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Military

Communications -

Electronics

Board



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April 1987

The Communication Electronics world is a complex arrangement of equipment, networks, and above all People. To receive the benefits of our creativity we must carefully coordinate the electronic aspects of our ever increasing systems on a cooperative global basis.

This booklet is designed to give the reader a better understanding of the MCEB and its people as they attempt to harmonize our complex communications electronics world.

As we move rapidly towards the 21st century and our technologies push man and his "signals" deeper into space - we must strive always to communicate from a position of national strength and harmony with our allies.


C. E. MCKNIGHT, JR.
Lieutenant General, USA
Chairman, MCEB



**UNITED STATES
MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS
BOARD**

The Military Communications-Electronics Board is an important but little known element involved in top-level communications-electronics management within the Department of Defense. This comment is not a reflection on the professionalism of the military communications community, but is instead a natural consequence of the fact that only a relatively small number of those dealing in communications-electronics matters have either the need or opportunity to become fully acquainted with the MCEB. Yet its central, unique and wide-ranging role in top level joint communications-electronics management means that its actions in some way impact on virtually all military communications-electronics activities.

The MCEB, operating under a charter established by the Secretary of Defense is composed of the Director for Command, Control and Communications Systems, OJCS, who is also Chairman; senior C-E Officers of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Directors or Senior Representatives of the Defense Communications Agency, the National Communications System, the National Security Agency, and the Joint Tactical Command, Control and Communications Agency. The Chairman may request, when appropriate, representation by other DoD elements. While all members have primary duties with their Departments or Agencies, their joint actions as members of the Board bear the name and carry the authority of the MCEB.



The MCEB, as a corporate body, is organizationally responsive to both the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff and acts for or provides advice to these authorities in accordance with its chartered responsibilities.

While its title and composition have varied over the years, the MCEB can trace its origin back to the Joint Communications Board of World War II. This reflects the continuing requirement to provide a forum in which senior DoD Communicators can discuss and take action in concert on matters of mutual concern, provide coordinated guidance to DoD elements and speak with a single voice when dealing with other Departments of the Government or International Bodies. The MCEB continues to perform this role within guidelines established by the Secretary of Defense.

BRIEF HISTORY

The United States Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) established the United States Joint Communications Board (JCB) on 14 July 1942.

The JCB was reconstituted as the Joint Communications-Electronics Committee (JCES) in 1948.

In 1949 the charter of the JCEC was revised to provide for membership by the Director of Communications Electronics, JCS.

The Military Communications-Electronics Board was formally established by DoD Directive in 1958 after the JCEB was disestablished.

Representation from the Defense Communications Agency and the National Security Agency was added to the Board in 1962 and the Director, Defense Communications Agency assumed Chairmanship.

Representation from the National Communications system was added to the MCEB in 1966.

The Joint Tactical Command, Control, Communications Agency, then called TRI-TAC, joined the Board in 1976.

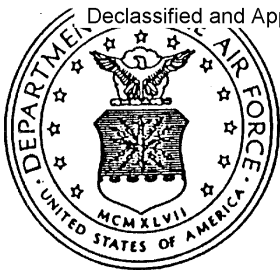
In 1985 a revised charter was published and the Chairmanship passed to the Director, Command, Control, Communications Systems (C3S) JCS.

The Coast Guard was added to the MCEB in 1986.

THE MISSION OF THE MCEB:

The MCEB shall consider those Military Communications-Electronics matters referred to it by the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other designated authorities. For such matters, the MCEB shall:

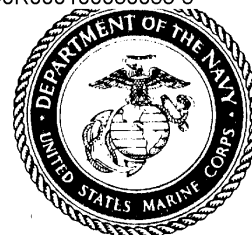
1. Obtain coordination among DoD Components, between the Department of Defense, and other Governmental Department and Agencies, and between the Department of Defense and Representatives of Foreign Nations.



2. Provide guidance and direction to DoD Components
3. Furnish advice and assistance, as requested.

FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MCEB:

- Provide Information, Guidance and Direction to DoD components as need.
- Approve U.S. C-E positions for Military Representatives to Regional Defense Organizations and Foreign Governments.
- Function as DoD Point of Contact on C-E matters for Regional Defense Organizations and Foreign Governments.
- Arrange for U.S. C-E Representation to Regional Defense Organizations Bodies/Committees.
- Publish ACP's and JANAPs.
- Assist in managing the DoD Electronic Compatibility Program.
- Carry out responsibilities for DoD Electronic Compatibility Program.
- Perform a major role in the DoD C-E Equipment Standardization Program.
- Perform studies in any of the areas under the purview of the MCEB's Working Panels.



THE MCEB - ITS ORGANIZATION

CHAIRMAN:

Director for Command, Control and Communications Systems (J6), JCS; supported by a permanent Secretariat

THE PRINCIPALS:

Communications-Electronics chiefs of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard; Director Defense Communications Agency; Director Joint Tactical C3 Agency; and Flag Rank Representatives of the National Security Agency and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In the Corporate world, the Chairman would equate to the "Chief Executive Officer," the Principals are the "Board of Directors."

They are the:

- Senior Service/Agency Communications-Electronics Personnel
- Corporate Head/Executive Council
- Decision, Tasking and Problem Solving Authority
- Guidance and Policy Making Body.



THE COORDINATORS -

"Executive Vice Presidents"

Representatives of the Principals who are invested with authority to act for Principals in accordance with guidance unique to each of the member organizations.

They provide:

- Liaison between concepts and policy of the Principals and the actual panel functions
- Working guidance
- Resolution of the vast majority of issues
- Vote on behalf of their Principal
- Deliberative body functions.

THE SECRETARIAT - "THE SUPPORT ACTIVITY"

Performs the administrative functions of the MCEB. Maintains the records, ensures compliance with regulations and directives, promulgates decisions, performs distributions, and is the MCEB Office of Record

THE MCEB PANELS - "THE WORKING STAFF"

Membership on the Panels is determined by the Coordinators.

They perform the staff work necessary to enable the Coordinators to resolve issues.

The Panels are able to utilize any available resource in their respective Services and Agencies.

There are eleven (11) Panels covering all major areas of communications-electronics:

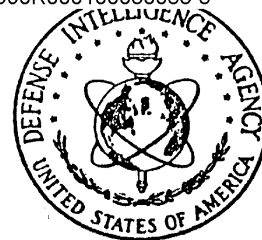
- Aids to Navigation
- Call Signs
- Communications Publications
- Communications Security
- Data Systems Interoperability
- Electronic Warfare
- Equipment and Standardization
- Frequency
- Methods and Procedures
- Plans and Policy
- Warning and Target Information.



SELECTED AREAS OF MCEB INTEREST AND RESPONSIBILITIES

ALLIED COMMUNICATIONS PUBLICATIONS (ACPs)

- ACPs contain communications-electronics related instructions, procedures and/or information and are prepared in conjunction with other Allied Nations. They are issued for the Guidance and use of Allied Forces.
- The major criterion for the content of an ACP is that it have universal applicability. Material of only local theater, command, or geographical significance is not included.
- ACPs cover a wide range of C-E and related areas such as Call Signs Assignment, Electronic Warfare, Frequency Control, IFF, Message System and Radio Procedures, as well as other technical and operational C-E techniques and procedures.
- They are published by the United States based on unanimous agreement by the CCEB after being staffed through NATO prior to publication.
- ACPs are generally adopted by NATO and used worldwide.
- Nations and Regional Defense Organizations supplement the APCs as needed.



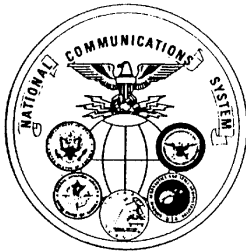
- Changes and recommendations come from many sources and are staffed in the same manner as the original document.

COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY (COMSEC)

- Develops U.S. positions on military characteristics for COMSEC equipment to ensure interoperability, done in conjunction with the CCEB and NATO.
- Fosters the exchange of information with Allies developing COMSEC Hardware.
- Resolves COMSEC hardware and policy/procedures problems to ensure worldwide secure interoperability with our Allies.

DATA SYSTEMS INTEROPERABILITY

- Provides guidance to Military Delegates attending international meetings.
- Develops and coordinates U.S. military input to plans, policies, and standards relating to the interoperability of data systems.
- Reviews and monitors formal agreements to ensure conformance with established plans, policies, and procedures.



ELECTRONIC WARFARE

- Develops and coordinates the U.S. input for Electronic Warfare instructions for all services.

FREQUENCY MANAGEMENT

- Develops and promulgates policies and procedures for frequency management by DoD components.
- Processes applications for DoD Frequency Allocations.
- Provides guidance to developers of military C-E equipment intended for use in CONUS and overseas.
- Develops military positions for frequency management in Allied and International Fora.
- Coordinates assignments of frequencies to U.S. Military Forces and coordinates use with other Government Agencies.
- Provides guidance in management of the DoD Frequency Assignment Data Base.



- Consists of a military secretary, Assistant Secretary (Deputy and Administration), two Assistant Military Secretaries (NATO and CCEB) and four Secretaries.

FREQUENCY MANAGEMENT - INTERNATIONAL

- Develops military input for the development of National Positions in the International Telecommunications Unit, Worldwide and Regional administrative Radio Conferences (ITU WARC/RARC).
- Participates with NATO and the CCEB in the development of military positions and common procedures.
- Coordinates frequency allocations applications.
- Provides, as requested, military participants to ITU WARC/RARC.

IDENTIFICATION FRIEND OR FOE (IFF)

- Develops and coordinates U.S. input to IFF/SIF Operational Procedures on IFF
- Develops and promulgates U.S. IFF Procedures



MCEB INTERACTION WITH THE SERVICES/ AGENCIES

ACPs/JANAPs govern day to day communications operations with publications such as:

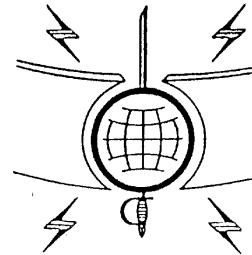
- Routing Guides
- Call Signs Directories
- Operational Procedures Documents.

Frequency Management affects the areas of:

- Frequency Utilization/allocation in the field
- Allocation/coordination for design and development of new C-E equipment.

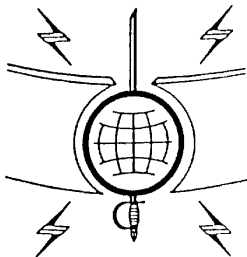
Inputs and recommendations for ACPs come from many sources:

- Field Units/Users
- Services/Agencies
- Individuals
- NATO/CCEB Nations
- Contractors
- U.S. Foreign Government Agencies.



THE COMBINED COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS BOARD (CCEB):

- The CCEB is a five nation combined military communications-electronics board whose mission is the coordination of any military communications-electronics matter which is referred to it by a Member Nation. This includes the responsibility for the establishment of the content, format and release policy of Allied Communications Publications (ACPs) and General Supplements thereto.
- The Member Nations of the CCEB are Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- The CCEB was originally formed in July 1942 as the Combined Communications Board (CCB) with the United Kingdom and the United States as members. Canada became a full member of the board in 1951, Australia in 1969, and New Zealand in 1972. In 1972 the organization took on its present name of the Combined Communications-Electronics Board.
- The Chairman of the MCEB is the U.S. Principal member to the CCEB.
- Each of the five nations provides officers to serve on the CCEB Washington staff. The MCEB secretariat provides two U.S. members as well as support to the CCEB.
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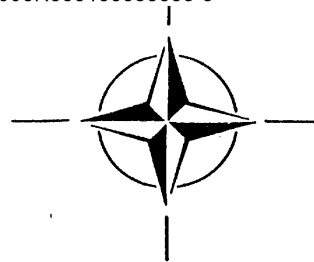


COMBINED COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS BOARD (CCEB) - MISSION AND FUNCTIONS

The CCEB is responsible for the coordination of military communications-electronics matters which are referred to it by a participating nation or international organization.

Functions:

- Develops and establishes combined operations C-E policies, doctrine and operating methods and procedures.
- Coordinates C-E principles and procedures to ensure interoperability including development of military characteristics for systems and equipment.
- Facilitates the exchange of C-E and related information.
- Develops common national military C-E positions.
- Develops and establishes combined radio frequency management policy and procedures.
- Establishes the content, format, distribution, and release policy of Allied Communications Publications and their General Supplements.
- Formulates the composition, allocation, assignment, and distribution of address designators.



USNCEB - NATO RELATIONSHIP

The Chairman of the MCEB is the U.S. Military Delegate to the NATO Communications Information Systems Committee (NACISC).

The MCEB in supporting the U.S. Delegation:

- Prepares and/or staffs U.S. positions for use by U.S. Representatives to the NATO Military C-E Fora.
- Provides military input in the formulation of U.S. C-E positions in NATO.

The MCEB in the performance of its assigned mission in the area of STANDARD NATO AGREEMENTS (STANAGS):

- Provides oversight during development of C-E STANAGS within NATO.
- Processes draft STANAGS for U.S. Ratification.
- Provides STANAGS to Contractors on a Need-To-Know basis.
- Maintains an Office of Record file on C-E STANAGS.



USMCEB PRODUCTS

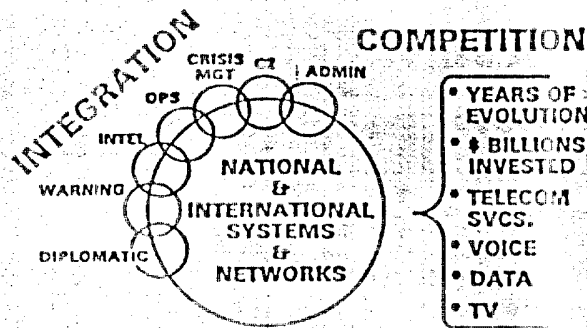
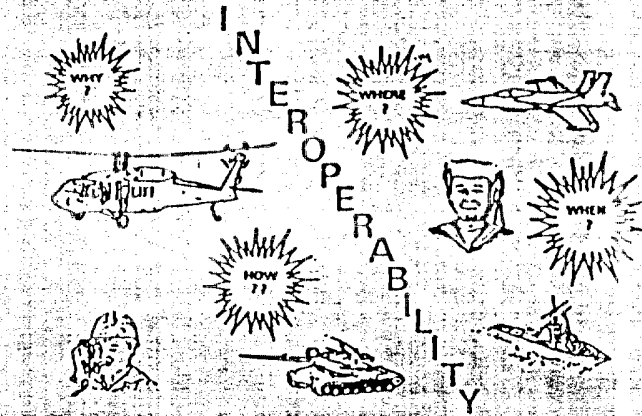
- ACPs, JANAPs, including general and U.S. supplements
- Printing and distribution to U.S. Forces of NATO supplements
- Development, staff, and promulgation of changes to ACPs JANAPs and all supplements
- Frequency assignments
- STANAGS
- Coordinated, consistent U.S. positions on C-E issues

USMCEB - FUTURE IMPACT

- Data communications - ISO Standard
- Facsimile
- Electronic mail
- Record versus non-record communications
- International agreements and standardization

USMCEB - THE GOAL

Effective interoperable communications-electronics.



**FEW STAND ALONES —
HUMAN & ELECTRONIC INTEROP VITAL I**

Additional copies of this pamphlet can be obtained by writing to the Military Secretary, USMCEB, Washington, D.C. 20301-5000.

