

Principles and guidelines concerning arrangements and operational procedures which could be applied in case of a joint operation

A. Command structure for joint combat operations

The organisational structure in joint operations should contain two main co-ordination and command levels, namely Operational Control ashore and Tactical Command on the scene of operations;

Operational Control should be exercised by the country that has asked for assistance (lead country), which normally is the country within whose zone the operation takes place;

Change of Operational Control and Tactical Command might, when practical and agreed between the Parties concerned, take place when the main body of a combating operation moves from one zone to another;

Liaison officers from participating countries should be integrated in the staff of the Operational Control to secure necessary knowledge of rendered national resources;

The overall Tactical Command is laid upon a designated Supreme On-Scene Commander/Co-ordinator (SOSC) from the lead country;

Strike teams provided by assisting countries should operate under the command of a National On-Scene Commanders/Co-ordinator (NOSC);

The NOSC operates under the command/co-ordination of the SOSC.

B. Arrangements concerning radio communications in joint operations

In order to avoid disturbance and jamming in a joint operation, there is a strong need for different radio communication frequencies, on the one hand between the Operational Control ashore and the Supreme On-Scene Commander/Co-ordinator (SOSC) and, on the other hand, between the SOSC and participating National On-Scene Commander/Co-ordinators (NOSCs) as well as between the different NOSCs and their respective team units.

In accordance with the provisional scheme of radio communications for joint combating operations presented below, the following procedures should be followed:

- concerning communications between the Operational Control ashore and the SOSC (which is the concern of the lead country of the operation), consideration should be given to the possibility of using wireless teleprinter or telex (Maritex);
- communications between the SOSC and the NOSCs should be performed on one or, if needed, more of the international VHF channels 10, 67 and 73;
- the vessels from which the SOSC operates should have at least two VHF stations on board with a stand-by function on channel 16;
- communications between a NOSC and the strike team units should be performed on special domestic (internal) frequencies;
- the working language between OSCs from different countries should be the most appropriate one;
- the broad aspects of the radio communication problems in joint oil combating operations at sea should be presented to the telecommunications authority in each country for information and internal consideration.

PROVISIONAL SCHEME OF RADIO COMMUNICATIONS FOR JOINT COMBATING OPERATIONS

