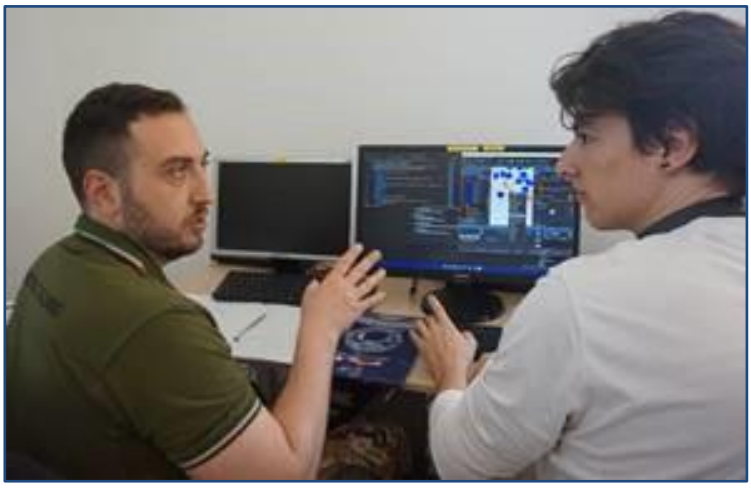
MARCO ROSSI, STUDENT, TELLS HIS STORY IN NATO M&S CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

"Hi, I'm Marco Rossi, a 27 year old student in Computer Science and I'd like to share my awesome experience as an intern at the NATO Modelling & Simulation Centre of Excellence (M&S COE) in Rome."

A few months ago, when I was looking to begin an internship, I knew that working in a highly professional environment was the key for successful training.



Opportunities like the one I found at the **M&S COE** are priceless. In fact, not many university students possess such important credentials in their portfolio.

The M&S COE is an organization that provides Modelling and Simulation expertise to support NATO in many scientific and technological fields. One of its goals is to **encourage** the **cooperation** between **Industry**, **Military** and **Academia** in what they term as a Comprehensive Approach. That means filling a gap in the Alliance by looking at problems from a different perspective.

When I saw the internship offer on their social media networks, I didn't waste any time. I sent an email to the Centre asking for an interview and after a few weeks, I was in!!!

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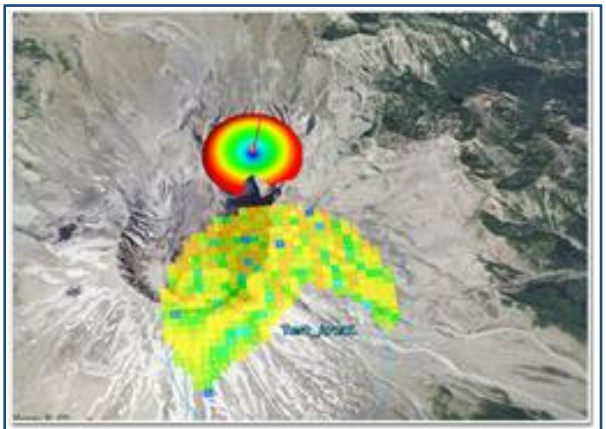
The day I arrived, I immediately found myself fully immersed in the Centre's activities and projects. I started attending meetings, briefings and lessons with all the staff of the COE, to the point that at the beginning I was slightly overwhelmed by so much interesting information. After a few days, everyone knew who I was, while I still could not remember one single name of the personnel working at the Centre. However, after a while, I started to get to know them all and understand a bit more about the workflow and the procedures used in the Centre.

The project I was assigned is called **ELMO - Electromagnetic Layer for Multidomain Operations**. It was really interesting and, in the first few days of work, I learned more than I'd ever known about the C# language (programming language) and Network Framework (software development framework for building and running applications). My task in the project was to transfer physics-based calculations made on an expert system simulator (STK) and create a functional representation of a jamming area in a military M&S simulator ().



The jamming area calculated by STK. Each square is identified by its centre and the value is the signal found in that point.

In the following weeks, the activity was so frantic and focused that I hadn't taken a moment to realize that the people I was working for were certainly not ordinary bosses.

What I first thought would be a strict and authoritative environment, revealed itself as an open and virtuous place, full of professional and passionate people, working tirelessly day in and day out, fully committed to providing the best state-of-the-art solutions to the Alliance.

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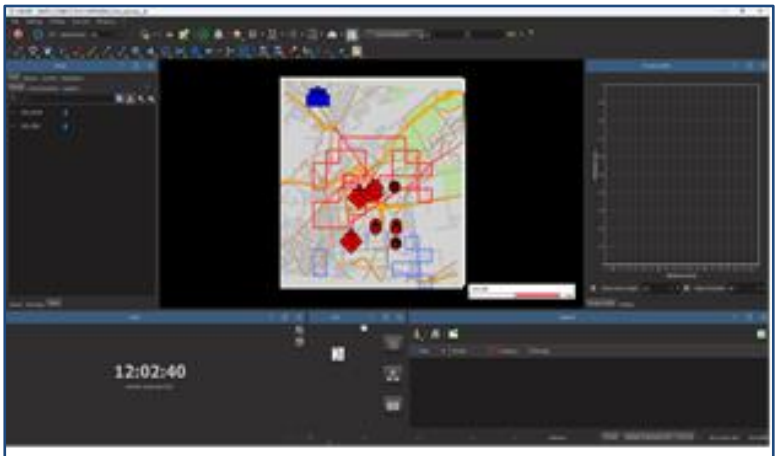
Working at the COE, I discovered that it is full of exceptional professionals, especially the Italian Army Officers I directly worked for: Salvatore and Piergiorgio. They were exacting but also knowledgeable and open minded, especially to an outsider like me.

The NATO M&S COE has not only proven to be a typical military Centre, but also a creative place and an environment where it is "safe to fail" in order to grow professionally by learning from the experimentation of new theories and innovative solutions. **I'm truly grateful that I had this opportunity to work at the NATO M&S COE.** I highly recommend this opportunity to all the young engineers and students that want to professionally grow and learn as I did during this internship.



In the figure: two jamming areas, created using the STK software, positioned on a MASA SWORD scenario.

***Written by Marco Rossi**, student in Computer Engineer, founder of a startup on digital transformation for pharmacies, currently employed at Italian Ministry of Culture -Rome-.*

*Pictures by **NATO MS COE**. For further information or internship click on:https://www.mscoe.org/contact-us/*

The NATO Modelling & Simulation Centre of Excellence is dedicated to the promotion of Modelling & Simulation in support of operational requirements, training and interoperability. The Centre act as a catalyst for transformation through the involvement of NATO, governments, academia, industry, operational and training entities, by improving the networking of NATO and nationally owned Modelling & Simulation systems, the cooperation between Nations and organizations through the sharing of Modelling & Simulation information and developments and serving as an international source of expertise for transformation in the related domain. https://www.mscoe.org

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