



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF INSTRUCTION

J-3
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CJCSI 3165.01B
15 August 2010

MULTINATIONAL INTEROPERABILITY COUNCIL

References:

- a. DJSM-0221-00, 10 March 2000, "Multinational Interoperability Council"
- b. Joint Publication 3-16, 5 April 2000, "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"

1. Purpose. This instruction supports the activities of the Multinational Interoperability Council (MIC) as a key senior operator-led multinational forum between the United States and selected multinational partners for addressing coalition and multinational interoperability issues. The overall goal of the MIC is to identify interoperability issues and articulate actions, which, if nationally implemented by member nations, would contribute to more effective coalition and multinational operations. This instruction formalizes the participation of the Joint Staff on this council and assigns responsibilities for supporting the Multinational Interoperability Working Groups (MIWGs).

2. Cancellation. CJCSI 3165.01A, 16 May 2008, 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. See Enclosure A

a. The Joint Staff Director for Operations/J-3 is the U.S. MIC Principal and chairs the council. The MIC Principal from each member nation is a senior flag/general officer from the operations branch of their national defense staff. The member nations of the MIC are Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The MIC is composed of operations, doctrine, logistics, policy, and communications systems subject matter experts (SMEs)/staff officers from each of the member nations who deal with interoperability issues. The Director of the Joint Staff directed that the Joint Staff would support the MIC (reference a). The Joint Staff shall provide SMEs/staff officers to the MIWGs subject to resource considerations. The Chairman of each MIWG is reviewed annually to rotate among MIC member nations.

b. Under the J-3, the Deputy Director for Global Operations (J-39) provides the day-to-day support and direction for ensuring that all MIC actions are pursued and completed across the Joint Staff. J-39 DDGO/Multinational Operations Division (MOD) also assumes the role of MIC Executive Secretariat staff.

(1) J-39 DDGO/MOD, in addition to overall MIC responsibilities, will provide a representative to both the MIC Steering Group (SG) and the Operations (Ops) MIWG. The MIC SG consists of O-6 representatives of each member nation, serving as the executive group for the MIC member nations, and providing regular oversight responsibilities for MIC activities. The Ops MIWG is the operator-led MIWG responsible for identifying, documenting, and consolidating requirements for operational information sharing in support of coalition operations.

(2) J-2 will support the MIC and MIWGs, as required, by providing guidance and policy advice on intelligence exchange issues.

(3) J-4 will provide a representative to the Logistics MIWG. The Logistics MIWG is responsible for addressing coalition and multinational logistics issues that affect interoperability in multinational operations.

(4) J-5 will provide a representative to the Policy and Doctrine (P&D) MIWG, which addresses issues associated with multinational policy and doctrine for potential coalition operations and identifies emerging policy and doctrine trends and issues within each MIC member nation and other multinational forums at the military strategic/operational level. Additionally, the J-5 provides 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.

(5) J-6 will provide a representative to the Communication Information Systems (CIS) MIWG. The CIS MIWG is responsible for addressing coalition technical issues affecting “information interoperability” in multinational operations.

(6) J-7 will provide representatives to the Concept Development and Experiment (CD&E) MIWG and the P&D MIWG. The CD&E MIWG will facilitate and promote the development of future concepts for coalition operations by identifying opportunities for multinational collaboration in advanced developmental concepts. The P&D MIWG addresses issues associated with multinational policy and doctrine for potential coalition operations and identifies emerging policy and doctrine trends and issues within each MIC member nation and other multinational forums at the military strategic/operational level.

c. The J-3 DDGO/MOD staff, with the assistance of other Joint Staff directorates, coordinates the activities of the MIC with combatant commands, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and other Joint Staff directorates as appropriate and actively solicits their participation in the deliberations of the MIC and its supporting MIWGs. The J-3 DDGO/MOD staff promotes the participation by and coordination with the J-3 and J-5 staffs at the combatant commands.

d. The J-3 DDGO/MOD staff is the lead agent for Joint Publication 3-16, “Multinational Operations” (reference b).

7. Summary of Changes. This change updates CJCSI 3165.01A. It also:
 - a. Deletes references to the Medical MIWG.
 - b. Changes references to the Capstone MIWG to MIC Steering Group, or MIC SG.
 - c. Changes references to the Network MIWG to Communication Information Systems, or CIS MIWG.
 - d. Adds revised Observer and Affiliate criteria in Enclosure A, Paragraph 4.
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.



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Enclosure(s):
A – Multinational Interoperability Council
GL – Glossary

DISTRIBUTION

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ENCLOSURE A

MULTINATIONAL INTEROPERABILITY COUNCIL

1. Purpose: To support the MIC as an enduring multinational forum that represents the collective interests of the member nations. The council strives to identify strategic and operational level coalition interoperability issues and articulate actions, which, if nationally implemented by the member nations, would contribute to more effective coalition and multinational operations. It is a senior operator-led body for coordinating and facilitating resolution of those issues.

2. Scope: The MIC is a strategic-level multinational forum that provides a venue to address coalition and multinational operational requirements and exchange relevant information across national boundaries to support the warfighter in coalition and multinational operations. The areas of interest of the council have expanded beyond information interoperability to cover other strategic and operational issues, including interagency coordination. These activities are targeted to positively impact coalition interoperability policy, doctrine, and collaborative planning and execution.

3. Organization: The MIC is a seven-nation senior operator-led forum composed of countries that are most likely to form and lead a coalition and/or multinational operation. The member nations are: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The member nations are equal participants in the MIC.

a. 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 a year, or more frequently if needed, to provide oversight and leadership in managing, responding to, and approving the work of the MIC. The MIC is an excellent collaborative forum for the national defense staffs to candidly and objectively discuss the multitude of interoperability issues facing their nations individually and collectively in 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 national representatives of the MIC member nations, which further encourage and promote national efforts in coalition and multinational operations.

b. Most of the work of the MIC is performed by the functional MIWGs. The purpose of a MIWG is to explore issues in coalition and multinational interoperability, identify solutions, and prepare prioritized recommendations

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for approval by the MIC Steering Group (SG) and/or the MIC Principals. There are five functionally oriented working groups that are composed of O-5- and O-6-level participants from each member nation's national staff. MIWG representatives coordinate within their national defense staffs in order to represent their nation's national position during deliberations of their working groups. Other staff members from various national agencies of member nations' national defense staffs may support their country's representative and attend MIWG meetings as needed. MIWGs are task-oriented in their approach to resolving issues impeding coalition and multinational interoperability and may work independently or in collaboration with other functional MIWGs as appropriate. The MIWG's work plans are approved by the MIC Principals. The MIWGs meet every 6 months (semi-annually) for 4 to 5 consecutive days to conduct their formal business activities.

c. 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 when a MIWG session is convened. The MIC SG is responsible for analyzing the progress of the work being performed by the functional MIWGs, setting the agenda and strategy for the MIWG meetings in coordination with the chairmen of the MIWGs, directing the MIWGs, and making recommendations to the MIC Principals as appropriate. The US J-39 DDGO representative is a member of the MIC SG and provides day-to-day oversight to and staff support for the MIC ES staff.

d. The MIC ES staff coordinates the day-to-day activities of the MIC and MIWGs and serves as the central point of contact. Additionally, the MIC ES staff provides administrative support to the annual MIC Principals' meeting and all MIWG meetings. The U.S. Joint Staff/J-3 DDGO provides day-to-day oversight and staff support for the MIC ES staff. Two non-U.S. officers from other MIC member nations are assigned full time to the MIC ES staff (references c, d, and e). The MIC ES staff is responsible for executing the MIC's outreach and engagement plan as directed by the MIC Principals. The MIC ES staff corresponds and communicates directly with members of the MIC SG and functional MIWGs on current matters of interest and with the staffs of the combined multinational organizations: 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) Naval C4 Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) 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 to the MIC. The MIC ES staff maintains the official repository for all MIC correspondence, records, and documents.

e. 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.

f. 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.

g. 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.

4. 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 functional 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. Information in the form of lessons learned and lessons identified are essential ingredients in addressing information exchange and C2 interoperability issues and in promoting coalition and multinational interoperability between all MIC nations.

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/functional MIWG Chairman. Affiliates do not have the same level of commitment, resources, or rights of membership as MIC member nations. Affiliates will attend the MIC Principals' meeting in May/June 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 15 June 2009, approved by the MIC Principals.

5. Authority. The MIC principals and other national representatives to the MIC and MIWGs express their nation's coordinated national positions on multinational 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.

GLOSSARY

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 Naval C4 ISR Organization
C4	command, control, communications, and computer
CCEB	Combined Communications-Electronics Board
CD&E	Concept Development and Experimentation
CJCS	Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff
CND	Computer Network Defense
DDGO	Deputy Director for Global Operations (J-3)
DJSM	Director Joint Staff memorandum
DOD	Department of Defense
ICCWG	International CND Coordination Working Group
ISR	Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance
LOG	logistics
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
P&D	Policy and Doctrine

QLF	Quadrilateral Logistics Forum
SOC	statement of cooperation
TTCP	The Technical Cooperation Program
USJFCOM	United States Joint Forces Command

PART II – DEFINITIONS

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 C4 ISR. Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States (AUSCANNZUKUS) Naval Command, Control, Communications and Computers (C4) Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) Organization delivers battle winning maritime C4 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.

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