

## Connections 11 September 2024

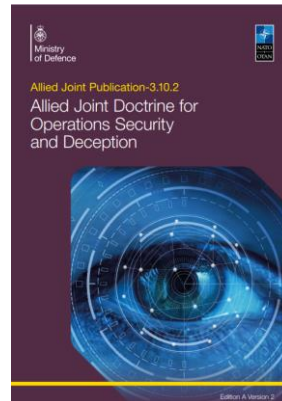
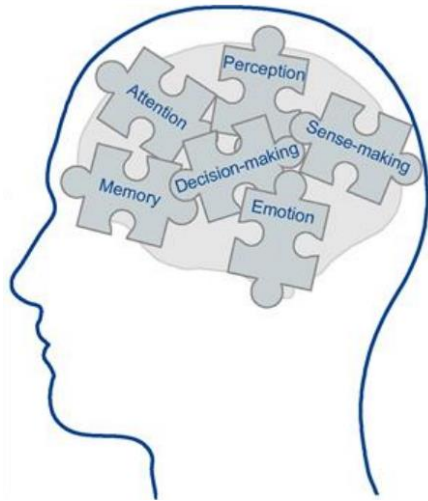
What is Military Deception and Why is it important?

Lieutenant Colonel David Mason PhD

# What is Military Deception (MilDec)?

*“Deliberate measures to mislead targeted decision-makers into behaving in a manner advantageous to the commander's objectives.”*

NATO, Allied Joint Doctrine (AJP-3.10.2) Operations Security and Deception (2020)



# What is Military Deception (MiDec)?

## Tenets of UK military doctrine

UK MOD, Joint Defence Publication 0-01 UK Defence Doctrine (6<sup>th</sup> ed) (2022)

### The manoeuvrist approach

An attitude of mind (*lead the adversary to expect one course of action*);

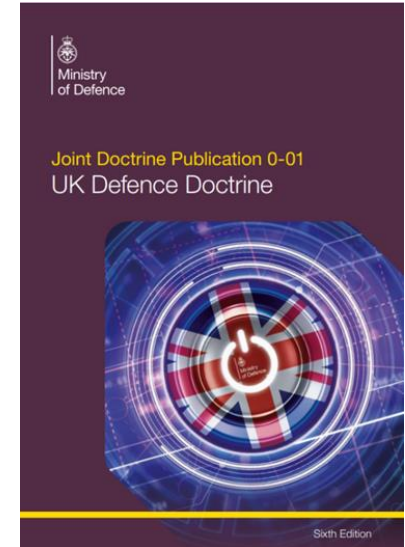
An understanding of vulnerabilities (*that offer opportunities for military deception*)

### Integrated action

Orchestration of military activities (*affect understanding, capability, will and cohesion*);

Across all domains (*multiple approaches*);

Synchronised to influence (*achieve an observable behavioural response*)



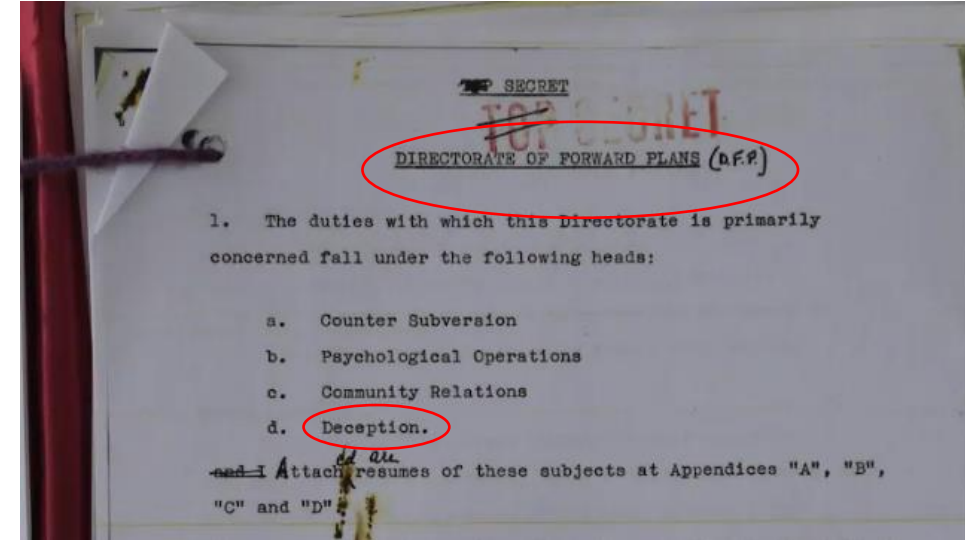
# “*[D]ramatic manifestation*” and “*mysterious explosions on [the] frontier*”

The National Archives, DEFE 28/13 Exclusive for DDFP (ME) from DFP, 10 July 1957

- Historical examples of military deception useful but:
  - ❑ They need to be understood in context
  - ❑ Myths build up which can create misunderstanding

## The Directorate of Forward Plans 1950-68: Post war deception:

- 1950s: Strategic deception becomes challenging, Tactical remains:
  - ❑ Southern Arabia 1957
- 1960s onwards: Numerous boards and committees, but mainly ‘talking shops’ as opposed to planning or capability development:
  - ❑ Why?



# The Changing Character of Conflict and Deception

- Conflict will always change either through revolution or evolution – this includes technologically and environmentally

*“The growing number of sensors monitoring the physical world will give machines vast amounts of data to analyse and draw conclusions from...Theoretically, the [environment] might be rendered virtually transparent and...capable adversaries will almost certainly use deception and false signals to camouflage their activities.”*

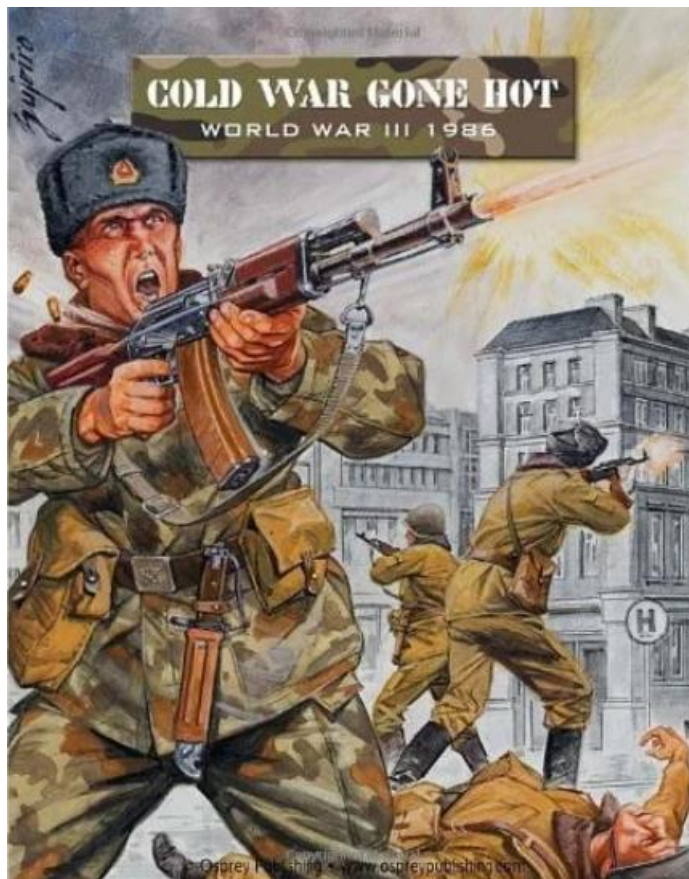
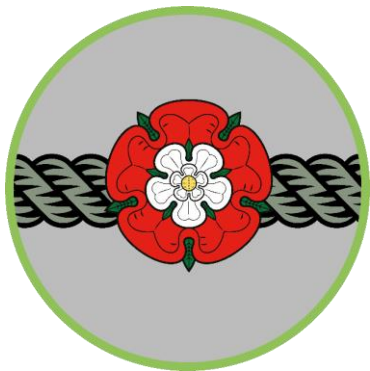
UK MOD, Global Strategic Trends: The Future Starts Today (2018)

- Military deception allows a force to gain an advantage but to be effective requires:
  - ❑ **Innovation** in hiding the real and showing the false
  - ❑ Integration across **multiple domains** where the military operate
  - ❑ Including the sub-threshold environment of **‘constant competition’**, not just for warfighting

# Key Takeaways

- Deception remains important:
  - ❑ It explicitly **targets the decision maker** because they are a critical part of **creating a behavioural response** to the misleading activity
  - ❑ It is not dependent upon technology
- Why now?
  - ❑ The character of conflict will continue to change but *sneaky/smart thinking* can provide an advantage
  - ❑ Not just for wartime

- **Please engage with solving the challenges of military deception wargaming**
- Help us to innovate now and
- Prepare for the future



Questions?