



REFINING PLANS WITH SCENARIO-BASED OPERATIONAL GAMES

WARS ALWAYS REQUIRE AN OPPOSING SIDE. WARGAMES DO NOT.

Military commanders routinely use wargames to **test their force capabilities** against Red Team opponents. Planners, however, may need to test their plans against a challenging environment rather than a Red Team. CNA’s wargaming experts regularly help these leaders with **scenario-based operational planning games** that bring structured thinking to the questions they face:

- Are the plans for a new ship or system suited to the environment where it will be deployed?
- How realistic are plans for foreign military cooperation in a humanitarian disaster?
- How will changes to basing plans affect training and mobility?

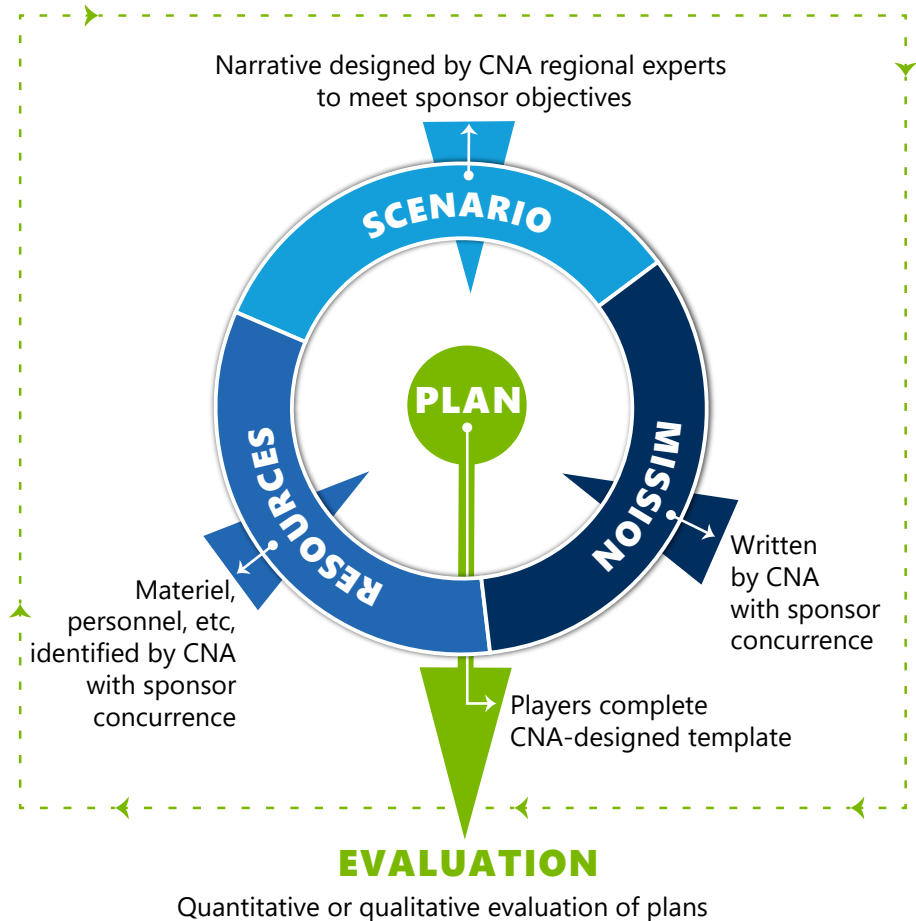
These are just a few of the planning questions CNA has helped address with custom-designed games.

The process begins with a thorough exploration of the **questions a decision-maker needs to address** and the challenges of the operating environment. Wargame designers then draw upon our extensive internal network: CNA field representatives and scientific analysts closest to the relevant commands,

subject matter experts, and regional specialists. The team for the game gathers relevant data to create a realistic scenario that will test and refine plans.

In the game itself, **players respond to the scenario** by developing plans that are challenged and evaluated, typically by command leadership or an external panel of experts selected in consultation with the sponsor. With each successive turn, players adjust their plans as they

SCENARIO-BASED OPERATIONAL PLANNING GAME PROCESS



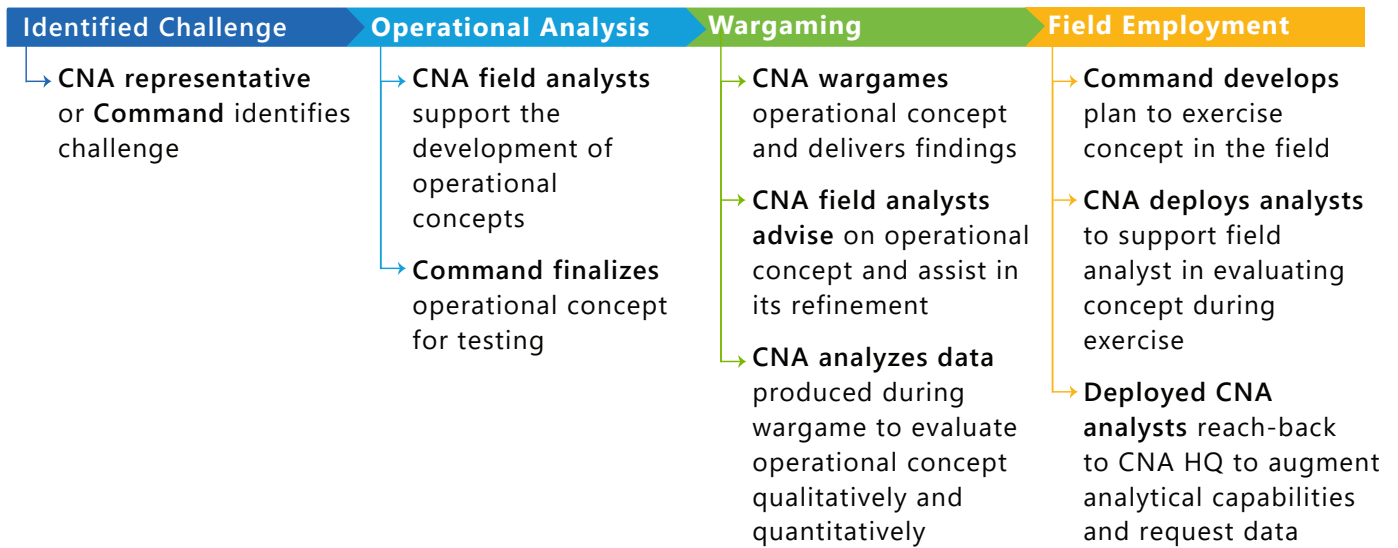


see how ideas perform in action. Often players learn as much from their own deliberations in preparation for each move as they do from the response.

In the end, with the benefit of CNA analysis of data from the game, participants will have a **clearer idea of how to adapt their plans to the challenges they face**. A natural next step is to test those plans in an exercise, a step CNA again stands ready to support with research and analysis.



ANALYTICAL SUPPORT TO OPERATIONAL PLANNING



ABOUT CNA

CNA is a nonprofit research and analysis organization dedicated to the safety and security of the nation. It operates the Center for Naval Analyses — the only federally funded research and development center (FFRDC) serving the Department of the Navy — as well as the Institute for Public Research. CNA is dedicated to developing actionable solutions to complex problems of national importance. With nearly 700 scientists, analysts and professional staff, CNA takes a real-world approach to gathering data. Its one-of-a-kind Field Program places analysts on carriers and military bases, in squad rooms and crisis centers, working side-by-side with operators and decision-makers around the world. CNA supports naval operations, fleet readiness and great power competition. Its non-defense research portfolio includes criminal justice, homeland security and data management.

For additional information, or to set up a time to discuss this type of wargame, please contact:

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