

Service Commands Plan to Enhance Joint Interoperability

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FORT MONMOUTH, N.J. (Jan. 6, 2000)—One of three Joint Service offices has opened in the Myer Center here in response to a Pentagon initiative to enhance the interoperability of Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence (C4I) systems among the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

The offices, which are known as CINC (Commanders-in-Chief) Interoperability Program Offices (CIPO) are located in the C4I acquisition commands of the three Services — the Army's Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM) here; the Navy's Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR), San Diego; and the Air Force Electronics Systems Center (ESC), Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass.

Following approval by the Under Secretary of Defense [Acquisition, Technology and Logistics] of a study in which CECOM participated with its counterparts in the Navy and Air Force, the three commanders and the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence (C3I) entered an agreement outlining steps to improve joint interoperability.

Each office comprises 20 new positions, including 18 action officers (six from each Service). Col. Winthrop Cooper, formerly Operations Director of the CECOM Software Engineering Center, was named Fort Monmouth CIPO Director; and Anthony Lisuzzo, formerly director of the Survivability/Camouflage, Concealment and Deception Division of the Night Vision and Electronic Sensors

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Directorate of CECOM's Research, Development and Engineering Center, was named Deputy Director of the office.

"In the current environment of downsizing and general reduction of resources, it is imperative that we utilize current and emerging technologies to make the warfighter more efficient, survivable, and interoperable." Lisuzzo said. The new office reports directly to the deputy to the CECOM Commanding General.

"The objective is to ensure interoperability of systems from 'womb to tomb' and to modify already fielded systems when necessary to make them interoperable and capable of sharing information," Cooper said.

"This initiative is a real opportunity to provide help to the warfighter," he added.

"Our organization is committed to helping achieve the goal of interoperability of C4I systems for the CINCs."

Instead of engineering solutions themselves, each CIPO will direct issues to appropriate elements in their Commands for resolution.

The CECOM, SPAWAR, and ESC commanders have also established a Joint Forces Program Office (JFPO), which evaluates solutions for cross-CINC applications, focuses on the compliance of C3 systems with joint technical architecture, and recommends development of common products. The JFPO, which is initially located at SPAWAR, arranges for C4I experiments with the U.S. Atlantic Command, the executive agent for joint warfighting experimentation. The office includes action officers from CECOM, SPAWAR, and ESC. Location and staffing will be reviewed after a year.

Testbeds of the three Services — CECOM's Digital Integration Lab, SPAWAR's Maritime Battle Lab, and ESC's Command and Control Unified Battlespace Environment — are being used to test C4I systems for joint interoperability.

In a brief period, the CECOM CIPO has been successful in several endeavors in support of the CINCs with which it is aligned. These efforts have included on-site technical support of the U.S. Europe Command in the Combined Endeavor '99 exercises. In support of U.S. Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM), a combined effort led by this office and coordinated with the CIPOs at ESC and

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SPAWAR resulted in a joint project, which captured the operational requirements for USSOUTHCOM's Caribbean Regional Operations Center (CARIBROC) Target C4I Architecture and identified the commercial off the shelf (COTS) and government off the shelf (GOTS) systems required to successfully meet and exceed mission requirements.

By supporting U.S. Forces Korea through the ULCHI FOCUS LENS '99 exercise, the CECOM CIPO produced an extensive technical study to upgrade the CINCs' Command Center TANGO (fixed site command center) and provided a draft Mobile Command Center design. Additionally, the office provided key updates to the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical Operational Requirements Document (WIN-T ORD) to provide a "joint interoperable" overview; and produced a listing of systems from the warfighting CINCs, which identify 20 percent of the systems creating 80 percent of the joint interoperability problems as witnessed by the CINCs.

These are just some of the initiatives that have been established within the CECOM CIPO to ensure interoperability among our joint/allied forces, as well as addressing some of our coalition partners' concerns.

Each CIPO works directly with specific regional CINCs to meet their C4I requirements. CECOM works with the U.S. Southern Command, U.S. European Command, U.S. Forces Korea, and U.S. Special Operations Command. The ESC works with U.S. Space Command, U.S. Transportation Command, U.S. Central Command, and U.S. Strategic Command; and the SPAWAR with the U.S. Atlantic and Pacific Commands.

"We at the CECOM CIPO, in conjunction with our sister Service CIPOs, are keenly aware of the need for jointness and interoperability across the Departments in order to achieve the goals and objectives delineated in Joint Vision 2010," Cooper said. "We are committed to making a contribution and fostering interoperable solutions."

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