

2026
DEFENSE HEALTH INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

AUGUST 11-13, 2026
HYATT REGENCY NEW ORLEANS
NEW ORLEANS, LA

Mission Assurance: Coordination and Collaboration for CSA Mission Success

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Agenda

1 Introduction

2 Setting the Scene

3 Panelist Introductions

4 Question & Answer

Speaker Introduction



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Chief

J6 CSI

J6 Chief Information Office
Operations Combat Support
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CDR Jacob Cole MD, MBA, PPH
Director Health Informatics

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Mr. Kirby Lyford,
Chief Information
Officer (CIO)

Landstuhl Regional Medical
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Learning Objectives

- 1** Describe Mission Assurance - Mission Relevant Terrain.
- 2** Deconstruct mission command-and-control (C2) requirements into needed communications pathways, data exchanges, and information flows.
- 3** Translate operational tasks into specific communications requirements.
- 4** Understand available communications systems and assets across satellite, tactical radio, terrestrial circuits, and data services.
- 5** Identify task-critical comms assets, critical nodes, and single points of failure in the network architecture. This focuses mitigation on what would most disrupt mission-essential tasks.

Understanding Mission Assurance Construct



Mission Assurance

A DoW-wide process to protect and ensure the continued function and resilience of capabilities and assets. It directly ties **patient care, readiness, communications** and **cyber resilience** into a single picture.



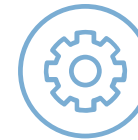
Mission Decomposition

Is the process of mapping backwards. The structured analysis that discovers Task Assets (TAs) and evaluates their criticality, from patient to baseline elements of information (BEIs) in MADSS.



Mission Relevant Terrain-Cyber (MRT-C)

The actual technical blueprint. It encompasses documenting the devices, links, services, ports, protocols, switches and software required for the function of a Task Critical Asset (TCA).



Task Critical Assets (TCA)

The individual components (a specific router, a server, an identity management node) that, if compromised, cause the clinical task to fail.

Understanding the Mission Assurance Construct

The DOW established the “Mission Assurance Construct” as a DOW wide process to Identify, Assess, Manage and Monitor **the risks to strategic missions.**



Asset Owner vs Mission Owner: The distinction lies in their operational focus

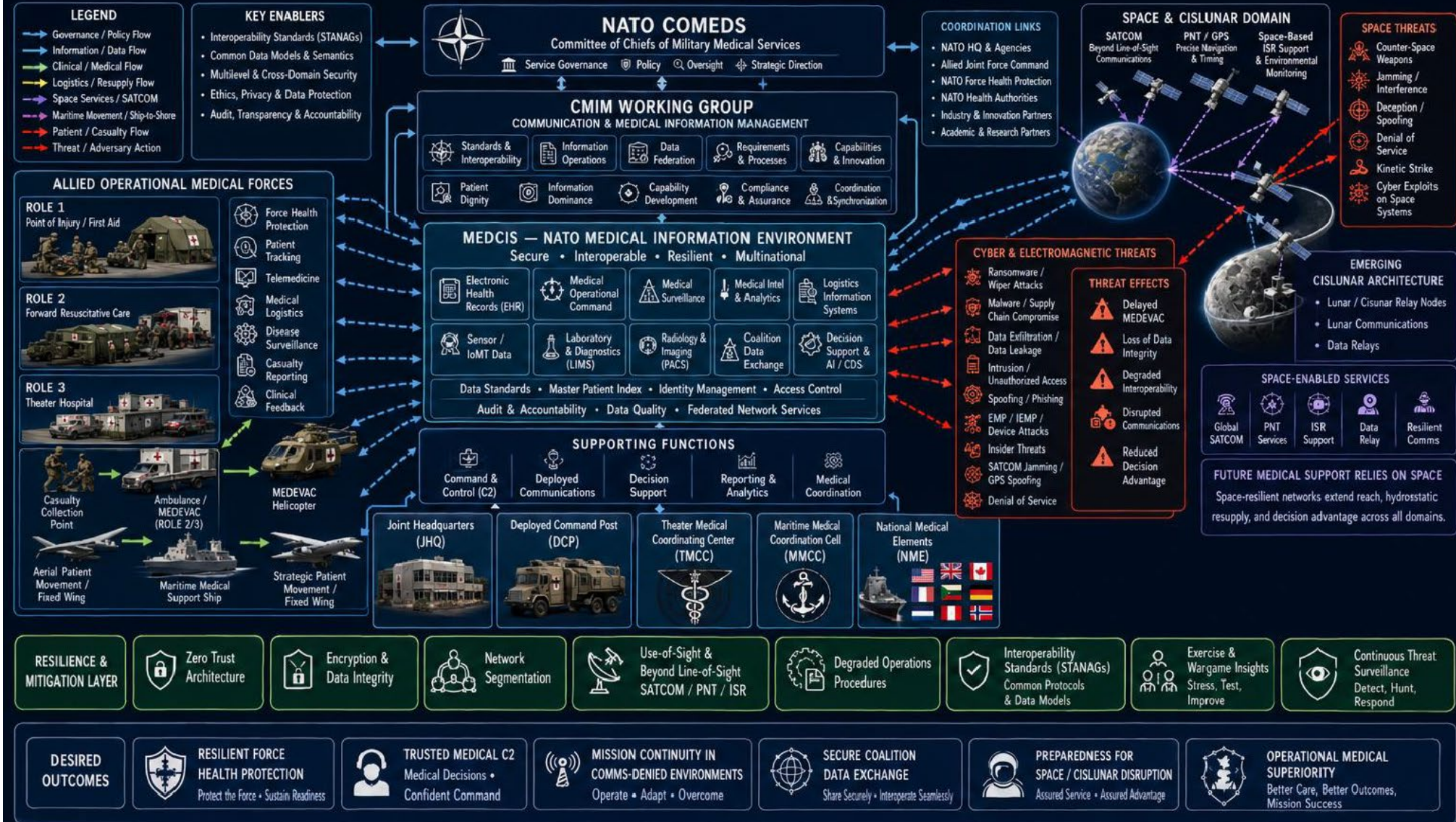
Attribute	Asset Owner	Mission Owner
Primary Focus	The physical, logical, or cyber infrastructure (e.g., a building, communications link, server, or port).	The overall operational capability, campaign plan, or organizational mission (e.g., an OPLAN, medical evacuation, or combat operation).
DoW Definition	The DoW Component or subcomponent with Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution (PPBE) funding responsibility for an asset.	The DoW Component or commander responsible for the execution of a designated strategic mission, core joint task, or function.
Typical Entities	Military Departments (Services), Defense Agencies, or commercial/private sector partners.	Combatant Commands (CCMDs), Office of the Secretary of War (OSW) Component heads, or Joint Staff.
Core MADSS/MARMS Duty	Maps out and maintains the technical, cyber, and infrastructure dependencies of the system (MRT-C analysis).	Decomposes strategic missions to identify essential capabilities and validates Task Critical Assets (TCAs).
Operational Impact Metric	Identifies Time to Reconstitute (TTR) (how long it takes to fix the asset).	Identifies Time to Impact Mission (TTIM) (how long the mission can survive without the asset).

The Four Dimensions of Mission Decomposition

- Mapping backwards
 - Traces a high-level clinical mission back to its supporting IT infrastructure.
- Task Assets
 - Explicitly identifies the specific people, facilities, or information systems required for the task.
- Analyzing Mission Impact
 - Conducts Mission Impact Analysis to determine the exact level of degradation (Tier 1 (Mission Failure) or Tier 2 (Severe Degradation) impact).
- Standardizing BEIs
 - Feeds the Baseline Elements of Information (BEIs) into the system of record (MADSS) so the terrain is formally documented.

OV-1: NATO COMEDS OPERATIONAL CONCEPT FOR CYBER-RESILIENT AND CISLUNAR-AWARE MEDICAL SUPPORT

COMMUNICATION AND MEDICAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT IN MULTI-DOMAIN OPERATIONS



The Clinical Scenario: What Has to Happen, Right Now?

Mission Assurance begins with understanding the sequence of clinical actions that are dependent on multi-service network dependencies and IT infrastructure that are highly vulnerable to a single point of failure.

Patient arrives at
MTF 



1)

Triage & Intake

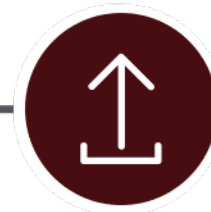
Establish patient identity and access medical history.



2)

Critical Intervention

Order and verify life-saving blood transfusion.



3)

Imaging & Diagnostics

Conduct a CT scan and transmit results to the surgical team.



4)

Surgical Suite

Coordinate operating room availability and telemetry monitoring.

The IT Scenario: What Has to Happen, Right Now?

Mission Assurance will translate joint operational healthcare requirements into hardened, resilient data exchanges that can withstand active denial and degraded environments.

Patient arrives at
MTF



1)

Triage & Intake

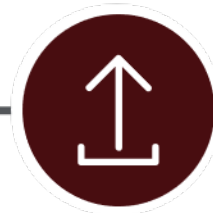
*Establish patient identity
and access medical history.*



2)

Critical Intervention

*Order and verify life-saving
blood transfusion.*



3)

Imaging & Diagnostics

*Conduct a CT scan and
transmit results to the
surgical team.*



4)

Surgical Suite

*Coordinate operating room
availability and telemetry
monitoring.*

IT:

*CAC, DNS, EHR (MHS
GENESIS)*

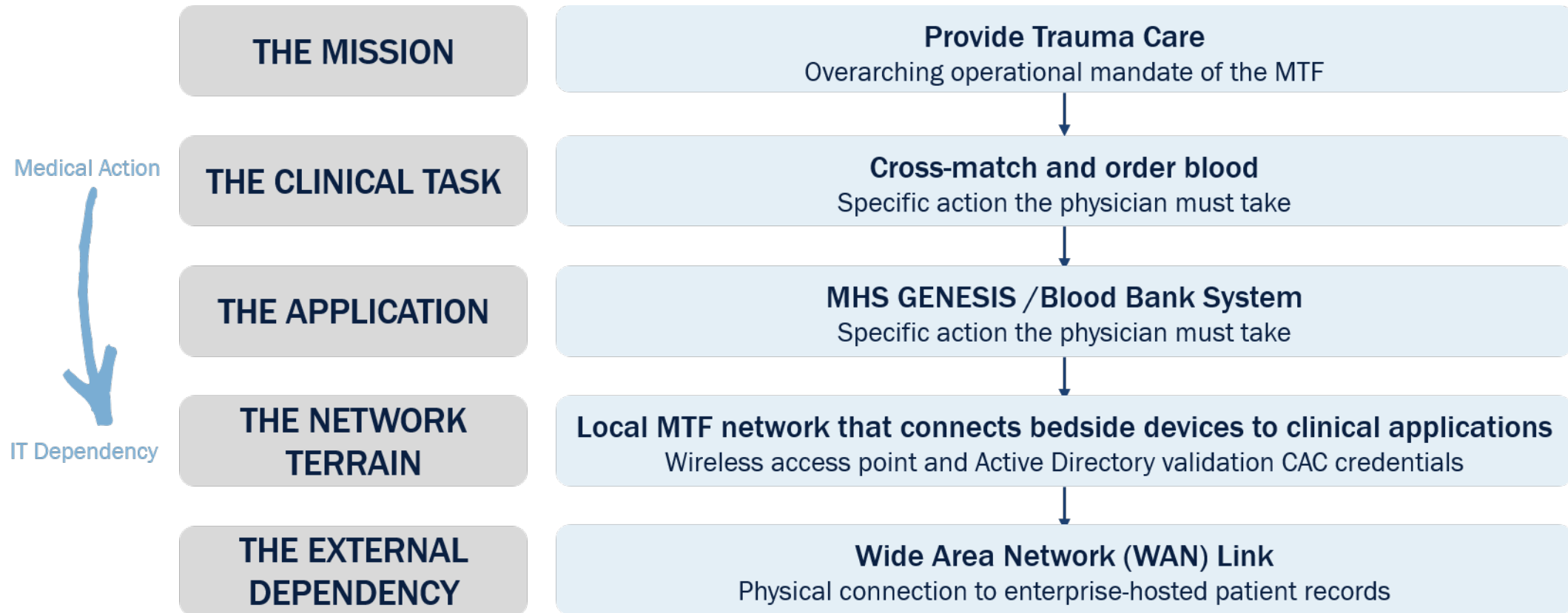
*Blood typing, LAB, EHR,
Blood bank, Blood product*

PACS

*LAN, Telemedicine, Data
Exchange, Cloud.*

Mission Decomposition: Ordering a Blood Transfusion

A simple clinical action only succeeds if every supporting digital layer works.



Contact Speakers

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Thank You!



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