

Abstract

The future operations of the Dutch military will be characterized by uncertainty. Because the "*where, why, with whom, against whom and how*" questions cannot be answered, flexibility, interoperability and operational readiness are key terms for the Armed Forces. The quality and timeliness of information is of great importance to reach a state of information superiority that is in turn necessary to achieve decision superiority and thus competitive advantage over the adversary. The vision on future war reflects the belief that information superiority will be lifeblood of a post-modern military and the key to success. Network Enabled Capabilities (NEC) is the enabling concept to achieve this and the Network Information Infrastructure (NII) serves as the envisioned set of facilities to support NEC.

Geospatial information continues to be a critical force multiplier for the military and its operations. A Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) has the potential to distribute, share and to collaborate on geospatial data with large numbers of relevant stakeholders and communities. An SDI supports the decision making process and the role of geospatial information is rapidly changing and gaining importance. A Defence SDI (DSDI) forms an integrated part of the NII as overarching infrastructure.

This dissertation aims at the construction of a conceptual roadmap for a DSDI that is supposed to improve the geospatial information position within the military. Alignment and integration with the overarching NEC concept and the Strategic Vision on NII is necessary. A framework with methods to assess the DSDI is included. The organisational perspectives and the user's perspectives were investigated and relationships with afore mentioned NEC and NII are highlighted where appropriate.