Information as a Joint Function, memo from SECDEF, 15 Sep 17

"Information is such a powerful tool that it is recognized as an instrument of national power. The advent of the internet, the expansion of information technology, the widespread availability of wireless communications, and the far-reaching impact of social media have dramatically impacted operations and changed the character of modern warfare.

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) has issued an out-of-cycle change to Joint Publication 1, Doctrine of the Armed Forces of the United States, introducing Information as a new, seventh joint function. This change is consistent with the 2016 DoD Strategy for Operations in the Information Environment (SOIE) and the 2016 National Military Strategy. It signals a fundamental appreciation for the military role of information at the strategic, operational and tactical levels within today’s complex operating environment.

The elevation of Information to a joint function impacts all operations and has implications across doctrine, organization, training, material, leadership and education, personnel, facilities, and policy that must be identified in the months ahead. These include the relationship with other joint functions, as well as the effects on planning and operations. The Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and the CJCS, as co-chairs of the SOIE Executive Steering Group, will lead efforts to examine implications and implement appropriate changes. I fully endorse this effort and expect support from across the Department."

Senate Approved NDAA Language, 10 Jul 17

"This provision would establish a Chief Information Warfare Officer (CIWO) who would assume responsibility for defense-wide information warfighting functions."

“Secretary of Defense to establish a cross-functional task force to integrate across organizations of the Department of Defense responsible for information operations, military deception, public affairs, electronic warfare, and cyber operations to produce integrated strategy, planning, and budgeting to counter, deter, and conduct strategic information operations and cyber-enabled information operations.”

OIE CBA Requirements Development Working Meeting

The purpose of the working meeting is to review and refine an initial taxonomy (capabilities and their supporting tasks, conditions, and standards) for the JCOIE CBA. This working meeting will provide a forum for participants to examine key concept required capabilities that define operations in the information environment (IOE) and analyze them to provide greater fidelity. This effort, as part of the requirements analysis phase, will provide the analytic framework to guide subsequent shortfalls and solutions analyses. JIOWC has notified attendees and established an information portal (https://intelshare.intelink.gov/sites/conferences/jcoie/SitePages/JCOIE.aspx).

Information Operations Continuing Training

JIOWC has requested CCMDs J39 provide feedback on the first two recurring/continuing training topics, both contents and overall program, as of 26 Sep 17, due back 12 Oct 17. Completing a specific questionnaire that was
provided in the email is requested, but any feedback from recipients is appreciated and should be sent to Mr. Larry McManus (lawrence.p.mcmanus2.civ@mail.mil) and Mr. Mike Adams (michael.f.adams3 ctr@mail.mil)

Nine Links in the Chain: The Weaponized Narrative, Sun Tzu, and the Essence of War
Jul 27, 2017, The Strategy Bridge

The article presents the distinctive aspects of the weaponized narrative, but demonstrates how even this new concept (and related concepts, like information operations) are grounded in classic elements of strategy, as expressed in Sun Tzu's Art of War. See publication https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2017/7/27/nine-links-in-the-chain-the-weaponized-narrative-sun-tzu-and-the-essence-of-war

Marines “Move Out”
Sep 22, 2017, Defense News

“The Marine Corps has been looking to take advantage of the often referred to “information” domain, which encompasses cyberspace, the electromagnetic spectrum, social media and everything in between. One of the measures the Marine Corps has taken in this sphere is the standing up of a deputy commandant for information, a three-star position that will oversee all aspects of information within the service.” See publication https://www.defensenews.com/c2-comms/2017/09/22/information-domain-demands-major-force-structure-changes-for-marines

Information Warfare in an Information Age
April 2017, Joint Force Quarterly 85

“…how does the U.S. Government present effective and integrated information warfare capability (IW) in the information age? Moreover, if wars are fought in the information space, can they be won with information alone? In other words, can information warfare provide the ways and means to fight wars, as well as the ends? Also, does the U.S. Government need to invest in an organization responsible for the coordination and integration of IW capabilities and effects?” See publication http://ndupress.ndu.edu/JFQ/Joint-Force-Quiarterly-85/Article/1130649/information-warfare-in-an-information-age/

Russian operatives used Facebook ads to exploit America’s racial and religious divisions
25 Sep 17, The Washington Post

JIOWC will maintain IPower News at https://intelshare.intelink.gov/sites/jiowc/sub/FS/FD/default.aspx (right side of page). Submissions can be made at any time to Mr. Brent Fountain at brent.j.fountain.ctr@mail.mil and Mr. Michael Adams at michael.f.adams3.ctr@mail.mil. Submission does not guarantee inclusion or a specific schedule. Any problems receiving files contact Mr. Fountain.

Thanks to Lt Col Jon Herrmann and Mr. Ed Fisher for their contributions to this edition.

Newsletter submissions:
Please submit ideas/inputs to Mr. Brent Fountain at brent.j.fountain.ctr@mail.mil and Mr. Michael Adams at michael.f.adams3.ctr@mail.mil, for possible inclusion in an upcoming newsletter. NOTE: If a link does not work, please try a different internet browser before contacting the aforementioned.