



UNITED STATES JOINT FORCES COMMAND **Fact Sheet**

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Multinational Interagency Group (MNIG)

A Functional Warfighting Concept

What is the Multinational Interagency Group?

Derived from the Joint Interagency Coordination Group (JIACG) concept, the multinational interagency group (MNIG) is also a concept that proposes a new organizational element that establishes operational connections between a coalition military staff and the civilian departments and agencies of the coalition partners, as well as with appropriate international organizations and non-governmental organizations. The objective is to improve operational planning and coordination within the coalition. To facilitate this result, experimentation to date has identified the need for both secure, virtual, collaborative working environments and staff interagency coordination elements as vital to mission success.

Based upon extensive concept development and experimentation, the United States Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM), proposes to locate a JIACG on a combatant commander's staff. MNIG, however, as the focal point of coalition staff coordination would most likely be in theater collocated with the coalition task force commander's planning staff.

What problem does an MNIG address?

At present, coalitions do not have an established structures and procedures for including the perspectives, issues, and concerns of many coalition partners' civilian agencies such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Department of International Development, counter-narcotics agencies, and other government agencies. The same is true for incorporating the views and concerns of international organizations and non-governmental agencies. The MNIG concept is designed to provide this organization and structure to integrate a multifunctional, advisory element that would represent the civilian departments and agencies of the coalition and facilitate information sharing throughout the multinational interagency community. It would provide and facilitate regular, timely, collaborative, day-to-day working relationships between civilian and military operational planners.

How does the MNIG aim to increase warfighter capability?

With a small investment of experts to create the necessary working relationships among agencies, the MNIG could facilitate the unhindered prosecution of combat.

At the operational-level, short-term benefits would:

- Strengthen multilateral, multinational, and multi-agency operational planning of complex mission tasks
- Establish a mechanism to integrate coalition interagency agency efforts
- Keep all agencies informed of each other's efforts
- Provide real-time feedback between civilian and military agency counterparts
- Create realistic cooperation and harmonize implementation of plans
- Implement plans more effectively through better-integrated operational planning and tactical execution
- Provide coordinated options that involve all elements of national power to key decision-makers
- Participate in coalition commander and coalition staff crisis planning and assessment
- Advise the coalition commander staff regarding civilian agency campaign planning
- Help to resolve civilian-military campaign planning issues
- Provide civilian agency perspectives during military operational planning activities and exercises.

At operational and strategic levels, longer term, sustained benefits would:

- Shorten military commitments and create a foundation for stable transition activities
- Present unique civilian agency approaches, capabilities, and limitations to the military campaign planners
- Provide vital links to coalition civilian and military agency campaign planners
- Arrange interfaces for coalition partner civilian agency crisis planning activities
- Facilitate outreach to key civilian international and regional contacts (IO's and NGO's).

MNIG members would not assign tasks, commit resources, or provide agency approval or disapproval to proposed courses of actions. Further, the MNIG would not circumvent established lines of authority or communication. Rather, it would facilitate coordination and provides civilian agency perspectives and insights to military planners. While some of the U.S. MNIG members may come from the regional combatant commander's JIACG staff and would be accountable to the senior U.S. member of the task force, non-U.S. members would represent their respective governmental ministries or departments and serve as liaisons to the combined task force staff.

MNIG Implementation Strategy

As described below, the MNIG implementation strategy focuses on its participation in the US JFCOM Multi-national Experiment (MNE) 4 scheduled for be execution in February 2006.

- With its considerable experience in civil-military interventions, Australia has assumed the lead for concept development
- A series of three developmental workshops will include all the multinational partners in MNE 4 and input from their civilian agencies and international organizations
- A limited objective experiment will be conducted to test the matured concept
- The product of this process will be a mature, lead nation-neutral CONOP for MNE4
- During MNE 4, a robust MNIG will participate in the experiment to test the concept
- The CONOP will be refined following the experiment
- The final CONOP can then serve as a "guidebook" or template for future coalitions.