

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CCEB

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

101. The Combined Communications-Electronics Board (CCEB) is a five nation joint military communications-electronics (C-E) organisation whose mission is the co-ordination 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 of America. The CCEB Board consists of a senior Command, Control, Communications and Computer (C4) representative from each of the member nations.

102. The first high level proposals for a structure to formulate combined communications-electronics policy were exchanged between the UK and US in March 1941. These proposals led to the development of the Combined Communications Board (CCB) which held its first meeting under Lord Mountbatten in Washington, D.C. on 24 July 1942. CCB membership consisted of two representatives from the United States Army, two representatives from the United States Navy, three UK representatives and one representative each from Australia, New Zealand and Canada. The CCB grew to 33 sub-committees established to consider all communication specialist areas.

103. The CCB produced all combined communications-electronics publications used by the member nations. It also produced at that time more than two million additional copies, in 12 languages, for use by CCB allies. The work of the CCB continued after the war until 14 October 1949 when it was reduced in size and commitment with the formation of NATO and dissolution of the Combined Chiefs of Staff Organisation. The United Kingdom Joint Communications Staff, Washington and the United States Joint Communications-Electronics Committee continued to meet on regular basis as the US-UK Joint Communications-Electronics Committee with representatives of Australia, Canada and New Zealand attending as appropriate.

104. Canada became a full member of the organisation in 1951, Australia in 1969 and New Zealand in 1972. In 1972 the organisation was renamed the Combined Communications-Electronics Board.

105. In 1986 the CCEB agreed to broaden its TOR to include communication and information systems in support of command and control.

CCEB VISION AND MISSION

106. The CCEB has adopted the following vision statement:

"The CCEB is committed to maximize the effectiveness of combined operations by the definition of a Combined Information Environment. This will enable users to share, creatively apply and add value to

collective information and knowledge, constrained solely by policies defined by originators and recipients."

107. The mission of the CCEB is "to maximise the effectiveness of the Warfighter in joint and combined operations by optimising information and knowledge sharing"

STRATEGY FOR ACHIEVING THE VISION AND MISSION

108. As the only joint or combined organisation whose focus is entirely on Command, Control, Communications and Computer (C4) interoperability matters, the CCEB is uniquely positioned to provide C4 leadership within the joint and combined environment. In exercising its leadership, the CCEB will co-ordinate and harmonise its efforts with those of the single Service fora, TTCP and NATO with regards to C4. As appropriate, the CCEB will either take the lead in issues of interest or provide expert technical support to single Service organisations. Where appropriate and when agreed, an individual CCEB country may be designated as lead nation on a particular issue. This may occur when a nation has the greatest or most pressing need to set a standard that is needed for a national project.

109. The CCEB nations recognise that interoperability within the NATO alliance is an essential operational issue for three of the member nations. Therefore, harmonisation of standards, practices and procedures where appropriate with NATO is to be achieved to the greatest possible extent.

110. The CCEB vision is an idealised long-term objective serving as a beacon to keep the member nations collectively on track. As the CCEB does not own infrastructure, interoperability among the member nations will stem from the implementation of national programs. It is the aim of the CCEB to set the architecture, standards and operational procedures such that the totality of the various capabilities fielded over time will act increasingly as a virtual single system. The CCEB also provides a forum to align requirements for C4 capability programmes between the five nations. The CCEB Management Plan provides the road map by which the CCEB plans to undertake tasks in order to progress towards its vision, but interoperability will only occur if nations use CCEB-developed standards in their procurement programs.

111. Although it will be necessary for the CCEB to develop some military standards, notably in the areas of military messaging where insufficient standards exist, the standards selected for agreement by the CCEB will follow the trends of nations to adopt commercial standards and products to meet military requirements. The onus on the CCEB will be first to define the various common capabilities for which agreement is needed and then to follow a process of selection, ratification and publication of associated standards and procedures. Where appropriate CCEB nations may agree to accept a national solution for a particular requirement. This may occur when there is no ready solution to an allied problem, and acceptance of a national solution by other nations will permit interoperability.

112. The standards needed to ensure the gradual building of a virtual single combined

information system will be founded on the Combined Interoperability Technical Architecture (CITA), which the CCEB will publish and maintain.

113. Except for certain areas that may require the unanimous agreement and ratification by the CCEB Principals, material will be published as guidance documents to accelerate the visibility of CCEB intentions within nations and organisations that are concerned about combined interoperability. Where unanimous agreement and ratification is required, or the contents have the potential to significantly impact the nations, CCEB developed material will normally be published as an Allied Communications Publication (ACP).

114. The CCEB shall take advantage of on going efforts and consider existing mature solutions, wherever they may be found. While there are immediate benefits from this approach, the full attainment of the CCEB vision will more assuredly be achieved through the establishment of suitable standards, practices and procedures and the creation of an environment such that allied nations as well as potential coalition partners will wish to conform for the sake of combined interoperability.

RESOURCES

115. The CCEB has a permanent full-time staff of one officer - the PS. All other personnel, including the Principals, members of the EG, the Washington Staff (WS), and all of the international members who work on issues of mutual concern, are drawn from national organisations on a part time basis.

116. The CCEB Strategic Plan and the CCEB Management Plan will provide an estimate of the resources needed to achieve specific tasks, but the actual allocation must be planned for and provided by the participating nations. Every effort will be made to keep the demand to a minimum. This will be achieved by taking advantage of the work done by other bodies, which will also ensure that work is not duplicated, and by employing such techniques as asking a single nation to carry out work on behalf of the other member nations whenever it is appropriate. Nations having funded programs for specific capabilities are in the best position to dedicate some resources towards the development of the associated international standards needed for CCEB commonality.

ROLE AND ORGANISATION

117. The CCEB role is to examine military communication-electronics issues and influence delivery of necessary capability to ensure allied interoperability. This it undertakes in association with research, single Service fora and other interoperability organisations, striving to establish a framework for interoperability. Whilst the CCEB does not control national procurement initiatives, or mandate the use of particular standards, future equipment acquisition will be strongly influenced by the standards, policies and procedures which the CCEB develops.

118. The nominated senior C4 Representatives of the individual national joint military C-E organisations are known as “Principals”. The term “Board” is used to describe the collective Principals: the term “CCEB” is used to describe the organisation as a whole,

which consists of component groupings: Principals; Executive Group (EG); Washington Staff (WS); National Staff (NS); and Working Groups (WGs). Collectively, the Principals, NS, EG and WS have the responsibility for considering any military C-E matter which is referred to it by a participating nation or international organisation. In practice, the business concentrates on determining which aspects of interoperability are suited for CCEB processes, and maintaining the currency of existing policies, standards and procedures in ACPs.

119. The components of the CCEB are as follows:

- a. Principals. The Principals meet formally as a Board annually to reflect on the achievements of the past year and to give overall direction for the upcoming year's activities. Throughout the year, the Principals will use video teleconferencing and other media (as required) to receive updates on specific issues and to provide necessary direction as required. The Principals will influence their respective nations, either in championing policy changes or directing specifications in procurement, in furthering the goal on C4 interoperability. Chairmanship, which changes after each annual meeting, passes in succession in the order of Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, New Zealand and the United States of America.
- b. Executive Group (EG). The EG formally meets as a body three times a year. The EG co-ordinates the development of the policy and planning needed to support the business of the CCEB, progresses combined C-E interoperability on behalf of the Board, and prioritises and recommends allocation of resources. Throughout the year, the EG will use video teleconferencing and other media (as required), to receive updates on specific issues and to provide necessary direction as required. The chairmanship of the EG is linked to the chairmanship of the Board.
- c. Washington Staff (WS). The WS comprise the nominated national representatives located in Washington DC. They are tasked individually in a manner determined by each nation. Collectively, the WS act for, and in the name of, the Principals on matters not requiring Board or EG approval. The WS nominee for the chairmanship is agreed by the EG at the meeting it normally holds in the fourth quarter of each calendar year. The individual WS members have, to an extent determined within each nation, national responsibility to their respective EG representative and Principal.
- d. National Staff (NS). This is a generic term to describe those staff members in national headquarters who function, to an extent determined within each nation, to support the Principal and national EG member on CCEB business. The NS do not meet as a formed body.
- e. Permanent Secretary (PS). The PS is the full-time CCEB staff member who co-ordinates the day to day business of the CCEB. The PS acts on behalf of and is tasked by the chairmen of the EG and the WS.

f. Working Groups (WGs). The WGs are normally established as either a standing body or an ad-hoc group to consider specified CCEB issues. The current WGs are:

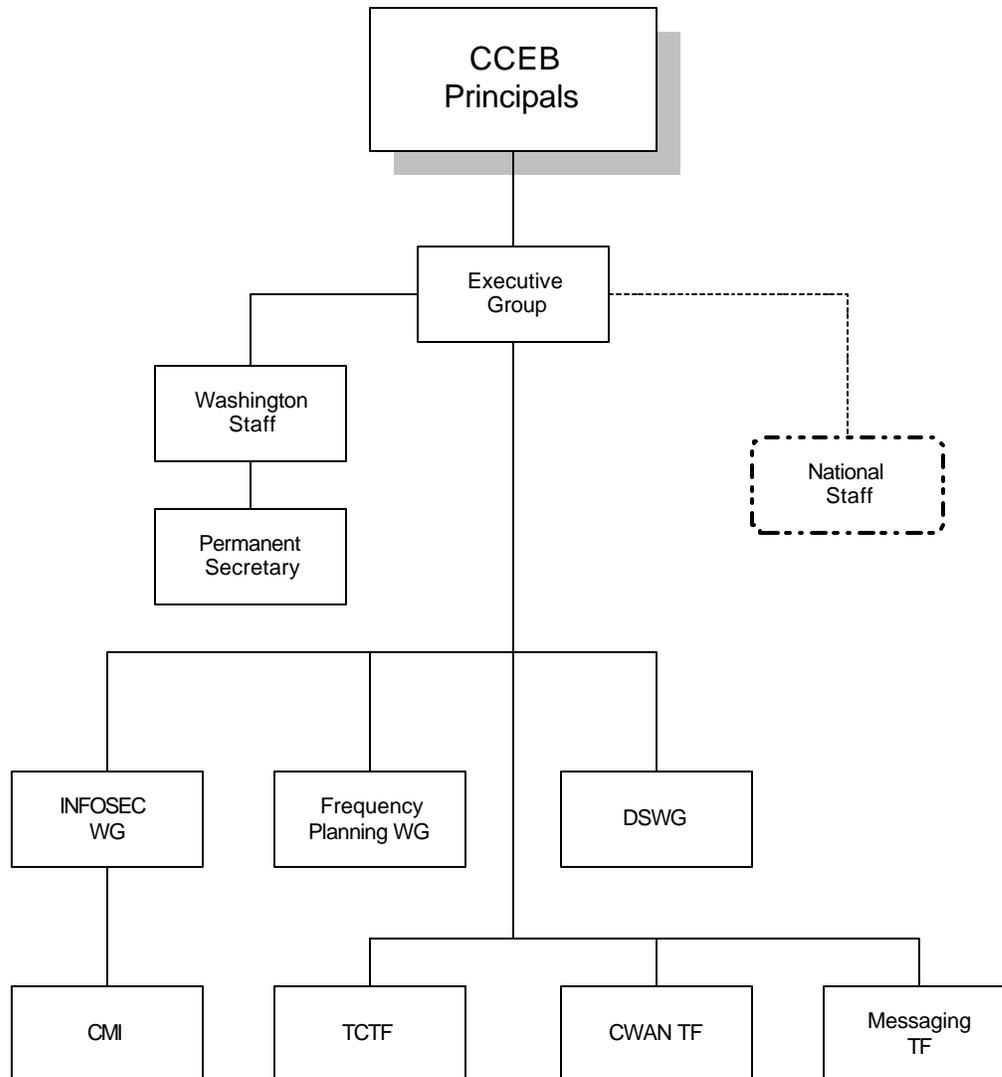
- (1) The Information Security Working Group (INFOSEC WG),
- (2) The Frequency Planning Working Group (FP WG), and
- (3) The Directory Services Working Group (DS WG).

g. Task Forces (TFs). CCEB TFs are normally established to address a specific short-term issue. The current CCEB TFs are:

- (1) The Tactical Communications Task Force (TCTF),
- (2) The Combined Wide Area Network Task Force (CWAN TF), and
- (3) The Messaging Task Force (Messaging TF).

120. The CCEB's WGs and TFs are populated by national specialist representatives who convene under an internationally rotating chairman, and report to and receive tasking from the EG on behalf of the Principals.

121. The CCEB hierarchy is shown in the following diagram:



LIAISON WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES

122. As the CCEB is the organisation responsible for enhancing joint interoperability of allied C4, an important role for the CCEB is to interact closely on C4 matters with the Multinational Interoperability Council (MIC), NATO and other single Service and research organisations. To this end, the CCEB strongly promotes and encourages both formal and informal co-operative efforts with other joint and combined organisations. Wherever possible and when invited, the CCEB will be appropriately represented and will provide presentations at other groups' plenary meetings and subordinate group meetings.