



8th Communication Bn

II MEF Information Group

4 Mar 2025

“The communications center of excellence... ..integrating the combat power of II MEF... ..to prevail in combat.”

Overall classification of this brief is:

UNCLASSIFIED



A look back: II MIG Refresher



39th Commandant's Planning Guidance

II Marine Expeditionary Force

II MEF will be the Marine Corps' crisis response force-in-readiness, able to quickly task organize battalion and regimental-sized forces under a MAGTF construct.

As the Service Retained MEF, II MEF is not specifically assigned to a Combatant Commander and must necessarily remain flexible for a wide range of contingencies. This is not to mean "be ready for everything, everywhere, at all times."

II MEF should be our first resort as our continental U.S. (CONUS)- based "911 Force" for planned and emerging requirements to U.S. Central Command, Africa Command, European Command, Southern Command, and Northern Command.

Multi-Domain Operations and Networking

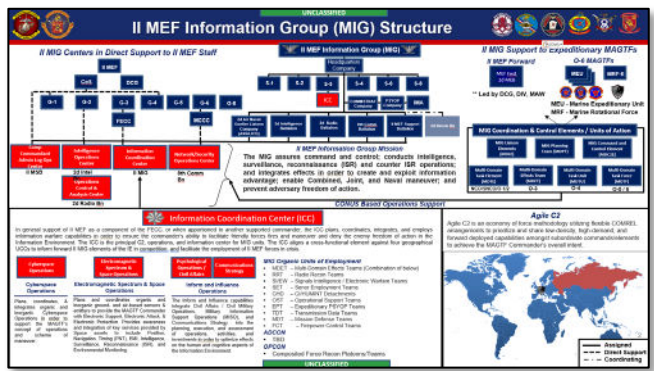
"II MEF will be the Marine Corps' crisis response force-in-readiness, able to quickly task organize battalion and regimental-sized forces under a MAGTF construct...will remain a Joint Task Force enabled Headquarters - (will) plan against their assessment of a "pacing contingency" in accordance with the priorities of the MDS." - 39th Commandant's Planning Guidance August 2024.

Consolidate Complexity

Regionalized Architecture

Modernize and Sustain

- Consolidate Technical Complexity at II MEF**
 - Architecture and forces postured for crisis response and Day Zero interoperability with joint and allied partners
 - Architecture warfighting networks 100 combined all-domain ops
 - Command relationships, authority and capacity to provide responsive, accessible communications support 24/7
 - SCC and cybersecurity processes and tools integrated with CSGP and MARFORCIBER
 - SR&P and personnel requirements reexamined at the edge while retaining ability to scale to meet dynamic requirements
 - Workforce roles optimized across schemes
- Regional Housed Services**
 - Regionally hosted services and readiness, reduce latency and provide operational flexibility
 - Architecture allows rapid scalability of enterprise capacity at the tactical edge to meet dynamic requirements
 - Persistent integration of C2 systems with regional partners supports agile readiness, and non-traditional formations and maintains readiness to scale ISO crisis or contingency
- Capability and Talent Development**
 - Innovation to inform institutional capability development and retire programs/units solutions (qualifying)
 - Modernization at speed and scale that aligns with multi-domain investment plans where they exist (bridging solutions)
 - Generate capabilities and capacity leveraged to achieve efficiencies and resource optimization
 - Talent developed and retained for the future through challenging, purposeful work and empowerment of action
 - Technical skills development through sustained operations near time and enable projects



Information Warfare (IW) and Multi-Domain Operations (MDO)

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- II MIG assures command and control; conducts intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance (ISR) and counter-ISR operations; integrates effects to create and exploit information advantage; enables Combined, Joint, and Naval maneuver; and prevents adversary freedom of action.
- Provide communications, intelligence, and supporting arms liaison capabilities in support of MAGTF operations.
- Tasks
 - Generate Forces
 - Conduct Intelligence Operations
 - Integrate Combined, Joint, Naval and MAGTF Fires
 - Assure Command and Control
 - Conduct Information in Marine Corps Operations

Generate, Preserve, Deny, Protect



Evolving the organization to match mission focus and accelerate *ahead* of the changing character of warfare...

- Crisis response in the competition continuum
- Importance of information in modern warfare
- Rapidly evolving technology
- Pacing threat, acute threat, and everyone else

"The 5 - 4 - 1 - 80 Challenge"



Mission & Vision

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II MIG

Mission: II MEF Information Group (MIG) assures command and control; conducts intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance (ISR) and counter ISR operations; and integrates effects in order to create and exploit information advantage; enable Combined, Joint, and Naval maneuver; and prevent adversary freedom of action.

METL:

- **MCT 1.1** Generate Forces
- **MCT 2** Conduct Intelligence Operations
- **MCT 3.2.1.5** Integrate MAGTF, Naval, Joint, and Multi-National Fires and Effects
- **MCT 5.14** Conduct Information Activities
- **MCT 5.14.2** Assure Command and Control

8th Comm Bn

Mission: 8th Communication Battalion establishes, maintains, and defends communication networks simultaneously for MAGTF command elements, Marine component headquarters, and/or Combined and Joint Task Force headquarters in order to facilitate II Marine Expeditionary Force's ability to command and control.

METL

- **MCT 1.1.2** Provide Forces
- **MCT 1.12.2** Support Amphibious Operations
- **MCT 5.1.1.1** Provide Narrow Band Communications
- **MCT 5.1.1.2** Provide Network Communications
- **MCT 5.1.1.4** Provide Data Systems Services
- **MCT 5.1.1.5** Provide Communication Transport Architecture
- **MCT 5.1.2.6** Provide Communications Control
- **MCT 5.9.4** Conduct Defensive Cyberspace Operations – Internal Defensive Measures (DCO-IDM)

Who we are: 8th Communication Battalion is the 'communication center of excellence' within II MEF. We are the base unit for our occupational field and set the standard for communication and cybersecurity operations for others to emulate.

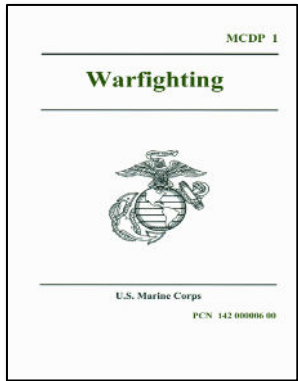
What we do: We integrate the combat power of II MEF by extending robust C5ISR-T enterprises that enhance MAGTF formations' abilities to rapidly deploy and employ their capabilities in support of naval, joint, and coalition forces.

Why we do it: We set conditions to support global deterrence and, when necessary, assist MAGTF formations prevail in combat no matter the climate or place in support of crisis support and contingency operations.

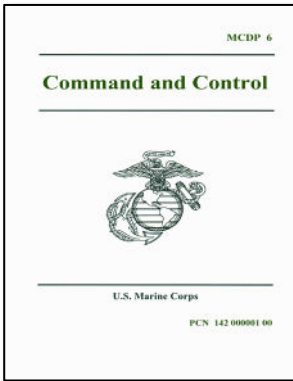
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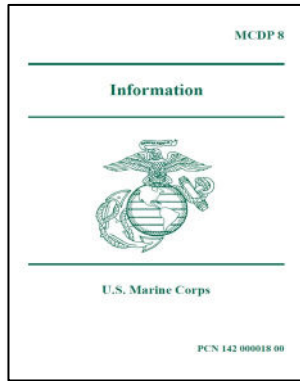
Doctrine



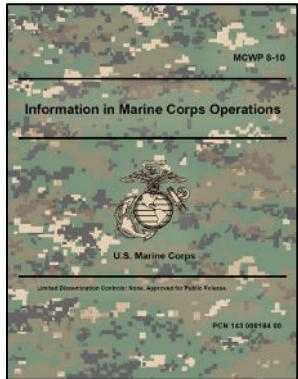
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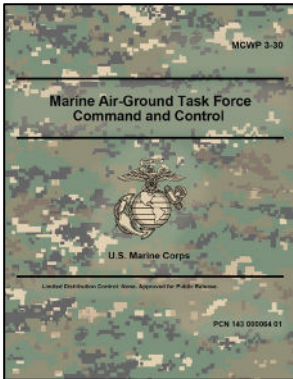
4 Oct 1996



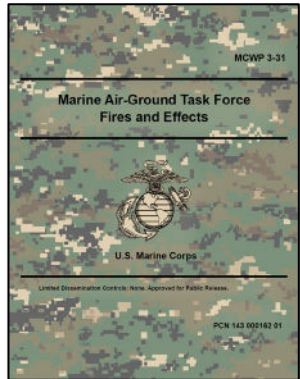
21 Jun 2022



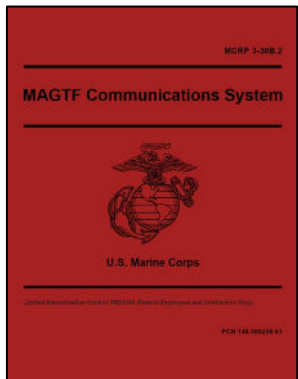
29 Feb 2024



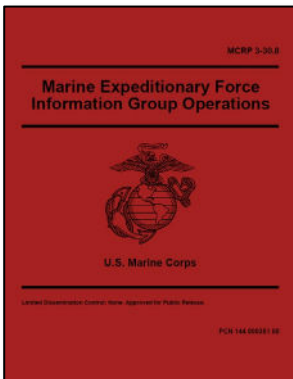
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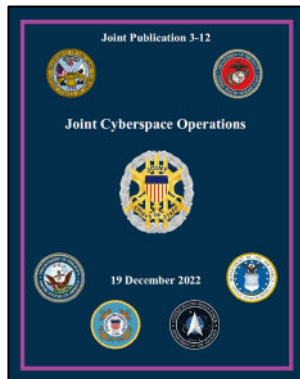
17 May 2024



1 Jun 2023



7 Nov 2024



19 Dec 2022

Communicators are information warfare professionals...

- Communication Operations → COMMCON
- Electromagnetic Spectrum Operations → ES & EP
- Space Operations → SATCOM, PNT, SCEW
- Cyberspace Operations → Cybersecurity, DCO, and support to targeting

... we set the conditions for information sharing: build, fight, and defend the 'matrix.'

Enable C2 (G-6) + Assure C2 (MIG) = Integrate C5ISR-T Architectures

"Communicators are the linchpin for modern, combined arms ops."



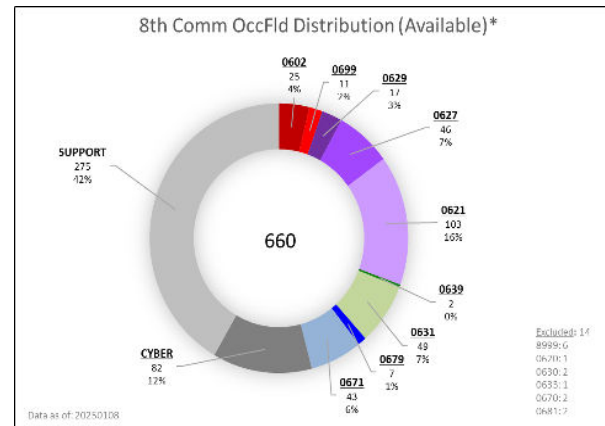
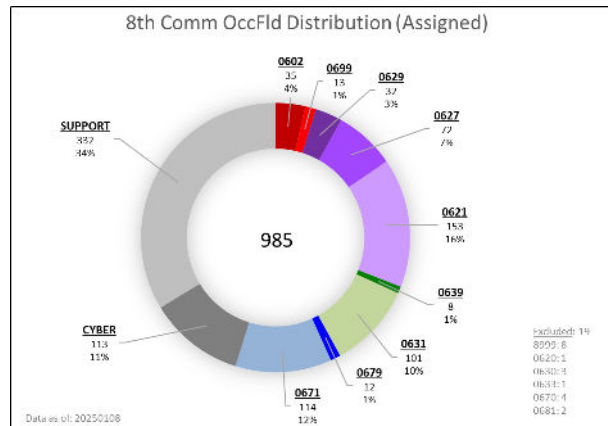
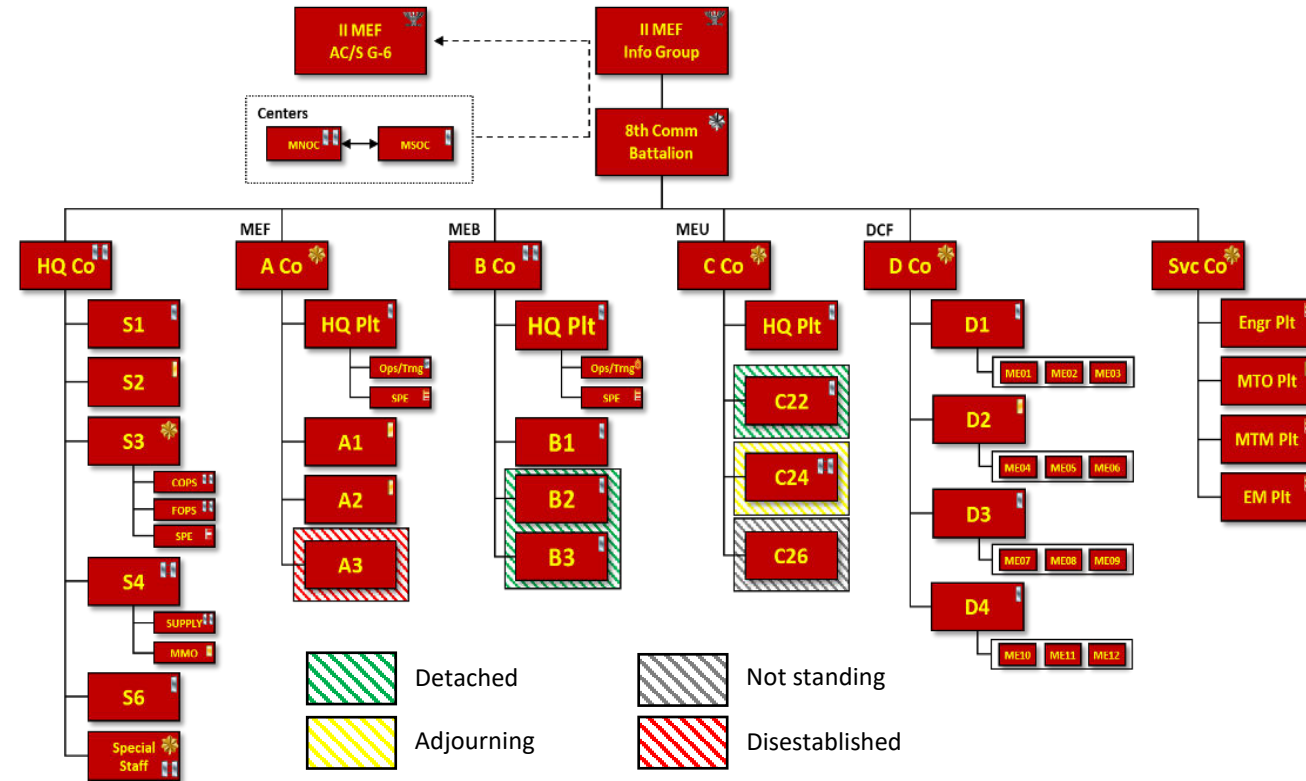
Organization & Personnel

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New T/O in effect FY26 for 8CB & 9CB

- Force reduction: 1277 → 1118
- Elimination of GS Co / Retention of Svc Co
- Integrated 06xx platoons
- Creation of Battalion S-2
- Creation of 'COMMCON Cell'
- Investments: Over in 062x, under in 063x/067x
- Leader-led shortfalls, 06xx versus 06x9
- Increased demand and growth of 17xx
- Growth Industries:
 - EMSO Professionals?
 - Cybersecurity optimization?
 - 17xx vertical integration with MIG ICC to support targeting process?



91% Staffing Goal / 77% Table of Organization :: 55% 06xx / 11% 17xx / 34% Support

*Excludes ~90 in training status / ~150 committed / ~30 IAs & FAPs / Remainder 'other'

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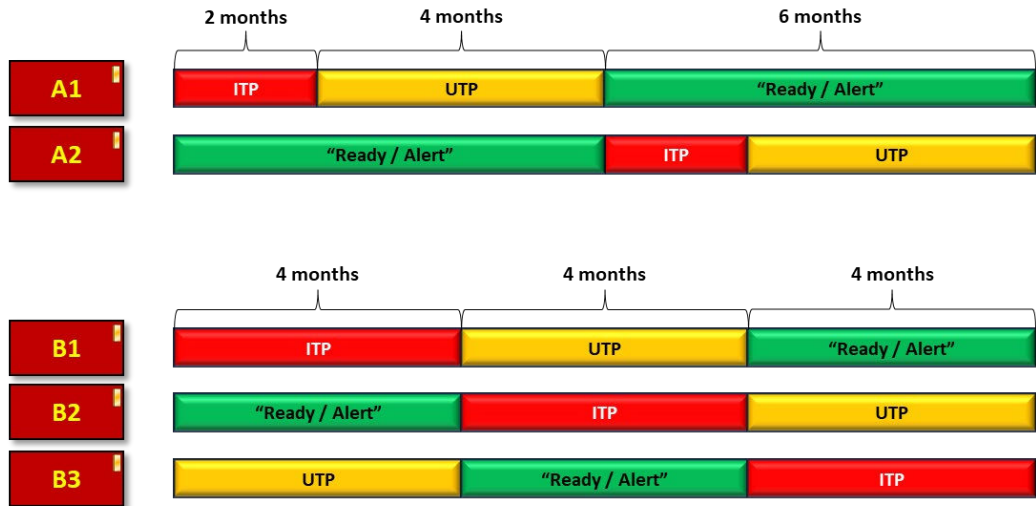


Training: Unit and Individual Methodology



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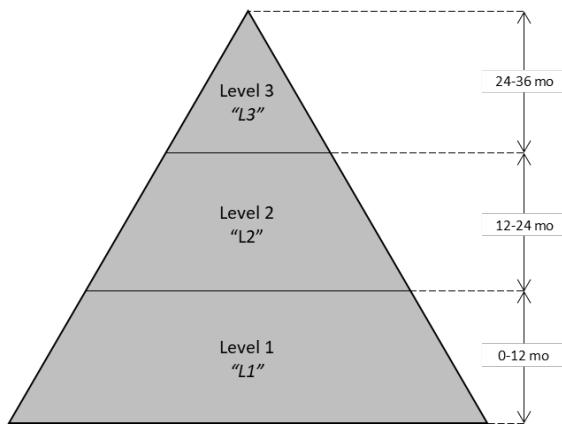
Unit of Employment Training Methodology



Predictable, repeatable, sustainable...

- Marine first, everything else second
- Modeling after SOCOM C4ST force generation cycle
- Lessons learned from JCSE, JCU, 112 Signal Battalion
- T&Rs and Marine Corps standards are the minimum
 - T&Rs, CTCs, Industry training, cyber workforce, OJT opportunities, MISRs, USN IWC WTIs

Individual Training Methodology



*Concept spans all MOSs

Observations...

- 063x has a 'depth problem,' 067x has a 'breadth problem'
- 1702/1721 has an 'ELT deficiency problem'
- Need more SOC-C, JCU-esque, expeditionary communicators
- Network transport is paramount

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Material & Facilities

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Material

- New T/E retroactively in effect FY25; right-sizing
→ Buy back time and money to allocate to other opportunities
- Need more modular, scalable, low-SWaP solutions; hyperconverged network and compute at edge
→ Early-in, easily transportable capabilities to seed the battlespace
- Need more network taps and sensors to establish defense-in-depth of vast C5ISR-T architecture
→ MCEN, FMF TACGRID/MCTG, DoDIN, 'BPS' / civilian / partner infrastructure
- Need an armory approach to multi-orbit, multi-pathway, military and commercial transport
→ High bandwidth, low latency transport to integrate the 'NJC' kill web
- Need Own Force Monitoring investments
→ Concept model: USAF, 85th Engineering Installation Squadron, Spectrum Awareness and Resolution Team (SART)

Facilities

- Integrated watch floors
→ Comm Bns, Net Bns, MEF G-6, Base G-6
- Open-storage secret spaces
→ S-2, S-3, DCO / EMSO / NetOps / 'Ready Room'



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Leadership & Education

Information Warfare Officer

Reconnaissance

Cyber

Targeting



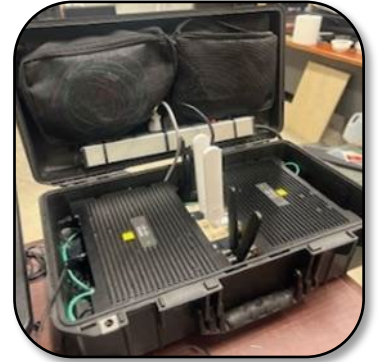
Space

EMSO

Communications

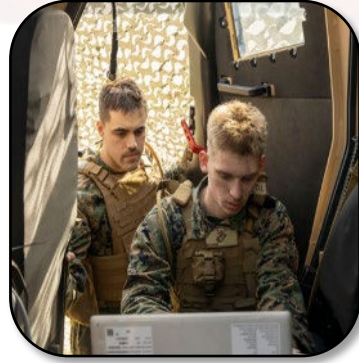
MAGTF Officer

- **Resolute Hunter** – Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center
→ Battle Management, Command and Control, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Exercise
- **USSF Space 200** – USMC MOS 1786
→ Enhancement Courses: Adv SATCOM, Adv PN&T, Space Control Electronic Warfare
- **IW WTI** - Naval Information Warfighting Development Center
→ Meteorology and Oceanography, Intelligence, Electronic Warfare, and Command and Control/Cyber Ops
- **Joint Targeting Staff Course** – Joint Targeting School, JS J-7
→ Understand the targeting cycle to best support it
- **JT-101: Intro to Joint Multi-TDL Network** – JKO-J3O-US1380
→ *-Functional-* understanding of TDLs
- **Naval Post Graduate School Certificate Programs**
→ Under-utilized resource for quality education and professional development
- **Commercial Education / Certifications**
→ DoD Cyber Workforce Framework... Sec+, CISM, CISSP, etc. We're professionals, so study as one
- **Practicing the craft forward in the 'real-world'**
→ No better education, than employing your craft... Learn by doing, learn by watching



Discussion?

Back-up slides follow, as required.



8TH COMMUNICATION



DOTMLPF Takeaways



Doctrine:

- Reconcile recent changes to doctrine with past 06xx operating models: MHG providing forces → MIG providing assured C2
- Key Doctrine: MCDP-6, MCDP-8, MCWP 8-10, MCWP 3-30, MCRP 3-30B.2, MCRP 3-30.8 (pending), MCWP 3-31

Organization:

- Continued support for 8CB/9CB Joint Memo TOECR dtd FY24Q2/3 → Bringing the battalions to present day
 - Follow-on work for taking the battalions' forward into the Information Warfare space via the MIG
- Future relationships between MIGs, Comm Bns & G-6s with MCCOG & NetBns as unification progresses → joint, collaborative effort; 8CB & 2NetBn actively working together on MCEN implementation

Training:

- Undertrained 063x community, over-tasked saturated 067x community → Revisit 06xx Force Modernization (circa 2017)?
- 17xx OccFld entry-level training deficiencies covered by battalion O&M funds
- Cybersecurity workforce → training to meet requirements versus training to build capability

Materiel:

- Divesting legacy or extremely low-use / never used equipment → eliminate maintenance requirements, SL3 expenditures
- Invest in high bandwidth, low latency transport and associated networking equipment → enable the kill-web
- Invest in low SWaP, hyper-converged infrastructure to support compute on prem as required

Leadership & Education:

- Marines first, 06xx (or any MOS) second → the dichotomy is difficult, but it can be achieved with the right mindset
- 06xx technical leaders need to also understand weapons systems operations functionally
- 03xx/08xx/75xx operations leaders need to understand technical caps/lms of weapons systems with the Joint magazine

Personnel:

- Introduction of Comm Bn S-2 focused on space, cyber, and EMS intelligence analysis relevant to battalion mission-focus
- 063x / 067x manning within Comm Bn is critical → Can we swap 062x for 063x/067x (rhetorical)
- 062x OccFld expanding into broader EMS professionals → 0648 Spectrum Managers → Broader EMSO Professionals (1704?)

Facilities:

- Investment into current facilities to make GENSER / SECRET access more available
- Integrated watch floors between Comm Bns and partner Net Bns