



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF INSTRUCTION

J-3
DISTRIBUTION: A, B, C, JEL, S

CJCSI 3165.01C
14 January 2013

MULTINATIONAL INTEROPERABILITY COUNCIL

References: Enclosure C

1. Purpose. This instruction supports the Multinational Interoperability Council (MIC) activities as a key senior operator-led multinational forum between the United States and selected multinational partners for addressing coalition and multinational interoperability issues. This instruction formalizes Joint Staff participation on this council and assigns responsibilities for supporting the MIC and action officer Multinational Interoperability Working Groups (MIWGs).
2. Cancellation. CJCSI 3165.01B, 15 August 2010, is canceled.
3. Applicability. This instruction applies to the Joint Staff.
4. Policy. Interoperability with multinational partners is in the best interests of the United States Armed Forces. This policy is enunciated in various international agreements and policy documents. The level of interoperability to be achieved cannot be ascertained within a general statement of policy.
 - a. CJCS policy encourages the Joint Staff, combatant commands, Services, Defense agencies, and other DoD activities to participate in multinational organizations, with the objective of enhancing national security as expressed in the National Security Strategy and the supporting National Military Strategy.
 - b. The degree of military interoperability achieved is subject to resource, technical, and policy considerations.
 - c. Enhancing the planning and execution of multinational military operations is a key objective.
 - d. Coalition and multinational interoperability is a continuing challenge that could be enhanced via multinational forums like the MIC.

5. Definitions. See Glossary.
6. Responsibilities and Support. See Enclosure A
7. Summary of Changes. This revision:
 - a. Deletes references to the Concept Development and Experimentation (CD&E), Communications and Information Systems (CIS), Policy and Doctrine (P&D), and Logistics (Log) MIWG.
 - b. Adds reference to Standing MIWGs, Operations Support (Ops Spt) MIWG, and Directed MIWG.
 - c. Changes references from the Deputy Director for Global Operations (DDGO) to the Deputy Director for Regional Operations (DDRO).
8. Releasability. This instruction is approved for public release; distribution is unlimited. DoD Components (to include the combatant commands), other federal agencies, and the public may obtain copies of this instruction through the CJCS Directives Home Page—<http://www.dtic.mil/cjcs/directives>—on the Internet.
9. Effective Date. This instruction is effective upon receipt.

For the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff:



CURTIS M. SCAPARROTTI
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Director, Joint Staff

Enclosures

- A - Responsibilities and Support
- B - Multinational Interoperability Council
- C - References
- GL - Glossary

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ENCLOSURE A

RESPONSIBILITIES AND SUPPORT

1. Guidance. The Joint Staff will support the MIC (reference a) and provide SMEs/staff officers to the MIWGs, subject to resource considerations. Each MIWG Chairman is reviewed annually to rotate among MIC member nations.
2. Office of the Secretary of Defense (USD(P)). Responsible for authorizing the negotiation and conclusion for all categories of international agreements (unless otherwise specified).
3. The Joint Staff. Director for Operations/J-3 is the U.S. MIC Principal and council Chairman. The J-3 is responsible to fund and host the annual November MIC Principals meeting at the Pentagon and the annual September MIWG held in proximity to one of the U.S. COCOMs or MIC Affiliate headquarters. The MICs' two other annual meetings are funded and hosted on a rotational basis among the other MIC member nations.
 - a. The J-3, Deputy Director for Regional Operations (J-33) Multinational Operations Division (MOD) provides the day-to-day support and direction for ensuring that all MIC actions are pursued and completed across the Joint Staff.
 - b. J-33 DDRO/MOD.
 - (1) Assumes the role of MIC Executive Secretariat (ES). Serves as the lead for the Coalition Building Guide (CBG), and the MIC's capstone document that captures lead nation interoperability concerns for coalition building and sustainment (reference f).
 - (2) Provides a representative to the MIC Steering Group (SG) and the Operations (Ops) MIWG.
 - (3) Provides day-to-day oversight and staff support for the MIC ES.
 - (4) Coordinates the MIC's activities with combatant commands, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and other Joint Staff directorates as appropriate, and actively solicits their support of and participation in the MIC and the MIWGs.
 - (5) Serves as Lead Agent for Joint Publication 3-16, "Multinational Operations" (reference b).

- c. Other Joint Staff Responsibilities.

(1) J-2 will support the MIC and MIWGs, as required, by providing guidance and policy advice on coalition and multinational intelligence issues impacting operations; and representation on an appropriate MIWG, when requested.

(2) J-4 will support the MIC and MIWGs, as required, by providing guidance and policy advice on addressing coalition and multinational logistics issues that affect interoperability in multinational operations; and representation on an appropriate MIWG, when requested.

(3) J-5 will support the MIC and MIWGs, as required, by providing guidance and policy advice on multinational policy and doctrine for potential coalition operations, emerging multinational policy and doctrine trends at the military strategic/operational level; policy guidance concerning NATO, multinational, and other treaty organizations, as well as policy advice to the MIC on issues and procedures related to the disclosure of unclassified and classified military information in accordance with National Disclosure Policy to MIC member nations; and representation on an appropriate MIWG, when requested.

(4) J-6 will support the MIC and MIWGs, as required, by providing guidance and policy advice on coalition and multinational communication interoperability issues affecting operations; and representation on an appropriate MIWG, when requested.

(5) J-7 will support the MIC and MIWGs, as required, by providing guidance and policy advice on the development of future concepts for coalition operations by identifying opportunities for multinational collaboration in advanced developmental concepts; guidance and policy advice on multinational policy and doctrine for potential coalition operations, emerging multinational policy and doctrine trends at the military strategic/operational level; and policy guidance concerning NATO, multinational, and other treaty organizations; and representation on an appropriate MIWG, when requested.

4. Combatant Commands.

Combatant Commanders will encourage support of the MIC activities and initiatives by promoting the MIC and its products as positive instruments to foster improved military interoperability between lead nations, coalition partners, and other friendly nations; identifying opportunities for, and impediments to, improving interoperability of the Armed Forces of the United States with those of partner nations, coalition partners, and other friendly nations; and promoting, leveraging, supporting, and participating in MIWG meetings when they are held in proximity of their command.

ENCLOSURE B

MULTINATIONAL INTEROPERABILITY COUNCIL

1. Background. The Multinational Interoperability Council (MIC) was formed in 1996 to provide an operator's perspective and oversight of coalition interoperability in order to facilitate coalition building, sustainment, and information sharing through the closest practical cooperation among our lead nation capable allies and partners. Addressing coalition /multinational interoperability challenges and requirements from a lead nation's perspective on an ongoing basis provides commanders with a commonality of aim baseline for rationalization, standardization, and interoperability, but not to the same degree as an alliance (reference b).

2. Definition. The MIC, led by member nations' senior operations officers, is composed of countries that are most likely to form and lead a coalition and/or multinational operation. MIC member nations - Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States - candidly and objectively discuss the multitude of interoperability issues facing their nations individually and collectively in building, leading, and supporting coalition and multinational operations. A significant benefit of this forum is the invaluable levels of trust and camaraderie that are cultivated between the principals and the MIC member nations' representatives, which further encourage and promote national efforts in coalition and multinational operations.

3. Purpose. The MIC's purpose is to identify and address strategic and operational level coalition interoperability issues across the contemporary operating environment and articulate actions, which, if implemented by member nations, will contribute to more effective coalition and multinational operations. It represents the collective interests of the member nations and sets the stage to more quickly combine mission partners and harmonize capabilities.

4. Scope. The MIC provides a venue to address coalition and multinational operational interoperability requirements and exchange relevant information across national boundaries to support the warfighter in coalition and multinational operations. The council's areas of interest have expanded beyond information interoperability to cover other strategic and operational interoperability issues, including interagency coordination and the comprehensive approach (also referred to as the whole-of-government approach). These activities are targeted to positively impact coalition interoperability across the lines of development (doctrine, organization, training, material, leadership, personnel, and facilities (DOTMLPF)). The MIC diligently avoids duplication of effort and ensures coherent and cohesive products are delivered to influence the development of operational practices

and enable more effective coalition operations as outlined in the Coalition Building Guide (reference f).

5. Authority. The MIC principals and other national representatives to the MIC and MIWGs express their nation's coordinated national positions on multinational interoperability issues to the extent practical, in accordance with their national laws, and recognizing that the MIC is a non-binding, informal, deliberative multinational forum. Formal approval and implementation of measures agreed to and endorsed by the MIC will be the responsibility of the member nations and their national staffs.

6. Organization. The MIC is led by principals who are senior flag/general officers from the operations branch of their nations' national defense staffs. The Principals meet twice per year, or more frequently if needed, for senior operator discussions, and to provide oversight and leadership in managing, responding to, and approving the MIC's work.

a. Multinational Interoperability Working Groups (MIWGs). Most of the MIC's work is performed by the MIWGs. The MIWGs explore coalition and multinational operations interoperability issues, identify solutions, and prepare prioritized recommendations for MIC Steering Group (SG) and/or the MIC Principals.

(1) There are typically three MIWGs – two Standing MIWGs and one Directed MIWG – that are composed of O-5 and O-6 action officer level participants from each member nation's national staff. The MIWGs meet every 6 months (semi-annually) for approximately 4 consecutive days to conduct their formal business activities.

(a) Standing MIWGs.

1. The Operations (Ops) MIWG is responsible for identifying, documenting, and addressing interoperability challenges and requirements associated with current and future coalition/multinational operations from a cross-functional perspective.

2. The Operations Support (Ops Spt) MIWG is responsible for identifying, documenting, and addressing the operational enabler interoperability challenges and requirements in support of coalition/multinational operations from a cross-functional perspective.

(b) Directed MIWG(s) are stood up at the direction of the MIC Principals to address a specific or a group of specific tasks. It is a time limited MIWG with an expected duration of 12 months; continuation will be reviewed annually.

1. MIWGs are task-oriented in their approach to resolving issues impeding coalition and multinational interoperability and may work independently or in collaboration with other MIWGs and organizations as appropriate. Additionally, MIWGs, through analysis of national positions across the lines of development, inform and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of coalition building and operations. The MIC Steering Group approves and the MIC Principals endorse the MIWG's work plans.

2. Through analysis with respect to Concepts, Policy, Experimentation, Doctrine and other relevant multinational interoperability areas of concern, MIWG representatives coordinate within their national defense staffs in order to represent their nation's position during working group deliberations. Other staff members from various national agencies of member nations' defense staffs may support their country's representative and attend MIWG meetings as needed.

b. The MIC SG is composed of O-6 level representatives from each member nation. It provides regular oversight and management for the activities of the MIWGs, executes tasks assigned by the MIC Principals, and serves as the executive body representing the MIC member nations and MIC Principals when a MIWG session is convened. The MIC SG is responsible for analyzing the progress of the work being performed by the MIWGs, setting the agenda and strategy for the MIWG meetings in coordination with the MIWG Chairmen, directing the MIWGs, and making recommendations to the MIC Principals as appropriate. The J-33 DDRO / MOD Chief is the U.S. SG representative and provides day-to-day oversight to and staff support for the MIC ES.

c. The MIC ES is responsible for executing the MIC's outreach and engagement plan as captured in the MIC's Strategic Communications Document and directed by the MIC Principals. It coordinates the day-to-day activities of the MIC and MIWGs and serves as the council's central point of contact. Additionally, the MIC ES provides administrative support to the annual MIC Principals' meetings and all MIWG meetings. Two non-U.S. officers, from other MIC member nations, are assigned full time to the MIC ES (references c, d, and e). The MIC ES corresponds and communicates directly with MIC SG and MIWGs members on current matters of interest and with the combined multinational organizations staffs: American, British, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand Armies' Program (ABCA); Air and Space Interoperability Council (ASIC); Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States (AUSCANNZUKUS) Maritime Information Warfare Organization; Combined Communications-Electronics Board (CCEB); International Computer Network Defense (CND) Working Group (ICCWG); Multinational Planning Augmentation Team (MPAT); NATO; Quadrilateral Logistics Forum (QLF); and The Technical Cooperation Program (TTCP) on

matters of mutual interest. The MIC ES maintains the official repository for all MIC correspondence, records, and documents.

d. The MIC, ABCA, ASIC, AUSCANNZUKUS, CCEB, ICCWG, and TTCP multinational organizations signed a statement of cooperation (SOC) agreement for a coordinated and cooperative approach to issues of mutual interest and concern to two or more of the multinational organizations. The multinational organizations encourage coordination of effort to enhance allied interoperability with a goal of reducing unnecessary duplication of effort on issues of common interest to two or more of the organizations. Participation in joint activities is voluntary. The multinational organizations support the exchange of information on current or proposed tasks. They agree that the outcomes and recommendations from joint cooperative activities will be freely available for consideration and implementation if appropriate by all organizations whether or not they were active participants in the activity. The SOC is non-binding in law and remains in force with the mutual agreement of the organizations.

e. The CCEB and MIC signed a bilateral SOC agreement to coordinate and cooperate on issues of mutual interest and concern to the two multinational organizations. The SOC is non-binding in law and remains in force with the mutual agreement of the CCEB and MIC organizations.

f. The MPAT and MIC signed a bilateral SOC agreement to coordinate and cooperate on issues of mutual interest and concern to the two multinational organizations. The SOC is non-binding in law and remains in force with the mutual agreement of the MPAT and MIC organizations.

7. Membership: MIC member nations are those nations who are most likely to form and lead a coalition operation. While membership is not meant to be exclusionary, it does favor practicality. The criteria for membership are:

a. Demonstrated competence and capability to lead a coalition and multinational operation evidenced by leadership and involvement in recent coalition and multinational operations.

b. Demonstrated willingness to commit personnel, command and control (C2) assets, logistics and other resources to leading and supporting coalition and multinational operations.

c. Demonstrated technical competence and knowledge of coalition and multinational operations. The technical capabilities of all MIC member nations should be relatively equal across a broad spectrum of C2, technical and operational capabilities for supporting coalition and multinational interoperability.

d. Willingness to commit sufficient personnel and funding resources to participate fully in all MIC and MIWG meetings, to include:

(1) Designation of an appropriate flag officer/general officer from their national staff to serve as their MIC principal and senior national representative.

(2) Designation of an appropriate Colonel or equivalent to serve as their national representative to the MIC SG, the Colonel or equivalent executive-level oversight and executive steering working group for the MIC.

(3) Designation of a Colonel/Lieutenant Colonel or equivalent national representative to support each of the MIWGs. Support includes attending MIWG meetings as well as working specific MIC and MIWG-related tasks and action items between meetings.

e. Demonstrated willingness and desire to exchange classified military information at the strategic, operational and tactical levels (as required) with all other MIC nations. This includes agreement to abide by the MIC Information Exchange Memorandum of Understanding (MICIEM) document. The exchange of military information is a fundamental requirement of membership.

f. Nations or organizations that do not meet membership criteria but desire to establish a formal relationship with the MIC may be invited to participate as an Affiliate or may petition the MIC Principals and/or the MIC SG for approval to attend MIC and/or MIWG meetings as an Affiliate. Affiliates participate in MIC and/or MIWG meetings and activities in a manner coordinated and determined by the MIC SG/ MIWG Chairman. Affiliates do not have the same level of commitment, resources, or rights of membership as MIC member nations. Affiliates will attend the two regularly recurring MIC Principals' meetings each year and be represented by a flag/general officer. A nation or organization who is invited to attend a MIC and/or MIWG meeting where their participation is considered beneficial in supporting the interest of the MIC may be invited to participate in the MIC as an Observer. Membership criteria are specified in the MIC Membership Policies and Procedures document, dated 20 March 2012, approved by the MIC Principals.

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ENCLOSURE C

- a. DJSM-0221-00, 10 March 2000, "Multinational Interoperability Council"
- b. Joint Publication 3-16, 7 March 2007, "Joint Doctrine for Multinational Operations"
- c. DoD Directive 5530.3, 11 June 1987, "International Agreements"
- d. CJCSI 2300.01 Series, "International Agreements"
- e. CJCSI 2700.01 Series, "International Military Agreements for Rationalization, Standardization, and Interoperability (RSI) Between The United States, Its Allies, And Other Friendly Nations"
- f. Multinational Interoperability Council Coalition Building Guide, 3rd Edition, 7 November 2012

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

PART I - ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ABCA	American, British, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand Armies' Program
ASIC	Air and Space Interoperability Council
AUSCANNZUKUS	Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom, and United States Maritime IW Organization
C4	command, control, communications, and computer
CBG	Coalition Building Guide
CCEB	Combined Communications-Electronics Board
CJCS	Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff
CND	Computer Network Defense
DDRO	Deputy Director for Regional Operations (J-3)
DJSM	Director Joint Staff memorandum
DoD	Department of Defense
ICCWG	International CND Coordination Working Group
ISR	Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance
IW	Information Warfare
MIC	Multinational Interoperability Council
MIC ES	Multinational Interoperability Council Executive Secretariat
MIWG	Multinational Interoperability Working Group
MOD	Multinational Operations Division
MPAT	Multinational Planning Augmentation Team
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
OPS	Operations
OPS SPT	Operations Support
QLF	Quadrilateral Logistics Forum
SOC	statement of cooperation
TTCP	The Technical Cooperation Program

ABCA. The American, British, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand (ABCA) Armies' Program optimizes interoperability through cooperation and collaboration in the continuous pursuit of standardization and mutual understanding in order to integrate the capabilities of the ABCA Armies in coalition operations. The member nations of the ABCA are Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

ASIC. Air and Space Interoperability Council (ASIC), formerly the Air Standardization Coordinating Committee (ASCC), is an international organization that has been working for five air forces (Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States) since 1948 to improve coalition aerospace power effectiveness in both peace and war.

AUSCANNZUKUS Maritime IW. Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States (AUSCANNZUKUS) Maritime Information Warfare Organization delivers battle winning maritime Electronic Warfare, ISR, and Cyber interoperability and fosters knowledge sharing that enables the war fighter to successfully complete missions across the spectrum of joint and combined operations.

CCEB. The Combined Communications-Electronics Board (CCEB) is a five-nation joint military communications-electronics (C-E) organization whose mission is the coordination of any military C-E matter that is referred to it by a member nation. The member nations of the CCEB are Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

ICCWG. The International Computer Network Defense (CND) Coordination Working Group is composed of Information Assurance (IA)/CND military representatives from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States. The role of the ICCWG is to facilitate the conduct of multilateral IA/CND operations and information sharing to achieve mutually assured national defense information networks.

MPAT. The Multinational Planning Augmentation Team (MPAT) is a cooperative multinational effort to facilitate the rapid and effective establishment and/or augmentation of a multinational task force headquarters. The MPAT provides responsive coalition/combined expertise in crisis action planning. Provides a cadre of multinational military planners from nations with interests in the Asia-Pacific region capable of rapidly augmenting a multinational force headquarters established to plan and execute coalition operations in response to small scale contingencies and military operations other than war. MPAT objectives are to improve speed of multinational response, improve multinational force interoperability, and increase coalition task force effectiveness, and promote closer unity of effort.

QLF. The Quadrilateral Logistics Forum (QLF) comprised of the joint logistics principals of Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States, pursues collaboration and harmonization of effort to deliver capabilities to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of logistics support to coalition operations.

TTCP. The Technical Cooperation Program is an international organization that collaborates in defense scientific and technical information exchange; program harmonization and alignment; and shared research activities for the five nations: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

PART II – DEFINITIONS

Recommended definitions (are all in JP 1-02)

Coalition – An arrangement between two or more nations for common action.

Interoperability - The ability to operate in synergy in the execution of assigned tasks.

Multinational - Between two or more forces or agencies of two or more nations or coalition partners.

Multinational Operations - A collective term to describe military actions conducted by forces of two or more nations, usually undertaken within the structure of a coalition or alliance.

Rationalization - Any action that increases the effectiveness of allied forces through more efficient or effective use of defense resources committed to the alliance. Rationalization includes consolidation, reassignment of national priorities to higher alliance needs, standardization, specialization, mutual support or improved interoperability, and greater cooperation. Rationalization applies to both weapons and/or materiel resources and non-weapons military matters.

Standardization - The process by which the Department of Defense achieves the closest practicable cooperation among the Services and Department of Defense agencies for the most efficient use of research, development, and production resources, and agrees to adopt on the broadest possible basis the use of: a. common or compatible operational, administrative, and logistic procedures; b. common or compatible technical procedures and criteria; c. common, compatible, or interchangeable supplies, components, weapons, or equipment; and d. common or compatible tactical doctrine with corresponding organizational compatibility.