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Communications and Information

**DEPLOYABLE COMMUNICATIONS
STANDARDS - PLANNING FOR EXERCISES**

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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This instruction implements policy found in Air Force Policy Directive 33-1, *Command, Control, Communications, and Computer (C4) Systems*. This instruction establishes the communications and information (C&I) systems planning team for major exercises and delineate functions to be performed by the group. Additionally, it sets policy for minimum exercise participation for designated units. It is applicable to Numbered Air Forces (NAFs), Air Communications Squadrons (ACOMSS), PACAF Initial Communications Package (PICP) equipped units, Air Control Squadrons (ACSS), Combat Communications Squadrons (CBCSS), and Air Support Operations Groups (ASOGs). This publication applies to PACAF Air National Guard (ANG) and the Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) units and their members.

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS

References to the AFFOR Communications Hub are removed. A typical site configuration plan is added as a reference for the PACAF Initial Communications Package (PICP) quarterly communications exercise. HQ PACAF/SCC, NAF, and unit responsibilities during exercise planning are revised. The procedures for requesting satellite access and the exercise milestone schedule are updated. A bar (|) indicates revision from the previous edition.

| 1. General.

1.1. The scope and diversity of information, communications, and command and control networks necessary to support a major exercise, demand that these networks be planned as a single system to ensure an effective, efficient use of resources. The single system planned by the Combat Air Forces (CAF) includes all equipment necessary to interconnect the elements of the Theater Air Control System (TACS). This single system provides command and control function to the following: Air Traffic Control (ATC) for airfield operations, interface with the Joint Task Force (JTF) and other component commanders, interface with other sister services, and provides entry into the Defense Information

Infrastructure. The deployable communications system is composed of resources provided by the ground TACS, CBCSs, PICPs and their entry points. The deployable communications system and the fixed resources that support major exercises comprise the theater communications system. This system provides a wide range of operations, command and control, intelligence, logistics, and administrative communications to support theater air operations. Also included is the capability to provide airfield ATC equipment including Air Traffic Control and Landing Systems (ATCALs) and Navigational Aids (NAVAIDS). Viable support of combat operations mandate that theater communications systems be properly interfaced at key points in the operational structure and that planning for these systems be integrated under the supervision of a single communications and information (C&I) systems planning manager.

1.2. The NAF provides the focal point for planning. In this capacity, the NAF implements HQ PACAF guidelines for units participating in an exercise and directs necessary actions to interface deployed systems with each other and with fixed communications systems. Requirements must be determined with adequate time allowed for processing through military and commercial circuit acquisition channels.

2. Procedures. The Chief of Communications and Information (C-I) Systems of the NAF (NAF/A6) identified to support a major exercise is the senior AF deployable Communications-Information systems exercise planner. For the purposes of this document, NAF/SC will be used to represent the senior communications planner for the Numbered Air Force. The NAF/SC designates a lead C-I planner from the NAF or participating units and a C-I systems planning team for each major exercise. The C-I planning team is composed of representatives from HQ PACAF, NAF, and participating units. These project officers/NCOs, plus ad hoc experts and/or any other personnel the lead planner specifies, comprise the C-I systems planning team. All agencies must assign fully qualified personnel to the planning team.

2.1. The planning team convenes at a time and location specified by the lead planner. Hold the initial session at the earliest practical date after receipt of outline plans or other data sufficient for the planning team use.

2.2. Periodic meetings convene as necessary to ensure all planning actions are completed on a timely basis.

3. Tasks and Responsibilities.

3.1. HQ PACAF/SCC will :

3.1.1. Produce an annual exercise schedule indicating tentative unit participation for the next fiscal year.

3.1.2. Maintain final approval/tasking authority on all deployable communications assets selected for exercise participation.

3.1.3. When necessary, re-designate combat communications unit participation for exercises with proper ARC coordination (e.g. 242 CBCS instead of 293 CBCS).

3.1.4. Coordinate prioritization with HQ USAF for Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) exercises to resolve conflicting tasking of critical deployable communications resources.

3.1.5. Authorize the NAF direct coordination once the participating deployable C-I units for all exercises are determined.

3.1.6. Coordinate approval/tasking of any TACS units selected for exercise participation with the appropriate OPR.

3.1.7. Coordinate re-designation of TACS unit participation for exercises, when necessary.

3.1.8. Ensure the lead planner is aware of the planning schedule.

3.2. NAF/A6 and the OPR for Theater Battle Management will:

3.2.1. Review available planning information and assess the communications support capability.

3.2.2. Develop the command and control systems communications support concepts and systems for the operational requirements.

3.2.3. Provide restoral priorities (for systems and circuits).

3.2.4. Provide activation priorities (for systems and circuits).

3.2.5. Define/assign responsibilities for participating units.

3.2.5.1. Determine command and reporting relationships between subordinate communications units.

3.2.5.2. Define lead units responsibilities to augmenting units.

3.2.5.3. Define responsibilities of communications management elements, if required.

3.2.6. Develop and publish planning and execution C-I objectives for each exercise.

3.2.7. Perform planning functions and a site survey, ensuring all appropriate agencies accompany them, when necessary.

3.2.8. Determine equipment compatibility, interfaces, modes of operation, and other related technical details in direct coordination with participating units.

3.2.9. Develop, with participating unit support, frequency requirements, channelization summary sheets, and circuit layout records; and review this data to ensure adequate systems interface.

3.2.9.1. Validate frequency requests.

3.2.9.2. Consolidate frequency requests and submit to servicing headquarters in the required lead-time.

3.2.10. Develop a milestone chart at the initial planning conference and submit to HQ PACAF/SCC (see sample, [Attachment 1](#)).

3.2.11. Develop a draft Annex K prior to the final planning conference to be distributed to all participating units including HQ PACAF/SCC no later than 30 days prior to the exercise. If no OPLAN/EXPLAN is written for exercise, substitute Communications Plan (COMPLAN) for Annex K.

3.2.12. Advise higher headquarters of problems requiring assistance. Provide HQ PACAF/SCC with status of milestones that have not been met, including reasons for delay and any additional requirements necessary for completion and recommend changes to the exercise concepts, if deemed necessary.

3.2.13. Brief the operational planning staff on support communications capabilities, limitations, and/or recommended changes to the exercise concepts, if appropriate.

- 3.2.14. Publish official minutes of the planning team meetings with milestones attached. Distribution will be made to all participating units and HQ PACAF/SCC.
- 3.2.15. Brief HQ PACAF/SCC at least 30 days prior to a major exercise on the communications systems employment plan for the exercise. The lead C-I exercise planner normally performs briefing. Briefings may be completed by video-conference or similar activity.
- 3.2.16. Brief HQ PACAF/SCC at least 45 days after a major exercise (see **Attachment 2**). Forward problems affecting near-term planning or employment to HQ PACAF/SCC for action 30 days after the end of the exercise. The lead C-I exercise planner normally performs briefing.
- 3.2.17. Provide a management element (SYSCON) at the AFFOR location per JCSM 6231.01.
- 3.2.18. Develop, with participating unit support, COMSEC requirements.
- 3.2.18.1. Validate COMSEC requirements.
- 3.2.18.2. Consolidate COMSEC requirements and submit to JTF/J6 or lead planning organization at least 45 days before the start of the exercise.
- 3.2.19. Submit all satellite requests to USPACOM/TCCC (477-1076) IAW PACOM UHF Satellite Access Request (SAR) Gateway Access Request (GAR) format (<http://www.hq.pacom.smil.mil/J6/J63/satcom>) 45 days prior to exercise start. For non-JTF and local COMMEX, submit SAR/GAR to HQ PACAF/SCC using pre-mentioned format at least 20 days prior to exercise start. Failure to submit SARs in a timely manner will result in satellite access denial by USPACOM/TCCC.
- 3.2.20. Coordinate with the appropriate OPR to provide travel and per diem fund cites for all deploying personnel. JCS exercise fund cites are held and disbursed by HQ PACAF/DOXE.
- 3.2.21. Provide fund cites and shipping instructions for all equipment identified for deployment.
- 3.2.22. Develop the Air Force communications portion of the Time Phase Force Deployment List and Deployed Manning Requirements Document.
- 3.2.23. Coordinate call signs through proper authorities.
- 3.2.24. Ensure Information Management and Postal support are provided at the appropriate level.
- 3.2.25. Ensure Audio-Visual, Combat Camera support is provided at the appropriate level.
- 3.2.26. Submit Communications Readiness Checklist no later than ten days after ENDEX (see section 5).
- 3.2.27. Ensure PACAF NOSC-D is included in COMSTAT Reporting chain for all exercises including a Joint Command and Control Cell (JCCC) (e.g., AFFOR Unit reports COMSTATS/COMSPOTS to NOSC-D, NOSC-D consolidates and forwards reports to JCCC).

3.3. Other participating communications units will:

- 3.3.1. Provide a communications focal point (CFP) for each deployed location where multiple C&I units co-locate. The NAF/A6 will designate the lead C&I Commander. The lead C&I/CC will consolidate all deployed units into a provisional communications activity. The C&I/CC for each location will lead the CFP.

- 3.3.2. Provide a list of recommended equipment to the lead NAF/A6. This list is determined by the customer's requirement.
- 3.3.3. Determine equipment compatibility, interfaces, modes of operation, and other related technical data.
- 3.3.4. Perform site surveys, as necessary.
- 3.3.5. Attend all appropriate planning team meetings. Advise NAF/A6 on progress and problems encountered in meeting milestones and supporting exercise objectives.
- 3.3.6. Respond to requests from lead C&I (if designated) when assistance is required to expeditiously pursue planning and execution objectives in support of an exercise.
- 3.3.7. Perform/coordinate all actions required to obtain a Certificate to Operate (CtO) approval for exercises that impact the PACAF Enterprise Network. Prepare Interim Certificate to Operate (ICTO) packages for all communications/computer systems that will be connected to SIPRNET or NIPRNET that are not part of site accreditation package. Submit ICTO packages for approval to HQ PACAF/SCC no later than 60 days prior to exercise start. For more information on completing this package, see <https://www.hqpacaf.af.mil/sc/SCP/Final%20Page/Resources/PACAFFinalResourcesPage.htm>.
- 3.3.8. All issues concerning deployable ATCALs will be coordinated with HQ PACAF/DOY.
- 3.3.9. Submit Communications Readiness Checklist no later than ten days after ENDEX (see section 5).

4. Quarterly PICP-to-Standardized Tactical Entry Point (STEP) Communications Exercise (COMEX). As a minimum, each TDC/ICAP unit (PICPs) will participate in a quarterly COMEX with a STEP site. HQ PACAF/SCC will designate units for participation in the PACAF communications exercise schedule. The goal for these communication exercises is to allow communicators to set up, operate, and activate their systems in a training environment. Units are encouraged to involve personnel at different levels of training to facilitate learning and to provide hands-on experience in a non-threatening environment.

4.1. Standard objectives for each exercise are participation in a spoke-hub satellite network, and as a minimum, the exercising unit will establish circuits IAW **Attachment 3** (Typical PICP 6KTDC Site Configuration). Units shall configure and establish UHF Voice/Data links via HAMMER RICK. In addition, units are required to demonstrate and verify DMS-D operation through the STEP. This will ensure personnel maintain proficiency in all aspects of the TDC/ICAP arena. Non-TDC/ICAP units (Tri-TAC) will establish links/circuits via SATCOM, TSSR, TRC-170, and HF.

4.2. Units may be exempt during a quarter if they participate in a HQ PACAF or JCS exercise that period, where the spoke-hub SATCOM architecture included a hub type unit or STEP site.

4.2.1. An example of this is when PICPs participate in the COPE TIGER Exercise. This would count for their quarterly COMEX requirement.

5. Communications Readiness Criteria. Communications Readiness Criteria (CRC) is addressed in PACAFI 33-150, Volume XV. Units will use the CRC Checklist(s) to report their ability to complete checklist items when participating in all HQ PACAF and JCS sponsored exercises. Completed checklist will be forwarded electronically no later than ten working days after ENDEX to HQ PACAF/SCC. The

completion of checklist items will be maintained in a database to analyze trends in readiness and training for all PACAF C&I units.

6. Coordination. Participating units are authorized direct coordination. HQ PACAF/SCC will be an information addressee on all record communications between the NAF/A6 and the NAF OPR for Theater Battle Management and participating units. NAF/A6 will be addressed on all correspondence involving taskings of equipment/manpower for action/resolution.

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Attachment 1

SAMPLE MILESTONES

Table A1.1. Sample Milestones.

STEP	DAYS OUT	PRIMARY ACTION
1	730-365	Identify participating Primary units.
2	240-105	Initial Planning Conference -- Begin JOPES input - Identify Force list.
3	240-105	Identify user Communications/Air Picture/RADAR/ATC/TBMCS/ requirements and identify bed down locations.
4	180-120	Perform site surveys.
5	180-105	Identify equipment requirements.
6	180-075	Write DRAFT exercise operations and exercise support plan/annexes. (Done in conjunction with Site Survey and prior to Middle Planning Conference.) If no OPS OPLAN written, begin COMPLAN.
7	180-060	Middle planning conference.
8	180-090	Refine DRAFT exercise operations and exercise support plan/annexes and write. Draft Communications Engineering package prior to Final Planning Conference.
9	180-075	Submit Deployed Manning Requirement Document, TPFDD, & JOPES updates.
10	180-075	Submit call sign requirements.
11	180-105	Submit Airlift requirements -- JOPES update.
12	180-060	Submit Frequency requirements.
13	150-045	Submit COMSEC callout message.
14	145-120	Submit RFSs to HQ PACAF/SCC.
15	145-130	Submit RFSs. (Request DISA Control numbers from DISA PAC.)
16	090-045	Submit Satellite requests.
17	090-030	Final planning conference -- JOPES fine-tuned and finalized.
18	090-030	Identify personnel deploying and shortfalls that require sourcing.
19	090-040	Comm Systems Technical Control and Engineering planning conference.
20	075-030	Publish Exercise Operations plan, including Annex K and Tactical Engineering package. Distribute plan to Communications Unit Players.
21	045-030	Brief HQ PACAF/SC.

Attachment 2**SAMPLE OUTLINES****A2.1. PRE-EXERCISE BRIEF (Provide HQ PACAF/SCC staff three legible copies and electronic copy)**

A2.1.1. **BRIEFING OVERVIEW** (Please include Information Management, Postal, and Visual Information as well as communications support during briefing)

A2.1.2. **BASIC OPERATIONS:** (To include)

A2.1.2.1. Concept of operations

A2.1.2.2. Forces

A2.1.2.3. Operational Purpose/Objectives/Summary

A2.1.3. **KEY DEPLOYED LOCATIONS OF MAJOR PARTICIPANTS** (Joint and Air Force)

A2.1.4. **KEY PERSONNEL**

A2.1.5. **MANNING**

A2.1.6. **MAJOR USAF COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS SUPPORT:**

A2.1.6.1. Map Indicating Unit/Location

A2.1.7. **SCHEDULED EVENTS.** (Key dates)

A2.1.8. **COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS**

A2.1.8.1. SATCOM (UHF/SHF/EHF)

A2.1.8.2. Terrestrial -- JTAO

A2.1.8.3. HF/UHF/VHF/SINGARS

A2.1.8.4. Message Switching

A2.1.8.5. Voice Switching

A2.1.8.6. Data Networks

A2.1.8.7. TBMCS

A2.1.8.8. Others

A2.2. POST EXERCISE BRIEF: (Provide HQ PACAF/SCC staff with three legible copies and electronic copy)

A2.2.1. **OVERVIEW** (Please include Information Management, Postal, Repro, and Visual Information as well as communications support during briefing)

A2.2.2. **SHORT SCENARIO** (Include map of area)

A2.2.3. **COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS EVENTS BY DATE AND TIME**

A2.2.4. **BRIEF SYSTEMS EMPLOYED AND KEY LOCATIONS**

A2.2.5. KEY PARTICIPANTS BY LOCATIONS/UNITS

A2.2.6. CRC PERCENTAGE

A2.2.7. AFTER-ACTION ITEMS

A2.2.7.1. Overall Results

A2.2.7.2. Testing results of new equipment/systems employed

A2.2.8. COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS EVENTS WHICH WENT WELL

A2.2.9. COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS EVENTS WHICH DID NOT PERFORM WELL

Attachment 3

TYPICAL PICP 6KTDC SITE CONFIGURATION

