



Call for Papers

24 October 2017

Deception

Problem statement: The Development, Concepts and Doctrine Centre (DCDC), the Ministry of Defence's think tank, is updating its thinking and doctrine in relation to military deception. DCDC understands deception as deliberate measures that manipulate the perception and condition the behaviour of a targeted decision maker, in order to achieve and exploit an advantage. In the light of recent operational experience, the UK military has recognised that military deception activities have been neglected. Political, practical, social and ethical questions surround the planning and execution of deception activities today. This research project will examine the role, utility and desirability of conducting military deception activities, identify where conceptual and physical gaps in current UK capability exist and will suggest areas for development.

Central research question: If Western democracies and their militaries wish to continue to engage in deceptive practices, how should they be planned and executed in the contemporary operating environment?

Subsidiary research questions:

- What is the current UK approach to military deception and is it fit for purpose?
- How do the UK's allies and NATO understand and conduct deception and why do their approaches differ from that of the UK?
- What are the characteristics of the current operating environment?
- To what extent is it possible to conduct deception activities without scrutiny and exposure?
- To what extent has the digital information environment increased opportunities to conduct military deception activities?
- What are the implications of the characteristics of the current operating environment for the planning and execution of military deception activities?
- What are the social, political and ethical constraints on the planning and execution of deception activities?

Key dates: Submission deadline: **27/11/17**
Final manuscript due: 20/03/17

Author notified: 11/12/17

Authors are invited to submit a one page outline of the paper they wish to write. Submissions must be original and should not have been published previously. DCDC will review submissions and notify authors if they wish to commission the paper.

In addition to financial reimbursement by DCDC, commissioned papers may also contribute towards evidence of impact in line with Research Council UK's 'Pathways to Impact' guidance.