RE: USMTF CONFIGURATION CONTROL BOARD SPECIAL PURPOSE MEETING 15-18 SEPT 2014

Background. In August, 2014 Major Neushul was approached the Interoperability Branch Head, Mr Buck Connally regarding the potential benefits of achieving alignment and inclusion of USMTF XML data standard in the national Information Exchange Model (NIEM). As an XML Message format Subject Matter Expert, Major Neushul proposed to apply XML Stylesheet Language for Transformation (XSLT) to convert the existing XML Standard format to a NIEM conformant XML Schemas. The accomplishment of this task in October of 2014 engendered significant interest and application of human resources by the Air Force representatives to the USMTF CCB, and a proposal to institute a major change to the MIL STD in order to leverage these efforts.

Purpose. The special purpose meeting of the CCB was convened specifically to establish consensus, approval, and a time-line for converting USMTF XML Schemas from the existing “Venetian Blind” XML Schema design to the NEIM conformant “Garden of Eden” design. While the initial effort demonstrated feasibility and efficacy, specific naming and design rules must still be implemented and the convention of employing global elements caused naming conflicts which require de-confliction. In order to accomplish these task a focused, collaborative and agile team effort was agreed upon.

Results. The CCB members voted to approve a major change of the USMTF MIL STD 6040 to Garden of Eden design in order to facilitate NIEM integration where appropriate. Consensus was achieved that the USMTF MIL STD 6040 would not be subordinate to NIEM Mil Ops domain requirements due to responsibilities for service representation, configuration control and reliability which Mil Ops representatives cannot assume. USMTF will be a NIEM MIL Ops Domain resource, but will not be incorporated entirely. A Plan of Action and Milestones were established to achieve all Change Proposals before the end of calendar year 2014. These included the establishment of a collaborative development environment on the DoD Software Forge to accommodate version control and mitigate the complexity caused by remote individuals working collaboratively. Leadership of the development efforts was assumed by Major Neushul.

Conclusion. The importance of including USMTF ontology and knowledge in the modernization of communication protocols extends beyond implementation and interoperability. As the result or 20 years of inter-service conformance in the US and at NATO, MTF messages represent an authoritative data source (ADS) for institutional knowledge on the content and purpose of US Joint and Coalition Warfighting information exchanges. Exposure of this data to NIEM and other efforts will maintain an preserve this valuable resource. As the organization which provides U.S. Representation to NATO MTF standards committees, MCTSSA IOB has committed to executing parallel efforts to re-factor MATO MTF in a way that achieves the same objectives.

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