

## Coalition Interoperability Section

Per 10 USC 2350a, cooperative opportunities are pursued to improve, through the application of emerging technology, the conventional defense capabilities of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or the common conventional defense capabilities of the United States and a specified country (or countries) or organization.

A coalition interoperability assessment shall address the following:

- 1) Identify needs for system or subsystems to be interoperable with international partners referred to in subsection (a)(2)\*.
  - a) Indicate whether or not a similar project in development or production by the Department of Defense provides interoperability with coalition partners' systems that military operations rely upon and should be maintained in the new program.
  - b) Identify any relevant cooperative work already conducted or under current collaboration with foreign governments and organizations in subsection (a)(2) (including at subcomponent levels) that can be utilized as a basis for cooperation in the new development or production program.
  - c) Determine if the capability would be enhanced by engaging critical global or regional partners in the development or production of the system for which new cooperative relationships are needed.
  - d) Assure that stated interoperability requirements for coalition operations and relevant capacity building (e.g., IPLs, JROC decisions, objective and threshold requirements in JCIDS documents, concept decisions or Analyses of Alternatives) of the Services, regional and functional combatant commanders, and Combat Support Agencies are met or risks mitigated in the program.
  - e) Explain how current political and strategic guidance for cooperation affects opportunities for cooperative development of the capability with coalition partners (QDR, GEF, NSS, NSPDs, etc.).
- 2) Investigate whether projects similar to the one under consideration by the Department of Defense is in development or production by one or more countries and organizations referred to in subsection (a)(2),
  - a) Complete a comprehensive review of related ongoing acquisition programs in allied nations (consult with organizations such as the Service International Programs Offices (IPOs) for assistance)
    - i) Concept Refinement – Investigate whether allies and friendly nations are also defining requirements for a comparable capability
    - ii) Technology Demonstrations and System Development and Demonstration – Investigate foreign government and industry R&D investments in comparable capability area

\* 10USC235a, subsection (a)(2) refers to the following:  
(2) The countries and organizations with which the Secretary may enter into a memorandum of agreement (or other formal agreement) under paragraph (1) are as follows:  
(A) The North Atlantic Treaty Organization.  
(B) A NATO organization.  
(C) A member nation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.  
(D) A major non-NATO ally.  
(E) Any other friendly foreign country.

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- iii) Production and Deployment – Evaluate potential for procurement of a developed item from foreign sources when developed or fielded items meet or can be modified to meet US requirements
  - iv) Operations and Support –
    - (1) Examine whether capabilities exist from foreign sources to facilitate maintenance or other activities, including disposal.
    - (2) Discuss potentials of burden sharing using national equipment (i.e., a partner nation supporting within a US brigade) and the implied reduction to US logistics requirements
  - b) Assess whether any of these projects could satisfy, or could be modified in scope so as to satisfy (at the system or component level), the military requirements of the project of the United States under consideration by the Department of Defense.
  - c) Assess whether there are opportunities for information exchanges, including data concerning subcomponent development, would benefit the Department of Defense acquisition including expertise, lessons learned or cost avoidance measures.
- 3) Assess the advantages and disadvantages with regard to program timing, developmental and life cycle costs, technology sharing, and Rationalization, Standardization, and Interoperability (RSI) of seeking to structure a cooperative development program with one or more countries and organizations referred to in subsection (a)(2)\* or NATO organizations. This assessment should address (consult with organizations such as the Service International Programs Offices (IPOs) for assistance):
- a) Standards and common architectures
    - i) use of open systems architectures
    - ii) use or development of standards and common architectures (e.g. commercial standards, NATO standardization agreements (STANAGs))
  - b) Information Exchanges
    - i) Open Forums and Symposiums
    - ii) Highlight existing information exchange agreements on subject
    - iii) Sharing of R&D information between allies and friendly nations
    - iv) Sharing of tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) and concepts of operations (CONOPS) with allies and friendly nations
    - v) Personnel exchanges (liaison officers, engineer and scientist exchanges)
    - vi) Loans of equipment (for testing purposes)
  - c) Cooperative opportunities
    - i) Review of S&T opportunities from and with allies, strategic partners (coordination with S&T organizations within OSD, Services, COCOMs)
    - ii) Cooperative development of components – previous or on comparable/related systems, ongoing or planned (check Service IPOs)
    - iii) Cooperative development at system level – previous or on comparable/related systems, ongoing or planned (check Service IPOs)
  - d) Operations and Support

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- i) Combined operations using common or interoperable equipment
  - ii) Cooperative Logistics through burden sharing (i.e., shared asset tracking), cooperative maintenance
  - iii) Cooperative improvements to fielded equipment
  - e) Releasability Issues
    - i) Will end item and intellectual property be USG or contractor owned?
    - ii) What are the critically protected items (CPI) involved in the system?
  - f) Export Strategy
    - i) Planned development for protection of CPI elements
      - (1) “Blackbox”
      - (2) Export variants to protect CPI while maintaining interoperability
  - g) Planned Timelines for the following:
    - i) Foreign Military Sales
    - ii) Direct Commercial sales
    - iii) Loans of equipment to support operations (which may require potential Yockey waivers)
- 4) Provide the Acquisition Executive’s or Program Executive Officer’s recommendation to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (USD(AT&L)) as to whether the Department of Defense should explore the feasibility and desirability of a cooperative development program with one or more countries and organizations referred to in subsection (a)(2)\* or NATO organizations.
- a) Include a proposed time phased approach for cooperative opportunities to best respond to acquisition schedules and milestones

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