CHAPTER 7

MPF COMMUNICATIONS PLANNING

7001. General

MPF operations require a detailed communications plan for the establishing authority, MAGTF Commander, and CMPF to exercise command and control over the MPF. The communications plan must consider command and control requirements that are both internal and external to the MPF. The communications plan must support mobilization from home stations, enroute movement, arrival and assembly, and the stand up for employment of the force. The plan must adapt to changes in activities, command relations and task organization. Communications requirements for an MPF operation vary with the location and method of employment. Contingency plans are the basis for detailed communications planning. Communications planning commences concurrently with other operational planning (execution planning) and is continuous throughout all phases of an MPF operation. Factors that must be considered during the planning process follow.

7002. Planning Factors

• Communications equipment and communications security (COMSEC) material must be compatible and of a sufficient quantity to support all phases of the MPF operation.

• Communications requirements change during the phases of an MPF operation. Coordination between the elements of the MPF and supporting units is necessary to ensure essential communications requirements are continually met.

• Use of both U.S. and foreign civilian communication systems should be maximized in order to be consistent with operational security (OPSEC) and COMSEC policy.

• The location of the MPF operation dictates the extent of the inter- and intra-area coordination required.

• Each phase of the MPF operation has internal and external command and control requirements. Communications systems must support the command and control requirements regardless of the type of MPF operation (e.g., independent or augmentation).

 •• Independent MPF operations require a stand-alone communications plan.

 •• Augmentation MPF operations require a communications plan that complements the augmented force's communications plan.

• The use of joint staff (JS)- and CINC-controlled communications assets must be planned for and requested.

• COMSEC measures must be exercised by all elements of the MPF.

7003. Responsibilities

a. Establishing Authority

• Prepares the overarching communications plan for the MPF operation and subsequent MAGTF mission

• Identifies COMSEC materials

• Identifies dedicated and special purpose circuits

- Coordinates with the CINC for the use of JS- and CINC-controlled communications assets

- Coordinates the use of host nation communications facilities with the supported CINC

- Issues communications instructions necessary to exercise OPCON over assigned forces and to coordinate and direct activities of supporting forces

- Supervises MPF communications

- Ensures that all communications shortfalls are integrated and addressed to the CINC as appropriate

b. MAGTF Commander

- Prepares the MAGTF's communication plans for MPF and subsequent operations

- Activates the communication systems to include the deployable Global Command and Control System (GCCS) capability necessary to support both internal and external MAGTF command and control requirements during each phase of the MPF operation

- Coordinates communications connectivity with CMPF and adjacent units as required

- Supervises MAGTF communications

c. Commander, Maritime Prepositioning Force

- Provides and allocates frequencies to Navy elements of the MPF

- Coordinates communications requirements with the establishing authority

- Issues communication instructions necessary to exercise OPCON over assigned Navy forces

- Coordinates communications connectivity between the naval task force (NTF) and the MAGTF

- Supervises NTF communications

d. Commander, Navy Support Element

- Prepares the NSE communications plans for MPF and subsequent operations

- Identifies communications requirements and shortfalls to the CMPF

- Activates the communications systems necessary to support both internal and external NSE command and control requirements during each phase of the MPF operation

- Coordinates communications connectivity with the CMPF and adjacent units as required

- Supervises NSE communications

e. Commander, MPS Squadron

- Prepares the MPSRON's communications plans for the MPF operation

- Identifies communications requirements and shortfalls to the CMPF

- Activates the communications systems necessary to support both internal and external MPSRON and OPP command and control requirements during each phase of the MPF operation

- Coordinates communications connectivity with the CMPF and adjacent units as required

- Supervises MPSRON communications

- Requests naval embarked advisory team (NEAT) detachment augmentation to support convoy or escort communications requirements and technical expertise

f. Force Protection Officer

- Prepares FPOC communications plan for the establishing authority

- Identifies communications requirements and shortfalls

- Activates the communications system necessary to support both internal and external FPO command and control requirements during each phase of the MPF operation

- Coordinates communications connectivity with senior and subordinate units as required

- Supervises FPOC communications

7004. Communications Planning by Phase

a. Planning Phase

Execution planning, including communications planning, begins upon receipt of the warning order. Contingency plans are reviewed. The communications plan must support the command and control requirements of the deployment plan. Planning requires direct communications between the MAGTF and NTF commanders and units. The use of existing commercial and military communications facilities for connectivity between the MPF elements and supporting units is also required. Liaison personnel should be used whenever possible.

b. Marshalling Phase

The marshalling phase is characterized by the completion of final preparations for movement to APOEs, and loading aboard aircraft. Communications requirements identified to support the planning phase remain valid. Additional requirements, such as the MAGTF's responsibility for the communications requirements of the NSE, should be identified and planned for prior to execution of this phase.

(1) Internal Communications

Each major element is responsible for establishing and maintaining required communications with its subordinate elements. The establishing authority will ensure that supporting commands, unique to the marshalling phase, are included in appropriate communications plans.

MAGTF internal communications must support the orderly marshalling of units, personnel, and equipment for air movement. Commercial and existing systems, augmented by minimum tactical circuits, provide the primary means of communications. Any tactical communications must be provided by units external to the deploying MAGTF. The NTF will rely on organic systems.

(2) External Communications

The establishing authority shall ensure that joint communications facilities are available for marshalling forces. External communications for the MAGTF are provided by existing commercial and garrison (base) facilities or by units external to the deploying MAGTF. For example, the MAGTF establishes communications with AMC through the TALCE at the aerial ports of debarkation (APODs) and aerial ports of embarkation (APOEs). Forces at marshalling airfields rely on MAGTF communications systems. The NTF utilizes existing communications systems.

c. Movement Phase

MPF elements deploy their forces to the AAA by different modes (e.g. the MAGTF by air, the MPSRON by surface). The resultant communications requirements are satisfied by a variety of means. The movement phase is generally characterized by increased reliance on deployable, tactical systems as MPF command and control requirements shift to the AAA.

(1) Internal Communications

The MPF elements must establish reliable communications with their subordinate elements. These requirements are normally satisfied with existing systems. The CMPF shall ensure that communications traffic is kept to a minimum because available circuits will be limited. A combination of host nation commercial telephones and single channel radios, provided by the supporting organization, establishes connectivity between APOEs, APODs, en route support bases, and the AAOG. Once the AAOG is established, MAGTF communications are established with the MEF Operations Center and the departure airfield control groups at APOEs in order to initiate total asset visibility (TAV) and in-transit visibility (ITV) of FIE personnel and equipment. The TALCE provides communications for the AMC command and control system at the departure, arrival, and en route airfields. Designed to provide AMC positive control over AMC aircraft, this net offers a possible alternate means to pass emergency traffic. The SLRP is one of the first elements of the MPF to deploy. If alternate means of communications do not exist, the SLRP is supported by a MAGTF communications team that will have sufficient communications capability for communications with the MAGTF's main body. Once the NSE begins movement, its communications connectivity is dependent upon aircraft communications assets while airborne—and upon base communications facilities during aircraft stopovers. The MPSRON utilizes existing communications systems, or requests augmentation from a NEAT detachment.

(2) External Communications

The previously identified types of communications between the MPF elements remain available. The establishing authority shall ensure that communications within the AAA are integrated. MAGTF communications to the CMPF (and adjacent commands as required) are accomplished through home station facilities and communications systems activated in the AAA. Secure en route communications are required to ensure the commander has positive command and control of the MAGTF throughout the movement phase. A limited MAGTF capability exists with the employment of portable satellite communications equipment at intermediate stops. The MPSRON relies on existing systems.

d. Arrival and Assembly Phase

Arrival and assembly is the most crucial phase of the MPF operation. Because of scope, operational intensity and wide dispersion of units, the communications systems required to exercise command and control become increasingly complex. Effective communications must be established to ensure the efficient functioning of all elements involved in arrival and assembly operations.

(1) Internal Communications

Proper identification and coordination of internal communications requirements are key to successful arrival and assembly operations. Close staff liaison must be maintained from the outset of the execution planning phase to ensure identification of all communications requirements. The establishing authority shall—

- Monitor execution of the communications plan

- Coordinate COMSEC efforts

- Employ host nation communications, if available and appropriate

The MAGTF tactical communication systems are installed, operated, and maintained as personnel and equipment arrive in the AAA (and MPE/S becomes available). Initial reliance is on single-channel radio. When multichannel radio and telephone systems are activated, single-channel radio systems become a secondary means of communication. Communication guards for GENSER traffic for MAGTF elements are shifted from home-based communications centers to tactical communications centers.The communications architecture must support the data transfer of accountability information (i.e., MDSS II) throughput the AAA. The means to do this are wireless modems or local area networks. The MDSS II files are substantial, and therefore, require a robust communications architecture.

The MPSRON utilizes existing communications systems. MPSRON communications capabilities are contained in appendix B. Navy and Marine Corps units must bring interoperable hand-held radios to conduct shipboard operations.

(2) External Communications

Increased reliance is placed on deployable communications systems for GENSER traffic and telephone service. Existing host nation assets are used to the maximum extent possible. The establishing authority shall ensure that host nation communications facilities (if available and capable of providing the desired service) are employed. A separate communications facility is required for classified message traffic. The establishing authority also keeps the CINC informed of communications capabilities.

The MAGTF's external communications are provided in the form of secure voice, GENSER traffic, GCCS (SIPRNET), E-mail (NIPRNET), and Data Transfer. Essential external connectivities are provided from MAGTF assets. Dedicated and special purpose circuits may require the use of JS- or CINC-controlled communications assets. The MPSRON, NCW, and NEAT utilizes existing communications systems. COMPSRON provides an alternate communications guard for the NSE or other elements of the MPF.

MAGTF satellite communications (SATCOM) assets include AN/TSC-93B. SATCOM is used to provide initial Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence (C4I) connectivity and necessary support for the rapid establishment of a forward-deployed MAGTF Headquarters. The AN/TSC-93B is sourced from the Communications Battalion as required. The equipment needed for MAGTF SATCOM includes the following:

- AN/TSC-93B
- AS-3036 (8 feet) Satellite Antennae
- M923 5-ton truck
- SB-3614 Switchboard (4 DSN)
- (2) MEP-003 (30 Kw) Generators
- (1) MEP-006 (60 Kw) Generator
- (2) M1042 HMMWV
- (1) M998 HMMWV
- (14) STU III Telephones
- (1) Windows NT Server w/(10) Laptops
- (4) GCCS Workstations

MAGTF SATCOM also involves the following personnel:

RANK	**MOS**	**BILLET**
(1) Lt	2502	Communications Officer
(1) GySgt/SSgt	4066	SNCOIC/Data Systems Chief
(1) Sgt	2821	Computer Technician
(1) Sgt	2823	Tech Controller

(1) Sgt	2536	AN/TSC-93B Team Leader
(2) Cpl/LCpl	2536	AN/TSC-93B Team Member
(1) Sgt	2834	GMF Controller
(1) Sgt	2515/2518	Wire Chief
(1) Cpl	2512	Field Wireman
(2) Cpl/LCpl	2542	Comm Center Operator
(1) Cpl	1141	Generator Operator

The Defense Satellite Communications System (DSCS) is managed by the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) as a major component of the MILSATCOM program. DSCS provides the transmission backbone of high-capacity command and control (C2), intelligence, and multi-channel communications services. The network supports the Department of Defense (DOD), the Commanders in Chiefs and their component commands. DSCS also provides worldwide access to the Defense Communications System (DCS), which includes the Defense Switched Network (DSN), the Defense Message System (DMS), the Defense Data Network (DDN/DISN), and tactical Ground Mobile Force Satellite Communications terminals.

The satellite network is composed of DSCS II and III multi-channel SHF satellites in geosynchronous orbit 22,000 miles above the earth; these satellites are networked with ground-based satellite tactical entry points (STEP) worldwide. The DSCS space constellation is comprised of five primary satellites to provide worldwide coverage. In addition to the primary satellites, there are backup satellites (which are in orbit but are not operational) in the vicinity of the primary satellites. These backup satellites can become operational if there is a major failure of the primary satellite, or, as in the case of Desert Storm, if the need is sufficient to require two satellites working simultaneously to cover the area.

e. Regeneration Phase

Communication planning for the regeneration phase is discussed in Chapter 11.

7005. The Communications Plan

The MPF communications plan reflects the command and control requirements of the establishing authority, MAGTF Commander, and the CMPF. The communications systems provide connectivity between the commanders, enabling them to exercise command and control requirements. These requirements may be commercial (host nation, U.S., or multinational), military (U.S. or multinational), or a combination of these. The communications plan provides instructions for the use of tactical and commercial communications systems, frequencies, call signs, cryptographic hardware and software, authentication systems, and special purpose communications equipment and support. The communications plan details the circuits, channels, and facilities required to support the MPF operation. It should include—

- General coverage of the communications situation, including assumptions, guiding principles, and the concept of operational communications employment

- An announcement of the communications mission

- Delegation of communications tasks and responsibilities to the MPF elements

- Detailed instructions relative to the organization, installation, operation, and maintenance of communications systems and coordination of the entire communications network

- Assignments of call signs, frequencies, COMSEC equipment, keymats, codes, and authentication systems

- Instructions concerning countermeasures, cover and deception, security, recognition and identification, navigation aids, and other special communications and electronic functions

- Communications-electronics logistics support

- Communications with AMC command and control agencies during all phases of the operation

The MPF communications plan is prepared in detail to facilitate its use by commanders at all echelons. The format of the communications plan should be standardized for use by any unit assigned to support the MPF operation. Information and instructions contained in the communications plan, but necessary for completion of a subordinate commander's communications plan, could be provided in annex or appendix form. This reduces duplication of the preparation and reproduction efforts and minimizes the possibility of errors.

7006. Host Nation Support

Basic host nation support information and considerations are contained in appendix D, tab C.