



Development, Concepts
and Doctrine Centre

Writers' Handbook



September 2023 Edition

Writers' Handbook

Writers' Handbook,
dated September 2023



DCDC Chief Editor
and terminologist

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Preface

Purpose

1. The *Writers' Handbook* has been developed to help **all** writers in the Development, Concepts and Doctrine Centre (DCDC), irrelevant of their role. The publications DCDC produces are sometimes the only contact we have with our target audience and so it is vital we communicate our messages well and maintain our reputation for producing high-quality products.

Context

2. Communicating effectively is an important tool we all need to use. It may be through a presentation, an email or a publication. Whatever form it takes, it is communicating the work of DCDC. It is therefore important that DCDC has a consistent style used across all our work and that we adhere to the *Ministry of Defence (MOD) Brand Guidelines*. This handbook has been written to try and help build and maintain consistency in the work we do.

3. Being able to communicate effectively is not just important for our national work, but also the work we do with international partners. We have declared that we will 'put NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Organization] at the heart of Defence'¹ and so it is vital that we deliver outputs that are accessible and, therefore, will be understood by all audiences. A foundation block of interoperability is using the same, agreed terminology and this handbook gives an overview of working with terminology.

4. The Publishing Team are responsible for preparing and publishing DCDC's outputs. The Team are also responsible for developing the DCDC 'brand' within the parameters and direction detailed in the *MOD Brand Guidelines*. The *Writers' Handbook* is designed to help writers of DCDC products understand how to use effective writing in their work, as well

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1 Chief of the Defence Staff/Permanent Under Secretary, July 2012.

as how the Publishing Team can help along the way. It particularly looks at DCDC publications and how these are produced. This handbook does not cover the development process of publications; there are other guides, including Allied Administrative Publication (AAP)-47, *Allied Joint Doctrine Development* (with UK national elements), that cover the processes followed by the different teams in DCDC.

Audience

5. The *Writers' Handbook* is mainly written for those producing DCDC products. However, other writers across Defence may also find some of the information useful.

Structure

6. The handbook is divided into four chapters and three annexes. A breakdown of what is included in the publication is detailed below.

- a. **Chapter 1 – Effective writing.** This chapter covers the principles of plain English and aims to offer advice on how to write your publications.
- b. **Chapter 2 – Writing your publication.** This chapter lays out the structure and key elements DCDC publications should include. The Publishing Team has created a macro-enabled Word template to help you format your working and study drafts, and this chapter explains how to use it. This chapter also covers the drafting process and outlines at which stages you will work with the Publishing Team.
- c. **Chapter 3 – Terminology.** This chapter offers an overview of terminology and the processes you should follow when using and developing NATO and national terminology.
- d. **Chapter 4 – Writing style guide.** This chapter sets out the styles, spelling and grammar conventions DCDC uses for its publications. It is structured in an easy to use A–Z format.

e. **Annex A – Ministry of Defence branding.** This annex provides an introduction to the *MOD Brand Guidelines* that DCDC follow. It also provides the MOD colour palette values that you can use in any piece of work.

f. **Annex B – Publications checklist.** This annex has been provided to help both writers and editors throughout the process. Although it is not an exhaustive list, it should help to make sure all elements have been considered along the way.

g. **Annex C – The Publishing Team.** This annex introduces the different roles within the Publishing Team. The annex includes a light-hearted interpretation of the principles of war. It highlights how the Publishing Team and writers can work together to best effect.

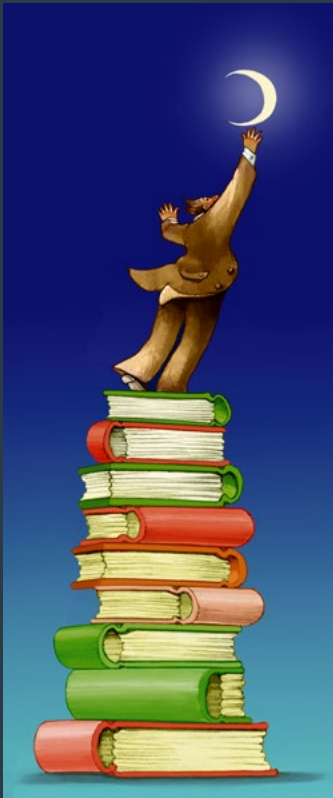
Linkages

7. The *Writers' Handbook* is DCDC's style guide and takes precedence over other guidance if you are writing a DCDC publication. However, other useful guidance can be found in:

- Joint Service Publication (JSP) 101, *Defence writing guide*;
- *WriteRight!*;
- *MOD Brand Guidelines*;
- AAP-47, *Allied Joint Doctrine Development*; and
- NATO terminology guidance.

“

Reading furnishes the mind only with materials of knowledge; it is thinking that makes what we read ours.



”

John Locke
Philosopher

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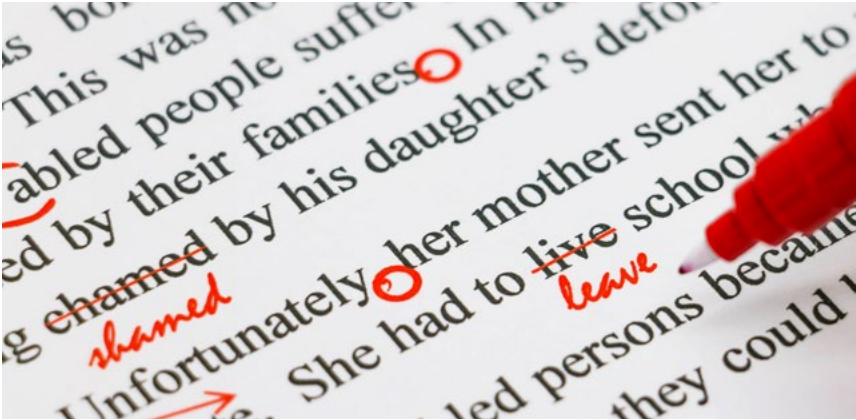


“

Say all you have to say in the fewest possible words, or your reader will be sure to skip them; and in the plainest possible words or he will certainly misunderstand them.

”

John Ruskin
1819–1900



Chapter 1

Effective writing

1.1. At the Development, Concepts and Doctrine Centre (DCDC) we use a plain English approach to write our publications as clearly and concisely as possible. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is a corporate member of the Plain English Campaign¹ and is committed to communicating clearly by using the plain English principles in its work. Although this section mainly refers to DCDC publications, the principles should be used in all your work, for example, emails, presentations, papers or posters.

1.2. Joint Service Publication (JSP) 101, *Defence writing guide* sets the MOD's policy, rules and conventions on how we should write. Effectively, it is the MOD's 'house style'. The latest edition of JSP 101 was published in 2022² and follows the plain English principles. Another useful guide to effective writing is *WriteRight!* – it gives advice on how to write effectively, as well as containing some useful grammar tips. It is worth reading both guides before you start writing, although wherever there are any differences, this handbook takes precedence. Copies of *WriteRight!* can

1 The Plain English Campaign is an internationally recognised corporate organisation and their website, www.plainenglish.co.uk, offers good advice and tips.

2 Although the 2022 edition of JSP 101, *Defence writing guide* is currently extant, there will be regular updates made to it so make sure you are using the latest version.

be accessed on the DCDC Sharepoint site in the 'Useful links' area. Keep a copy of the *Writers' Handbook* handy so you can refer to it throughout your writing phase.

What is effective writing?

1.3. The key to effective writing is to keep it simple. It is about using everyday language that helps people understand your message from a **single reading**. Using the plain English principles helps you do this.

1.4. You should aim to write in a way that will be easily understood by your intended audience. Use clear and straightforward language – avoid unnecessarily long words, gobbledegook and jargon. All DCDC publications are aimed at a general audience at the operational and strategic levels. Therefore, although some subjects are more complex or technical than others, all publications should be understood by our audience. Being able to put complex issues across in a simple way so that all readers can understand your idea from a single reading takes skill. As Blaise Pascal wrote to his friend:

‘...I would have written a shorter letter but I
did not have the time’.³

Why use plain English?

1.5. Commanders and their staff are busy people. You are competing for their time against all the other publications and documents they have to read. Our publications need to capture all relevant information, whilst being concise with short, simple messages that can be read and understood **quickly**. Research has also shown that if you write using the plain English principles, your reader is more likely to retain the information for longer.

1.6. Before you start drafting your publication, it is worth seeking further advice from DCDC's Publishing Team. They can advise you on:

- effective writing and using plain English to make text easier to read and understand;

.....
³ Paraphrased from the original translation. Pascal B., *Provincial letters*, 'letter XVI', dated 4 December 1656.

- formatting and DCDC house style;
- using DCDC's templates with built-in macros, which makes formatting publications much easier;
- using images and diagrams (through the Graphics Manager);
- preparing your communications campaign plan (through the Communications Manager); and
- terminology.⁴

Section 1 – Plain English principles

1.7. The plain English principles should be used for all forms of communication, not just reserved for our publications. Whether you are writing an email, submission, paper or poster, you want to make sure that the information is clear. The plain English principles are:

- plan your work;
- write in a style appropriate for the audience;
- write the information as clearly as possible;
- think how to best present the information; and
- check your work.

We will look at each of these principles in more detail.

Section 2 – Plain English principles: plan your work

1.8. Planning your work will help you structure your publication. You will have completed a project initiation document before starting work on your publication and as part of this you will already have an agreed outline structure. This should include chapter and section titles, although this structure may change as your work develops. By planning the structure before you start work on the content, it will keep you focused on the subject and help you avoid repeating the same message and adding

⁴ See Annex C for more information about the Publishing Team.

too much padding. When considering your structure, ask yourself the following questions about the publication.

- Why is it needed and who is it for?
- What is it about (and not about)?
- What has already been written about it?
- What does the reader already know?
- What more does the reader want, or need, to know?

Your answers should help give you the publication's chapter headings, section headings, side headings, etc. A mind map or series of 'post-it' notes on a wall can be useful ways of organising your thoughts. If you want advice on how you can structure your work, speak to DCDC's editors.

Section 3 – Plain English principles: write in a style appropriate for the audience

1.9. Before you start writing, you need to be clear who your audience is. As well as the work you will have done on your communications campaign plan, putting together your distribution list now, rather than as an afterthought, will help you decide who your audience is. When you look at the distribution list, 'what we did last time' is not good enough. You should consider, for example, whether your publication will be used:

- for general awareness;
- by personnel directly involved in that subject as guidance;
- as a training tool for courses; or
- by other organisations, for example, other government departments, international partners, academia or others.

1.10. Once you have considered who your audience is, you can then write in a style appropriate for them. If it is a general subject, it can be written in a straightforward way. If the subject is more complex or technical, it may be appropriate to use some jargon. If this is appropriate, make sure you explain the terms so the content is understood by the whole audience and not just the specialist community.



Section 4 – Plain English principles: write clearly

1.11. **Use short sentences.** Try to keep your sentences short. You should aim for 15-20 words in a sentence. However, this is only a guide and varying your sentence length helps add variety and will make your work easier to read. But, try to avoid very long sentences. When you are trying to shorten sentences look for conjunctions – words such as, ‘and, but, although, if, so, because and however’. Try to only have one idea or point in each sentence. The same concept should be used for paragraphs – keep to one concept and do not have lots of long paragraphs, try to break them up. And finally, remember, one sentence is not a paragraph! Paragraphs should be at least two sentences (and ideally more).

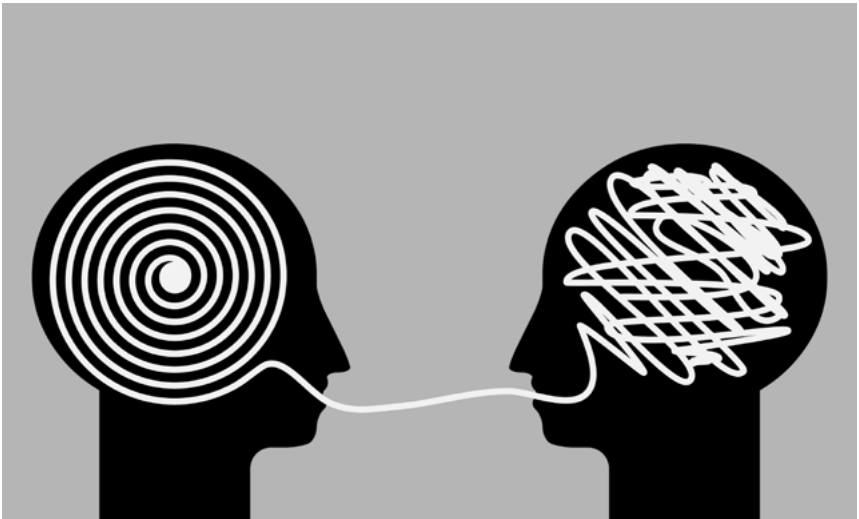
Use everyday language

1.12. When you are writing your publication, a good starting point is to write in the same way as you would if you were explaining it to someone in a conversation. Try to use words that are familiar because they can be surprisingly good at describing complicated systems and procedures. The

aim is to make your message understood by your audience. You should try to:

- use simple expressions with short words and phrases;
- avoid legalistic and pompous words; and
- use the first person (we, us, them, etc.) where you can, but be clear who the first person is.

1.13. There is a misconception that we are trying to ‘dumb down’ the intellectual content of our publications. This is not true! We have all read text that is confusing because the author has used dense and complex academic language they incorrectly felt was appropriate for the subject. If your audience is confused by your publication, and the phrase ‘I think it means...’ is used, we have not got it right. Using such difficult language can mislead our readers into thinking that our content is not current. So, you should try to use everyday language instead because it is enduring. It makes information easy to read, understand and retain, which means that our publications are quickly and easily understood.



Using everyday words will help us avoid miscommunication

Using the active voice

1.14. In Defence, we have traditionally used passive, rather than active, verbs. Active verbs keep sentences short and make writing more personal, lively and direct. Using too many passive verbs can make the text read as cold, impersonal, bureaucratic, long-winded and, potentially, confusing. However, there will still be places where using passive verbs is the right option for that particular context. An example of passive and active verbs is shown below.

Example of a passive verb		
Casualty numbers	will be considered	by operational planners.
	Verb	The agent, if there is one, comes after the verb and is introduced by the word, 'by'.

Turning a passive verb into an active verb		
Operational planners	will consider	the casualty numbers.
The agent, or 'doer' comes before the verb.	Verb	

1.15. Using active verbs can help make sure that actions have 'owners' rather than being ambiguous. For example, by writing 'casualty numbers will be considered' leaves it uncertain as to who should carry out that action, whereas 'medical staff must consider casualty numbers' makes the action and owner clear. By having an owner and action, it should avoid situations where no one knows who should be doing a task, or everyone assuming someone else will do it.

1.16. Authors often turn verbs into nouns, or noun phrases. In linguistics jargon these hidden verbs are called 'nominalisations'. Too many nominalisations will produce heavy and dull writing. This is because they tend to conceal an action or stop the narrative from moving, whereas verbs reveal the action and let the narrative flow. Nominalisations also tend to go with passive verbs, which is another good reason to avoid them. The following examples show that revealing the verb can also reduce padding and, therefore, the number of words.

**Examples of revealing the action – turning nouns
back into verbs**

Instead of:	=	Try:
prior to payment	=	before paying
subsequent to completion	=	after completing
to bring about the introduction of	=	introduce
to perform the evaluation of	=	evaluate

Avoid, or minimise, using acronyms and abbreviations

1.17. In Defence, we live in world of TLAs (three letter abbreviations) and yet acronyms and abbreviations can be so easily misunderstood, particularly as many have multiple meanings. If the subject and acronyms/abbreviations are new to the reader, the reader will generally consciously ‘decode’ them to make sense of the sentence. This then disrupts the flow and makes reading harder than it needs to be, which could be frustrating or confusing.

1.18. As we are not writing our publications for subject matter experts, we should minimise our use of acronyms/abbreviations to make our publications as accessible as we can. Remember our audience includes cross-government organisations and international partners and it can be particularly difficult for them to understand text that is full of acronyms and abbreviations. So, it is DCDC’s (and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization’s (NATO’s)) policy to not use acronyms and abbreviations unless they add value to the publication.

1.19. The terms acronym or abbreviation are often used interchangeably, but they are two different things. An acronym is a word formed from the initial letters of other words, for example, laser (acronym from light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation).⁵ An abbreviation is a

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5 *Concise Oxford English Dictionary*, 12th Edition, 2011.

shortened or contracted form of the word, for example, Corp., short for Corporation or Prof., short for Professor. Some abbreviations can look like acronyms (for example, mph – miles per hour), but these are ‘initialisms’, which are still a form of abbreviation.

1.20. If you do need to use acronyms and abbreviations because they will help the reader, they should be approved ones (not ones you have made up!). If a term is used extensively throughout your text, it makes sense to use the acronym/abbreviation associated with it to simplify the text. For example, a publication about non-combatant evacuation operations (NEOs) will use the term a lot, and reading NEOs is easier and less distracting for the reader. If you are going to use acronyms and abbreviations, there are a few rules you must follow that are listed below.

- All abbreviations should be agreed and included in NATOTerm or the UK MOD glossary.⁶
- Do not use acronyms/abbreviations in titles – even if they have been introduced in the main text they should be written in full; there are two exceptions – UK and NATO.
- Introduce acronyms/abbreviations with their first use in **each chapter** in the main text.⁷
- There are only a few two-letter abbreviations that DCDC may use, which are: UK, United Nations (UN), United States (US) and the European Union (EU).
- There are some acronyms/abbreviations that are better known than the term it stands for, in these cases you can introduce an acronym with a term to help the reader link the two (for example, DNA – deoxyribonucleic acid).
- Do not use full stops in abbreviations, for example, use BBC not B.B.C.

.....
 6 The UK MOD glossary is available on defnet under Tools and resources>Glossary and abbreviations finder.

7 If an acronym/abbreviation is first used in a footnote, it should be introduced in the footnote and again in the main text when it is first used.

- The term should not be capitalised to emphasise the acronym or abbreviation, so joint operations area (JOA) is correct, not Joint Operations Area (JOA).
- All diagrams should have legends with all acronyms/abbreviations included, even if they have been used in the main text before – this is so the diagram can be used as a stand-alone item (for example, for presentations) without needing further work.
- All acronyms/abbreviations used in your publication must be included in the lexicon at the end of your publication.

1.21. If you want to add a new acronym or abbreviation to the UK taxonomy, speak to DCDC’s Editor 2 to discuss the next steps. If you have any questions about using acronyms and abbreviations, speak to DCDC’s editors who can advise further.

Avoid, or minimise, using jargon

1.22. Jargon is defined as: **words or expressions used by a particular profession or group that are difficult for others to understand.**⁸ In the past we have been guilty of using jargon in our publications when it has not been necessary to do so. We should avoid using jargon wherever possible; however, there will be occasions when we do need to. If that is the case, make sure you explain the word or term, either in the main text or as a footnote.

Jargon example

‘Defined and minimalist levels of commonality will facilitate maximum intra-operability and interoperability, leading to enhanced contextualisation and fusion of best practice.’

Translated into everyday language...

‘We need to agree the best ways to work. This will help people work well on their own, or with other departments and nations.’

⁸
8 *Concise Oxford English Dictionary*, 12th Edition, 2011.

Grammar, punctuation and spelling

1.23. Along with Chapter 4 of this handbook, *WriteRight!* also gives some useful tips on grammar, punctuation and spelling. Used correctly, punctuation is a powerful tool. Some examples are below.

Punctuation examples – a misplaced comma or hyphen can make a big difference to the meaning of the sentence

A panda walks into a café. He orders a sandwich, eats it, then draws a gun and proceeds to fire it at the other patrons.

‘Why?’ asks the confused, surviving waiter amidst the carnage, as the panda makes towards the exit. The panda produces a badly punctuated wildlife manual and tosses it over his shoulder.

‘Well, I’m a panda,’ he says, at the door. ‘Look it up.’

The waiter turns to the relevant entry in the manual and, sure enough, finds an explanation. ‘Panda. Large black-and-white bear-like mammal, native to China. Eats, shoots and leaves.’⁷

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Jules finds inspiration in cooking her family, and her dog.

Jules finds inspiration in cooking, her family, and her dog.

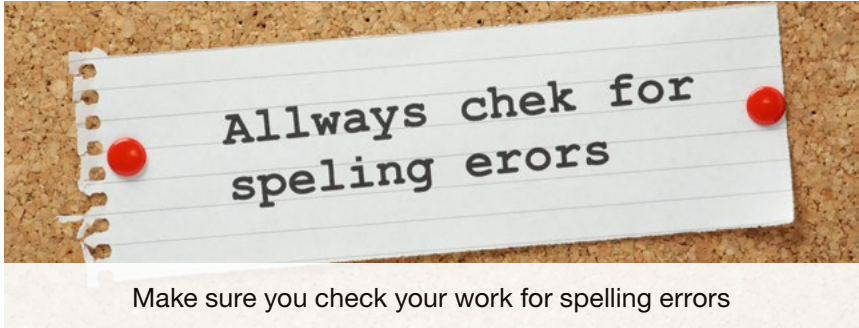
.....

Working twenty four-hour shifts.

Working twenty-four hour shifts.

Working twenty-four-hour shifts.

.....
9 Lynne Truss, *Eats, Shoots and Leaves*, 2003.



1.24. It is important for you to check your work for spelling and grammar mistakes. Please note we use the hard copy version of the *Concise Oxford English Dictionary* and not the online version as our point of reference. This is also the same for NATO. The built-in spell check in Word is helpful, but it does not replace the need for you to read through your work. The spell checker in Word, for example, would find no spelling issues with the following text.

Eye Halve a Spelling Chequer

Eye halve a spelling chequer
It came with my pea sea
It plainly marques four my revue
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.
Eye strike a quay and type a word
And weight four it two say
Weather eye am wrong oar write
It shows me strait a weigh.
As soon as a mist ache is maid
It nose bee fore two long
And eye can put the error rite
Its really ever wrong.
Eye have run this poem threw it
I am shore your pleased two no
Its letter perfect in it's weigh
My chequer tolled me sew.

(Sauce – Martha Snow)

Capital letters

1.25. In the MOD, we have grown into a habit of overusing capital letters. We have been using them when they are not required or grammatically correct to do so. One example is using capital letters to emphasise acronyms and abbreviations; for example, we should write joint operations area (JOA), not Joint Operations Area (JOA). If you are unsure of the capitalisation of a term, NATOTerm (available on the NATO Standardization Office website) is a good place to check.

1.26. BLOCK CAPITAL LETTERS can seem threatening and are more difficult to read than lower case text. This is because your eye is not able to easily see the different shapes of the letters that make up the word and therefore your brain has to work harder to read each letter individually. You should, therefore, only use capitals when it is grammatically correct to do so. The only block capitals we do use are for security classifications, for example, OFFICIAL.

Capitals

CAPITAL LETTERS SHOUT OUT, ARE THREATENING AND MORE DIFFICULT TO READ

If this is a title of a section or chapter, this should read: Capital letters shout out, are threatening and more difficult to read

If you want to emphasise a word or phrase, use **bold** type rather than block capitals for emphasis.

Capital letters should be used for proper nouns. For example, we use initial capitals for:

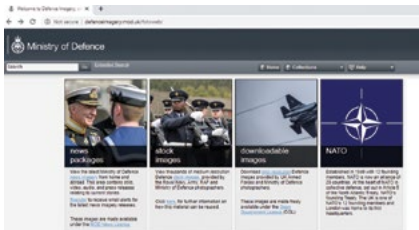
- names of organisations – Strategic Command;
- ranks and titles – DCDC Editor 1 (but ‘DCDC’s editors’); and
- people’s names, place names, months and days of the week.

Section 5 – Plain English principles: presenting your information

1.27. How you present your information is sometimes as important as the information itself. Ask yourself what the best way is to communicate a particular idea. Rather than just using words, consider using diagrams, flow charts or images to convey a concept. Well-chosen images and simple diagrams can often tell the story better than words. Before you start on your project, speak to DCDC's Graphics Manager who will advise you on the guidelines for using diagrams and images in your publication.

1.28. **Diagrams.** 'A picture paints a thousand words' and some things are better drawn. Try to avoid using acronyms/abbreviations in your diagrams, but if you cannot you must add a legend. You may find Microsoft PowerPoint useful to design draft diagrams. However, DCDC's Graphics Manager can provide assistance with developing your ideas at the draft stage, and they will also produce the print-ready graphics for the final publication. Speak to DCDC's Graphics Manager early in your project so they can help in the best way.

1.29. **Images.** A well-chosen and placed image can enhance a reader's understanding and bring the publication's subject to life. Images should enhance the publication and not just be used as 'eye candy'. A good source of images for many of the publications we produce is the Defence Imagery library.¹⁰ They have a large collection and the images are free to use. We also have subscriptions with other image banks, including Shutterstock,¹¹ which may be more suitable for concepts and futures work.



Defence Imagery and Shutterstock are good image sources

10 For more information see <http://www.defenceimagery.mod.uk>.

11 For more information see www.shutterstock.com.

Breaking up the text

1.30. One of the techniques we use to help readers digest the information in a publication more easily is by breaking up the text. This creates more white space on the page, giving the eye 'breathing space' and making the text more 'digestible'. The example below shows the difference this can make.

It is too easy to write long passages of text which come across to the reader as difficult and boring. This is because the writer has failed to break up the text. Use manageable chunks that are easy on the eye and can be read as small packets. Instead of writing one continuous block of text, use paragraphs and sub-paragraphs. They do not need headings, as long as their subject is clear. Think from the readers' point of view. They may have only three to four minutes, with little else to go on but your words, to make important decisions.

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Instead of writing one continuous block of text, use paragraphs and sub-paragraphs. They do not need headings, as long as their subject is clear.

Think from the readers' point of view. They may have only three to four minutes, with little else to go on but your words, to make important decisions.

1.31. **Bullet points.** Using a bullet-point list is one of the best ways of breaking down complex information into manageable chunks. Although there are many different ways of using bullet point lists, there are two different ways that are acceptable in DCDC publications, which are shown on the next page. Bullets should only be used for lists, not multiple-sentence sections, which should be sub-paragraphs.

Two ways we use bullet points in our publications

Option 1 – A list in which each point is a complete sentence. The introductory sentence ends with a full stop and each bullet point starts with a capital letter and ends with a full stop.

The speaker made three points.

- The rainforests are being destroyed at a tremendous speed.
- Thousands of undiscovered species are disappearing for ever.
- The greed of developers and the pressure for land may deal humankind a fatal blow.

Option 2 – A list that is a continuous sentence. The introductory lead-in sentence ends with a colon and each bullet point starts with a lower case letter and ends with a semicolon, apart from the final one, which ends with a full stop. Make sure that all the bullets make sense running on from the lead-in line.

If you are the last person to leave this workshop, please make sure you:

- turn out the lights;
- lock the outside door; and
- hand in the key at the security desk.

Section 6 – Plain English principles: check your work

1.32. It seems an obvious point but always proofread your work once you have completed it. One good way of checking the flow of the publication is to read it out loud. You may be surprised how it can help you identify inappropriate words, long sentences and help you punctuate your text correctly as you run out of breath! Once you are happy, give it to another desk officer to read. DCDC's editors will also review your

publication and because they are not subject matter experts they will be able to identify areas that are unclear. If they do not understand it, the chances are that some of your intended audience may also experience difficulties. You will then need to revise the text so that the information comes across more clearly.

Be disciplined

1.33. In the past, audience feedback has said we need to reduce the length of our publications, particularly our doctrine. Our audience does not have the time to wade through many pages of text where the message is hidden under unnecessary padding, repetition or poorly structured sentences. You should try to sequence your work so you only need to explain a concept or point once, and then refer back to it if necessary. When you are reviewing your work, you need to be disciplined by continually asking yourself the following questions.

- Have I broken up my text as much as I could?
- Is my message hidden under too much padding?
- Does this sentence add to my message?
- Do the sentences in this paragraph work together to add to that message?
- Do these paragraphs work together to explain my overall message in that section?
- Do the sections work together to give the right sequence of messages in that chapter?

1.34. If your text has not added anything, or you have padded it out too much, take it out. This will reduce the number of pages, uncover the important message and make your text flow better.



We are what we repeatedly do.
Excellence, then, is not an act,
but a habit.



Aristotle



Chapter 2

Writing your publication

2.1. To maintain consistency across the Development, Concepts and Doctrine Centre's (DCDC's) products, we use the same format for the contents of our publications. This helps our audience navigate our publications because they will know what to expect from the design and layout and they can then concentrate on the important bit – the content. This chapter highlights the different elements a publication should include. It also explains the DCDC publication Word template and how to use it before finally offering some useful shortcuts you can use to format your work in Word.

Section 1 – Publication structure

2.2. All DCDC publications should follow a prescribed structure, but the structure may change depending on what publication you are writing. Futures Team's publications are likely to be different from the structure set out in this section, but doctrine and concept publications should follow this structure. A publication should include:

- title page;
- authorisation, copyright and distribution information page;

- foreword (when required);
- preface;
- contents page;
- main body chapters;
- publication annexes (when required); and
- lexicon.

The rest of this section will look at the elements in more detail.

2.3. Title page. All publications will have a title page. The information on the title page includes the publication name and number, publication date, signature of the authorising officer and the conditions of release. A template version of this page has been inserted into the DCDC publications Word template to help you. The signature will not be added to the publication until it has been ratified and cleared for publication by the authorising officer. The authorising officer is usually Director DCDC or one of the DCDC 1*s, but it can be an external person.

2.4. Authorisation, copyright and distribution information page. This page is an important information page that outlines our contact information, copyright information for our publications and the images we use, and how people can access our publications and request hard copies. This page does not need to be included in your drafts; the editors will add it at the InDesign stage.²⁷

2.5. Foreword. Only certain publications will need a foreword, generally high-level publications, those that have been developed with other partners or publications that cover a new subject. They are usually written by external personnel who have been involved in sponsoring or developing the publication.

2.6. Preface. The preface is the introduction scene setter for your publication. It is an important element to explain what your publication is about and it should contain the following headings:

- **purpose** – this tells the reader why you are writing the publication (it should be no more than one paragraph);

.....
²⁷ Adobe InDesign is the publishing software we use to create our publications.

- **context** – this should give the reader the background to the publication and/or subject matter (and an overview of any changes if it is a new edition);
- **audience** – this should detail who your main audience for the publication is;
- **structure** – this gives a brief outline of how the publication has been structured; and
- **linkages** – this explains where, and in what detail, the subject is covered in other policy documents/publications or which other source documents should be read alongside the publication to add context to the subject.

2.7. **Contents.** The contents page should include the foreword and executive summary (if applicable), preface, chapters, annexes to the publication (if applicable) and the lexicon. Section titles will be added to the chapter spreads and not to the main contents page. The contents page should not be included in the contents – it does not help the reader.

2.8. **Main body chapters.** The main body of the publication is made up of chapters and annexes. Each chapter will include all (or most) of the following elements.

- A **chapter spread**, which requires a picture (portrait orientation), a short introductory paragraph for the chapter and the chapter contents.
- A **chapter quote** that should reflect the content of the chapter (it can be a quote from anyone, it does not need to be a military one).
- **Diagrams**, where appropriate, to help illustrate particular concepts in the chapter (all diagrams should include a legend if you are using acronyms and abbreviations).
- **Photos**, used to add context to the subject and help break up the text on the page.

- **Vignettes**, which can be used to give examples of the subject; they can be historical or recent, but should help add context.
- **Chapter key points** – these can be copied directly from the main text or paraphrased and they should not be longer than one page.

Some chapters will also have annexes. Annexes to chapters should give additional information relevant to that chapter. Chapter annexes serve a different purpose to publication annexes.

2.9. **Publication annexes.** Annexes to the publication should contain additional information that is relevant to the whole subject, not one particular chapter. It is important to make sure that essential information is contained in the main text and not in an annex.

2.10. **Lexicon.** The lexicon is made up of two parts. The first part covers the acronyms and abbreviations used in the publication. The second part should contain terms and definitions. This includes the definitions used in the publication, but also any general terms and definitions that would help the reader understand the context of the subject further.

Executive summary and bite-size doctrine

2.11. Not all publications will have, or need, an executive summary. Where they are included, they should be kept short and not contain any information that is not included in the main text. For doctrine, some publications will have a stand-alone two-page executive summary called bite-size doctrine.



I build things that I think are exciting from a technology standpoint and will help make life easier, simpler and better for people.

Philippe Kahn, Entrepreneur

Section 2 – The Word template for publications

2.12. To help you format your drafts, we have created a Word template with built-in macros. Using this template will allow you to format your text correctly and quickly – as long as you do not try and override the macros! When you open the template you should immediately save it with the name of your publication (following the correct naming convention, of course). The instructions are on the template when you open it, but to save you printing it out, the shortcuts instructions are printed below.

Use Alt+I for the title (16 point, bold)

Use Alt+d for section headings (14 point, bold)

Use Alt+s for side headings (12 point, bold)

1.1 Use Alt+1 for Chapter 1 (12 point),

2.1 Use Alt+2 for Chapter 2, and Alt+3 for Chapter 3, etc.

a. Use Alt+x for sub-paragraphs

(1) Use Alt+y for sub-sub-paragraphs – Use Ctrl+Alt+F for footnotes

- Use Alt+b for bullets

Use Alt+g for Figure 1.x (12 point, bold)

For vignettes, copy the table below – **do not use text boxes** as this throws out the formatting.

Shading = 5 grey, border = 0.75, text = 12 point
--

DCDC publications use mirror margins, so this template uses two pages to ensure the headers and footers are correct. The chapter titles and page numbers should be on alternate sides.

All text is written in Arial font. The macro automatically sets the text to exactly 14 point line spacing and 18 point after the paragraph.

2.13. The template can be found on the DCDC SharePoint homepage in the 'Useful links' section. If you already have text that you want to put into the template, simply: 'select all>copy>paste special>unformatted text'. This will make sure that you do not import other formatting styles that will compete with the template's macros. Be aware that this will not bring over any footnotes so you will need to add these manually. Save your file as a Word document and you can now use the keyboard shortcuts for the macros. If the macros are not working (MODNET can break them!), open the styles menu on the home tab and apply styles from there.

2.14. **Headers and footers.** When you first save the publication, and before you start writing, you should update the document header and footer information. Because DCDC publications use mirror margins, you have to set up both the odd and even pages, but the template shows you what to do. You will need to amend the footer to reflect the publication name and draft status and version number. This makes sure reviewers know which version they are using. You will also need to update the chapter title in the document header. Remember to use a 'next page' section break (rather than a page break) at the end of your chapter so you can change the header for the next chapter. If you are unsure of how to do this, ask one of the editors. You should also remember to include the appropriate security classification to the header and footer, if required.



A well-structured publication will make it easier for you to communicate your message

Section 3 – Drafting process

2.15. **Before you start writing.** Before you start working on your publication, please contact the Publishing Team to arrange an effective writing and communications brief if you have not already attended one. At the beginning of your project, you should also make sure that you are aware of what elements will be needed by the Publishing Team and at which stage of the process. You should consider:

- who your main audience is – this will inform the distribution list you will need to compile;
- publishing approvals – who within and outside of DCDC will need to approve content before release;
- what is the communications ambition – routine approach or full communication plan;
- engaging with the Graphics Manager if you are developing diagrams as they can assist you with ideas;
- the front cover picture – it can often take time to find a strong image that captures the content or message;
- starting to look for chapter images and quotes (portrait images are better for the chapter spreads); and
- starting to look for vignettes (with associated images) that will help bring the subject to life and general images and quotes for your publication.


If you need more information, speak to the Publishing Team, who will be able to advise you.

Remember that if you are a custodian for a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Allied joint publication, the editors will need to edit the publication at the same stages as a national publication. If the publication is also going to have UK national elements, the process will need to be repeated for the UK version.



Study draft

2.16. **Editing.** When you have completed your study draft, the editors will review and edit your publication before it is sent out on circulation. They will edit your publication in Word using track changes so they can review the changes and comments with you and clarify any ambiguous areas – therefore, make sure you will be available to do this or it will delay your timelines. At this stage you should have a complete study draft, which includes the preface, lexicon and chapter key points.



When you are planning your timelines, assume the editors will need two weeks to work on your publication at each stage. This is a good planning time, but the actual time required will depend on the length and complexity of your publication. Discuss your requirements with the editors before you start.

2.17. **Graphics.** If you have not already been working with the Graphics Manager to develop your graphical content, you should send any graphic requirements to the Graphics Manager when your publication is sent out for study draft to allow plenty of time to prepare all content before work on the ratification draft starts. Note that it is essential that all diagrams should be included in the study draft, even though they are likely to be initial, rough drafts; they are an important part of the publication. Any imagery you have already sourced can also be included in your study draft but imagery is not essential at this stage. The professionally produced DCDC-style diagrams and high-quality imagery will be added at the ratification draft stage.

2.18. **Graphics requirements for final publication.** Before you start looking for images, speak to the Graphics Manager so they can give you guidance on where to look and the information they will need from you to find the correct images for final use. As a guide, you will need one image per chapter for the chapter spread, ideally use a portrait picture for these as they will fit the space best. You will also need to have something that breaks up the page every spread or two. This could be diagrams, tables, quotes, vignettes or images. Although we will not know the final layout until it goes into the publishing software, if you bear the requirement in mind, you

can make sure there are options to work with when you get to that stage. You will also need a strong image for the front cover. It is helpful if you can provide a selection of images for the Graphics Manager so they can produce the most effective front cover. Images should be high-resolution (at least 300 dpi²⁸). Again the Graphics Manager can advise you on this.

2.19. **Communications campaign plan.** At this stage, you should have started communicating (where appropriate) about your forthcoming publication to various audiences as part of a through-life communications campaign plan and your project initiation document stakeholder engagement plan. Once the study draft has been circulated, your communications approach is likely to change and should include more short- and long-form content, for example, videos, infographics, social media messaging and articles. Following a conversation with the Communications Manager, you will come up with the next stage of the plan together. Do not leave your communication planning, including digital outputs such as videos to the end of your writing stage. When you are planning your timelines, assume the Communications Manager and Digital Content Lead will need three weeks to work on your plan at each stage.

Ratification draft

2.20. When the editors receive your ratification draft, they carry out a two-step process. The first stage is to re-edit the publication in Word, in the same way they edited the study draft, so they will need a clean version without track changes to start with (and you will need to be available to discuss any changes). You should have included a short paragraph introduction for each chapter by this stage too.

2.21. The second stage is to put your publication into InDesign. It is important that you have provided all the elements needed at this stage: the diagrams, images, text, quotes, etc. You will need to review the publication in its new form. Once this process has been completed, your publication will be ready for ratification draft circulation.

.....
28 'dpi' means dots per inch and is a measure of spatial printing.

2.22. Whilst the publication is out on circulation, you will need to finalise your distribution list with the Publishing Manager so they can get financial quotes and complete the relevant paperwork. You will also need to write the release statement required to publish the publication online. The Digital Content Lead will advise you of what you need to do.

2.23. At this stage, it is also the time to finalise your communications campaign plan content. Ahead of publishing your document, you will be required to gain approval through your chain of command and the Communications Manager will gain approval through the Directorate of Defence Communications (DDC) when required. Starting this process now will ensure there is not a delay in publishing once the document is ready.

Publishing stage

2.24. Once your publication has completed ratification draft circulation, any final tweaks made and it has been signed off by the authorising officer, we are ready to publish! Remember to factor into your timeline the time needed to sign off your publication (both within DCDC and externally if appropriate) and make sure it is booked into the authorising officer's work plan. There are two stages to the promulgation process.

- a. **Web promulgation.** The first stage is to publish on our online platforms. As part of a legal obligation, DCDC publications will need to be made accessible so the final stage can take up to a week (depending on the size and complexity) to complete. To be fully accessible the publication must have bookmarks, alternative text for images and diagrams and the reading order must be checked. You may be asked for alternative text input by the editors. Once ready, the Publications Manager will use your pre-agreed release statement to upload the publication on the Defence Intranet and, where appropriate depending on the publication's classification, the Defence Gateway and gov.uk. When your publication is on these sites it is officially promulgated. Links to your publication will be promulgated via routine internal and external cascades.

b. **Hard copy production.** The hard copy production is the second step. The Publishing Manager will send the files to the printers, who will, in turn, send us a hard copy proof. You will need to review this proof and give your go ahead. The editors and Graphics Manager will also review the publication proof looking for production issues, but you will sign off the content. Once any changes have been made, they will be sent back to the printer and the Publishing Manager will request a final soft copy proof for the editors to check that any final changes have been made correctly. Once content, the editors will give the go ahead for the publication to be printed. Once printed, some hard copies will come to DCDC for internal use and the rest are sent to the storage facility in Portsmouth. From there the initial distribution you have requested via the distribution list will be completed and the rest will be held in storage ready for requests made through the Millie Online Portal.



“I’m not totally thrilled with our distribution process.”

Section 4 – Microsoft Word shortcuts

2.25. The following list comprises Microsoft Word shortcuts, which may be of help to you whilst you are writing your publication. The list is not exhaustive, but hopefully covers some of the most helpful ones.

- Ctrl + Z – undo last action
- Ctrl + Y – redo last action
- Ctrl + C – copy selected text/images
- Ctrl + V – paste selected images
- Ctrl + P – print the document
- Ctrl + S – save the document
- Ctrl + F – opens ‘find’ tab
- Ctrl + H – opens ‘find and replace’ tab
- Shift + F5 – returns to last point edited
- Ctrl + F6 – changes through word documents open
- Double click word – selects word
- Ctrl + click on word – selects sentence
- Triple click word – selects paragraph
- Shift + left or right arrow key – if you have selected text with your mouse and missing a few letters (saves having to reselect!)
- Shift + F3 – toggles through capitalisation
- Ctrl + shift + A – capitalises all selected text
- Ctrl + B – applies **bold** format
- Ctrl + I – applies *italic* format
- Ctrl + L – left justify
- Ctrl + R – right justify
- Ctrl + E – centre
- Ctrl + J – justify
- Ctrl + enter – inserts page break
- Shift + return – inserts half return
- Alt + ctrl + F – insert footnote

Notes

“

I think a good definition is like a good poem: beautiful and worthwhile in itself. But not every subject gets a poem, and not every word needs a definition.

”

Erin McKean
Lexicographer



Chapter 3

Terminology

3.1. Terminology is an important element of our work. At times it may seem trivial, but establishing a common understanding is vital, particularly when working with other government departments and international partners. When we operate with others, we need to be clear that we all have the same understanding of a term; this is made more difficult when we in Defence do not have a commonly agreed single definition.

3.2. A common problem we see in Defence is multiple definitions for the same concept and no one knowing which is the correct one to use. This problem can be avoided by following the process and guidance in this chapter. There is a hierarchy of terms and definitions we use, which is:

- *Concise Oxford English Dictionary*;
- NATOTerm; and
- Joint Doctrine Publication (JDP) 0-01.1, *UK Terminology Supplement to NATOTerm*.

When looking for a definition, you should always check these sources first and use already agreed terminology before creating a new definition. If a

new definition is needed, it is important to follow the process outlined in this chapter to ensure it becomes a formally agreed definition.

Definition versus description

3.3. There is a common misunderstanding that every term needs a definition. This is not the case. In the first instance, the process below should be followed to see if there is already agreed terminology that should be used. If there is not, now is the time to decide if a definition is needed, or maybe you should be writing a description at this stage of your work.



A new **definition** is suitable for an established concept.



A **description** is more suitable for a developing concept, which allows it to develop as the concept develops before an agreed position is reached. At this point, it may be suitable to propose as a definition.

3.4. We must use the following processes for all our publications, not just doctrine. For concepts work that may feed into doctrine at a later stage, it is important that we develop sound terminology at the beginning of the process so it does not need to be reinvented to conform to terminological standards later on. Remember that any term used in a publication's lexicon should refer to its source.

3.5. A **definition** is formally agreed and defined as: **a formal statement of the exact meaning of a word.**¹² There are standards definitions should abide by,¹³ which include:

- being concise, ideally one sentence;
- not including the term in the definition to avoid it becoming circular;
- not including lists in the definition to restrict it; and
- abbreviations should be written in full.

.....
12 *Concise Oxford English Dictionary*, 12th Edition, 2011.

13 See paragraph 3.30 for more information.

Whilst definitions are important, they are not always appropriate, particularly when a new concept is being developed. At this stage a description is more appropriate. A **description** gives people the opportunity to develop the idea as it needs to develop without either constricting it because a definition has already been agreed or risking multiple 'definitions' being used as more are created as the idea develops.

3.6. **Compound terms.** Compound terms are built by combining two or more simple terms; for example, 'triple' is a single word term, but 'triple heart bypass' is a compound term. If the meaning of the compound term can be understood from the definitions of the individual terms, no definition is required. If there is additional context or information needed for the compound term to be understood, a definition may be appropriate.

Terminology process

3.7. Following the 2012 direction by the Chief of the Defence Staff and Permanent Under Secretary to 'put NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Organization] at the heart of Defence', we also apply this direction to terminology. Desk officers should be aware of the following guiding principles when using terminology and aim to use the hierarchy of agreed terminology whenever possible, as stated in paragraph 3.2.

3.8. **Concise Oxford English Dictionary.** This is the primary source publication for all terminology (even NATO, who also use *Le Petit Robert* for the French equivalent). Where a definition already exists in the dictionary and it is applicable to the context you are using it in, you should use it without modifying or enhancing it.¹⁴ If, however, the definition is not fit for purpose for your concept, then move on to the next stage – NATOTerm.

3.9. **NATOTerm.** This is NATO's terminology database. In the past, NATO maintained many individual glossaries. The overarching glossary used to be Allied Administrative Publication (AAP)-06, *NATO Glossary of Terms and Definitions*, which contained:

- 'general terminology with a specific military meaning;

.....
14 Make sure you are using the most up-to-date version of the hard copy – not an online version. In 2023, the most current version is the 12th Edition, published 2011.

- specialist terminology that needs to be widely understood throughout NATO; as well as
- terms that are not adequately defined in the NATO Terminology Programme's reference dictionaries (*Concise Oxford English Dictionary* and *Le Petit Robert*), thus promoting mutual understanding and strengthening the Alliance's defence capabilities.¹⁵

NATOTerm is updated continually as terms and definitions are agreed and you should always use NATOTerm as the authoritative source. NATOTerm now holds more than 10,000 terms and definitions and has incorporated more than 20 other specialist subject glossaries, for example, AAP-39, *NATO Handbook of Land Operations Terminology* and Allied Medical Publication (AMedP)-13, *NATO Glossary of Medical Terms and Definitions*. If there is no suitable definition for your concept in NATOTerm, then move on to the next stage – UK terminology.

3.10. Joint Doctrine Publication 0-01.1, *UK Terminology Supplement to NATOTerm*. If the *Concise Oxford English Dictionary* and NATOTerm do not have a definition that is fit for purpose, then check JDP 0-01.1, *UK Terminology Supplement to NATOTerm*. The UK publishes its own glossary for terms that have not been defined by NATO or the NATO definition does not suit our national needs. Because NATO terminology is agreed by the nations, there will be times when it is suitable for the NATO context, but not the UK one and there are also terms that politically nations cannot agree to in NATO. However, the biggest issue can be producing all NATO terminology in two languages, English and French. Unlike translating documents where there is a degree of latitude in the words you can use to describe the content of the sentence, in terminology it must be a direct translation. There are words in both languages that do not have an equivalent in the other, making it sometimes impossible to agree on a definition without changing the meaning in one language. Therefore, in these situations, and where we are developing new concepts, agreed UK terminology will be developed. If appropriate, we should also consider proposing these new terms to NATO to be included in NATOTerm if agreed. If you have a definition you would like to add, the process on page 41 should be followed to ensure it is formally agreed.

.....
15 Quoted from the now obsolete AAP-06, *NATO Glossary of Terms and Definitions*.



Agreed terminology ensures we all have the same understanding of a term

Section 1 – NATO terminology

3.11. For NATO terminology, a team within the NATO Standardization Office (NSO) – the NATO Terminology Office – coordinates all activity through the NATO Terminology Programme. NATOTerm shows the status of entries as NATO Agreed, NATO Adopted, Not NATO Agreed, and NATO Cancelled. A description of these categories is shown below.

NATOTerm entry statuses

- ◆ **NATO Agreed (green diamond).** These definitions have been through the NATO Terminology Programme and have been NATO Agreed by a tasking authority. These terms and definitions should be used wherever possible instead of UK equivalents.
- ◆ **NATO Adopted (blue diamond).** These definitions have been produced by another body or organisation and they have been reproduced faithfully in NATOTerm. They tend to be more technical or specialist definitions. They may include definitions from the United Nations or the International Organization for Standardization, amongst others.

- ◆ **Not NATO Agreed (yellow diamond).** These definitions have often been used in NATO publications but they have not been through the formal approval process. Some of these terms have been developed by sub-group subject matter experts and so, whilst valid in terms of content, they have not had the rigour of the NATO Terminology Office checking them for consistency, form and conformity to terminological standards. You can use these definitions, but use them with caution.
- ◆ **NATO Cancelled (red diamond).** These definitions are no longer valid for use, but they are kept in the database for legacy purposes. They can be useful when researching terminology, but be careful not to use them.

3.12. If you are involved in developing (or reviewing) NATO terminology through working groups or NATO boards, you should familiarise yourself with the NATO terminology policy documents:

- **PO(2015)0193, *NATO Terminology Directive***, which describes the procedures and responsibilities of the various actors; and
- **AAP-77, *NATO Terminology Manual***, which explains the basic concepts of NATO terminology (based on ISO¹⁶ standards).

Both of these policy documents are available through the NATO NSO password-protected site,¹⁷ along with a terminology *Quick Start Guide* and the Terminology Tracking File (TTF) Tracker. Be aware that NATO uses the first use *Concise Oxford English Dictionary* entries in its work, including terminology, so it often uses '-ize' word endings rather than '-ise'.

3.13. **Terminology tracking file.** If you need to review NATO terminology, the TTF is a useful reference document to look at.¹⁸ There is a TTF for

.....
16 ISO is not an acronym. Although ISO standards are managed by the International Organization for Standardization, the word 'ISO' is actually derived from the Greek word 'isos' meaning equal.

17 Access through <https://nso.nato.int> – you can apply for a password via the site. If you are doing any NATO doctrine development work, you will need access to the site.

18 TTFs can be found in the TTF Tracker database, which can be accessed through the NSO password-protected site.

each definition and the form contains the history of the definition, any discussions that have taken place and any proposals to modify or cancel it. It captures nations' responses to the proposals and it is useful to see the journey of the term as there are often numerous modification proposals for one term over its lifetime.

3.14. **Proposing new NATO definitions.** If you need to propose a new definition to the NATO glossary, you should follow the guidance in the NATO terminology policy documents in paragraph 3.12. Section 3 of this chapter gives an introduction to the key information you should know about terms and definitions. The following list offers a quick overview of the steps to follow when proposing new NATO terminology. The steps include:

- checking the concept is not already covered in the reference dictionaries (*Concise Oxford English Dictionary* and *Le Petit Robert*) or other reference sources (including ISO standards, etc.);
- completing a 'terminology proposal form'¹⁹ with all sections filled in with as much detail as possible (term, synonyms, abbreviations, definition, notes, if required, and a clear justification for why the definition is required) and any background information that will help the NATO Terminology Office when they review the proposal; and
- submitting the terminology proposal form to the NATO Terminology Office for processing.

3.15. **Proposing modifications or cancellations of existing terminology.**

When reviewing publications, it may become clear that a definition is no longer fit for purpose because the context or concept has evolved over time. When this happens it is important that you address the issue and do not try to work around it or invent a new definition alongside the agreed one. Instead, follow the same process described in paragraph 3.14 and use the terminology proposal form to start a modification request. The same process should be followed if you come across a term that is no longer relevant and should be removed from the NATO glossary; a

¹⁹ Available under the 'Terminology> NATO Terminology Programme' tab on the NSO password-protected site.

cancellation proposal should be submitted using the terminology proposal form. Although modifications can take time to process and are often seen as a frustration rather than useful process, it is important we try to keep NATO terminology fit for purpose and current so we can use it instead of UK-only terminology, where possible.

3.16. **Military Committee Terminology Board.** The Development, Concepts and Doctrine Centre's (DCDC's) Editor 2 is the UK's joint terminology representative at NATO's Military Committee Terminology Board (MCTB). With the MCTB being a NATO tasking authority, the terms and definitions that are discussed at the board have often been through other working groups that other DCDC desk officers have been involved in. It is therefore important to make sure that Editor 2 is aware of any particular issues that may arise at the MCTB. To prepare for the MCTB, Editor 2 will compile a consolidated list of terms and definitions to be discussed, along with their initial comments and suggested responses, and distribute it to the Joint Doctrine Steering Committee (JDSC) Terminology Panel for review. This approach ensures that subject matter experts are involved, particularly from the communities who are preparing NATO doctrine, to ensure the doctrine and terminology is aligned and the UK is not contradicting itself in its response. Following this consultation, Editor 2 submits a UK comment to NATO ahead of the MCTB. Following the MCTB, a three-month silence period follows and the draft record of decisions is circulated to the same group, in case silence needs to be broken for any term. Editor 2 will break silence if required.

3.17. **Advice.** If you are discussing terminology at any NATO board or working group and would like any advice on terms and definitions, please speak to Editor 2. They can also advise and assist if you need to submit TTFs to the NATO Terminology Office.



Terminology is 'applied philosophy', in the sense that it forces you to think about the nature of a concept, that is: to think about the essence of something, about what it really is.

Folkert Zijlstra
Former Head of NATO Terminology Office

Section 2 – UK terminology

3.18. Although the UK's policy is to adopt NATO terms and definitions as our own wherever possible, we will sometimes need to differ. UK-only terms are contained in JDP 0-01.1, *UK Terminology Supplement to NATO Term*. It is important that we use formally agreed definitions within Defence so we can be consistent in our understanding and use.

3.19. **Joint Doctrine Steering Committee Terminology Panel.** To try and ensure that terminology is developed and agreed by the whole stakeholder community and to improve coherence within Defence, a JDSC Terminology Panel has been established, with representatives from across the single Services and commands, to discuss UK and NATO terminology before it is formally agreed. The JDSC Terminology Panel ensures the term and definition are correct from a content point of view, as well as being terminologically correct (see Section 3). Anyone can submit a proposal for UK terminology using the UK TTF template and it should be sent to Editor 2 to then process. Contact Editor 2 for advice if you have any queries.

3.20. **Adding new terms to the glossary.** New terms are likely to emerge as publications are developed and these terms and definitions should be included in the publication's lexicon. Only new definitions in JDPs will be automatically added to the UK supplement because, unlike joint doctrine notes and joint concept notes, the publication has been ratified by the JDSC, and the terms and definitions with it. However, new definitions proposed in other publications may be included as a helpful reference, but they will be marked as not ratified. Any addition proposals should be submitted to Editor 2 using the UK TTF template.

3.21. **Modifying terminology.** There may be occasions when UK agreed terminology is no longer fit for purpose. When this is the case, speak to Editor 2 who will advise you on the appropriate process to follow. It is very easy to try and ignore the modification process but it is an important step to make sure all terminology is current and fit for purpose.

3.22. **Cancelling terminology.** As we try to influence NATO and develop doctrine with other nations, it is possible that UK definitions will become NATO Agreed terminology. If this is the case, the term and definition

will be removed from JDP 0-01.1 when it is next revised. If a term and definition is also no longer current or required, it will also be removed from JDP 0-01.1 on its revision. There will be the opportunity for DCDC desk officers and the JDSC Terminology Panel to review the revised JDP 0-01.1 before publication. They will be asked to check that any modifications or removals are correct as they are the subject matter experts for their areas.

Section 3 – Terms and definitions

3.23. As many DCDC desk officers will not have developed terms and definitions in previous roles, this section gives a brief overview of how definitions should be developed and the pitfalls to avoid. It is not a definitive guide, the NATO terminology guides referred to in paragraph 3.12 give much more detail on what is a very complex and involved subject. Editor 2 can also offer further advice and should be consulted before any requests are submitted.

Terms

3.24. **The concept.** The starting point for developing any terminology should be the concept. The concept will be connected to other concepts in a 'concept system' and you will need to understand how the concept system connects before you start to develop definitions. The concept system ranks and connects concepts in descending order from the most general to most specific. Figure 3.1 illustrates the idea of a concept system.

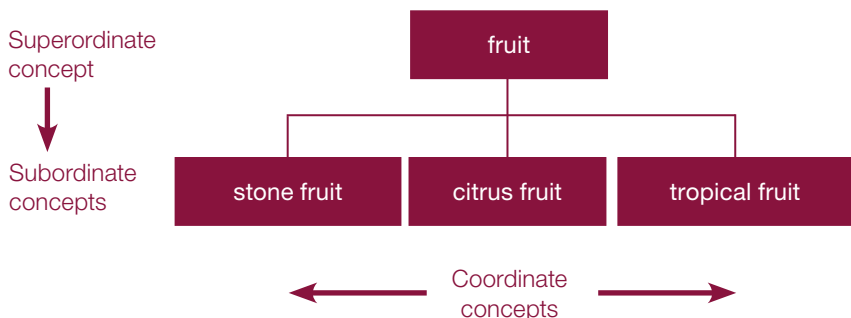


Figure 3.1 – An example of a concept system

3.25. **The designation.** The designation is the label that represents a concept. It should be as precise as possible to reflect the underlying concept. A designation can take many forms, although we only deal with the first two of the following examples:

- a term;
- an abbreviation;
- a code or formula (for example, H₂O for water);
- a symbol or icon (for example, map symbols); or
- a picture or diagram (for example, male and female door signs).

3.26. **Synonymy.** Be aware that there may be a number of designations to define the same concept. This is called synonymy. If the term you are developing has a number of synonyms, they should all be recorded as part of the entry, but labelled appropriately to help the user understand the status of the synonym. The designations should be labelled as:

- **‘preferred’** for the best designation for the context that will be used as a first choice wherever possible;
- **‘admitted’** for other designations that are acceptable to use but not the first choice designation; and
- **‘deprecated’** for those designations that are no longer acceptable to use.

A terminology entry

3.27. A terminology entry is made up of a number of constituent parts, which are prescribed in ISO 704. The parts are the:

- term;
- abbreviation or acronym;
- definition;
- notes;
- example; and
- source.

An example of a terminological entry is shown on the next page.

Example of a terminological entry	
Term	operation
Abbreviation	Op OP (admitted)
Definition	A sequence of coordinated actions with a defined purpose.
Notes	1. NATO operations are military. 2. NATO operations contribute to a wider approach including non-military actions.
Example	
Source	MCJSB, 10/04/2014

3.28. **Term.** A term is defined as: **verbal designation of a concept in a specific subject field.**²⁰ It should consist of one or two words, but not phrases. The term should only use capital letters if it is a proper noun. When writing the term in the terminological entry, write it in the correct case (as you would write it in text) – for example, the word ‘operation’ above is correct rather than ‘Operation’. Underneath the term, you should also list any synonyms if there are any.

3.29. **Abbreviations or acronyms.** Any abbreviations or acronyms that can be used for the term should be listed. You should include all relevant abbreviations and label them, if appropriate, with ‘admitted’ or ‘deprecated’.

3.30. **Definition.** The definition is the description of the concept that provides enough information to differentiate it from another concept. For example, a bad definition for a rifle would be ‘a weapon with a metal barrel through which bullets are fired’ – this could apply to any gun. A better definition would be ‘a gun, especially one fired from shoulder level, having a long spirally-grooved barrel to make a bullet spin and thereby increase accuracy over a long distance’.²¹ If the definition of the concept

20 Taken from International Standards Organization (ISO) 1087-1:2000, *Terminology work*.

21 *Concise Oxford English Dictionary*, 12th Edition, 2011.

is self-explanatory, ask yourself if you should be developing a definition at all; this is particularly important when considering compound terms. Where possible, you should write an 'intensional' definition, which consists of three parts:

- a **qualifier** (required if the definition only applies in a certain subject field, for example, 'in terminology...');
- the **superordinate term** (when the term is based on a generic concept); and
- the **essential characteristics** of the concept (what makes it unique).

The definition should not include the term in the definition (which can cause a circular definition), any acronyms or abbreviations, or a list. There are some basic rules to remember when you are developing terminology, including:

- a definition should be concise, ideally just one sentence long;
- use active verbs where possible;
- do not include the term in the definition or it will become a circular definition;
- a definition should not contain lists as this can over-restrict the concept;
- a definition should not contain policy, doctrinal statements or descriptions of procedure;
- the definition should not contain any acronyms or abbreviations, they should be written out in full; and
- avoid using gender references in your definition, use plural terms if you need to.

3.31. **Notes.** Notes should be used sparingly, but they should be used to give additional information about the concept that is not essential to the definition itself. The note may include a list of things that are included or not included in the concept, or explain part of the definition further. An example of how to use notes is shown below.

communication system

An assembly of equipment, methods and procedures and, if necessary, personnel, organized to accomplish information transfer functions.

Notes: 1. A communication system provides communication between its users and may embrace transmission systems, switching systems and user systems.

2. A communication system may also include storage or processing functions in support of information transfer.

C3B, 29/05/2002

3.32. **Example.** Examples are not often used, but if you need to add examples, make sure you use the examples field in the entry and do not incorporate them into the definition. An example of a definition that includes a note and examples is shown below.

transmission medium

The physical support used to transfer signals.

Note: the term transmission medium is often used incorrectly to mean a means of transmission.

Examples: copper cable; coaxial cable; optical fibre; free space.

C3B, 16/04/1993

3.33. **Source.** The reference source and year must be included in the entry. If the definition has come from another source (another organisation's glossary, for example) and has been reproduced faithfully (in NATO these are likely to become NATO Adopted definitions), the source should be the original document. If, however, the definition originally came from another source but it has been modified to suit the context, the source should read 'derived from: source name, date' and also include the new term approval reference (in NATO this will be the approving board; in the UK, the publication it is used in).

Linked concept definitions

3.34. When you are defining terms that are part of a concept system (see Figure 3.1), it is important to make sure that all the definitions in the family are worded consistently. The definitions should make it possible to reconstitute the diagram. An example is shown in Figure 3.2.

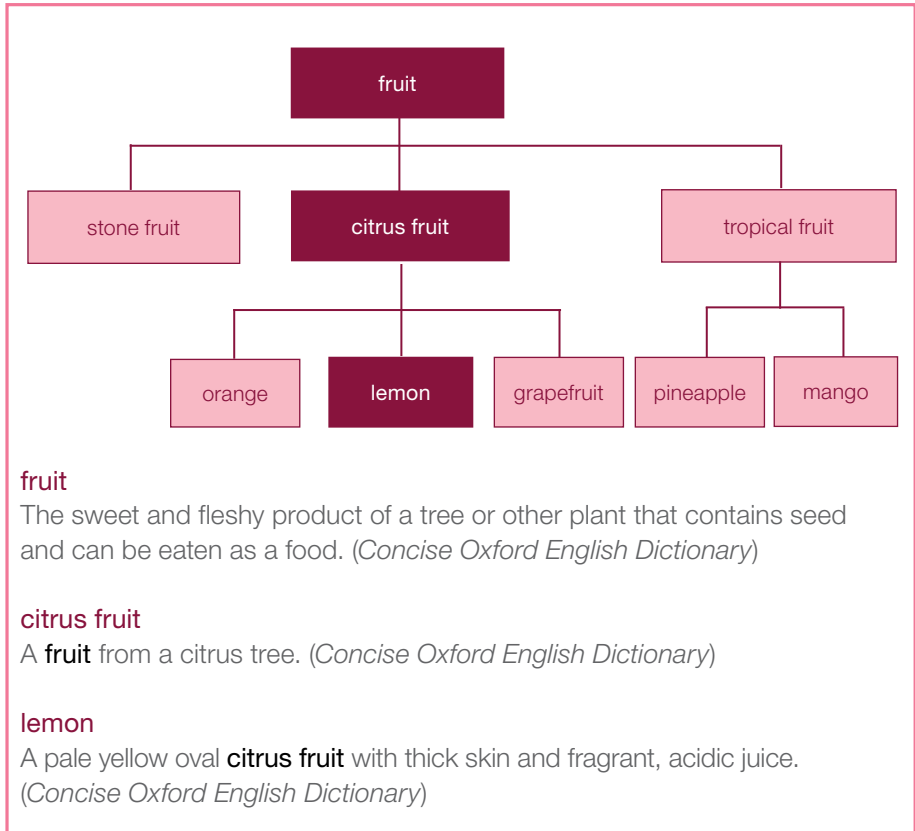


Figure 3.2 – An example of linked concept definitions



Success is neither magical nor mysterious. Success is the natural consequence of consistently applying basic fundamentals.



Jim Rohn
Entrepreneur



Chapter 4

Writing style guide

4.1. This chapter sets out the styles, spelling and grammar conventions that we, the Development, Concepts and Doctrine Centre (DCDC), use for our publications. The chapter is laid out in alphabetical order. We use a house style to make sure our publications are produced to the same high standard and they are consistent with each other.

4.2. Although publication layouts will change depending on the type of publication, the content should be recognisable as a DCDC product. The list is not exhaustive. As a general rule we will use first use in the *Concise Oxford English Dictionary* for guidance where it is not included here. The only obvious deviation we make is using ‘-ise’ rather than ‘-ize’ at the end of words, even if not first use in the dictionary. NATOTerm is also a useful resource for conventions of military terms. If you have any questions, see DCDC’s editors.²²

.....
22 The majority of the following entries are in line with the Government Digital Service style guide, NATOTerm and the *Land Doctrine Style Guide*.

A

abbreviations and acronyms

Try not to use acronyms and abbreviations, but if you do use them:

- do not use abbreviations/acronyms in titles;
- introduce abbreviations/acronyms with their first use in the main text in each chapter (you only need to introduce something in footnotes if you have not already introduced it in the main text);
- do not use two-letter abbreviations/acronyms (apart from agreed ones – see paragraph 1.20);
- do not capitalise the term when introducing in the text;
- do not use full stops in abbreviations;
- all acronyms and abbreviations should be in the lexicon; and
- all diagrams should have a legend.

accomplish

See 'linked words'.

achieve

See 'linked words'.

act, act of Parliament

Lower case. Only capitalise when using the full title: for example, Armed Forces Act 2006.

active voice

Use the active rather than passive voice wherever appropriate to do so.

adviser

Not advisor, but advisory is the correct adjective.

air force

Another nation's air force is lower case, but if you are referring to our air force, use the full title (capitalised), the Royal Air Force.

airport of disembarkation/embarkation

Lower case and airport is one word.

Allied joint publication

Capitalise 'Allied' but lower case 'joint publication' unless it is part of a publications title, in which case it will be title case. For example, Allied Joint Publication-01, *Allied Joint Doctrine*.

allies/allied

Generally we use lower case allies/allied, unless it is in the NATO context, in which case it is Allies/Allied, including Allied joint publications.

America, Americans

The country is referred to as the United States (US) but its citizens are Americans.

ampersand

Use 'and' not '&'. The only exceptions are if it is a department's logo or a company's name as it appears on the Companies House register.

anti-access and area denial (A2AD)

Lower case, anti-access is hyphenated but area denial is not.

antiterrorism

One word, no hyphen.

apostrophes

We do not use contracted words in our work (for example, use 'do not' instead of 'don't') so the only apostrophe use should be for possessive phrases, where appropriate, using normal grammar rules. We do not use apostrophes for decades and centuries, for example, 1980s is correct.

armed forces

If you are discussing armed forces in general, it is lower case. If you are talking about another stated nation's armed forces or the UK Armed Forces, it is capitalised.

army

Another nation's army is lower case, but if you are referring to our army, use the full title (capitalised), the British Army.

attaché

Lower case, even as Defence attaché.

attain

See 'linked words'.

B

basic level budget (BLB)

Lower case, no hyphen.

battlefield

One word, no hyphen.

battle group

Two words, no hyphen, in line with NATO.

battlespace

NATO has agreed that 'battlespace' and 'engagement space' are synonyms. The UK's preferred term is engagement space.

board

Use lower case unless it is part of a proper title. So, capitalise for the Military Committee Terminology Board, but lower case for Joint Force Development's management board.

bold

Use **bold** for emphasis instead of block capitals or underlining.

brackets

Use (round brackets), not [square brackets]. We generally only use square brackets for explanatory notes in reported speech:

“Thank you [Foreign Minister] Mr Smith.”

Do not use round brackets to refer to something that could either be singular or plural, like 'Check which document(s) you need to send.' Always use the plural instead, as this will cover each possibility: 'Check which documents you need to send.'

bullet points

Use bullet points for lists and use the conventions set out in paragraph 1.31.

business plan

Lower case.

C**cabinet**

The cabinet is lower case.

capital letters

At DCDC, we use the following rules for capitalisations.

- Use capital letters for proper nouns.
- Do not use capital letters to emphasise acronyms/abbreviations, unless they are proper nouns. For example, captured persons (CPERS) or Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS).
- Use title case for publication titles (for example, Joint Theatre Entry) but use sentence case for any titles within the publication (for example, Section 1 – An introduction to capital letters).
- Block capital letters are not used for ship names, operation names or exercise names, for example, HMS Dragon and Operation Telic are correct.
- Block capitals are used for security classifications, for example, OFFICIAL or OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE.

captions

All images should have a one-sentence caption underneath them with no full stop. (Also see ‘figures’ and ‘tables’.)

century

Lower case for general use, but Century for a specific one, for example, 21st Century.

chapter

Lower case, unless the chapter name. For example, ‘Chapter 1 covers ...’, but ‘this chapter looks at ...’.

Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS)

Not Chief of Defence Staff.

Chief of the Defence Staff directive (CDS directive)

Not the Chief of the Defence Staff operational directive.

Chief of the Defence Staff planning directive (CDS planning directive)

Lower case for planning directive for general use.

civil servants

Lower case.

Civil Service

Capitalised.

coalition

Lower case in all instances, including 'the coalition'.

collocate

One word, no hyphen. Not co-locate.

colon and semicolon

There is no reason not to use colons and semicolons in your work, but use them correctly if you do.

- a. **Colons (:).** There are three main uses of the colon. First, between two main clauses where the second clause explains or follows on from the first. For example, 'The role of the colon is simple: to introduce.' Note there is one space after the colon and the second clause has a lower case first letter. Second, and the most popular use, a colon is used to introduce lists, (see paragraph 1.31). Finally, the colon is used to introduce a definition, quotation or direct speech.

- b. **Semicolons (;).** The semicolon is used to mark a break that is stronger than a comma but not as final as a full stop. It is used between two main clauses that balance each other and are too closely linked to be made into separate sentences. For example, 'The river runs through a sparsely wooded valley; the railway line

follows it.’ Note that both clauses should be able to be read as stand-alone sentences.

command and control

Lower case and the acronym ‘C2’ is avoided in our publications where possible and written in full instead.

command paper

Lower case.

comprehensive approach

Lower case and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization’s (NATO’s) preferred term rather than ‘integrated approach’.

conduct

See ‘linked words’.

contractions

Do not use contractions (for example, use ‘do not’ rather than ‘don’t’).

cooperate

One word, no hyphen.

coordinate/coordination

One word, no hyphen.

counter-attack

Two words, hyphenated.

counter-insurgency

Two words, hyphenated.

counter-intelligence

Two words, hyphenated.

countermeasures

One word, no hyphen.

counterterrorism

One word, no hyphen.

create

See 'linked words'.

cross-government

Two words, hyphenated. In most cases, cross-government will be the correct term rather than cross-Whitehall.

cross-Whitehall

The preferred term is cross-government, unless it is being used specifically for a particular context.

cyberattack

One word, no hyphen.

cyberspace

One word, no hyphen.

D

dashes

There are two types of dashes that we use and these have different purposes. We use hyphens within words (for example, decision-making) where there is no space either side. We also use 'en dashes' (longer than a hyphen) between words with a space either side (for example, Section 1 – Dashes) or for number ranges (for example, pages 6–8).

dates

Dates should be written in full (for example, 3 March 2016). Decades should be written in figures rather than words (1990s rather than 'the nineties').

decision-making/decision-makers

Two words, hyphenated.

deconflict/deconfliction

One word, no hyphen.

defence

Lower case for general use but Defence when using it as a substitute for the Ministry of Defence.

Defence engagement

Only Defence is capitalised, engagement is lower case.

Defence lines of development (DLOD)

Only Defence is capitalised, the rest is lower case.

Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl)

The abbreviation is Dstl and not DSTL.

Defence Supply Chain

Capitalised.

definitions

Definitions should be introduced as – the term is defined as: **definition follows the colon and should be in the chapter colour.**²³

There is more information on how to change text colours in Annex A. Any colour is fine for draft work and the editors will make sure it is the correct colour when producing the InDesign version.

department

Lower case except when using it in a title, for example, Department for Transport.

dependant

A family member.

dependent

Contingent on or determined by.

.....
²³ At the end of your definition you must footnote your source. If it is a new proposed or modified definition, this should be made clear in the text.

descriptions

Descriptions are not authoritative, they are just a helpful explanation for the reader. They should read as normal text with no colour, speech marks or colons. So, for example, a description of this concept would be written like this.

E

earth

Lower case if referring to the ground, but Earth if referring to the planet.

edition

Lower case for general use, but Edition for a specific edition.

effect

See 'linked words'.

e.g.

Do not use e.g., instead you could use 'for example', 'such as', 'like' or 'including', whichever works best for the context. (Also see i.e.)

electromagnetic

One word, no hyphen.

emphasis

We use **bold** for emphasis, never underlining or block capitals, which are harder to read.

end state

Two words, not hyphenated. (Also see 'linked words'.)

engagement space

NATO has agreed that 'battlespace' and 'engagement space' are synonyms. The UK's preferred term is engagement space.

etc.

Abbreviation of et cetera, meaning 'and so on'.

European Union (EU)

Capitalised, acronym is acceptable if using it frequently, but only after it has been introduced in full.

Excel

Capitalised if referring to Microsoft Excel because it is a brand name.

exercise

Lower case for general use but title case for exercise names, for example, Exercise Titan.

F**figures**

All figures (diagrams) must be introduced in the main text (ideally in the paragraph before). Figures must have a caption, set out as shown: Figure X.X – Title of figure. Figures should be numbered sequentially throughout the chapter, for example: Chapter 1 includes Figure 1.1, Figure 1.2; and Chapter 2 includes, Figure 2.1 and Figure 2.2. You should not label tables as figures. (Also see ‘tables’.)

Five Eyes (FVEY)

Not hyphenated and not 5-Eyes.

focused/focusing

One ‘s’ not two.

footnotes

Footnotes are placed after punctuation. For example,²⁴ if this was your sentence.²⁵ Ideally footnotes are placed at the end of the sentence, but if it is directly related to a word or phrase in the sentence, put the footnote with it to avoid confusion.

forward slash

See ‘solidus’.

.....
24 Footnote comes after the comma.

25 Footnote comes after the full stop.

fractions

Write out and hyphenate fractions, for example, two-thirds, three-quarters.

Freedom of Information (FOI)

You can make a Freedom of Information request, but not a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

full/ful

There is just one English word ending in 'full' and that is full. All others end with -ful.

G

gender neutral

Be gender neutral in your work. Use plural (they, their) instead of specific (he, his, she, her) when describing general situations, for example, a commander and their staff instead of a commander and his staff. This is also the same rule for NATO publications.

geography and regions

Capitalise for definite geographical places, regions, area and countries (The Hague, Brazil, Wiltshire), and vague but recognised political or geographical areas (the Middle East, South Atlantic, the West). Unless it is part of the official name (for example, South America), use lower case for compass points (for example, east, west, north, south, south-west, north-east, western Europe).

government

Lower case unless part of an official title.

gray zone

American spelling of 'gray' because this is a United States concept that has not currently been endorsed in the UK.

Great Britain

Refers only to England, Scotland and Wales, and excludes Northern Ireland. Although there will be times that Great Britain will be correct term (particularly for legal contexts), it is more likely you should be using UK.

H

higher level budget (HLB)

Lower case, no hyphen.

HM Government

Only used for document sources and not instead of UK government. If it is used in the main text it should read 'His Majesty's (HM)', but it can be written as HM Government in footnotes without the introduction as long as HM is in the lexicon.

HMS

Capitalised for HMS but title case for the name, for example, HMS Ark Royal.

host nation

Two words, no hyphen.

hurricane

Use title case for named hurricanes, for example, Hurricane Katrina.

hyperlinks

If you are using hyperlinks to link to source data or references, put them in the document as a footnote and check the link is valid. If you are writing in Word, a short introduction should precede the link, for example, 'Further information is available at...'. If your publication is being produced in InDesign, the link will be embedded in the reference so the web address is hidden. If your publication is being published on an external website (for example, gov.uk) only use external web links and not Sharepoint ones.

hyphens

Use hyphens within words (for example, decision-making) where there is no space either side. (Also see 'dashes'.)

I

ibid.

Only use in footnotes and if the reference is the same as the previous footnote on the same page.

i.e.

Generally used to clarify a sentence; 'in other words'. Do not confuse with e.g., meaning 'for example'. (Also see e.g.)

infrared

One word, no hyphen.

in order to

In order to should only be used when writing orders. It can almost always be taken out without changing the meaning of the sentence.

inter-agency

Two words, hyphenated.

intergovernmental

One word, no hyphen.

international humanitarian law

Lower case. This term is increasingly used instead of the law of armed conflict. (Also see 'law of armed conflict'.)

Internet

Capitalised (proper noun).

interstate

One word, no hyphen.

in to or into

If you call in to complain or listen in to someone's conversation, it is two words (the 'to' generally means 'in order to'). If you go into a room or look into something, it is one word.

intra-state

Two words, hyphenated.

-ise or -ize word endings

For national work, we use -ise endings, but for NATO work, we use -ize endings in line with their style guide. Never change a quote though, whatever the spelling.

italics

We only use italics for titles (for example, Joint Doctrine Publication 0-01, *UK Defence Doctrine*) and certain legal terms (for example, *hors de combat*).

J**job titles**

Specific job titles and ministers' role titles are capitalised, for example, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, Home Secretary, Director Development, Concepts and Doctrine Centre. However, generic job titles and ministers' role titles are lower case, for example, director, minister, chief of staff, company commander.

joint

Lower case unless part of a title. For example, the joint force but Joint Force Development.

joint concept note (JCN)

Lower case for general but capitalised for specific titles, for example, Joint Concept Note 2/17, *Future of Command and Control*. Joint concept notes are numbered in the order they are released throughout the year, so 1/23 would be the first joint concept note published in 2023.

joint doctrine note (JDN)

Lower case for general but capitalised for specific titles, for example, Joint Doctrine Note 1/17, *Joint Theatre Entry*. Joint doctrine notes are numbered in the order they are released throughout the year, so 1/23 would be the first joint doctrine note published in 2023.

joint doctrine publication (JDP)

Lower case for general but capitalised for specific titles, for example, Joint Doctrine Publication 0-01, *UK Defence Doctrine*. Joint doctrine publications are numbered in line with the UK Joint Doctrine Architecture.

K

key

See 'legend'.

key leader engagement

Lower case.

The King

Capitalised.

L

law

Lower case even when it is 'the law'.

law of armed conflict (LOAC)

Lower case. This term is increasingly referred to as international humanitarian law. (Also see 'international humanitarian law'.)

layout and formatting

Use the DCDC publications Word template that has been created for our publications and use the built-in macro styles rather than creating your own.²⁶ This will make it easier for you to produce a study draft that is already formatted. When your study draft goes out on circulation you are less likely to attract comments on layout and receive more comments focused on the content. It also makes the editor's job much easier when it gets to them. If you are unsure of how the template works or you are having problems with it (it is Word after all!), ask one of the Publishing Team to help you.

.....
²⁶ The template is available on DCDC's Sharepoint homepage under 'Useful links'.

led or lead?

In all but the present tense, the verb form is led.

legal content

Legal content can still be written in plain English. It is important that readers understand content and that we present complicated information simply. If you have to use legal jargon, write a plain English summary. Where there is a clear need for including a legal term (like *hors de combat*), always explain it in plain English as a footnote or in the main text. Some legal terms are italicised.

legend

All diagrams must include a legend containing any acronyms/abbreviations used in the diagram, even if they have already been introduced in the main text, so the diagram can be used as a stand-alone feature.

lexicon

All publications must have a lexicon that includes acronyms/abbreviations, and terms and definitions.

liaison officer

Lower case.

linked words

There are a number of action words linked to mission words that have been approved by NATO. Where it is appropriate, these linked words should be used in our publications. They are:

- attain – end state;
- accomplish – mission;
- achieve – objective;
- create – effect; and
- conduct – operations.

links

See ‘hyperlinks’.

lists

See 'bullet points'.

M

measurements

Use numerals and spell out measurements at first use before using as an abbreviation. If not used regularly, use in full throughout. When using measurements with abbreviations, do not use a space between the figure and measurement – for example, 8mm. Use Celsius for temperature, for example, 37° Celsius.

Member of Parliament

Members of Parliament (when talking about a UK politician) or MP is acceptable. If the subject is not introduced as an MP in the preceding sentences, MP should be written after their name.

memorandum of understanding

Lower case.

metaphors

Avoid using metaphors – they do not say what you actually mean and lead to slower comprehension of your content.

metres

Write in full.

mid-80s, mid-50s, etc.

Hyphenated but no apostrophe.

Middle East

Capitalised.

military

Lower case.

millions

Always use million in money (and billion), for example, £138 million. Use millions in phrases, for example, millions of people. But do not use £0.xx million for amounts less than £1 million. Do not abbreviate million to m.

minister

Capitalised for the full title, for example, Secretary of State for Defence, or when used with a name, as a title, for example, Defence Secretary Grant Shapps MP. When used without the name, shortened titles are lower case, for example, the health minister welcomed the research team.

Ministry of Defence (MOD)

Capitalised. The abbreviation is MOD, never MoD.

mission

See 'linked words'.

money

Use the £ symbol: £75. Do not use decimals unless pence are included: £75.50 but not £75.00. Write out pence in full, for example, calls will cost four pence per minute. Currencies are lower case. For dollars, write as US \$75.

months

Capitalise the months and write in full, for example, May and September. Do not use a comma between the month and year, for example, 21 January 2020, not 21 January, 2020.

multi-agency

Two words, hyphenated.

multinational

One word.

N

N/A

Separate with a solidus with no space each side. Only use in tables.

NATOTerm

NATOTerm is one word and not italicised.

navy

Another nation's navy is lower case, but if you are referring to our navy, use the full title (capitalised), the Royal Navy.

non-governmental organisation (NGO)

Lower case and not non-government organisation.

north

Lower case, for example, the north of England.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Capitalised and always 'z' in Organization and not 's'.

north-east, north-west

Lower case, hyphenated.

numbers

Generally we write one to ten as words and 11 upwards as figures.

However, there will be judgement calls to make, for example, you would not start a sentence with 20, you would use Twenty, or if you have six, 91 and 150 in the same sentence, it may be appropriate to be consistent and use 6, 91 and 150 so it does not look odd and distract the reader.

If appropriate, use figures with measurements, but be consistent.

For numbers in the thousands, add a comma for clarity, for example, 1,203.

O

objective

See 'linked words'.

OF-X

Hyphenated. Used to differentiate officer ranks.

online

One word, no hyphen.

op. cit.

Avoid using op. cit., but, if it is necessary, use it with the author's name so the reference can be found by the reader.

operation

Lower case for general use but title case for operation names, for example Operation Telic. (Also see 'linked words'.)

operations security (OPSEC)

If you mean OPSEC it is operations security, not operational security.

order

Lower case unless used as a title, for example, Standing Order 14.

ordinal numbers

Use first to tenth and then 11th, 12th, etc. The ordinal indicators (st, nd, th, rd) should not be superscripted (1st not 1st).

other government departments

This term is often used interchangeably with partners across government. However, whichever term you choose, use it consistently throughout the publication. Use in full, do not use the abbreviation.

overflight

One word, no hyphen.

Overseas Territories

Capitalised when talking about UK Overseas Territories.

Oxford comma

The ‘Oxford comma’ is an optional comma used before the word ‘and’ at the end of a list, for example, I like to read books, magazines, and doctrine. We do not use it unless it will help clarify the meaning of a sentence when the items in a list are not single words, for example, I like most ice cream flavours, but particularly: mint chocolate chip, rum and raisin, and white chocolate and raspberry.

You should also use an Oxford comma if it would change the meaning if you did not use it. For example, with the Oxford comma ‘I dedicate this book to my parents, Helen Mirren, and Brian Blessed’. Without the Oxford comma ‘I dedicate this book to my parents, Helen Mirren and Brian Blessed’.

P

page/paragraph

Lower case and write in full (not p. or para.) when referring to a reference. For example, page 6 not p. 6.

pagination

The beginning of the publication up to Chapter 1 is numbered with Roman numerals. From Chapter 1, the pages are numbered 1, 2, etc. to the end of the publication.

paragraph headings

When you introduce a paragraph heading, you must continue to use them until the next heading (for example, side heading or section heading). All headings should be written in title case and do not use acronyms or abbreviations in titles.

Parliament

Capitalised.

Parliamentary committees

‘Parliamentary’ is capitalised and ‘committees’ is lower case.

part

Lower case, unless the part name. For example, 'Part 1 covers ...', but 'this part looks at ...'.

partners across government

This term is often used interchangeably with other government departments. However, whichever term you choose, use it consistently throughout the publication. Use in full, do not use the abbreviation.

peacebuilding

One word, no hyphen.

peacekeeping

One word, no hyphen.

peacemaking

One word, no hyphen.

per cent

Use per cent not percent. Percentage is one word. Use % with figures.

pick-up zone

Although 'pickup' on its own is not hyphenated, it is when used as 'pick-up zone', in line with NATO.

plain English

Lower case 'plain' and capitalised 'English' unless in a title, for example, the Plain English Campaign. Use plain English in your work.

police/police service

Lower case, even when referring to 'the police'. Note that police force is usually avoided.

post-war

Two words, hyphenated.

PowerPoint presentation

Capitalised because PowerPoint is a brand name.

pre-deploy

Two words, hyphenated.

preface

The preface should contain the following headings:

- purpose;
- context;
- audience;
- structure; and
- linkages.

See Chapter 2 for more information.

pre-planned

Two words, hyphenated.

Prime Minister

Capitalised. When introducing in text use, for example, Prime Minister Winston Churchill and then the Prime Minister onwards.

public sector

Lower case.

punctuation and formatting

We use one space after full stops, colons and semicolons in our publications, in line with Joint Service Publication 101, *Defence writing guide*. We do not use spaces around slashes, for example, write and/or not and / or.

Q

quote and speech marks

We use single quote marks for everything apart from quoting direct speech. For example, The King said “Today is a great day” at the ceremony. Or, Clausewitz wrote that ‘The backbone of surprise is fusing

speed with secrecy’. Also use single quote marks for article names and unusual terms.

R

re/re-

Use re- (with hyphen) when followed by the vowels e, for example, re-entry, re-examine.

Use re (with no hyphen) when followed by the vowels a, i, o or u, or any consonant, for example, rearrange, reorder, refer, reuse.

Exceptions (where confusion with another word would arise), for example, re-cover/recover, re-creation/recreation.

reachback

One word, no hyphen.

real time

Two words, no hyphen.

references

For doctrine and concepts publications, use the following format for references.

- For a book – Author, *Title*, Edition, date, page.
- For a journal – Author, ‘Article title’, *Journal title*, volume/edition, date, page.
- For a DCDC publication – JDP X-XX, *Title*, Edition, page.

For futures publications, use the following format for references.

- For a book – Author [Surname, Initial.], (Date), *Title*, Edition, page.
- For a journal – Author [Surname, Initial.], *Journal title*, volume/edition, (Date), ‘Article title’, page.
- For an online article – Author [Surname, Initial.], Site name, (Date), ‘Article title’, available at

If there are two authors – Surname, Initial. and Surname, Initial., ...

If there are three or more authors – Surname, Initial., et al., ...

Regular/Reserve

If you are referring to Regular or Reserve Forces (or Regulars and Reservists) they should be capitalised.

S

safe to fail

Three words, no hyphens.

scientific names

Capitalise the first letter of the first part of the scientific name. Do not use italics.

seaport of disembarkation/embarkation

Lower case and seaport is one word.

Secretary of State for XXX

The Secretary of State for XXX is capitalised whether or not it is used with the holder's name because there is only one. The same rule applies for Shadow Secretaries of States. The rule for ministers is different because there is more than one.

section

Lower case, unless the section name. For example, 'Section 1 covers ...', but 'this section looks at ...'.

security classifications

OFFICIAL, SECRET, TOP SECRET.

Block capitals when referring to government security classifications, otherwise lower case. If it is not clear from the context, you may need to clarify that it is a classification not a general description: 'information classified as OFFICIAL' rather than 'official information'.

semicolon

See 'colon and semicolon'.

sentence case

Sentence case is used for all titles apart from publication titles.

sentence length

Aim to use 15-20 words sentences and split long sentences to make them clearer.

services

Lower case for general use but capitalised when referring to a part of the UK Armed Forces. If you are listing the Services, order them in terms of age with oldest Service first – Royal Navy, British Army and Royal Air Force.

Shadow Cabinet

Capitalised.

single Service

Lower case 'single', capitalised 'Service'. Not hyphenated unless adjectival, for example, single-Service commands.

solidus (also known as forward slash)

Use with no spaces either side. For example, day/night not day / night.

south, the south of England

Lower case.

south-east, south-west

Lower case, hyphenated.

spacing

Use single spacing throughout your work.
(Also see 'punctuation formatting'.)

special forces

Lower case unless referring to a specific unit.

stars

Use 1*, 2*, etc. if referring to a position.

starting page

All chapters and annexes to the main document (Annex A, Annex B, etc.) should start on an odd numbered page. Chapter annexes (Annex 1A, Annex 2A, etc.) can start on either an even or odd page, but they should start on a new page.

status of forces agreement

Lower case.

strategic partners

Lower case.

Strategic Command (UKStratCom)

The organisation name is Strategic Command and not UK Strategic Command.

surface-to-air

Three words, hyphenated.

T

tables

All tables must be introduced in the main text (ideally in the paragraph before) as a table and not a figure. Tables must have a caption, set out as shown: Table X.X – Title of table. Tables should be numbered sequentially throughout the chapter, for example: Chapter 1 includes Table 1.1, Table 1.2; and Chapter 2 includes, Table 2.1 and Table 2.2. (Also see 'figures'.)

technical terms

Although we avoid using jargon in our publications, if you need to use technical terms to explain a subject, then use them. You will, however, need to explain what they mean the first time you use them, either in the main text or a footnote.

temperature

Use Celsius for temperature, for example, 37° Celsius. For a range of temperatures repeat the units 30° Celsius to 35° Celsius.

terminology

Use approved terminology when you can, and where you cannot you need to follow the terminology process detailed in Chapter 3.

that or which?

'That' defines, 'which' gives additional information (the clause often enclosed in commas). If the information is required as part of the sentence, use 'that', if it is not, use 'which'.

think tank

Two words, no hyphen.

time frame

Two words, no hyphen.

timeline

One word, no hyphen.

timescale

One word, no hyphen.

title case

Only use title case for publication titles, for example, *UK Defence Doctrine*.

titles

All titles in your publication should be written in title case. Do not use acronyms or abbreviations in titles.

tons or tonnes

Tonnage is measured in tons as the measurement (units of volume). Tonnes are used for measurements of units of mass.

top level budget (TLB)

Lower case, no hyphen.

twofold

One word, no hyphen.

U

UK government

Lower case government when using UK government. It is only capitalised when using the full title 'His Majesty's Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland'; this is in line with the Government Digital Service style guide. Do not use His Majesty's Government (HMG), unless referring to specific HMG products.

UK or US spelling

For national and NATO work, we use UK spelling. However, NATO uses first use in the *Concise Oxford English Dictionary*, so they will often use -ize word endings where we would use -ise in national work. Never change a quote though, irrelevant of the spelling. (Also see '-ise or -ize word endings'.)

under-

Normally prefixes are one word, for example, undercover or understate. Check the *Concise Oxford English Dictionary* if you are unsure.

underlining

Do not use underlining. If you need to add emphasis, use **bold** instead.

United States (US)

See 'America, Americans'.

US ship (USS)

For US ships, you can use USS Name in the text without introducing (and not italicised), but add USS to the lexicon.

units

See 'measurements'.

V

Vice Chief of the Defence Staff (VCDS)

Not Vice Chief of Defence Staff.

W

warfight

One word, no hyphen.

warfighting

One word, no hyphen.

war game

Two words, no hyphen.

wargaming

One word, no hyphen.

weapons of mass destruction (WMD)

Lower case. NATO uses weapons of mass destruction whereas the UK prefers weapons of mass effect.

weapons of mass effect

Lower case. The UK prefers to use weapons of mass effect whereas NATO uses weapons of mass destruction.

west, western Europe

Lower case for general but also see 'geography and regions'.

white paper

Lower case.

whole force approach

Lower case.

widows and orphans

Widows and orphans should always be corrected. A widow is a very short line – usually one word, or the end of a hyphenated word – at the end of a paragraph or column. Like a widow, an orphan is a single word, part of a word or very short line, except it appears at the beginning of a column or a page.

Wi-Fi

Hyphenated with capitalised 'F'.

Word document

Capitalised because Microsoft Word is a brand name.

World War 1, World War 2

Capitalised and use figures for the numbers, not words or Roman numerals.

X, Y, Z

No entries.



“At least we are consistently inconsistent.”

Annex A

Ministry of Defence branding

A.1. Publishing our outputs in accordance with the *Ministry of Defence (MOD) Brand Guidelines*²⁹ ensures we support presenting ‘a strong, consistent and recognisable brand’. There are five core brand elements:

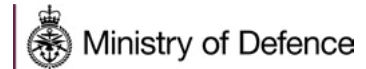
- logo;
- colours;
- typography;
- graphic devices; and
- imagery.

A.2. **Logo.** The Development, Concepts and Doctrine Centre (DCDC) publish MOD outputs and we therefore use the MOD logo in accordance with the Guidelines.³⁰

a. **Portrait logo.** The portrait logo is used for traditional media, print, stationery and banners, including documents hosted on the Internet and intranets.



b. **Landscape logo.** The landscape logo will sometimes be more appropriate for layout or accessibility reasons. It is used for digital content including, social media, web pages and mobile devices.



A.3. **Colours.** There are seven core brand colours. For each colour there is a dark, muted and bright version. Dark colours are mainly used for backgrounds, while bright colours are used as accent colours. Muted colours should be used for text. To help DCDC staff use the correct colours, Figure A.1 shows the colour palette with the CMYK (for print) or

²⁹ *MOD Brand Guidelines* are available internally on the MOD Brand Hub or externally on the [MOD Brand Portal](#).

³⁰ DCDC does have its own logo, which is used for internal publications like this handbook and PowerPoint presentations, general DCDC work.

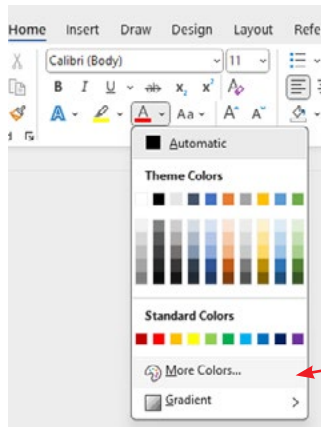
RGB (for screen) values. These values are needed to manually create the colours as required when using desktop applications such as Microsoft Word and PowerPoint.

<p>MOD dark purple C62 M84 Y40 K47 R83 G42 B59</p>	<p>MOD muted purple C51 M88 Y0 K0 R148 G54 B141</p>	<p>MOD bright purple C41 M46 Y0 K0 R171 G146 B225</p>
<p>MOD dark grey C79 M61 Y49 K50 R50 G62 B72</p>	<p>MOD muted grey C56 M31 Y24 K6 R123 G152 B172</p>	<p>MOD bright grey C30 M14 Y14 K0 R190 G205 B214</p>
<p>MOD dark blue C100 M86 Y41 K41 R19 G40 B76</p>	<p>MOD muted blue C72 M28 Y6 K0 R66 G152 B204</p>	<p>MOD bright blue C68 M7 Y2 K0 R61 G181 B230</p>
<p>MOD dark green C87 M47 Y68 K59 R21 G62 B53</p>	<p>MOD muted green C98 M5 Y79 K0 R0 G148 B95</p>	<p>MOD bright green C70 M0 Y67 K0 R0 G206 B125</p>
<p>MOD dark yellow C1 M39 Y100 K0 R246 G168 B0</p>	<p>MOD muted yellow C0 M24 Y79 K0 R255 G200 B69</p>	<p>MOD bright yellow C0 M11 Y100 K0 R255 G198 B0</p>
<p>MOD dark orange C7 M75 Y89 K1 R224 G89 B43</p>	<p>MOD muted orange C1 M53 Y100 K0 R242 G139 B0</p>	<p>MOD bright orange C0 M58 Y94 K0 R255 G132 B0</p>
<p>MOD dark pink C28 M100 Y58 K32 R142 G21 B55</p>	<p>MOD muted pink C0 M67 Y17 K0 R250 G118 B153</p>	<p>MOD bright pink C12 M57 Y0 K0 R240 G135 B207</p>

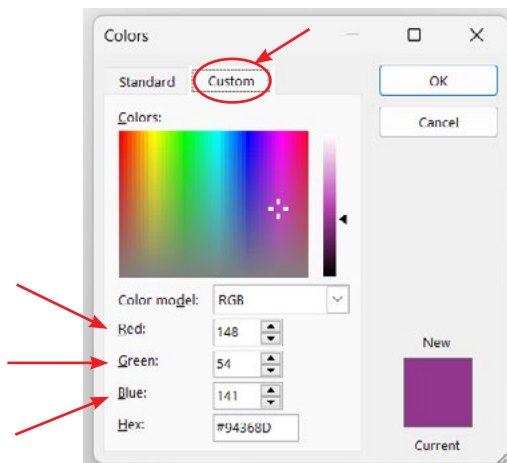
Figure A.1 – Colour palette

A.4. **How to change text colours in Word.** If you need to change text colour in Word (or PowerPoint), please follow these instructions or speak to a member of the Publishing Team to help you.

- Select the text that you want to change.
- On the Home tab, in the Font group, choose 'More Colors'.



- Now create your own colour on the Custom tab by using the RGB colour figures shown in Figure A.1. An example of using MOD muted purple is below.



A.5. **Typography.** Where available, the MOD’s main typeface is Helvetica Neue. The DCDC Publishing Team use the Helvetica Neue LT Pro family for all published MOD outputs because this provides a variety of weights. Where this typeface is not available Arial should be used.

A.6. **Graphic devices.** Graphic devices are visual design elements used across MOD outputs and communications to create impact and consistency. The Publishing Team use these devices in DCDC’s published outputs. There are correctly scaled versions of these devices set up in the DCDC PowerPoint template. Full details on scaling and use can be found in the Guidelines. Shown in Figure A.2 (not to scale) are the graphic devices, consisting of a:

- dynamic arrow;
- content box;
- vertical line (for online and social media);
- horizontal line (generally used as a footer line); and
- circle (known as a secondary graphic device).



Figure A.2 – Graphic devices

A.7. **Imagery.** Effective use of imagery helps MOD communications and outputs stand out, as well as creating a consistent look and feel. Imagery used in DCDC outputs should be relevant, enhance the work and help get the message across. Imagery should also tick the MOD criteria of reflecting real life, and being impactful and aspirational. Imagery should:

- bring to life the extraordinary range of what the MOD does;
- demonstrate the human face of Defence; and
- portray Defence as a dynamic and progressive organisation.

Annex B

Publications checklist

B.1. The following is a checklist, which is not exhaustive, to help writers and the editors. This covers the things we all need to check throughout the process of creating a publication. We need to make sure the publication:

- has been written in plain English;
- includes all amendments;
- is harmonised with other publications;
- has no spelling, punctuation, grammar or formatting errors;
- conforms to the Development, Concepts and Doctrine Centre's house style (see Chapter 4);
- is well-structured;
- cites references fully and accurately (see Chapter 4);
- has the correct page size, font type, font size, headers and footers, page breaks and footnotes;
- imagery used is high-resolution (at least 300 dpi) and has been sourced correctly with any required accreditation;
- lexicon has the relevant definitions (referenced correctly);
- lexicon contains all acronyms/abbreviations and definitions used in the text; and
- contents pages have the correct titles and page numbers for chapters and sections.



“We are communicating better
but we are still not out of the woods.”

Annex C

The Publishing Team

Section 1 – The team

C.1. The Publishing Team will get involved in a number of stages along the way as you develop your publication. The team is made up of two editors, a communications manager, a graphics manager, a publications manager and a digital content lead. The Publishing Team are responsible for editing, producing, managing the distribution of, and assisting in the communications campaign plan of all Development, Concepts and Doctrine Centre (DCDC) publications. They hold a stock of hard copies of our publications for internal use, which can be found in the Research Room, room G13.

C.2. The **editors** will copy-edit and/or proofread your documents. They will also transform them from your working Word version into the InDesign³¹ final product and prepare the document for publishing, both the online and hard copy versions.

C.3. The **Communications Manager** should be engaged with at the project initiation stage to help develop a communications campaign plan that aims to create the desired effects of your publication or promote it. Together, you will consider the communication objectives, who your target audience is, how and when you will communicate, and how to evaluate your communication activities. The Communications Manager is the focal point between DCDC and the Directorate of Defence Communications (DDC) for external communication approvals.

C.4. The **Graphics Manager** can help you with your graphics requirements, including developing visual concepts, creating diagrams, sourcing imagery, creating posters, etc. They will make sure that we meet any release conditions needed to use photographs from others. The Graphics Manager is also the lead for branding-related queries.

.....
 31 Adobe InDesign is the publishing software we use to create our publications.

C.5. The **Publishing Manager** is responsible for managing the printing and distribution of our publications. They ensure that our publications are accessible before publishing a soft copy online to the appropriate DCDC platforms. The Publishing Manager liaises with the contracted printers for printing hard copies. They can also help you with any requests you have for ordering extra copies of publications for courses/presentations/visits, etc. If you are travelling overseas and need publications for your visit, if you contact the Publications Manager in plenty of time, they can organise shipping ahead of your visit to save you carrying them. The Publishing Manager also archives any publications that are no longer extant. These are available for reference in the 'Legacy DCDC Publications' area of the 'Research Library', which can be found under 'Useful links' on the DCDC Sharepoint homepage.

C.6. The **Digital Content Lead** will publish announcements and news stories related to your publication, as well as other communications worthy activities, for example, visits, events, call for papers and surveys to name a few. They will coordinate with the Publishing Manager to publish your publication to the appropriate DCDC platforms. The Digital Content Lead can also help with content creation such as videos, news articles and social media.

Section 2 – Principles of war (the Publishing Team version)

C.7. The principles of war are fundamental to the way the UK Armed Forces operate. We have put a light-hearted spin on them to highlight the best way the Publishing Team can work with you to produce the best publication possible.

Selection and maintenance of the aim. Spend time planning your publication. Consider who your audience is, what they already know, what you want to tell them and how you want to convey your message. By spending time planning the structure of your work, you will find the writing phase much easier.

Maintenance of morale. Chocolate works best (and there is normally some in our office if you need a boost)! However, apart from that, planning and communication are key. We know that plans will change, but by giving us as much notice as you can and by keeping us updated, we can try and manage your work alongside other priorities.

Offensive action. Being proactive throughout the process will help us all. For example, at the beginning of the project you should know who your target audience is – this will help you create your communications campaign plan and provide the distribution list. Start thinking about images and quotes whilst you are drafting the working and study draft because they should be an integral part of your publication and help to tell the story; they should not be an afterthought.

Security. Aim for the lowest appropriate classification for your publication. Ideally all our publications will be OFFICIAL and available to everyone. There will be the odd publication that will need to be OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE, but we should keep these to a minimum.

Surprise. A tactic best used on others rather than ourselves! In an ideal world there would be no surprises when producing publications, but this is unlikely to be the case. Many things can cause surprise (for example, policy documents being developed so a publication is placed on hold until it has been produced, or a change in key personnel internally or externally), but communication is the best way of combating it.

Concentration of effect. Make sure the right people have seen your publication at the right stages – this includes internally. Ideally, critical and substantive comments would only be submitted at the study draft stage, leaving the ratification draft to attract only editorial and factual error returns. In reality this is not the case and any substantial changes at the ratification draft will require the publication to be recirculated as a ratification draft 2. However, by making sure your publication has been widely commented on at the earliest appropriate stage by the right people, we can try to minimise the problem.

Economy of effort. There are a number of steps you can take to make the writing and editing phases of your publication easier. You can make the drafting process easier by:

- attending the effective writing brief before you start – it will give you guidance on the our house style;
- using the Word templates and shortcuts (rather than making up your own styles);
- reading this publication, which gives more guidance on using plain English; and
- asking us early if you have a query, rather than leaving it and potentially compounding the issue.

Flexibility. Our team is flexible in our approach. We need to have an initial plan, but, because plans often go awry, we need to be flexible and work with you to reschedule your publication. We would also appreciate flexibility on your side as we often have multiple projects to prioritise.

Integration. When you engage with our team we will provide integrated support across the functions of editorial, graphics, print and distribution. Integration has an amplifying effect, which will ensure that together we will produce and publish the best quality publication.

Sustainability. Our team is predominately powered by sugar and caffeine. Lacking those, we can be sustained by your positive approach to your work. Your proactivity, foresight and planning are all required to sustain this process and we will aim to help you wherever we can.



**"I think it's important to note
that we really did try hard."**

“

“I just read them for fun.”

“Dictionaries?”

“Yes.”

“That doesn’t sound like fun. That sounds awful.”

“Awful used to mean ‘full of awe.’ The same meaning as awesome. I learned that from a dictionary.”

He blinked.

“See?” She said. “Fun.”

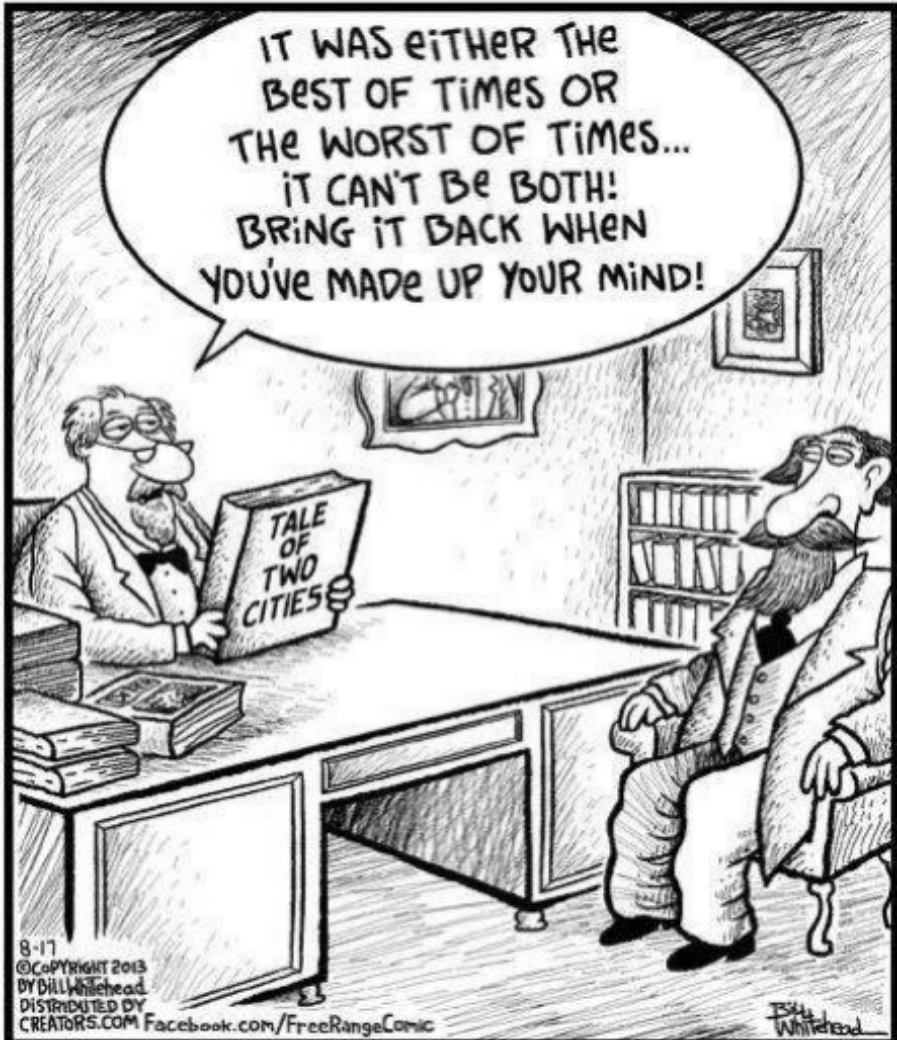
”

Max Berry
Lexicon

Lexicon

This lexicon lists acronyms and abbreviations used in this handbook.

AAP	Allied administrative publication
AJP	Allied joint publication
AMedP	Allied medical publication
CDS	Chief of the Defence Staff
CPERS	captured persons
DCDC	Development, Concepts and Doctrine Centre
DDC	Directorate of Defence Communications
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
EU	European Union
JDP	joint doctrine publication
JDSC	Joint Doctrine Steering Committee
JOA	joint operations area
JSP	joint Service publication
MCTB	Military Committee Terminology Board
MOD	Ministry of Defence
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NEO	non-combatant evacuation operation
NSO	NATO Standardization Office
NTP	NATO Terminology Programme
TTF	terminology tracking file
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
US	United States



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