

APPENDIX B

Terms of Reference Naval Research Advisory Committee (NRAC) Panel on Assessing Information Technology (IT) Interoperability Among Systems, with a Focus on Coalition Warfare

General Objective: Assess technologies and interoperability implications associated with information transfer and interaction among systems as well as between systems, especially among and between NATO and coalition forces.

Background: There is a revolution occurring in the manner in which Naval Forces conduct operations based on the explosion of commercial information technologies. The revolution is the exploitation of technologies to establish information dominance and the conduct of network centric warfare. Many issues arise as it relates to interoperability among and between NATO and coalition forces. Primary areas of concern are interoperability with legacy systems (e.g., communications, message formats, hardware and software applications, and language translation).

Specific Tasking:

1. Identify interoperability obstacles among and between command, control, communications, computers, intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance systems (C⁴ISR)/Combat Systems relative to joint, NATO and coalition Naval Forces.
2. Evaluate current and envisioned plans and procedures for mitigating adverse effects of rapidly moving technology.
3. Provide an assessment of existing and near-term technologies that will enable secure interoperability among and between essential systems.
4. Recommend a Department of the Navy strategy that achieves and maintains levels of interoperability required to support execution of Naval missions in a joint/NATO/coalition force environment.

Study Sponsor: VADM Arthur Cebrowski, USN, Director, Space, Information Warfare, Command and Control (N6), OPNAV.