(U) US MPE/NATO FMN History and Status Update

(U) US MPE/NATO FMN Update: US Mission Partner Environment (MPE) and NATO Federated mission Networking (FMN) arose from the same operational requirement generated by Commander, ISAF Joint Command (COMIJC) LTG Rodriguez in mid-2011. The operational requirement in Afghanistan necessitated troop contributing nations to operate in a single information domain called the Afghan Mission Network (AMN). Based on improved coalition unity of effort and speed of command, Commander, ISAF endorsed AMN best practices as the "right model" for future coalition mission networks and forwarded the requirement to NATO. The same requirement also made its way to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who tasked the JS J6 to "lead the evolution of a future mission network".

(U) For continuity of historical references, it is useful to know that both US MPE and NATO FMN framework efforts started out under the moniker "Future Mission Network" but underwent name changes in 2012 in to avoid inevitable confusion due to association with something that was "always in the future" or limited to materiel oriented IT and network solutions.

(U) Multi-national engagement and scalable support to missions ranging from an individual unit enrolling the expertise of a non-governmental partner to receiving or sending embedded forces to conduct of large scale multi-nation coalition operations is a critical component to collective security. Within the context of NATO, umbrella initiatives to improve collective security within NATO as well as with non-NATO entities include Connected Forces Initiative and Smart Defence.

(U) Several documents have driven the evolution of the US MPE framework: Terms of Reference to ICD/CONOPS; 90 Day Study; US MPE Episodic Joining Membership and Exit Instructions (JMEI) Joining Instructions; CJCSI 5128.01; DoDI 8110.10; and the MPE Enduring and MPE Episodic Capability Development Packages. Likewise NATO has produced numerous documents to drive FMN development: NATO FMN Concept; NATO FMN Implementation Plan (NFIP) Vol 1; and the NATO FMN Transition Plan. All these documents have been cross-walked between the appropriate US and NATO organizations. Today, work continues on the NATO FMN Implementation Plan Vol 2 (Federation) and Vol 3 (Train and equip of NATO Command Structure) which respectively correspond to US MPE Episodic JMEI Joining Instructions and the DoDI 8110.01.

(U) To facilitate deliberate and coordinated change management among interested partners known as "FMN Affiliates", NATO has agreed to host an FMN Secretariat which will be comprised of national liaison officers representing partners, both NATO members and non-NATO entities, who desire to establish and sustain an ability to enter into mission specific trusted and secure network relationships with other like-minded partners. The US is an FMN Affiliate; MPE reflects US DoD desire to be an FMN community member. NATO itself is an FMN Affiliate with peer status within an FMN community. The FMN Secretariat will be a forum in which changes to partner and scenario agnostic standards are raised, timelines discussed and collective courses of action agreed upon. The FMN Secretariat is supported by several working groups which address Coalition Interoperability Assurance and Validation (CIAV), Capability Planning, Multi-National CIS Security Management, Change and Implementation Coordination, and Operational Coordination (Architectures and Mission Threads). The FMN Secretariat products and decisions are forwarded to a flag and general officer level FMN Management Group for review and delivery to respective national or organizational governance bodies for consideration, acceptance and implementation. JS J6 Deputy Director C5I, Mr. Stuart Whitehead, SES, is the US FOGO level representative to the FMN Management Group. The US representative to the FMN Secretariat is an O4/O5 member of the US Military Delegation to NATO staff assigned to work in the FMN Secretariat located at SHAPE. The responsibilities of the US liaison officer to FMN

Secretariat include maintaining close relationships with Joint Staff J6 DD C5I, other Joint Staff Directorates, HQ USEUCOM, other applicable Combatant Command HQs, DISA and Service Capability developers.

(U) US MPE and NATO FMN framework are cut from the same cloth and look to achieve similar objectives with respective existing materiel and non-materiel DOTMLPF, skill sets, talent and TTPs. US MPE and NATO FMN basic protocols, standards, and trust criteria are cross referenced to reflect unprecedented reciprocity and compatibility which is in and of itself a priceless benefit to any and all FMN-minded mission partners.

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