



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**

Directive 23 /2004

**JOINT DIRECTIVE BY  
CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE AND  
SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE  
TO  
AIR COMMODORE D.A. PIETSCH  
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INTEROPERABILITY**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. CDF at COSC endorsed a recommendation from the report of the Operational Level Review of the effectiveness of interoperability between the armed forces of Australia and the United States to establish an Office of Interoperability. Conduct of the Review was directed by Minister for Defence and the U.S. Secretary of Defense during the Ministerial Meeting (AUSMIN) in October 2003. The Office will be established within the Capability Development Group. Initially, the Office will be responsible for the implementation of the Operational Level Report (October 2003) and with the follow-up action for those recommendations arising from the Strategic Level Report (October 2002) not yet completed. In the longer term, the Office will be required to turn its attention to the issues of joint and combined interoperability, addressing associated capability issues, and operational interoperability requirements.

**BACKGROUND**

**Strategic Level Interoperability Review**

2. The review of strategic-level interoperability was endorsed by CDF and CDR USPACOM at the MILREPS meeting on 28 October 2002, and accepted by the AUSMINS consultations on 29 October 2002. The review found that the Alliance between Australia and the United States had developed over five decades into one of the world's closest bilateral defence relationships. However, the following areas for improvement were identified; information exchange, harmonisation of some capability development, cooperative science and technology experimentation, and provision of better strategic guidance to bilateral forums.

**Operational Level Interoperability Review**

3. The review of operational-level interoperability was endorsed at the MILREPS meeting over 16 and 17 October 2003. CDF and CDR USPACOM reaffirmed their endorsement of the review at the MILREPS meeting on 20 May 2004 and recommended that the AUSMIN consultations on 7 July 2004 endorse the Operational Level Report and its recommendations. The report highlights the importance for Australia and the United States of sustaining the commitment to interoperability, if the current high standard shared between the ADF and U.S. Armed Forces is to be maintained. The 95 recommendations in the review address current deficiencies and emerging requirements. They fall into three categories: security cooperation arrangements, information exchange, and capability development. Together, these recommendations reflect the breadth and depth of the

Australia/U.S. relationship and the review articulates the effort required to sustain this high degree of interoperability in an ever-changing world.

## **Transformation**

4. Two major themes shape the way forward for AS/U.S. interoperability. The first is the experience of recent military operations, drawing on the lessons learned by Australian and U.S. forces fighting together in The Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq. The second is transformation, which is reshaping warfighting concepts and capability requirements, particularly in the United States.

5. The on-going transformation of U.S. military forces and the modernisation of Australian military forces are important factors that require continual close attention. Transformation includes the development of new warfighting concepts particularly network-centric warfare, along with the rapid introduction of numerous new combat related technologies, such as software defined radios.

6. These two major themes reflected in the Strategic and Operational Level Reviews, need to be recognized as drivers of the way forward for Australia's and the United States' adaptability and interoperability for future coalition operations.

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

7. You are appointed Director General of Interoperability (DGI) within Capability Development Group. You are responsible to the Chief of Capability Development Group (CCDG) through the Head of Capability Systems Division (HCS) for oversight of interoperability issues concerning capability development that impact on interoperability. You are also to be responsive to the Chief of Joint Operations, for progressing interoperability issues arising from the warfighters' perspective. It will be necessary for you to maintain close contact with the Strategic Policy Group concerning current and emerging strategic policy issues effecting interoperability. Interoperability issues include consideration of joint, combined and coalition operations and activities, and information sharing policies.

8. You are to manage and coordinate across Defence, implementation of the Strategic and Operational Level Reviews. Specifically, you are to:

- a. Oversee, provide guidance, and coordinate implementation of the Strategic Level Review and the Operational Level Review and their recommendations. In some cases this may involve initiating staff action as a precursor to other ADO agencies continuing implementation action.
- b. Develop expertise and oversight for joint and combined interoperability with United States and other potential coalition partners including New Zealand, Canada and the United Kingdom.
- c. Maintain effective liaison with the appropriate United States Combatant and Unified Commands and Agencies responsible for implementation of combined and U.S. specific recommendations. In particular cooperate with USPACOM as the lead U.S. Combatant Command with responsibility for implementation of the Operational Level Review across the U.S. Armed Forces.
- d. Chair the Interoperability Leaders Group and be responsible for the conduct of its business and further development.

- e. Act as the Defence point of contact within the ADO for matters arising from the Strategic and Operational Level Reviews.
- f. Maintain close liaison with Director-General Capability Plans to ensure that changes to the Defence Capability Plan consider the recommendations from the Operational and Strategic Level Interoperability Reviews.
- g. Provide quarterly progress reports to CDF and the Minister for Defence concerning the implementation of the Strategic and Operational Level Reviews.
- h. Contribute to combined Australian/U.S. reports as required covering implementation of the Strategic Level and Operational Level Interoperability Reviews.
- i. Provide an annual progress report and forecast of activities on implementation of the Strategic Level and Operational Level Interoperability Reviews and their recommendations, to the MILREPS meeting and when required, the AUSMIN consultations.
- j. Provide guidance and assistance on implementation of the Strategic Level and Operational Level Interoperability Reviews and their recommendations, to the MILREPS Staff Level Meeting (SLM) and the subordinate SLM working groups, as you consider appropriate.


#### **Personnel Resources and Office Organisation**

8. The Office of Interoperability will comprise yourself as Head, an 0-6 ADF officer, an 0-5 ADF officer and an APS Level 6 officer. You are to raise a DEFGRAM for authorisation by CCDG promulgating the internal Office organisation, providing points of contact, and its roles and responsibilities consistent with this Directive.


#### **Finances and Administration**

9. The Office of Interoperability will be funded and supported within Capability Development Group. Financial and Administrative support is to be coordinated through the CDG Business Manager.

10. The Office will be located in Russell R8, level 2 and occupy the accommodation previously allocated to the AS/U.S. Interoperability Review Team.



**P.J. COSGROVE AC, MC,**  
General  
Chief of the Defence Force  
/ July 2004



**R.C. SMITH AO, PSM**  
Secretary  
Department of Defence  
/ July 2004