF Tasking

Figure 6 likewise shows the processing of the orders to achieve tasking of units in JSAF. This module subscribes to the C-BML orders being published through the C2Sim web services. Depending on the exact functionality of the web services, filtering may be required to ensure that only orders which it is intended to execute in this particular simulation are processed. Each order is then parsed and JSAF FOM objects and interactions published to the JSAF simulation creating overlays and tasking instructions corresponding to the ACMs referred to in the ATO's associated ACO and the missions in the ATO. At this point the simulation is ready to execute the order.

3.4.3 Some C-BML Challenges

This system connects a C2 application, ICC, with a simulation, JSAF, using C-BML as an intermediate enabler. This is basically a three stage process: create order in ICC, process intermediate C-BML and execute in simulation. At each stage there is a change between the representation of what is fundamentally the same information and thus a potential for ambiguity and information mismatch. To minimise any adverse effects at these translation points it is important that the C-BML is adequately and unambiguously defined. This definition process is currently the focus of one of the main efforts of the SISO C2Sim Product Development Group.

4.0 REPORTING

4.1.1 Some Observations on Reports in C2Sim Systems

C2Sim systems use the simulations to create various types of report which are sent to the C2 domain. Here they may be further processed (for example, aggregated), forwarded (doubtless adding extra delay) or displayed to the user as appropriate. It must be remembered that simulation provides *Ground Truth* and that anything else, however accurate is *Perceived Truth*. This is due to a number of factors such as: latency, sampling frequency, sensor errors, identification errors, etc, all of which increase inaccuracy.

4.1.2 Displaying Reports

C-BML reports may be categorised in two sets:

- Positions, Tracks, Event locations – These should all be displayed graphically on a map display; and

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- Other status, e.g. Logistics, Mission reports, Acknowledgements – These are all better displayed in a written list.

A C2 display, say of a COP, is merely an extension of the operator's memory, albeit a very useful one. Experience shows the need to get display symbology correct. Military users expect to see consistent symbology across different systems, particularly coalition systems which may use different operational message sets. MSDL is very helpful here as it can include APP-6 symbol codes for units/equipment. Mapping to operational message sets is important, not all use APP-6 codes, e.g. OTH-Gold

4.1.3 Overloading C2 Systems with Reports

Overloading C2 systems and middleware with reports is a potential difficulty. If this is the case then it may be necessary to throttle, filter or sieve reports, possibly on both or either side of server.

4.1.4 Time-stamping Reports

Time-stamping of reports is also a challenge and needs to be addressed in the federation agreements. For example, an operational scenario may be set to occur on a particular date and the message time stamps should correspond. Another case to consider is when a simulation is running in faster-than-real-time mode *and* generating reports. This will create time stamps dated in advance of the C2 system; some legacy C2 systems will reject messages with out-of-bounds time stamps. Re-running logged C-BML reports may also be difficult with some C2 systems.

5.0 SUPPORTING APPROACHES

A number of supporting activities should be considered when creating a C2Sim system. The development of recognised processes adapted to the needs of developing C2Sim systems is borne of the practical experience of groups such as MSG-085 and the various national and coalition activities.

5.1 DSEEP Overlay for C2Sim

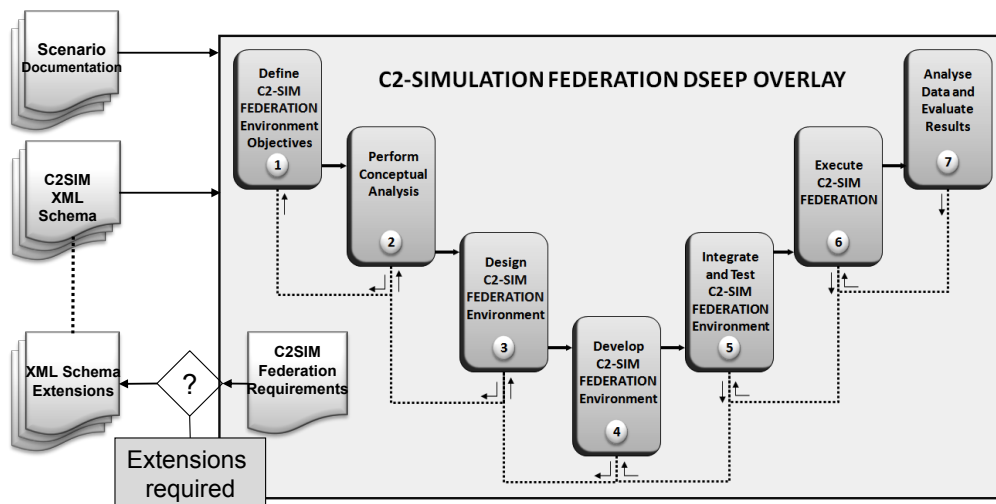


Figure 7 - DSEEP Overlay For C2Sim

The C2Sim Distributed Simulation Engineering and Execution Process (DSEEP), Figure 7, was developed by MSG-085 [5] to help capture the systems engineering processes required to support a C2Sim federation, particularly the System Design Agreements. Originally DSEEP, an enhancement of the SISO Federation Development and Execution Process (FEDEP), was applied only to the design and development of High Level Architecture (HLA) federations but soon was being used in a number of other similar, but non-HLA areas. The recommendation of MSG-085 is to use a C2Sim DSEEP Overlay when

developing complex C2Sim federations.

5.2 SISO Guideline on Scenario Development

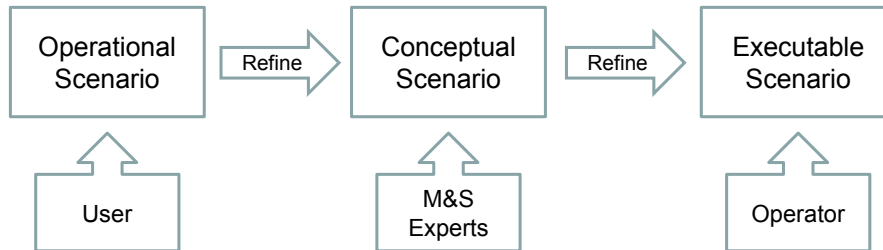


Figure 8 - GSD Relationship Between Operational and Executable Scenarios

The SISO Guideline on Scenario Development (GSD) [6] breaks down the development of an a scenario into three separate phases, the operational, conceptual and executable. Within each of these phases consideration needs to be given to defining the initial state, the course of events and the termination conditions.

The GSD formalises four maturity levels for the specifications each of the different development phases and indicates appropriate standards and tools which are appropriate to use at each level and phase. C2Sim standards, C-BML and MSDL are considered very appropriate for the highest formal scenario maturity level specification, especially for the operational and executable scenarios.

5.3 M&S and C2Sim as Services

NATO MSG-136 research programme is investigating the use of cloud-based computing systems to support Modelling and Simulation as a Service (MSaaS). In such systems clients access Services, Platforms and Infrastructure ‘in a cloud environment’. A question which needs to be asked is: “What is require to extend this to include C2Sim as a Service?”. The C2Sim community has built up considerable experience using software services to support its aims and these are discussed in greater detail in other lectures in this series. However, it is worth functionality considering just what would be required to provide C2Sim services in such an environment. The following list is indicative of the services which should be supported:

- Initialisation, development, validation, storing, merging and distribution
- Exchange of C2Sim messages – push/pull, pub/sub, unicast, multicast, broadcast,
 - Addressing, Routing, Acknowledgement, Error-handling
- Logging, replay and analysis of C2Sim messages
- Augmentation of C2Sim messages
- Translation of C2Sim messages
- Exercise Management:
 - Coordination/monitoring of participants – which sites/players are joined, their capabilities, status, etc
 - Coordination/monitoring of applications – which applications are joined, etc
 - Security – which data is it possible to exchange and with whom?
 - Time management
 - Federation agreements

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

Observations from C-BML experimentation indicate that complex heterogeneous systems are challenging and their development and execution must be approached in a systematic manner. Here the C2Sim DSEEP lessons learned over the years have shown that system initialisation is closely related to scenario definition and that MSDL is very helpful here but that it needs further development. The whole MSG-085 programme though has many times demonstrated the utility and benefits of combined C2Sim systems and the work of the group has through very practical, hard-won experience advanced an understanding of how such systems should be designed, built and used.

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7.0 REFERENCES

- [1] EMA-DGA, Paris, Référentiel d'Interopérabilité Ellipse Version 1.0, 06/05/2014
- [2] <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/mod-architecture-framework>
- [3] <http://www.uml.org/>
- [4] <https://dnbl.ncia.nato.int/nciaservicecatalogue/SitePages/Services.aspx>
- [5] Gautreau, B, Khimeche, L, De Reus, N, Mevassvik, O, Heffner, K, A Proposed Engineering Process and Prototype Toolset for Developing C2-to-Simulation Interoperability Solutions, 19th ICCRTS, 2014
- [6] SISO Guideline on scenario Development for Simulation Environments, Version 4.0 Draft, 20 Nov 2014

8.0 ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Expansion
ACC	Air Component Command
ACM	Airspace Control Means
ACO	Airspace Control Order
APLET	Aide a la Planification d'Engagement Tactique
APP	Allied Procedural Publication
ATO	Air Tasking Order
BCIP	Bowman Combat Information Platform (UK Army C2 System)
C2LG-GUI	Command and Control Lexical Grammar-Graphical User Interface
C2Sim	C2-Simulation
CAOC	Combined Air Operations Centre
C-BML	Coalition Battle Management Language
CBMS	Coalition Battle Management Services
CGF	Computer Generated Force
COP	Common Operational Picture
CSD	Coalition Shared Database
DIS	Distributed Interactive Simulation
DRDC	Defence Research & Development Canada
DSEEP	Distributed Simulation Engineering and Execution Process
ELLIPSE	Expertise et Logiciels pour les Liens d'Interopérabilité Permanents des Simulations et de leur Environnement
FAST	[NATO] Flexible Advanced C2 Services for Time-Sensitive Targeting
FEDEP	Federation Development and Execution Process
FIS-H	FüInfoSysH (German Army C2 System)
FOM	Federation Object Model
GSD	[SISO] Guideline on Scenario Development
GUI	Graphical User Interface
HLA	High Level Language
ICC	[NATO] Integrated Command and Control
ISTAR	Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition, and Reconnaissance
JFC	Joint Force Command
JSAF	Joint Semi-Automated Force
JTS	[NATO] Joint Targeting System
KORA	Korpsrahmen Simulationsmodell zur Offizierausbildung
MODAF	[UK] Ministry of Defence Architectural Framework
MSaaS	Modelling and Simulation as a Service
MSDL	Military Scenario Definition Language
NFFI	NATO Friendly Force Identification
NIRIS	Networked Interoperable Real-time Information Services
NPM	Network Port Manager (NIRIS)
OTH-G	Over The Horizon-Gold
RAP	Recognised Air Picture
RSP	Recognised Surface Picture
SBML	Scripted Battle Management Language
SICF	Système d'Information pour le Commandement des Forces
SIMCI	Simulation-C4I Interoperability
SIR	Système d'Information Régimentaire
SISO	Simulation Interoperability Standards Organisation

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Abbreviation	Expansion
TSS	Trackstore Synchronisation Server (NIRIS)
UML	Unified Modelling Language
VBS2	Virtual Battle Space 2