



JAPCC Joint Air and Space Power Forum REACH BACK

Thursday 20 April 2006

Summary of Discussion Points

1. Air Reach Back (RB) Requirements.

- **RB is not new.** What is new is the size of the problem, the likely distances over which RB will need to reach and the speed at which we will be required to deploy it.
- In order to define RB requirements, we must first establish the **effects** we are aiming for, then the Information Flow requirements, then build the C2 architecture.
- RB is not a technical problem. Rather it is a problem of **method of operating**. RB will determine the size and shape of the organisation.
- RB is asking for **resources**, that is the allocation of Bandwidth and frequencies.
- It is essential to consider RB **applications**, opportunities to exercise and test RB.
- There is a need to establish WHY the Air Commander needs to deploy forward and what functions he will carry out from that position. In simple terms, his responsibilities are:
 - a. To provide specialist air advice to the Joint Commander.
 - b. To plan and execute an Air Operation.
- Hidden within RB, there is a need to distinguish between Knowledge and Information flow and the need for a hierarchical communications system for the passing down of orders and directives.
- RB is a means of increasing **flexibility**, **cost effectiveness** and **optimising** the use of **allocated resources**.

2. Considerations.

- Numbers of sorties is not a useful yardstick to judge the size and shape of an Air Operation. It is not as simple as that. There is a need to analyse COPs (e.g. for NRF operations), define the **effects** Air will be required to achieve, define the requirements for forces, then define the RB requirements.
- RB is an extension of the **information management** challenge.
- The term **SATCOM** is confusing. What is required is Beyond Line of Sight (BLOS)/Over the Horizon (OTH) communications. There are numerous means of achieving this and SATCOM is but one example
- **Training** is vital to success. The better we train and practice, the better we will define the RB requirement and the better we will apply what is ultimately made available. Existing exercises must be tailored to accomplish this aim.
- There is a need to be wary of aiming for **ubiquitous Information hubs**, which are all things to all men, provide all the required access to Information and Knowledge but at the same time carry vast amounts of superfluous information and are not achievable in realisable bandwidth.

3. Conclusions.

- Further work in the area of RB will be undertaken by the JAPCC together with functional support from external specialists.
- The JAPCC intends to hold a **workshop** in order to define the generic requirements for the definition of **effects-tailored capabilities**.
- Based on the results of the workshop, a **generic Air C2 architecture** will be developed, including the architecture for RB in expeditionary operations.
- The final result of this work will facilitate the NRF **force generation process** in the future, based on reliable and assured provision of capabilities laid down in the specific **NRF-CJSOR**.