

Fellow FA30s,

I wanted to provide you some information about on-going efforts within the Army regarding Information Operations.

Doctrine. The Chief of Staff of the Army is approving FM 3-0, change 1 this month. FM 3-0, change 1 will officially implement the Inform and Influence (IIA) Construct into Army doctrine.

Inform and influence activities is defined as the "integrating activity within the mission command Warfighting function which ensures themes and messages designed to inform domestic audiences and influence foreign friendly, neutral, adversary, and enemy populations are synchronized with actions to support full spectrum operations. IIA incorporates components and enablers expanding the commander's ability to use other resources to inform and influence."

Now what does this mean? We, the Army's IO Functional Area, must still retain the capability to support IO to Department of Defense and the Joint Community, but the IIA construct includes more than just IO. The five information tasks outlined in the 2008, FM 3-0 Operations manual will be replaced with IIA. The components of IIA, coupled with the enablers, addresses the core, related and supporting capabilities of IO and addresses the five information tasks. Key is that the integration aspect is reintroduced to Army doctrine. Efforts are underway right now to re-write FM 3-13, which will be titled Inform and Influence Activities and this will be a collaborative efforts of many organizations which includes PA, MISO, IO, the Intel Community, the Signal Community and many of the capabilities listed in the Cyber/Electromagnetic realm. We will be posting updated IIA information papers and products on the IPO website – keep up with the changes!

There has been a lot of discussion regarding a potential the merger of IO and MISO. Although an IO – MISO merger was recommended during the summer's ARMY-SOCOM talks, it is not considered a viable COA at this time - that does not mean that the Special Operations community might not do some internal reorganizing. Army leadership is much more interested in a holistic approach to information and the development of a multi-functional Information Branch is more in keeping with current leadership intent. There has been some concept development regarding an Information Branch, but that would include much more than just IO and MISO. Current discussions are that such an information branch would include as a minimum PA, IO, MISO and potentially other elements and capabilities listed as enablers under the IIA construct. The logistical multi-functional branch may serve as a good model of what multi-functional information branch would look like. More to follow as things develop, there is still much analytics and experimentation needed to better develop an Information Branch Course of Action.

The Army is assessing its use of resources, specifically personnel resources. All branches and functional areas are conducting analysis in this area. Based on future

constraints, I foresee a reduction of FA 30 billets, specifically in the Generation Force, but I see potential growth in other areas – especially in the Joint community. Simultaneously, we are working with DA, DoD, and the Joint community to standardize the current IO billet structure. Many IO billets are not coded as FA 30 but rather 01/02A positions; our goal is to get these billets recoded. Recoding positions whose duty descriptions are clearly IO or IIA would provide a substantial growth in the near term. Remember, authorizations and requirements are not the same. Our force structure is based on authorizations, and that is what “drives the train” in regard to accessions, manning, promotions, etc.

Some specific Functional Area notes:

We continue to improve our broadening and advanced education program. LTC Motley and MAJ Obidinski continue to fight to increase our authorizations. We currently have 5 NPS, 3 ACS, and 2 Training with Industry Programs. Resident ILE slots will continue to be a fight! The ILE requirement prior to promotion to LTC will probably be better enforced in the future by the Army. We are also looking at establishing a DoD fellowship, which should become official by 2012.

I anticipate that the FA 30 force will continue to see promotion rates slightly higher than Army average, but I also see the Army’s average promotion rates declining. The Army has seen unprecedented promotion rates in the past several years, so it was just a matter of time for promotion rates to decline.

FA 30 accessing. HRC has implemented the Voluntary Transfer Incentive Program (VTIP) in addition to the current CFD. It is my goal for all future FA 30s to assess into the functional area through the VTIP. I want to focus on quality versus quantity. To make this successful, the Proponent will re-energize its “recruiting” effort, but I will also call on the FA 30 community at large to participate. When the Proponent visits your organization, we will count on your support to aid us in this effort.

Based on current doctrinal changes, a complete review of all Army Professional Education is underway. IIA instruction standardization is a priority, and by the end of CY 11, all the Army’s Professional Education Programs’ (BOLC, CCC, CGSC, WOES, and NCOES) will be standardized and updated with current doctrine. The FA 30 Qualification Course and the Tactical IO Course will also undergo an update. In discussions with the Joint Community, we are pursuing initiatives to achieve Joint Accreditation for future FA30s for Joint IO as part of our IIA education program. Currently all FA 30 graduates receive Army OPSEC certification, and we plan on future students also receiving required training to make graduates MILDEC certified (by Army standard).

Our IO community is small, just over 350 officers Army wide, but every senior leader I talk to stresses the importance of what we do. I take pride that such a small functional area has accomplished so much and its importance is recognized by so many of our leaders. Since our inception in 1999, we have undergone many challenges, but we

continue to move forward. In closing, I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas. For those of you in harm's way or separated from your families, keep up the fight. I personally know how difficult it is to be away from family and friends during this time of the year. Take care of yourself, your soldiers, and the Army family.

v/r

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