



Defence Research and
Development Canada

Recherche et développement
pour la défense Canada

Wargaming in Canadian Defence

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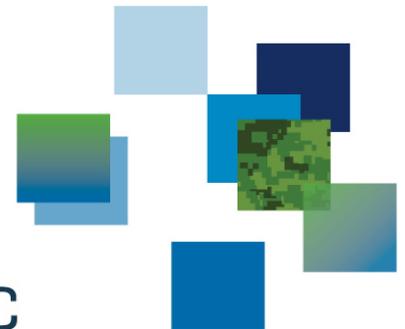
Strategic Planning OR Team



NOTICE

(U) This document has been reviewed and DOES NOT CONTAIN controlled goods.

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Background

- Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC) is the scientific research organisation within the Department of National Defence (DND)
- One part of DRDC is the Centre for Operations Research and Analysis (CORA)
 - While most parts of DRDC emphasise advice on science and technology, CORA provides analyses and advice on decision making processes and supporting tools
- This presentation describes wargaming activities that involve DRDC
- CAVEAT: This is one author's view from within a very large organisation. Other perspectives are available!

A conceptual view

- Many authors (e.g. Pournelle) refer to a spectrum of gaming types such as:
 - Seminar Games
 - Matrix Games
 - Free Kriegsspiel
 - Rigid Kriegsspiel
- These types of game require different levels of resources and effort, offer a different experience for players and are suited to different applications.
- Within the defence context we also consider an orthogonal axis which talks to the type of military problem being looked at:
 - Strategic looking at a national perspective, possibly also considering a broader problem space than the purely military
 - Operational looking at the conduct of major operations or campaigns
 - Tactical looking at the details of specific engagements with an enemy

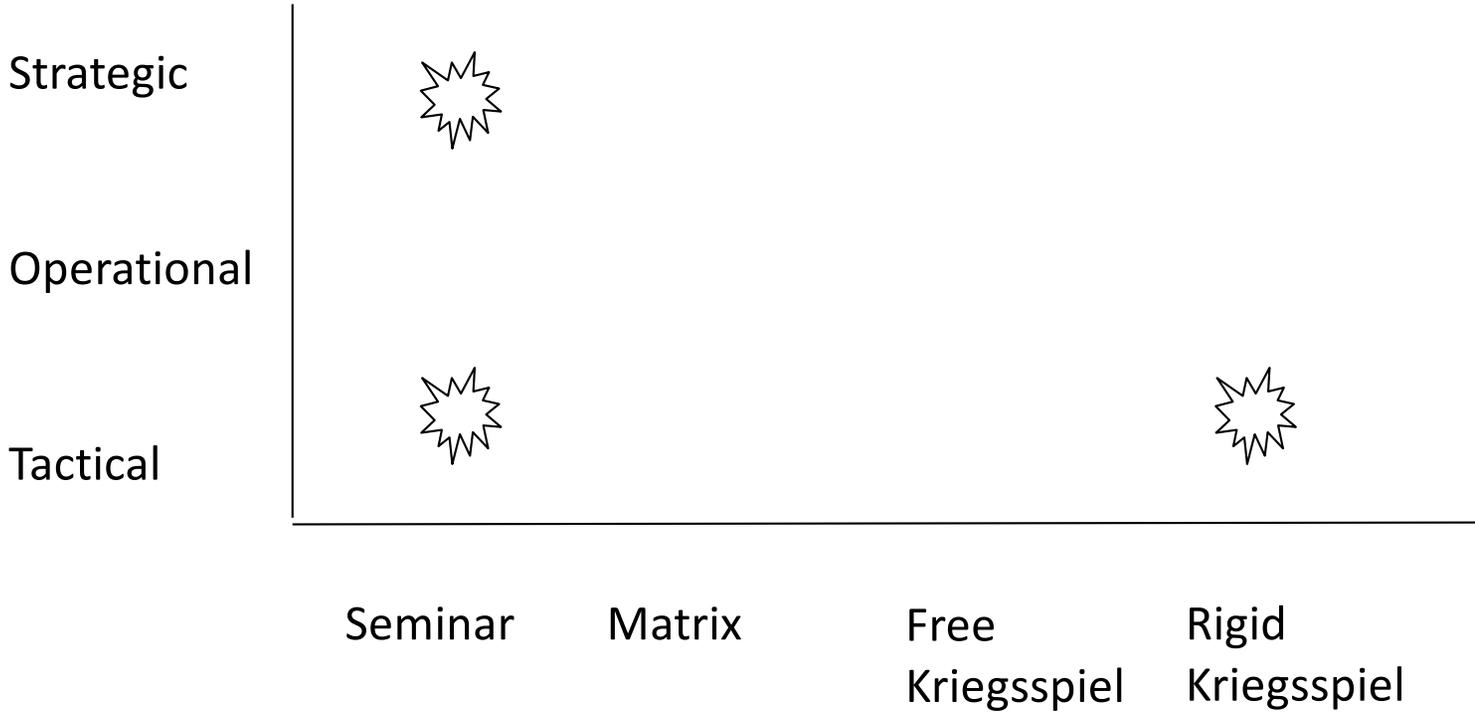
Conceptual View



Where have we come from?

- In the past (1980s-90s) OR teams supporting the Canadian Army made extensive use of table top map-based games. These became computer supported and were eventually supplanted by computer based tactical games. These would all be classed as rigid Kriegsspiel as they were computer controlled.
 - These games used dedicated facilities, multiple players and software adapted from, or co-developed with, allied defence organisations (e.g. JANUS and CAEn).
 - Shifting priorities led to these facilities being closed a few years ago.
- There have probably always been a number of seminar game-like activities going on to elicit subject matter opinions or to allow executives to think through problems. Many of these might not be considered to be true wargames.
 - The definition of “wargame” can vary between audiences.
 - e.g. is a walk-through of a plan a wargame if the other opposition doesn't have a voice?

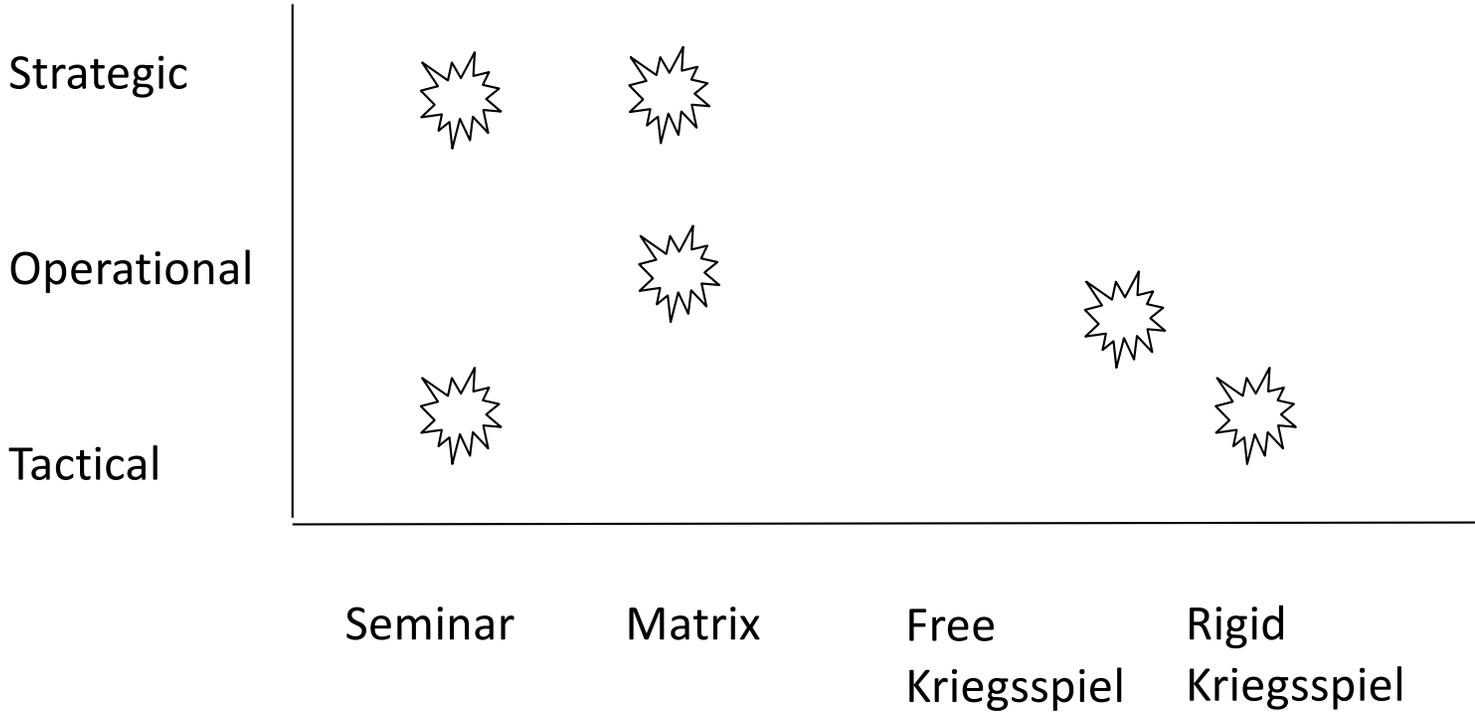
Possible view of the past



Developments in recent years

- Gaming is being rejuvenated. Examples:
 - Use of a matrix game in support of Vancouver 2010 planning
 - Tactical board game to explore maritime force protection
 - Exploration of matrix games as a way to refine operational scenarios
 - Renewed interest in strategic seminar games to help think through future challenges
 - “MAT3” seminar games used to explore potential applications of emerging technologies
 - Acquisition of UK’s tabletop Kriegsspiel RCAT (Rapid Campaign Assessment Toolset) and computer-based Kriegsspiel PSOM (Peace Support Operations Model)
 - Working with Global Affairs Canada to develop pol/mil gaming expertise
- Issue: Knowledge within the research environment is not the same thing as delivering impact with stakeholder organisations. This requires careful outreach and communication.

Current Landscape – DRDC areas of activity



Future Direction

- The Strategic Planning Operations Research Team at CORA is seeking to develop as the centre of expertise for wargaming within DRDC, but this does not represent the totality of wargaming expertise of the broader defence institution.
- A wargaming and red-teaming branch has recently been established at the Canadian Joint Warfare Centre.
- The two organisations have complementary networks of contacts, skills and expertise and seek to support each other in further developing the employment of wargames across the DND/CAF enterprise.



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