RE: PRESENTATION OF USMTF XML EFFORTS AT TECHNICAL INTEROPERABILTY STANDARDS WORKING GROUP (TISWG) 14-03

Background. MCTSSA support for efforts to convert USMTF and NATO Message Standards to a “Garden of Eden” XML Schema design resulted in a major change proposal to the USMTF MIL STD 6040 and a proposal to implement concurrent changes to the NATO standard. Major James Neushul, USMC attended the TISWG in order to inform Marine Corps stake holders of the potential impact and advantages that these version changes may provide for implementation in Marine Corps Command and Control (C2) systems.

Purpose. Major James Neushul, USMC attended the TISWG in order to inform Marine Corps stake holders of the potential impact and advantages that these version changes may provide for implementation in Marine Corps Command and Control (C2) systems. Pertinent to the brief was the collaborative efforts conducted in order to achieve proposed changes and the invitation of stakeholders to actively participate in the process.

Results. The Brief was attended by Mr. Steve Knott, HQMC C4, Mr Vivian Pecus, Project Lead for Tactical Service Oriented Architecture (TSOA), and LtCol Andrew Chapman, Program Manager Marine Corps Command and Control Communications (MC3). The presentation and off-line meetings resulted in productive resolutions to leverage the MTF work as well as implementation efforts in the Coalition Warfighting Interoperability Exercise (CWIX) to achieve a feasible way forward for implementation of text messaging and Identity and Access Management (IdAM) in the Marine Corps. A separate meeting with a developer working on a Command Dashboard function for the Marine Corps Common Aviation Command and Control System (CAC2S) resulted in a commitment to support the use of this tool to provide context for messaging and chat functions at CWIX. This is a web service that is aligned with TSOA efforts and can be considered a focus of effort for improving interoperability for both ground and air communications in the Joint and Combined environments.

Conclusion. TISWG presentation and meetings provided clarity and focus on achievable objectives to rapidly operationalize MTF functionality in accordance with Joint Information Environment (JIE) requirements. This focus can also be directed to improve Marine Corps interoperability with Coalition partners. In keeping with MCTSSA priorities to provide technical support and expertise in a way that represents, promotes and advocates Operating Forces objectives, it is imperative that MTF efforts at MCTSSA are leveraged accordingly. Current support requests include a demand signal from the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion for a digital forms capability to generate NATO messages, as well as a HQMC C4 led requirement to implement IdAM with Common Access Card support for Chat functions in the Command Operation Center (COC). Implementation of MTF and IdAM capabilities in the context of ongoing Dashboard efforts has the potential to provide sufficient Enterprise context and support to deliver these capabilities both in the COC and in CAC2S.

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