

UNCLASSIFIED

STATEMENT OF INTENT BY
THE ROYAL NAVY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN
IRELAND
AND
THE UNITED STATES NAVY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
REGARDING
FUTURE INTEGRATED WARFIGHTING

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STATEMENT OF INTENT**“FUTURE INTEGRATED WARFIGHTING: FROM INTEROPERABLE TO INTERCHANGEABLE”****Introduction**

1. In December 2014 the Royal Navy (RN) and United States Navy (USN), hereinafter referred to as the “Participants,” signed a shared vision of co-operation under the headline “Combined Seapower.” An associated collaboration program was developed in 2016 under the title, “Delivering Combined Seapower” (DCS). Since 2016, DCS has tracked bilateral activity ensuring effective synchronization between both staffs. As part of DCS 2020 (dated 29 April 2020), in the context of a very different geopolitical climate and a constantly accelerating technological landscape, a revised vision enables more focused and agile cooperation ensuring interoperability and interchangeability from the earliest phases of equipment and doctrine development. This “Future Integrated Warfighting” (FIW) Line of Engagement (LoE) aims to do this by building on the established cooperation forged through DCS to drive quicker and more focused change in the way we collaborate with the intent of delivering tangible outcomes that enables seamless interchangeability between our two navies.

Purpose and Objectives: Shared Vision

2. The RN and USN are closely aligned on the challenges we face, and the purpose of this Statement of Intent (SOI) is to articulate the Participants’ mutual desire to collaborate closely to achieve our goals. We have a mature and institutionalised relationship that delivers genuine warfighting capabilities with incorporated interoperability. However, in order to keep pace with modern threats and fight as a truly cohesive force, we should endeavour to progress from interoperability towards interchangeability. This positive step should enable critical force elements to become transposable; from ships of one navy operating in the other navy’s taskforces, to manned and unmanned vehicles operating from the decks of each other’s ships for refuelling, re-arming and re-tasking. This exchange of capability must be frictionless and immediate, allowing operational commanders to trust the assets they have at all times. We should endeavour to be agile and innovative in the development and delivery of equipment and personnel, coordinating requirements across shared business areas such as acquisition, training and capability development. In doing so, we present an increased range of diverse challenges for even the most sophisticated of our adversaries, enabling us to deter conflict and prevail in combat if needed.

Military-to-Military Co-operation: Integrating Today and Tomorrow

3. This FIW SOI records our intention to exploit extant - and develop new - collaboration and exchange agreements and arrangements, in order to encompass the widest possible range of new maritime activity. This SOI should facilitate ongoing examination of new avenues of collaboration, from research and development, acquisition and test and evaluation, to full-spectrum operations. Specifically, FIW intends to work alongside the US DoD – UK MoD Carrier Strike and USN-RN Underwater Statements of Intent (Jan 2012 and Jun 2018 respectively) and, where required, use the US DoD – UK MoD Next Generation Capability Co-operation (NGCC) Policy (30 Nov 2018) to build deeper integration.

4. Existing and future bilateral activities are to be outcome-focused and delivered at an increased pace. Appropriate time lines that point to near, mid and long-term activity are to be mutually determined. Additionally, the following new focus areas should be examined:

- a. **Digital Transformation.** Collaboration on digital transformation to support quicker and better-informed decision-making. From the strategic level, to the tactical-level sharing of application interfaces, cooperation on digitization is essential for the desired interchangeability of our increasingly data-centric platforms and systems.
- b. **Artificial Intelligence.** As part of digital transformation, we should endeavour to “operationalise” AI across the breadth of warfighting, readiness and enterprise business activities. This includes, for example, accelerating work underway to identify areas of overlap between the RN’s NELSON program and the USN project NARWHAL. Such important collaboration would deliver near-real time data exchange in support of maritime situational awareness and planning.
- c. **Increased lethality.** We also have the opportunity to collaborate on the development of novel weapons and to collaborate on the rapid development, testing and fielding of cutting-edge equipment, with the aim of moving cutting-edge technology off the drawing board and into the hands of war fighters at increased pace. Such projects should include High Speed Weapons, Directed Energy Weapons, and advanced terminal defence solutions.
- d. **Autonomy and Remotely Piloted Systems.** The fielding of autonomous MCM and airborne systems, decoupling weapons and sensors from complex manned platforms, and the development of a shared C2 system architecture for unmanned systems enables our ability to act at the speed of relevance and outpace our adversaries.
- e. **Assured C2 and Integrated Fires.** Resilient and assured C2 capabilities designed to communicate between our navies are critical enablers for future interchangeability. These efforts may include agreed force-wide approaches to EW (including AEW), Future Air Defence solutions, collaborative work on the use of non-SATCOM bearers and solutions to the challenges of operating in a denied and contested environment.

Force Development

5. Force Development crosses all DCS 2020 LoEs, but as a necessarily forward-facing endeavour, and in order to co-ordinate across USN pillars and align with RN force structures, this activity should be managed through the FIW LoE via a Future Concept and Strategy Working Group. The overarching objective is to achieve interchangeability as key allies, driving synergies in conceptual thinking, capability planning and operations through information sharing and wargaming based around Distributed Maritime Operations (DMO), the Future Navy Operating Concept (FNOC), and future Joint Concepts under development.

Legal Status

6. This SOI is an expression of the Participants’ intention to cooperate in matters relating to FIW under separate existing or new agreements and arrangements and it is not the intent of the Participants that this SOI be legally binding under international law. This SOI is not intended to obligate either Participant to make or provide any financial or non-financial contribution for any purpose, nor is it intended to obligate either Participant to perform any work, award any contract, exchange information, or transfer funds. This SOI does not establish legally binding commitments or obligations on either Navy and does not create any rights, duties, or responsibilities enforceable against any person or entity in any court of law or equity or before any Third Party.

Governance and Timescales

7. The FIW LoE is to be led, managed and updated through the Senior National Naval Representative (SNNR) forum under Director Development (RN) and N94 Senior National Representative (SNR) (USN) as the Offices of Primary Responsibility under DCS 2020. The RN Naval Staff in concert with OPNAV N5 should provide Navy to Navy oversight. DCNO N3/N5 and ACNS should elevate issues as necessary. A progress review is to occur annually at the 2/3 star- level through Navy to Navy talks and at the 4 star-level every 2 years.

Effective Date

8. This SOI is to become effective on the date of the last signature below and is to remain in effect for ten years, unless terminated or extended. This SOI may be amended or extended by mutual written consent of the Participants. Either Participant may, upon 90 days written notification to the other Participant, terminate this SOI. Such notice is to be the subject of immediate consultation between the Participants to decide upon the appropriate course of action.



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