Operations in the Information Environment (OIE) Executive Steering Group (ESG) – 18 July

The IO ESG met Wednesday 18 July. OSD (P) DASD SOCT and JS Deputy Director for Global Operations co-chaired the meeting. The group focused on decisions to move efforts forward per its charter regarding: 1) What can we do internally? 2) What do we need others to do? 3) What’s next?

The ESG agreed to revise the Strategy for Operations in the Information Environment (SOIE) in light of task/responsibility changes in Department guidance. The SOIE revision will address recognition of expanded competitive space in the information environment.

The OIE Capability Based Assessment is complete and the resulting DOTMLPF-P change recommendation is entering staffing.

SOIE Lines of Effort (LOE) Working Groups. OUSD P&R as OPR for LOE1 will develop a baseline assessment of Joint Force DOTMLPF-P needs related to the training and education of personnel for OIE. OUSD P&R will survey these needs via a data call to the Services, Joint Staff, and USSOCOM. This analysis will complement OIE CBA DOTMLPF-P change recommendations.

The next ESG meeting is scheduled to be held in October 2018.

“Algorithmic Warfare: Special Operations Command Exploring AI Tech” (National Defense, Yasmin Tadjdeh, 10 Jul 18)

“With the Defense Department investing more funding into artificial intelligence platforms, Special Operations Command is also looking at how it can leverage such technologies to assist commandos around the globe.”

“Lisa Sanders, director of SOCOM’s science and technology office, said machine learning will be a key aspect of the command’s new “hyper-enabled operator” concept which seeks to give commandos enhanced capabilities. The concept includes four technology pillars: communications, computing, data/sensors, and human-machine interfaces.”

DOD News:

“DoD stands up its artificial intelligence hub” (C4ISRNET, Aaron Mehta, 29 June)

“The Defense Department has formally ordered the creation of a new hub for artificial intelligence research with Dana Deasy, the Pentagon’s new chief information officer, taking the lead.

Deputy Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan ordered the move in a June 27 memo. The Pentagon’s goal is to launch a series of AI projects known as National Mission Initiatives within 90 days – as well as taking over the controversial Project Maven.”

“Pentagon Ramping Up Its Information Warfare Arsenal” (Meritalk.com, 13 Jul 18)

"The term "information warfare" might call to mind Russian trolls exploiting social media, but there has always been a lot more to it than disinformation campaigns on Twitter, or for that matter the airborne propaganda leaflets or Tokyo Roses of wars gone by. Information warfare, or IW, is a key element of every military operation. It spans cyberspace and
the electromagnetic spectrum, involving communications of all kinds such as Global Positioning System readings and satellite operations, as well as economic transactions, every level of surveillance, and old-school radio and TV.

It's always been a part of warfare, and the Pentagon is ramping up for the next, digital phase."

U.S. Army News:
“How the Army will infuse cyber operations on the battlefield” (Fifth Domain, Mark Pomerleau, 5 Jul 18)
“Imagine a brigade combat team readying an assault on a small town in Eastern Europe. As part of the planning, cyber and electromagnetic activities (CEMA) staff recommend knocking out Wi-Fi connections in the town to prevent residents and forces from communicating prior to or during the operation. Today, planners must submit a request for such capabilities through their higher echelons, which slows down the operation. But the Army is experimenting with how to insert these capabilities at lower levels to accelerate decision-making.”

“Army’s new Futures Command to set up headquarters at University of Texas” (Stars and Stripes, Rose L. Thayer, 16 Jul 18)
“The speed at which the Army Futures Command headquarters plans to set up its operations in downtown Austin should reflect the passion behind the project, Lt. Gen. Eric Wesley, integration management officer for the new command, said Friday during a Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce news conference.

Army has already begun moving into new offices within the University of Texas System.

U.S. Navy News:
“IP Afloat Program Puts IPs on CGs, DDGs & LSDs” (DVIDS, George Lammons, 10 May 18)
“Information Professional (IP) restricted line officers are going to sea as Communications Officers (COMMO) on combatants – destroyers (DDG), cruisers (CG), and amphibious dock landing (LSD) ships – in a program called the Afloat Network Security Initiative (ANSI).
The purpose of the IP onboard is to deliver cybersecurity trained officers to lead onboard network teams in the maintenance and defense of shipboard systems; to provide an additional division officer focused on network security and associated tasks; and to work with Surface Warfare Assistant COMMO to increase and sustain warfighting readiness.”

“Kohler Relieved by Brown as NAVIFOR Commander” (InfoDOMAIN, George Bieber, Issue 2018 Q3)
“VADM Matthew J. Kohler, Commander, Naval Information Forces (NAVIFOR) was relieved by VADM Brian B. Brown in a ceremony June 15 at the Department of Defense complex, Suffolk.

“The synergy of intelligence, information and weapons systems in order to realize the full potential of our capabilities as a Fleet is paramount to our warfighters operating forward, executing the missions across all domains and in contested and denied environments around the globe,” said ADM Christopher Grady, Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces, while addressing the NAVIFOR team. “NAVIFOR is at the forefront of this effort.”"
“U.S. Fleet Cyber Command/10th Fleet Holds Change of Command” (Navy.mil, FCC/C10F Public Affairs 19 Jun 18)

“Vice Adm. Timothy J. White relieved Vice Adm. Mike Gilday, as Commander, U.S. Fleet Cyber Command/U.S. 10th Fleet (FCC/C10F), during a Change of Command Ceremony held June 18th on the fleet operations center watch floor at FCC/C10F Headquarters.

White, who most recently served as the Commander of the Cyber National Mission Force at U.S. Cyber Command, takes the reins of FCC/C10F from Gilday, who will assume duties as the director for operations, J-3, for the Joint Staff at the Pentagon."

U.S. Marine Corps News:

Lt. Gen. Daniel J. O’Donohue (General Officer Announcements, DOD News Release, 8 May 18)

Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Daniel J. O’Donohue has been appointed as Director, J-7, Joint Staff. Lt. Gen. O’Donohue most recently served as the Deputy Commandant for Information, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, D.C.

“Maj. Gen. Loretta Reynolds Nominated as USMC Deputy Commandant for Information, MARFORSTRAT Commander” (ExecutiveGov, Jane Edwards, 21 May 18)

“Maj. Gen. Loretta Reynolds, commander of the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Cyber Command, has been nominated by President Donald Trump to serve as deputy commandant for information and commander of the Marine Corps Forces Strategic Command.

Trump also endorsed Reynolds for promotion to the rank of lieutenant general, Defense Secretary James Mattis announced in a Defense Department news release published Friday.”

U.S. Air Force News:

“24th AF changes command, commander during ceremony” (DVIDS, TSgt R.J. Biermann, 17 Jul 18)

“During the ceremony, 24th AF moved from Air Force Space Command to Air Combat Command. Generals Jay Raymond, AFSPC Commander, and Mike Holmes, ACC Commander, presided over the ceremony during which Major General Robert J. Skinner accepted command of 24th AF from outbound commander Major General Christopher P. Weggeman.

The move was directed to realign the 24th AF cyber operations and 25th AF Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance missions under the same command; all to “drive faster decisions as we fight,” said Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson, in a June 7 statement.”

IPOWER News:

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