TACTICAL DIGITAL INFORMATION LINK (TADIL) STANDARDIZATION POLICY
AND PROCEDURES

References: See Enclosure B.

1. **Purpose.** This instruction establishes policy to achieve and maintain
interoperability, as directed in reference a, among Command, Control,
Communications, Computers, and Intelligence (C4I) systems within the
Department of Defense (DOD) that implement and use tactical digital
information links (TADIL). This instruction establishes procedures for the
development, configuration management (CM), and implementation of Joint
Interoperability for Tactical Command and Control System (JINTACCS) TADIL
standards as established in reference b and listed in Enclosure A.

2. **Cancellation.** MJCS-103-86, 13 May 1987, is hereby canceled.

3. **Applicability.** This instruction applies to DOD and is recommended for
other Federal departments implementing TADILs. DOD components, as used
herein, refers to the Joint Staff, Military Services, combatant commands, and
agencies. Reference c is the configuration management plan for JINTACCS
standards.

4. **Policy.** In support of the C4I for the Warrior (C4IFTW) concept, reference
e, DOD systems that implement TADILs will comply with, and certify to, these
joint message standards and associated documentation. Achieving and
maintaining joint and combined compatibility, integration, and interoperability
will be attained by complying with these TADIL standards.
a. Document Conversion. At the direction of the Joint Staff/J-7, TADIL message standards (Joint Pub 6-01 Series) are being converted to military standards (MIL-STDs), and the TADIL Interface Operating Procedures (IOP) (Joint Pub 3-56.20 through 3-56.23) are being converted to a Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Manual, CJCSM 6120.01. DISA - Joint Interoperability and Engineering Organization (JIEO) will continue to be executive agent for the JINTACCS program that consists of TADIL A, TADIL B, TADIL C, TADIL J, ATDL-1, and Variable Message Format (VMF).

b. Exceptions and Interim Authorities to Operate (IATO). Implementation of joint TADIL standards is mandatory in systems that use TADILs, to achieve end-to-end interoperability as defined in reference e. However, some system designs may not need to comply with defined minimum implementation requirements if the mission of such system is limited in capability. Therefore, in order to complete the joint certification process and ensure interoperability, an exception from minimum implementation may be granted by the Joint Multi-TADIL Configuration Control Board (CCB) chaired by JIEO.

(1) Exceptions are approved in advance of DISA-Joint Interoperability Test Command (JITC) system certification testing to provide commanders of combatant commands (CINCs), Services, and DOD agencies (hereafter referred to as DOD components) with notification that the affected system does not comply with a specific segment of TADIL standards. Exceptions are permanent and will be documented in all system description documentation. Grants of Exceptions will not waive any requirement of any system to complete JITC joint certification testing.

(2) IATOs are defined in reference e, and are approved by the Joint Staff MCEB Interoperability Test (IT) Panel IAW reference f. IATOs, when approved, are temporary for systems that have failed JITC certification testing and permit interim fielding of systems. Grants of IATOs do not waive the requirement of any system to complete JITC certification testing.

c. Configuration Management. JIEO will continue to CM JINTACCS TADIL MIL-STDs, CJCSMs, and associated documents IAW references c, d, and e.

(1) The Joint Multi-TADIL Standards Working Group (JMSWG) is the focal point in resolving issues related to TADIL interoperability and the CCB is the CM authority for the TADIL MIL-STDs, CJCSMs, and associated documents.
(2) IAW reference c, each DOD component will designate a JMSWG and CCB spokesperson. Spokespersons are responsible for providing their respective organization’s positions on all matters considered. Spokespersons will be empowered to commit their DOD component’s assistance in matters requiring coordination.

5. **Definitions.** See Glossary.

6. **Responsibilities**

   a. Principal Staff Assistants, IAW references c, d, and e, are responsible for:

      (1) Achieving and maintaining standards conformance of their systems implementing TADIL standards.

      (2) Ensuring that compatibility and interoperability of C4I systems identified during the Mission Need Statement (MNS) and the Operational Requirements Document (ORD) validation process contain directives to implement JINTACCS standards, as appropriate.

   b. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, IAW references a, b, c, and e, is responsible for establishing procedures for the development, coordination, and review of TADIL standards for C4I systems.

   c. Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Production and Logistics) Economic Security Division (OASD, P&L, ES) IAW reference d, is responsible for the management and production of MIL-STDs and military bulletins (MIL-BULs) for the TADIL program.

   d. Heads of the DOD components are responsible to:

      (1) Ensure C4I systems that use TADILs, implement joint TADIL standards.

      (2) Identify and provide required corrections and improvements to TADIL standards, and fully participate in the CM of these standards.

   e. CINCs are responsible to:

      (1) Identify and provide required corrections and improvements to TADIL standards.

      (2) Participate in the CM of these standards.
f. Director, NSA and Director, DIA are responsible to:

   (1) Ensure that C4I systems using TADILs implement joint TADIL standards.

   (2) Identify and provide required corrections and improvements to TADIL standards, and fully participate in the CM of these standards.

g. Director, DISA is responsible to:

   (1) Conduct all necessary actions pursuant to being the JINTACCS Program executive agent.

   (2) Serve as the DOD single point of contact for development and CM of TADIL standards. IAW reference d, JIEO will execute the responsibilities of the Lead Standardization Activity (LSA) and Preparing Activity (PA) for TADIL standards.

   (3) In collaboration with the other DOD components, identify requirements for information exchange and develop standardized procedures and formats for information flow among C4I systems.

   (4) Maintain a list of approved TADIL interface standards with which DOD C4I systems and weapon systems must be certified.

   (5) Convene and chair the JMSWG that is the authority for development of TADIL standards and the focal point for resolving issues related to TADIL interoperability.

   (6) Convene and chair the Joint Multi-TADIL CCB that approves all changes to TADIL standards, IAW reference c.

   (7) Identify, program, and provide resources to accomplish DISA’s portion of the JINTACCS program.

   (8) IAW reference g and (1) above, act as classification authority for JINTACCS TADIL standards.

h. The Defense Printing Service is responsible for printing and distributing TADIL CJCSMs, MIL-STDs, and MIL-BULs IAW reference e.
7. Procedures

a. Adherence is required to US Federal and DOD standards (including TADIL), US-ratified NATO STANAGs, and other international standards accepted for US use IAW reference a.

b. Exceptions are approved by the Joint Multi-TADIL CCB.

c. Procedures to input a change to TADIL standards are provided in reference c. CM procedures for TADIL standards are approved by the CCB and provided in its TOR.

d. A current list of all standards under CM by JIEO is maintained in JIEO Circular 9001, or its replacement MIL-BUL.

8. Summary of Changes. This is the initial distribution of this instruction.

a. Proposed changes to this instruction, together with rationale, may be provided to Joint Staff (J-6), or to Director JIEO, Attn: JEBCA, Parkridge III, 10701 Parkridge Blvd., Reston, VA  22091-4398.

b. A limited number of additional copies of this instruction may be obtained from the Joint Staff Records and Information Research Branch, Pentagon, Room 2B917. The Services, CINCs, Defense agencies, and all other holders are authorized to reproduce, print, and stock copies to meet their internal distribution requirements.

c. Local reproduction and distribution is authorized.

9. Effective Date. This instruction is effective upon receipt.

For the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

\Signature\  
WALTER KROSS  
Lieutentant General, USAF  
Director, Joint Staff

Enclosures:
A--TADIL Standards  
B--References  
GL--Glossary
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DISTRIBUTION

Distribution J plus the following:

Secretary of Defense ................................................................. 10
President, National Defense University ......................................... 5
President, Armed Forces Staff College ......................................... 5
President, Industrial College of the Armed Forces ......................... 5
Director, Joint Interoperability Engineering Organization .............. 20
Director, Defense Information Systems Agency ............................. 10
Chief of Staff, US Army .............................................................. 10
Chief of Naval Operations .......................................................... 10
Commandant, US Marine Corps .................................................... 10
Chief of Staff, US Air Force ........................................................ 10
Director, National Security Agency .............................................. 10
Director, Defense Intelligence Agency ......................................... 2
Director, Central Imagery Office ............................................... 2
Deputy Commanding General, Forces Command ......................... 10
Deputy Commander in Chief, US Atlantic Command ...................... 5
Deputy Commander in Chief, US Pacific Command ....................... 5
Commander, Communications-Electronics Command, US Army ...... 5
Commander, US Army Missile Command ..................................... 5
Commander in Chief, US Atlantic Fleet ....................................... 2
Commander, Naval Doctrine Command ....................................... 2
Naval Center for Tactical Systems Interoperability ......................... 5
Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command .............................. 5
Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command 5
Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity .......................... 5
Headquarters, Air Combat Command .......................................... 5
Office of the Secretary of Defense (Joint Air Defense Operations, Joint
   Engagement Zone, Joint Test Element, Joint Task Force) ............ 5
ENCLOSURE A

TADIL STANDARDS

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ENCLOSURE B

REFERENCES

References for this instruction are as follows:

a. DODD 4630.5, 12 November 1992, "Compatibility, Interoperability, and Integration of Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence (C3I) Systems"

b. DODI 4630.8, 18 November 1992, "Procedures for Compatibility, Interoperability, and Integration of Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence (C3I) Systems"

c. JIEO Plan 3200, March 1992, "Department of Defense Information Technology (IT) Standards Management Plan"

d. DOD 4120.3, 9 July 1993, "Defense Standardization Program (DSP) Policies and Procedures"

e. CJCSI 6212.01 Series, "Compatibility, Interoperability, and Integration of Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence Systems"


g. DOD 5200.1-R, 7 June 1992, “Information Security Program Regulation”
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GLOSSARY

DEFINITIONS

1. **CM.** Configuration Management is the management process established by the Joint Multi-TADIL CCB to develop and maintain the joint TADIL standards, IOPs, and associated documents and establish US positions on allied or NATO TADIL equivalent standards, thereby establishing and maintaining US interoperability with our allies.

2. **Exception.** A permanent deviation of a system’s TADIL standard required minimum implementation approved by the Joint Multi-TADIL CCB in advance of system certification testing. Systems granted and exception are subject to joint certification testing.

3. **Interim Authority to Operate (IATO).** Authority to field a new system or capability for a limited time, with a limited number of platforms to support developmental efforts, demonstrations, exercises, or operational use. The decision to grant an IATO will be made by the MCEB Interoperability Test (IT) Panel based on the sponsoring component’s initial laboratory test results and assessed impact, if any, on the operational network to be employed.

4. **IOP.** Interface Operating Procedures (currently published in CJCSM 6120.01) provide doctrine, tactics, techniques, and procedures designed for CINCs, Joint Task Force Commanders, Services, and agencies in planning, designing, and operating TADIL networks.

5. **JIEO.** Joint Interoperability and Engineering Organization, within DISA.

6. **JINTACCS.** The Joint Staff’s Joint Interoperability of Tactical Command and Control System Program consisting of TADILs and US Message Text Format (USMTF).

7. **JITC.** Joint Interoperability Test Command, DISA.

8. **Joint Multi-TADIL Standards Working Group (JMSWG).** A joint body chaired by DISA-JIEO to resolve joint and combined interoperability issues affecting the JINTACCS TADIL program.
9. **Joint Multi-TADIL Configuration Control Board (Joint CCB).** Configuration Control Board (TADIL) is a Joint Staff board that is chaired, funded, and coordinated by DISA-JIEO to CM JINTACCS.

10. **TADIL Standards.** A set of technical and procedural parameters, with which systems/equipment must comply, to achieve compatibility and interoperability with other systems/equipment. Specifically, this includes the data communications protocol standards and the procedural standards for each TADIL.

11. **Tactical Digital Information Link (TADIL).** A Joint Staff approved, standardized communications link suitable for transmission and receipt of tactical digital information. TADILs interface two or more command and control or weapons systems via a single network architecture and multiple communication media. Current practice is to characterize a TADIL by its standardized message formats and transmission characteristics.

12. **Technical Interface Design Plan - Test Edition (TIDP-TE).** Under the Joint publication CM process, interim TADIL standards are developed as TIDP-TEs to conduct Developmental Certification Testing (DCT).

13. **Variable Message Format (VMF).** A message format designed to support the exchange of digital data between combat units with diverse needs for volume and detail of information using various communications media. VMF is a bit-oriented message standard with limited character-oriented fields. The message length can usually vary with each use, based on the information content of the message. The use of VMF is to fill the void that currently exists between TADILS and USMTFs.