



ADRAR OPERATIONS EXERCISE IN NOUAKCHOTT, MAURITANIA

SWORD runs a synthesis exercise with the first graduates of the G5 Sahel Defense College

On 9 July 2019, 36 commissioned officers from the G5 Sahel countries – Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad –, from the army, gendarmerie, and national guard, completed their training at the G5 Sahel Defense College (CDG5S) in Nouakchott, at the end of an eight-month academic year.

The training program began in April 2019, and first ran an exercise at operational level, called ADRAR, designed to test the ability of officers to plan and conduct a joint exercise. ADRAR was organized by the Director of the G5 Sahel Defense College – a representative of the DCSD -, directed by heads of department of the college, sponsored by IFESO, a company specialized in strategic and operational education, and supervised by MASA Group.

The ADRAR exercise ran for three weeks, and enabled trainees to spend time on the planning phase, and then make the transition to directing operations at the command level. This command phase, which is particularly important as it enables participants to focus on coordinating all operational Command Post cells simultaneously, was performed via SWORD.

Setting up the exercise using SWORD showed how easy it is to get an exercise up and running with this system, and highlighted the system's built-in suitability to the live running of exercises at operational level, which is then complemented by what it brings to the table in terms of post-exercise analysis.

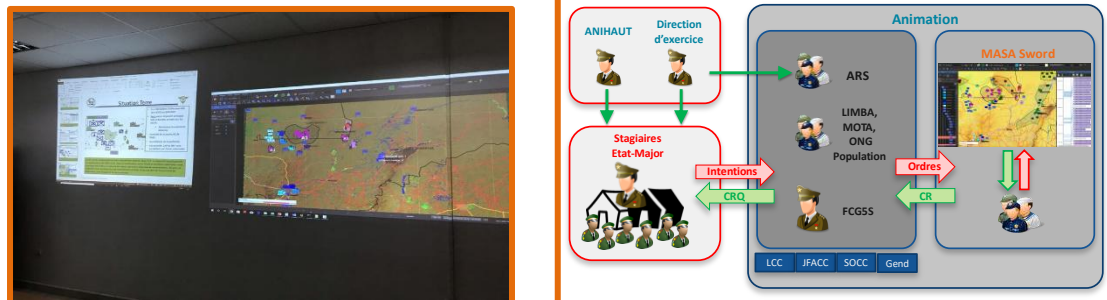
Over a three-week period the operation completed the following tasks:

- the installation of SWORD in the CDG5S IT environment
- the rapid adaptation of a SWORD database to model the following in an exercise: terrain, military or civilian actors, every equipment type available, and all organic features
- the running of the exercise in SWORD to constantly inform the various operational PC cells of the consequences of their decision-making, and providing each cell with a daily synopsis of events
- the replay and analysis of the exercise, for a relevant Return on Experience and post-exercise brainstorming and conclusion

The flexibility and simplicity of SWORD's deployment made it possible to set up a mobile platform and configure the entire system in less than a day, and then start to relay the primary elements of the scenario.

The system's capabilities and the organization of the exercise meant that a relatively small operating team was perfectly suited to meeting the demands of the project.

The automation of SWORD and the use of AI made it possible to run an extremely complex scenario – a vast theater of operations, with multiple levels of representation of a wide range of actors – large units, special forces, gendarmerie, various populations, militias, terrorists, looters, NGOs, refugee camps, media, etc.) – combined with automated and structured feedback, while maintaining impressive degrees of realism throughout the operation.



The data models implemented in the simulation allowed participants to experience maneuvers in a range of environments – terrestrial, fluvial, and aerial – and took into account all aspects of events, including logistics, and the impact on populations – which overall provided optimal conditions for trainees.

This exercise, simulated by MASA SWORD, was proof of the benefits that a cutting-edge simulator can bring to training programs for operational Command Posts. The wealth of data and synopses that SWORD provides makes it the ideal tool for the coordination of an operational CP. The use of the SWORD simulation in the running of an exercise gives officers the opportunity to work on making better and faster decisions, as their impact on the evolution of the situation are immediately evident.

The quality of the rendering of the SWORD simulation system and the obvious benefits it offers for the training of officers has led to the acquisition of the system by CDG5S, who intend to place a SWORD-driven solution at the heart of their training programs for the foreseeable future.

The installation of the system at CDG5S is scheduled for the first quarter of 2020, and the first operational exercise will take place forthwith. The decision has been made to use SWORD to perform tactical and operational exercises for all future training programs, and furthermore, to use SWORD to conduct inter-ministerial crisis management exercises. It is SWORD's capacity to model any type of environment or civil/military crisis, delivering extremely realistic results, that has made this possible.

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