





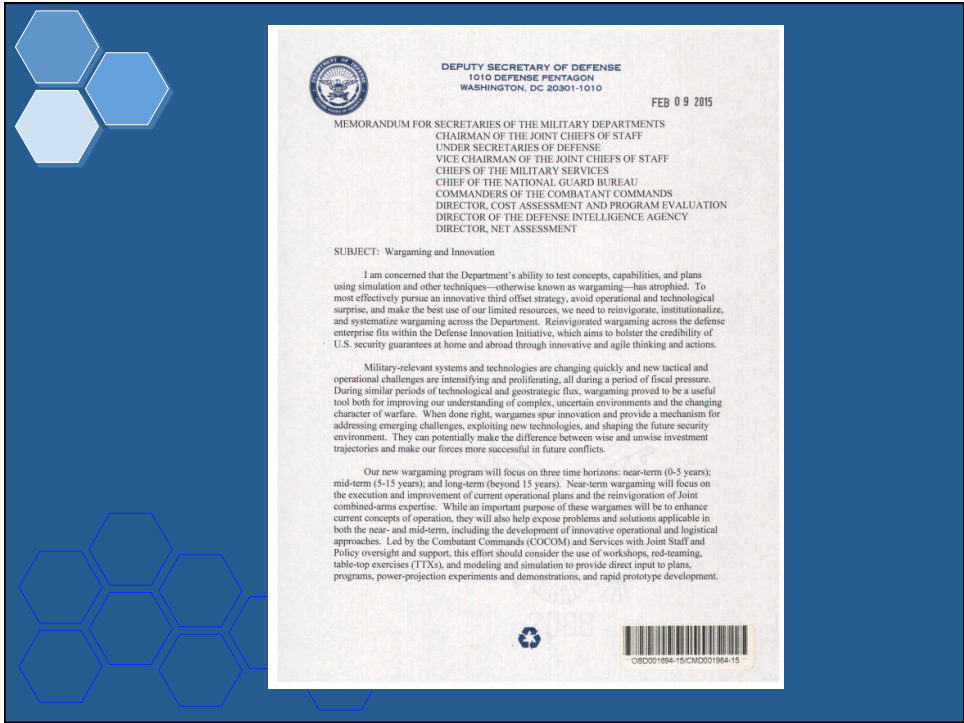
## Connections conferences

- The first Connections interdisciplinary wargaming conference was held in the US in 1993
- The mission of Connections is to **advance and preserve the art, science, and application of wargaming**. The conference works each year to facilitate a useful exchange information on achievements, best practices and needs of all elements of the field of wargaming, from military, to commercial, to academic applications.
- Wargaming 101/201 sessions in addition to main conference.
- Game labs.



## Connections US

- Meetings held at National Defense University (Washington DC) or elsewhere.
- Connections 2016 will be held at the Air Force Wargaming Institute (Maxwell AFB), Montgomery Alabama on 8-11 August.
- Renewed US DoD emphasis in wargaming as mechanism for developing innovation.



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FEB 09 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS  
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE  
VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
CHIEFS OF THE MILITARY SERVICES  
CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU  
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS  
DIRECTOR, COST ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAM EVALUATION  
DIRECTOR, THE DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
DIRECTOR, NET ASSESSMENT

SUBJECT: Wargaming and Innovation

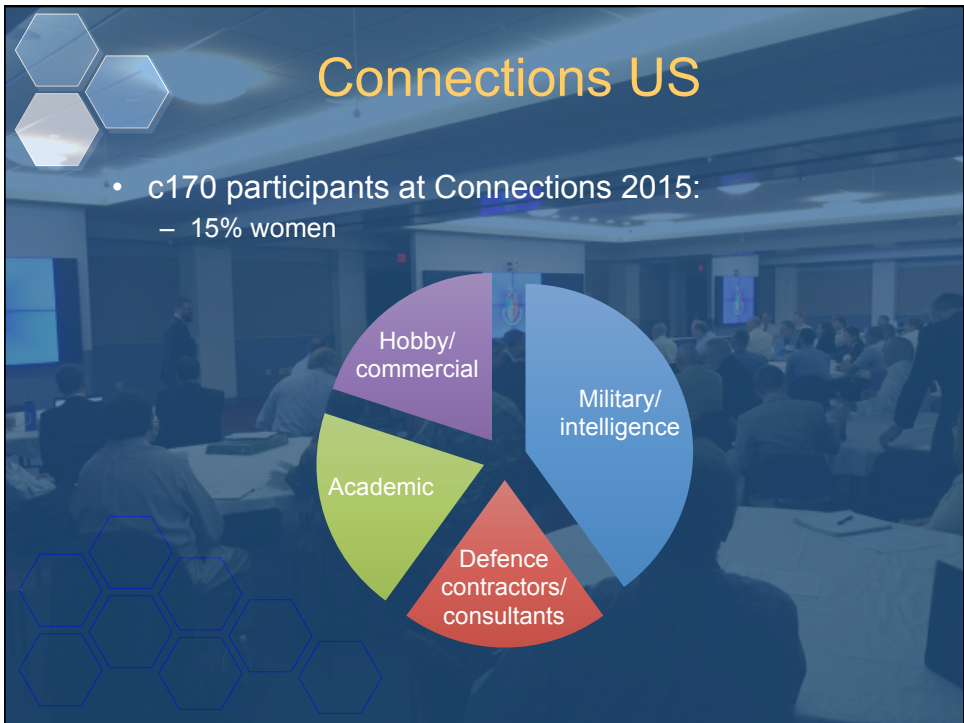
I am concerned that the Department's ability to test concepts, capabilities, and plans using simulation and other techniques—otherwise known as wargaming—has atrophied. To most effectively pursue an innovative third offset strategy, avoid operational and technological surprise, and make the best use of our limited resources, we need to reinvigorate, institutionalize, and systematize wargaming across the Department. Reinvigorated wargaming across the defense enterprise fits within the Defense Innovation Initiative, which aims to bolster the credibility of U.S. security guarantees at home and abroad through innovative and agile thinking and actions.

Military-relevant systems and technologies are changing quickly and new tactical and operational challenges are intensifying and proliferating, all during a period of fiscal pressure. During similar periods of technological and geostrategic flux, wargaming proved to be a useful tool both for improving our understanding of complex, uncertain environments and the changing character of warfare. When done right, wargames spur innovation and provide a mechanism for addressing emerging challenges, exploiting new technologies, and shaping the future security environment. They can potentially make the difference between wise and unwise investment trajectories and make our forces more successful in future conflicts.

Our new wargaming program will focus on three time horizons: near-term (0-5 years); mid-term (5-15 years); and long-term (beyond 15 years). Near-term wargaming will focus on the execution and improvement of current operational plans and the reinvigoration of Joint combined-arms expertise. While an important purpose of these wargames will be to enhance current concepts of operation, they will also help expose problems and solutions applicable in both the near- and mid-term, including the development of innovative operational and logistical approaches. Led by the Combatant Commands (COCOM) and Services with Joint Staff and Policy oversight and support, this effort should consider the use of workshops, red-teaming, table-top exercises (TTXs), and modeling and simulation to provide direct input to plans, programs, power-projection experiments and demonstrations, and rapid prototype development.

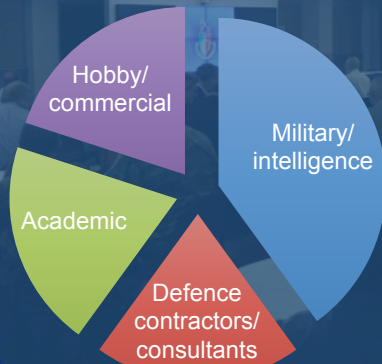


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## Connections US

- c170 participants at Connections 2015:
  - 15% women



# Connections UK

- Held annually at King's College London since 2013.
  - c 130 participants at Connections UK 2015
  - Next conference will be held at KCL on 6-8 September 2016.

Category	Color
Military/intelligence	Blue
Defence contractors/consultants	Red
Hobby/commercial	Purple
Academic	Green
Unlabeled	Yellow

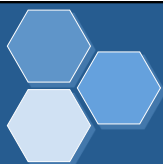
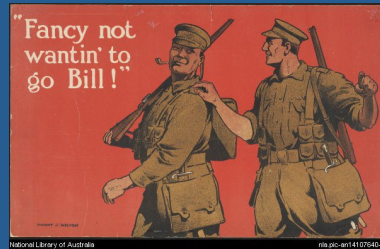
# Connections Netherlands

- First conference held 14-15 September 2015
  - c54 participants



## Connections

- Connections Australia
  - First conference in 2014
- Connections Sweden?



## Connections

- timing
- location
  - attracting participants
  - Euro-Connections?
  - videoconferencing?
- themes
  - wargaming 101/201 sessions
  - expanding the participant base
    - beyond the grognards

