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PLANS AND POLICY

US European Command Rationalization,  
Standardization and Interoperability (RSI)  
Policy

- \*1. Purpose. This directive establishes the policy, responsibilities and procedures for monitoring international military RSI activities. It pertains to our interactions with the allies and other friendly nations within the United States European Command (USEUCOM) area of responsibility (AOR).
- \*2. Reference. JCS Memorandum of Policy (MOP) No. 147, International Military Rationalization, Standardization, and Interoperability between the United States and Other Friendly Nations, dated 21 Jan 88.
3. Definitions. See Appendix A.
- \*4. Responsibilities. USCINCEUR has a direct interest in the effectiveness of all RSI actions which directly or indirectly affect US Forces. With the Chiefs of Services and Joint Chiefs of Staff, USEUCOM will ensure that Service doctrine and all joint tactics, techniques and procedures (JTTP) are consistent with US-ratified international military RSI agreements. In addition, USEUCOM will ensure the implementation of applicable US-ratified RSI agreements. Although implementation of RSI agreements is normally a Service responsibility, some agreements may require implementation by the unified and specified commands. It is, therefore, the responsibility of USEUCOM and its components to identify and work to eliminate instances of inefficiency or duplication. Command emphasis, management decisions, staff actions, suggestion programs and individual initiatives may accomplish this responsibility. Commanders at all levels should work through appropriate Service, national, or international channels to implement RSI policy when possible. They will identify, research, document and forward those actions requiring higher levels of cooperation
5. Policy.
  - a. RSI, at the most basic level, results from a commitment to improve the overall military effectiveness by cooperating with allied forces at all levels of command.

\*b. This command supports military RSI activities with US allies to: (1) achieve the closest practical cooperation among their military forces, (2) achieve the most efficient use of R&D, procurement, support, and production resources, and (3) where applicable, emphasize activities and initiatives for a more effective combined combat capability. RSI applies to both material and non-material matters.

\*c. HQ USEUCOM RSI policy aims for increased combined operational effectiveness by active US participation in standardization and Interoperability activities when such participation is in the US national interest.

d. Combined doctrine and concepts, harmonized with joint and Service doctrinal concepts, can achieve operational effectiveness. This result provides a solid basis for determining common operational requirements. Standardization of arms and equipment eases harmonization of operational tactics, procedures, and training of combined or joint forces.

\*e. To be effective, RSI policy must focus on enhancing combined combat capabilities for US military forces. These combined capabilities include: fighting together using agreed common or compatible doctrine, tactics, techniques, and procedures, communicating and sharing data, sharing consumables, and caring for casualties.

f. Decisions on the degree of standardization or Interoperability result from rationalized requirements. Agreements between nations should consider the following: (1) voluntary standardization obtained at different levels; (2) standardization not being an end in itself; and (3) all agreements allowing for maximum flexibility.

g. Standardization is important in achieving Interoperability. It should not prevent research, the development of materiel, strategy, doctrine, and tactics, or the production of war material.

h. Nations are responsible for equipping the forces they have earmarked for, or assigned to, an alliance. Conflicting national requirements limit the degree of standardization.

i. Standardization of terminology is essential for effective communications and a prerequisite to both operational and material standardization.

j. National security policies govern the free and consistent exchange of information.

6. Procedures.

a. HQ USEUCOM.

(1) Staff directors and office chiefs will:

(a) Support the RSI policy established in this directive and MOP No. 147. The goal is to increase cooperation with US allies within areas of their staff functions.

(b) Appoint a staff point of contact (POC) for RSI coordination. Provide a name and telephone number to ECJ5 principal staff officer (ECJ5-D).

(2) In addition, Director, Plans and Policy (ECJ5), will exercise primary staff responsibility for overall RSI policy within HQ USEUCOM, to include appointing a principal staff officer (ECJ5-D).

b. USEUCOM Component Commanders will:

\*(1) Ensure their respective forces, doctrine, procedures, training programs, weapons systems and equipment programs reflect USEUCOM RSI policies and procedures established by this directive, and JCS MOP No. 147.

(2) Appoint a staff POC for RSI coordination and provide POC name and telephone number to ECJ5-D.

(3) Assume management responsibility for RSI initiatives in which the component commander has primary interest. Additionally, assume responsibility for general interest initiatives specifically assigned to the component.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

OFFICIAL:

ROBERT D. CHELBERG  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Chief of Staff

RONALD ROUGHEAD  
LTC, SA  
Adjutant General

Appendix  
A - RSI Definitions

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## Appendix A

## RSI Definitions

- A-1. Combined Doctrine. Basic principles that guide the employment of forces of two or more nations in coordinated action toward a common objective. Participating nations ratify this set of principles.
- A-2. Commonality. A state achieved when groups of individuals, organizations, or nations use common doctrine procedures or equipment.
- A-3. Compatibility. Capability of two or more items or components of equipment or material to exist or function in the same system or environment without mutual interference.
- A-4. Dual Production. Refers to independent production lines for the entire weapon system.
- A-5. Harmonization. The process and/or results of adjusting differences or inconsistencies to bring significant features into agreement.
- A-6. Interoperability. The ability of systems, units or forces to provide services to and accept services from other systems, units or forces. The act of using these exchanged services enables the forces to operate effectively together.
- A-7. Joint Doctrine. Basic principles that guide the employment of forces of two or more services of the same nation in coordinated action toward a common goal. The Joint Chiefs of Staff, after ratification by all four Services, announce these principles.
- A-8. Memorandum of Understanding. An international agreement between two or more parties. In the context of EUCOM programs, these inter-governmental agreements, negotiated between allied defense agencies and signed by executive branch officials, usually occur at or below the ministerial level.
- A-9. Multi-Service Doctrine. Basic principles that guide the employment of forces of two or three national Services in coordinated action toward a common goal. Joint Service publications usually announce this collection of principles, ratified by two or three Services.
- A-10. Rationalization. Any action that increases the effectiveness of allied forces through more efficient or effective use of defense resources committed to the Alliance. Rationalization

## Appendix A (cont.)

includes consolidation, reassignment of national priorities to higher alliance needs, standardization, specialization, mutual support or improved interoperability, and greater cooperation. Rationalization applies to both weapons/material resources and non-weapons military matters.

A-11. Standardization. The process of developing concepts, doctrines, procedures and designs to and maintain the most effective levels of compatibility, interoperability, interchangeability and commonality. This process applies to operations, administration and material.