



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
2000 NAVY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

OPNAVINST 5710.11G  
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OPNAV INSTRUCTION 5710.11G

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: PRINCIPLES FOR MILITARY COOPERATION, CANADA-UNITED STATES, AND CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATIONS FOR OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND OTHER DEFENSE MATTERS WITH CANADA

1. Purpose

a. To reaffirm certain principles for the conduct of military cooperation between Canada and the United States, as approved by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and higher authority.

b. To provide guidance in the determination of appropriate channels of communication between the U.S. Navy and Canadian Defense Staff for operational requirements and other defense matters.

c. To revise membership and reporting responsibilities for the Canada-United States Military Cooperation Committee. This instruction is a complete revision and should be reviewed in its entirety.

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 5710.11F.

3. Functions of the Canada-United States Military Cooperation Committee

a. The Military Cooperation Committee is established under the authority of the Canadian Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS) and the U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS). The Canadian and U.S. Military Cooperation Committee co-chairs are directly responsible to the CDS and CJCS respectively, to provide recommendations relative to military policy and planning for the defense of North America in a continually changing global security environment. The committee is composed of a Canadian section and a U.S. section. Each section consists of a co-chairperson of flag or general officer rank, and one representative from each branch of the Department of Defense and CDS. These representatives provide Service input during the

Military Cooperation Committee and Joint Staff discussions and regular updates to the Military Cooperation Committee on issues, initiatives, and intersecting opportunities to enhance Canada-U.S. military cooperation. Each co-chair shall appoint a military assistant to coordinate the administrative requirements of the Military Cooperation Committee. Operational-level and combatant commands are also represented at the request of one or both co-chairs. Additional advisors include, as appropriate, Foreign Affairs Canada, U.S. Department of State, Canadian Assistant Deputy Minister for Policy (Western Hemisphere), U.S. Office of the Secretary of Defense, and embassy staffs from both countries. Representation and regular liaison with Foreign Affairs Canada, U.S. Department of State, Canadian Assistant Deputy Minister for Policy (Western Hemisphere), U.S. Office of the Secretary of Defense, and embassy staffs, as appropriate, will ensure intersecting defense opportunities are recognized and considered by the Military Cooperation Committee.

b. The mission of the Military Cooperation Committee is to provide the primary strategic staff link between the Canadian and U.S. Joint Staffs for the purpose of considering issues and making recommendations on combined strategic military policy, plans, operations and opportunities for enhanced military cooperation. The primary focus of the Military Cooperation Committee is strategically addressing issues of global and bilateral consequence. The Military Cooperation Committee shall monitor force generation, force employment, and force development issues across the spectrum of military cooperation and should promote substantive Joint Staff, service and operational level and combatant command issues to senior fora, such as Armed Forces Council-Joint Chiefs of Staff talks.

c. Specific functions of the Military Cooperation Committee include, but are not limited to:

(1) Acting as a focal point and primary strategic staff linkage between the Canadian and U.S. Joint Staffs for day-to-day, Canada-U.S. military-to-military cooperation.

(2) Developing and promoting strategic policy guidance for operational-level and combatant commands regarding shared Canada-U.S. military cooperation.

(3) Identifying intersecting opportunities and areas for the enhancement of the Canada-U.S. defense relationship.

(4) Serving as a principal strategic military link between senior Canada-U.S. strategic defense fora including the annual CJCS-CDS talks and political-military and defense-defense discussions.

(5) Receiving and addressing issues pertaining to Canada-U.S. military cooperation, for which there are no established communication channels between military agencies and forces.

(6) Developing and revising the Canada-U.S. Basic Defense Document.

(7) Reviewing and updating the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) terms of reference on behalf of the CDS, CJCS, and the Canadian and U.S. Military Cooperation Committee co-chairs, per the NORAD Agreement.

(8) Requesting that the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency, Defense Warning Office, and the Office of the Canadian Chief of Defence Intelligence maintain and update on an "as needed" basis a combined strategic threat assessment.

(9) Staffing specific strategic military arrangements that rise to the Joint Staff level.

(10) Informing the CDS, CJCS, and the Canadian and U.S. Military Cooperation Committee co-chairs of issues of mutual concern.

(11) Assuming additional duties or tasks as assigned by the CDS, CJCS, or the Canadian and U.S. Military Cooperation Committee co-chairs.

4. U.S. Navy Membership for the Military Cooperation Committee. The U.S. Navy member is normally the Director, International Engagement Branch (OPNAV N52). The assistant Navy member is appointed by OPNAV N52, and should normally be the rank of captain.

5. Channels of Communications

a. Military Cooperation Committee Channel

(1) Matters of a joint nature that pertain to the specific responsibilities in paragraph 3 of this instruction and that do not come within the purview of other established boards or committees, should be processed through the Military Cooperation Committee.

(2) Matters that cannot be resolved through U.S. Service and Canadian Defence Staff channels may also be processed through the Military Cooperation Committee.

(3) Matters involving a military operating requirement by one nation in the territory of the other necessitating approval by the Canadian and United States governments will normally be processed for information and or action through the Military Cooperation Committee, before official submission at the U.S. Department of External Affairs-State Department level.

(4) Communications for introduction into the Military Cooperation Committee channel should be addressed to:

Office of the Chief of Naval Operations  
International Engagement Directorate (N52)  
2000 Navy Pentagon RM 4C453  
Washington, DC 20350-2000

b. Other Channels. In addition to the Military Cooperation Committee channel, U.S. Service and Canadian Defence Staff channels will be utilized under the provisions outlined below:

(1) Communication is authorized between a U.S. Service Headquarters and the Canadian Forces Headquarters provided that:

(a) The subject matter relates primarily to the detailed administrative or technical implementation of plans or policies previously agreed upon by higher authority; and

(b) The purpose is exploratory discussion.

(2) When authorized, a military commander, or his or her representative, of one nation shall conduct exploratory

discussions with a military commander, or his or her representative, of the other nation.

(3) A military commander, or his or her representative, of one nation should communicate directly with a military commander, or his or her representative, of the other nation if the subject matter relates primarily to the detailed administrative or technical implementation of plans or policies previously agreed upon by higher authority.

6. Records Management. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of media and format, shall be managed per Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Manual (M) 5210.1 of January 2012.

7. Reports Control. Reporting requirements contained within this instruction are exempt from reports control per SECNAV M-5214.1 of December 2005, part IV, subparagraph 7g.



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