**TOPIC 1/1**

**MC 0560/1**

**MC POLICY FOR MILITARY ENGINEERING**

**INTRODUCTION**

**AIM**

To state the policy for military engineering (MILENG). It also gives direction and guidance for its implementation, in order to enable NATO, individual member Nations and partners to plan and conduct Alliance operations and to develop appropriate joint military capabilities, driven by the NATO Defence Planning Process (NDPP).

**SCOPE**

This Policy describes the concept' for the delivery of an effective MILENG capability which is essential for operational success. It applies to preparation, execution and recovery across the continuum of potential NATO-led joint operations. The intent is to ensure unity of effort as well as the effective employment of MILENG resources. The Military Committee (MC), the NATO Commands and Nations should use it as the authority for those measures required to achieve its full implementation across the Alliance, including missions and tasks, the design of military structures, specifications for capability development and transformation, as well as guidance on resources.

**SUPPORTING CONCEPTS**

**The Strategic Concept.** In accordance with Reference B, the NATO focus has shifted from largely static collective territorial defence to expeditionary operations. Alliance forces must be ready to operate as part of a comprehensive military, political, economic and civil approach to complex, multi-dimensional challenges to enhance international security, through partnership with relevant countries and other international organizations. The Alliance will be capable of managing even the most challenging crises, and will be better able to work with other organizations and nations to promote international stability. NATO will become more agile, capable and efficient and will continue to be an essential instrument for peace. Amongst other things, Alliance Heads of State and Governments agreed on enhancing NATO's contribution to a comprehensive approach to crisis management, stabilization and reconstruction.

**Guidance for Transformation** **and NATO's Level of Ambition.** Reference C states the intent and gives direction for the continuing transformation of defence capabilities, as well as the implementation of the defence-related aspects of the Strategic Concept. This includes launching and sustaining concurrent and enduring Major Joint Operations (MJO) and Smaller Joint Operations (SJO) for collective defence and crisis response. It defines NATO's Level of Ambition (LoA): Command and Control (C2) arrangements must be sufficient for up to eight concurrent operations (two MJO and six SJO) on NATO territory, its periphery or at strategic distance.

**PART I ROLES**

**Definition.** MILENG is the Engineer activity, undertaken regardless of component or service, to shape the physical operating environment.

**Activities.** MILENG is an inherent requirement of each of the joint functions4, at all levels of command and in any mission, campaign or operation. It achieves the desired objectives by manipulating the operating environment such as by enabling or preventing movement, providing life support and developing infrastructure. In accordance with Reference E, MILENG supports all operations (combat and non-combat), in all phases (e.g. reception, staging and onward movements (RSOM), sustainment, protecting the force) and incorporates specialist areas of expertise such as environmental protection, military search6 and management of infrastructure, including civil engineering contracts with local and international companies. Such contracts provide infrastructure to the Force or local population and support a comprehensive approach by providing economic inputs that promote stability. MILENG also makes a significant contribution to other capabilities, especially explosive ordnance disposal and countering improvised explosive devices.

**PART II MILENG IN ALLIED OPERATIONS**

**Comprehensive Approach.** Current operations continue to highlight the importance of MILENG throughout all stages of an operation in supporting, enabling and sustaining the force. Demands for MILENG support are likely to exceed capacity so the approach to providing MILENG support has always been inherently comprehensive, bringing diverse resources to bear to achieve the mission. NATO MILENG planners design and manage the coordinated employment of military and civilian engineering capabilities. Early civilian engagement in the planning process implements the Alliance's policy for interaction with all partners in the design and delivery of engineering effects (particularly reconstruction during and after the combat phase). MILENG forces may be the only choice to deliver engineering works in non-permissive environments, or where other governmental and non-governmental organizations are unable to operate.

**Centralized Control, Decentralized Execution.** The Alliance relies on a combination of the NATO Command Structure (NCS) and the NATO Force Structure (NFS) Headquarters to provide C2 for operations. The most effective use of scarce resources will be achieved by a senior military engineer and staff, properly established at each level, able to task-organise multinational assets in accordance with the overall commander's priorities, throughout an operation; responsibility for executing tasks should be delegated to the lowest appropriate level of MILENG command. Wherever two or more battalion-sized elements of MILENG capability from different nations are assigned to any Command HQ (which may be multinational) they should be under the C2 of a MILENG formation HQ (which may be multinational).

Engineer Advisor. The senior military engineer at each level is the principal advisor to the commander in all aspects of MILENG. This is implemented at the strategic level by the Allied Command Operations (ACO) Senior Joint Engineer, at the operational level by the Joint Force Engineer (JFENGR) and at the tactical level by the Chief Engineer. The overall commander's priority for the allocation of engineer effort must be communicated to and appropriately supported by other functional areas; the senior military engineer has coordinating and technical authority over the allocation of MILENG resources.

**PART III MULTINATIONAL MILENG CAPABILITY**

**Liaison and Communication.** Reference D places increased emphasis on interoperability and harnessing multinational capabilities. NATO Nations achieve this through cooperation in NATO committees and working groups, as well as training and operating together. As part of routine business, establishing effective links with NATO partners will facilitate contingency operations in regions where NATO might expect to deploy. The sharing of identified functional area issues between partners is critical.

**Multinationality.** Current operations continue to demonstrate the requirement for a broad range of M1LENG capabilities. National force reductions mean that many Nations are increasing efforts to improve interoperability, combining complementary capabilities to compensate for their own shortfalls. At Reference A, Nations concurred with the development of resource-efficient, multinational capabilities, which would be able to offer a broad range of opportunities to support the full spectrum of joint and combined operations. Multinational MILENG capabilities must be tailored to the mission; ideally they should be mobile, flexible and modular.

**Staff Planning for Operations.** To achieve the desired level of multinationality, national and NATO MILENG planning must be harmonised routinely but particularly from the start of the planning process for any specific operation. The Force Generation process must consider all relevant factors and must aim to achieve the most practicable, optimised level of multinationality whilst also delivering mission success.

**PART IV MILENG SUPPORT TO THE STRATEGIC LEVEL**

**Strategic Level.** At the strategic level, military engineers contribute to defence and operations planning by providing the necessary subject matter expert (SME) advice to ensure that appropriate MILENG capabilities will be generated in a timely manner to meet NATO short, medium and long term requirements. Planners and MILENG SMEs at the Strategic Command level must work closely with International Staff (IS), International Military Staff (IMS) and senior National engineers to ensure that the requirement for MILENG capabilities is adequately addressed.

**Allied Command Transformation.** Allied Command Transformation (ACT) is responsible for providing MILENG SMEs to defence and force planning, experimentation and the development of MILENG policy, concepts, doctrine, standardization, training and experimentation. In addition ACT conducts NATO Security Investment Programme tasks within designated areas.

**Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe.** The primary focus of the Senior Joint Engineer and staff is to plan, coordinate and control all the strategic MILENG aspects in support of NATO operations. This includes advice on the provision of MILENG capabilities, their deployment, sustainability, and the management of C2related infrastructure. This must not be allowed to undermine the fundamental requirement to provide mobility support and other MILENG capabilities to all joint functions. The Joint Engineer Division also supports defence and force planning, development of policy, doctrine and concepts, standardization, training and capability development through the provision of MILENG advice.

**NATO Senior Joint Engineers Conference.** The aim of the NATO Senior Joint Engineers Conference (NSJEC) is to enhance the overall MILENG posture of the Alliance. The experience of senior NATO and national engineers is available to direct the development of all aspects of MILENG capability, particularly as this applies to higher level defence planning, concepts, doctrine and standardization. The output guides the programme of work for both the MCLSB MILENG Working Group (WG) and MILENG Centre of Excellence (COE) as well as making recommendations to NAC, MC, NATO Commands and Nations.

**NATO MILENG COE.** The MILENG COE mission, together with other relevant COE's, is to provide SME advice at all levels of command in order to support NATO's military transformation, the Sponsoring Nations and other Customers, thus enhancing the Alliance's interoperability in the field of MILENG.

**PART V MILENG SUPPORT AT THE OPERATIONAL LEVEL AND BELOW**

**Operational Level.** The JFENGR7 at the Joint Force HQ will be responsible, throughout the Joint Operational Area, for identifying the requirements for engineering support as well as balancing and coordinating the allocation of MILENG and Host Nation Support, both directly for the force as well as to meet wider campaign objectives. Priorities for MILENG support and associated allocation of resources will be determined during the Operational Level Planning Process. MILENG staff plan and conduct NATO Security Investment Programme tasks within designated areas.

**Tactical Level.** The most likely MILENG focus at the tactical level for all components, depending on the operation, its phases and the operational environment, will be mobility support balanced with provision of life support and development of infrastructure.

**PART VI IMPLEMENTATION**

**Establishment of MILENG Staff.** The provision of timely, relevant, accurate and authoritative MILENG SME advice at all levels in NATO is critical to success on operations. NATO and national authorities have the collective responsibility to ensure that sufficient, properly educated, trained and empowered MILENG SME are available and visible at all levels, to support preparation for and engagement in all NATO operations.

**Implementation in NATO Commands.** NATO Commands at all levels are to implement this Policy into their concepts, doctrines and procedures in agreement with nations.

**Implementation by Nations.** Nations are strongly encouraged to adapt their own national policy, concepts, doctrine, structures and procedures in order to implement this Policy as fully as possible.

**References:**

1. AJP-3.12(A), Allied Doctrine for Military Engineer Support to Joint Operations,28 Sep 2010
2. P0(2010)0169, The Alliance's Strategic Concept, 19 Nov 2010
3. C-M(2011)0022, Political Guidance, 14 Mar 2011
4. MC 0319/2 (Final), NATO Principles and Policies for Logistics, 28 May 2004
5. MC 0586 (Final), MC Policy for Allied Forces and their Use for Operations,21 Feb 2011
6. MC 0469/1 (Final), NATO Military Principles and Policies for Environmental Protection (EP), 14 Oct 2011
7. ATP-73 VOL 1, Military Search, 28 Apr 2009