COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

This Instruction implements AFPD 10-7, *Information Operations*, DoD Directive S-3321.1, *Overt Psychological Operations Conducted by the Military Services in Peacetime and in Contingencies Short of Declared War* (U), Joint Publication 3-53, *Doctrine for Joint Psychological Operations*, and the SECDEF directed name change from Psychological Operations to Military Information Support Operations. It delineates the roles and responsibilities associated with Air Force Military Information Support Operations (AF MISO) as an operational activity within the Information Operations (IO) mission area. The instruction applies to HQ USAF, Numbered Air Forces, their subordinate elements for operational activities, major commands (MAJCOMs) in their roles of organizing, training, and equipping, and to the National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC). This instruction applies to the Air National Guard (ANG) and Air Force Reserve when mobilized. Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with AFMAN 33-363, Management of Records, and disposed of in accordance with the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule (RDS) located at **https://www.my.af.mil/afrims/afrims/afrims/rims.cfm** Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR) using the AF IMT 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*; route AF IMT 847s from the field through the appropriate functional's chain of command. See **Attachment 1** for a glossary of terms used in this Instruction.

Chapter 1

GENERAL

1.1. Mission

1.1.1. In general, MISO seeks to induce, influence, or reinforce the perceptions, attitudes, reasoning, and behavior of individuals, foreign leaders, groups, and organizations in a manner advantageous to US forces and objectives. Focused on the human dimension of the battlespace, AF MISO plans operations that leverage Air Force core competencies. Additionally, AF MISO takes advantage of the United States' ability to synchronize kinetic and non-kinetic capabilities in the domains of air, space, and cyberspace to affect the perceptions, decision cycles, and actions of foreign states and/or actors. Air Force MISO planners will augment the Joint Informaiton Support Task Force (Special Operations) (JISTF (SO)) and other Joint IO functions with MISO-trained AF personnel. While Public Affairs (PA) forces communicate accurate and timely information to both domestic and international audiences regarding US and allied/coalition military operations, Air Force MISO forces plan and execute operations which exclusively target foreign audiences. Air Force MISO forces support US objectives through a variety of planned psychological effects-based operations, emphasizing cognitive domain target development, selection and engagement. The Component Numbered Air Force (C-NAF) staff and assigned Air and Space Operations Center (AOC) Information Operations Team plans objectives and tasks that employ MISO capabilities to achieve assigned Combatant Command (COCOM) and Combined Force Air Component Commander (CFACC) objectives.

1.1.2. Military Information Support Operations are normally conducted in a joint/combined environment. Air Force MISO forces provide direct support to the combatant commander with message distribution and dissemination, direct participation in the target audience analysis (TAA) process, and can serve as a liaison between the AOC and other MISO entities such as the JISTF (SO). Additionally, Air Force MISO forces provide direct support to the component commander through the systematic use of air, space, and information operations to shape, condition, and exploit the psychological content of the battlespace. Air Force MISO capabilities must be integrated into the joint campaign from the start for deconfliction and for maximum effectiveness.

1.2. Influence Operations (IFO)

1.2.1. AFDD 2-5 discusses the operational application of Influence Operations (IFO). Because AF MISO is one of the operational activities of IFO, it is critical to integrate and deconflict with all IFO activities.

1.2.2. As per AFDD 2-5, IFO is the integrated planning, employment, and assessment of military activities to achieve desired effects across the cognitive targeting domain in support of operational objectives. The operational activities associated with IFO are MISO, Military Deception (MILDEC), Public Affairs (PA) operations, Counterpropaganda (CP) operations, Operations Security (OPSEC), and Counterintelligence (CI) operations. Influence Operations effects should result in altered behaviors and/or changes in the adversary decision cycle, aligning them with the commander's objectives while protecting the friendly decision cycle from adversary influence.

1.2.3. Air Force MISO, as an IFO activity, is critically dependent upon intelligence support that identifies opportunities for influence, analyzes sources of access, and identifies friendly areas vulnerable to foreign influence. By analyzing foreign target audiences and adversary decision makers at all levels, intelligence support contributes to air, space, and information superiority and also provides operational feedback to assist in the assessment of MISO effectiveness. National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC) personnel conduct behavioral influences analysis (BIA), a process critical to understanding foreign, friendly, neutral, and adversary target audiences. Within the AOC, intelligence support for MISO, such as BIA, is coordinated through the Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Division.

1.3. Objectives. Military Information Support Operations target foreign individuals, groups, and organizations (including governments) in accordance with national political and military objectives. A crucial part of all air, space, and Information Operations, MISO enables the warfighter to

1.3.1. Prepare, shape, and exploit the actual or potential battlespace cognitive domain for air, space, and cyberspace.

1.3.2. Dissuade or deter foreign aggressors or other hostile actors from pursuing courses of action hostile to friendly forces and their objectives.

1.3.3. Induce, influence, and/or reinforce foreign attitudes, perceptions, reasoning, and behavior that encourage the de-escalation and/or early cessation of armed conflict.

1.3.4. Isolate hostile forces from their domestic or foreign base(s) of support, diminishing their will to wage war or continue armed resistance.

1.3.5. Target the cognitive domain in order to exploit possible vulnerabilities and fault lines in a foreign population or hostile alliance, shaping the battlespace in a manner advantageous to US objectives.

1.3.6. Influence the decision-making and command-and-control capabilities of a foreign adversary.

1.3.7. Reduce the combat/terrorist risk to US/Allied combat forces.

1.3.8. Influence neutral/local populace to support US objectives.

1.4. Spectrum of Conflict - Air Force MISO planning is conducted during all phases of operations from the tactical to strategic level. It is continuously engaged in shaping the environment in support of US and Allied strategic, operational, and tactical initiatives.

1.5. Planning and Execution

1.5.1. Air Force MISO in support of joint operations is planned and executed in accordance with CJCSI 3110.05C, the CJCSM 3122 series, JP 3-53 and this document.

1.5.2. The C-NAF operations staff (A39 or equivalent) is the focal point for deliberate IO operational planning; the AOC's IOT is the focal point for adaptive and crisis-action planning for Influence Operations. Both staff sections will include trained AF MISO planners who interface with all C-NAF staff, AOC divisions, Joint MISO elements, and COCOM IO cells ensuring integration and deconfliction with the operational plan.

1.5.3. Air Force MISO planners will augment joint forces and teams for MISO.

1.6. Training and Education Standards

1.6.1. In the absence of Officer and Enlisted MISO Air Force Specialty Codes (AFSC), Air Force MISO Capability Specialists are designated by Special Experience Identifiers (SEI).

1.6.1.1. Officer MISO Capability Specialist (SEI 9Q) designation criteria and authorized AFSCs are specified in the Air Force Officer Classification Directory (AFOCD), available via the Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) web site.

1.6.1.2. Enlisted MISO Capability Specialist (SEI 236) designation criteria and authorized AFSCs are specified in the Air Force Enlisted Classification Directory (AFECD), available via the AFPC web site.

1.6.2. Air Force MISO Officer and Senior Non-Commissioned Officer (SNCO) Certification.

1.6.2.1. Air Force MISO Officer and SNCO career progression includes three certification levels based on training, education, and experience.

1.6.2.1.1. Level 1: Completion of a basic Information Operations Course.

1.6.2.1.2. Level 2: Graduation from the US Army's Military Information Support Operations Officer Qualification Course (MISQ Course) at Ft. Bragg, NC. Level 2 certified officers and SNCOs are fully qualified to perform any operational-level MISO planner role across the AF.

1.6.2.1.3. Level 3: Completion of the following two criteria

1.6.2.1.3.1. An advanced degree (M.A., M.S., or Ph.D.) in an academic discipline related to executing and planning MISO. Acceptable areas of study include, but are not limited to the following: anthropology, political science/international relations, psychology, sociology, international marketing, international journalism, regional history (Middle East, Africa, Asia, Balkans, Greco-Roman, Latin American) and theology of non-Western cultures. The AF MISO Program Manager will adjudicate approval for proposed degrees.

1.6.2.1.3.2. A minimum of two assignments where the primary duties consist of executing or planning MISO. At least one of these assignments must be an operational MISO or IFO deployment of at least 120 days at the AF or Joint level during the tour.

Chapter 2

RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY

2.1. HQ USAF/A3Z-CI (Information Operations Division) will:

2.1.1. Fulfill the duties of the Program Manager for AF MISO.

2.1.2. Provide policy, guidance, and oversight for the AF MISO program, including strategic vision, doctrine, and priorities for investment, programming, resources and technology.

2.1.3. Provide program element monitoring and manage execution of AF MISO funds. These funds bring AF MISO capabilities to the Air Force and will not fund related air, space, and cyberspace capabilities. Air Force MISO funding is exclusive of US Special Operations Command's (USSOCOM) responsibility for managing MFP-11 funding of EC-130J Commando Solo.

2.1.4. In conjunction with the MAJCOMs, including Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) and the Air National Guard (ANG), define the role of AF MISO in air, space, cyberspace, force protection, deterrence, homeland security, homeland defense, irregular warfare, building partnerships, and related joint/interagency activities.

2.1.5. Liaise with other service and DoD components such as USSOCOM, US Army Civil Affairs and PSYOP Command (USACAPOC)**,** the Defense Intelligence Agency's Human Factors Analysis Center, the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Behavioral Analysis Unit, and national research laboratories (e.g. Sandia National Laboratories) to address joint, inter-Service, and interagency MISO and IFO issues as required.

2.1.6. Serve as functional area manager (FAM) for AF MISO IAW AFI 10-401 (with delegation authority to Combat Air Forces (CAF) lead for IO), including initiatives to build, train, and sustain a cadre of MISO professionals.

2.1.7. Maintain approval authority for AF MISO training and education standards, such as SEIs and certification levels.

2.1.8. Track MISO -trained personnel consistent with the IO/Cyber Career Force and Joint IO Force.

2.1.9. Interface with Secretary of the Air Force for Public Affairs (SAF/PAR) for issues relevant to PA and Strategic Communication (SC).

2.2. MAJCOMs and the ANG will:

2.2.1. Assist the AF MISO Program Manager and functional lead (ACC) in assigning MISO-trained personnel for expeditionary missions, joint training, and exercises.

2.2.2. Identify and appoint in writing an individual to act as the focal point for AF MISO within their command.

2.2.3. Provide theater specific AF MISO requirements to ACC for air components as part of the Air Force modernization planning process for IO.

2.2.4. Coordinate AF MISO -related intelligence, reachback, facilities/logistics, and telecommunications support.

2.2.5. Standardize utilization of AF MISO assets, provide mission qualification training up to the Joint standard, and maintain equipment to support assigned MISO missions.

2.2.6. Assist ACC in assessing the current status of AF MISO forces and capabilities across the total force.

2.2.7. Additionally, Air Combat Command (ACC) will:

2.2.7.1. Fulfill the role of lead MAJCOM for IO integration and the functional lead for AF MISO.

2.2.7.2. Document emerging joint and air component requirements for AF MISO.

2.2.7.3. In conjunction with the MAJCOMs (including overseas MAJCOMs), ANG, and the AFRC determine AF MISO requirements, including capabilities, funds/resource distribution, Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) inputs, technical infrastructure, and intelligence support, as well as incorporate these requirements into Air Force corporate processes.

2.2.7.4. Collect and validate AF MISO spending requirements. Submit prioritized AF MISO budget request to AF/A3Z.

2.2.7.5. Execute and manage approved AF MISO budget.

2.2.7.6. Incorporate AF MISO capabilities (where applicable) into joint/Air Force experimentation and spiral development activities.

2.2.7.7. Manage AF MISO Unit Type Codes.

2.2.7.8. In coordination with the MAJCOMs, ANG, and AFRC recommend AF MISO doctrine and policy, initiatives, programs, technology, training, and resources to HQ USAF/A3Z.

2.2.7.9. Sponsor AF MISO meetings and working groups.

2.2.7.10. Serve as Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR) for the development of AF MISO automated planning capability and assessment tools.

2.2.7.11. Assess (through demonstrations, modeling and simulation, or other means) the military utility of prospective AF MISO -related technology.

2.2.7.12. Collect and validate AF MISO tactics, techniques and procedures for incorporation into training courses, distance learning modules, and associated Air Force Manuals.

2.2.7.13. Interface with Air Force Public Affairs Agency (AFPAA) for issues relevant to PA and SC.

2.2.8. Additionally, Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) will:

2.2.8.1. Ensure that AF MISO requirements for special operations forces and equipment are included in all phases of the Air Force IO modernization process.

2.2.8.2. Serve as the AF MISO liaison component to USSOCOM.

2.2.9. Additionally, Air Mobility Command (AMC) will:

2.2.9.1. Ensure that AF MISO requirements for the mobility air forces are included in all phases of the Air Force IO modernization process, especially those pertaining to the Tanker Airlift Control Center.

2.2.9.2. Serve as the Air Force operational interface with US Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM) for MISO issues.

2.3. Component Numbered Air Force Commanders will:

2.3.1. Plan, integrate, coordinate and assess MISO activities to shape and frame the information environment (IE) favorable to US interests within their commands, recognizing that MISO is most effective when planned and integrated early with service and theater planning processes.

2.3.2. Identify MISO tactics, techniques, and procedures using lessons learned from previous operations.

2.3.3. Ensure AF MISO activities are synchronized with Defense Support to Public Diplomacy (DSPD) efforts and Public Affairs operations. Military Information Support Operations (MISO) are designed to convey selected information and indicators to foreign leaders and audiences with the goal of influencing their emotions, motives, reasoning, and behavior in a manner favorable to friendly objectives. Public Affairs operations communicate US resolve and commitment to domestic and international audiences in an accurate and timely manner without attempting to influence or sway the audience. Air Force MISO messages, products and information prepared for foreign public release should be coordinated/deconflicted to ensure that messages to the respective audiences are not contradictory and do not intentionally reach domestic audiences. When appropriate, operations/products are coordinated with US Embassy staffs through the JPOTF, Military Information Support Teams (MISTs), or staff Political Advisors (POLADs) prior to execution. Coordinated/deconflicted information efforts properly leveraging MISO, PA and DSPD capabilities yield strategic communication effects.

2.3.4. Incorporate AF MISO capabilities into joint and air component exercises, deliberate planning, and contingency planning.

2.4. The National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC) – The National Air and Space Intelligence Center will perform all-source BIA within existing guidelines and as determined by the NASIC Commander. Key BIA products that support AF MISO include: NASIC Analysis Reports, Topics of Analytical Interest, Biographies, Individual/Group/Organizational Behavioral Profiles, and/or other products agreed upon.

Herbert J. Carlise
Lieutenant General, USAF
DCS Operations, Plans, & Requirements

Attachment 1

GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

References

CJCSI 3121.01B(S), current as of 18 June 2008, *Standing Rules of Engagement/Standing Rules for the Use of Force for US Forces* (U), Enclosure F (S), defines when, and the limitations on how, combatant commanders may employ MISO.

DoD Directive S-3321.1, *Overt Psychological Operations Conducted by the Military Services in Peacetime and in Contingencies Short of Declared War*, date July 26 1984 establishes policy, provides procedures, and assigns responsibilities for the conduct of DoD PSYOP activities in approved operations across the range of military engagement (including war and small-scale contingencies). The instruction also directs military commanders to employ PSYOP as an integrated activity with other instruments of national policy. In addition, each of the Services is tasked to support these and other PSYOP activities undertaken by US agencies.

During armed conflict, contingencies, or military operations other than war, the President or Secretary of Defense, through the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, issues specific PSYOP policy to the unified commands. CJCSI 3110.05C, *Joint Psychological Operations Supplement to the Joint Strategic Capabilities Plan*, furnishes guidance to military commanders conducting PSYOP in a joint environment.

Joint Publication 3-13, *Joint Doctrine for Information Operations*, establishes the principles of joint IO.

Joint Publication 3-53, *Doctrine for Joint Psychological Operations*, describes the use of military assets in planning and conducting PSYOP in support of joint operations across the spectrum of military operations.

War and Mobilization Plan, Volume 1, Annex DD (S), contains Air Force-specific guidelines for wartime and contingency PSYOP.

AFDD 2-3, *Irregular Warfare,* PSYOP is a key activity of Irregular Warfare (IW).

AFDD 2-5, *Information Operations,* explains the Air Force's warfighting perspective on achieving information superiority through IO.

AFPD 10-7, *Information Operations*, delineates the Air Force's MAJCOM responsibilities to organize train and equip its forces to achieve desired effects for combatant commanders and national authorities.

AFI 10-1401, *Modernization Planning Documentation,* defines responsibilities for documenting modernization planning.

AFI 10-401, *Air Force Operations Planning and Execution*, outlines responsibilities for functional area managers.

AFTTP 3-1.IO, *Information Warfare Planning, Integration, and Employment Considerations* details the tactics, techniques, and procedures for IO Team (IOT) activities, including PSYOP planning.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

A3Z—Director of Space and Cyber Operations

A3Z—C – Director of Cyber and Information Operations

A3Z—CI – Information Operations Division

ACC—Air Combatant Command

AFDD—Air Force Doctrine Document

AFECD—Air Force Enlisted Classification Directory

AFI—Air Force Instruction

AFOCD—Air Force Officer Classification Directory

AFPAA—Air Force Public Affairs Agency

AFPC—Air Force Personnel Center

AFPD—Air Force Policy Directive

AFRC—Air Force Reserve Command

AFSC—Air Force Specialty Code

AFSOC—Air Force Special Operations Command

AFTTP—Air Force Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures

AMC—Air Mobility Command

ANG—Air National Guard

AOC—Air Operations Center

BIA—Behavioral Influences Analysis

CAF—Combat Air Forces

CFACC—Combined Force Air Component Commander

CI—Counterintelligence

CJCSI—Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction

CJCSM—Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Manual

C-NAF—Component Numbered Air Force

COCOM—Combatant Command

CP—Counterpropaganda

DoD—Department of Defense

DOJ—Department of Justice

DSPD—Defense Support to Public Diplomacy

FAM—Functional Area Manager

FBI—Federal Bureau of Investigation

IAW—In accordance with

IE—Information Environment

IFO—Influence Operations

IO—Information Operations

IOT—Information Operations Team

IW—Irregular Warfare

JP—Joint Publication

JPOTF—Joint Psychological Operations Task Force

MAJCOM—Major Command

MILDEC—Military Deception

MISO—Military Information Support Operations (formerly Psychological Operations – PSYOP)

MIST—Military Information Support Team

NASIC—National Air and Space Intelligence Center

OPR—Office of Primary Responsibility

OPSEC—Operations Security

PA—Public Affairs

POLAD—Political Advisors

POQC—Psychological Operations Officer Qualification Course

PSYOP—Psychological Operations – (Renamed Military Information Support Operations – MISO)

QDR—Quadrennial Defense Review

SAF/PAR—Secretary of the Air Force for Public Relations

SC—Strategic Communication

SEI—Special Experience Identifier

SNCO—Senior Non-Commissioned Officer

TAA—Target Audience Analysis

USACAPOC—United States Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command

USAF—United States Air Force

USSOCOM—United States Special Operations Command

Terms

Counterpropaganda (CP) Operations. Those psychological operations activities that identify adversary propaganda, contribute to situational awareness, and serve to expose adversary attempts to influence friendly populations and military forces. (JP 3—**53**)

Defense Support to Public Diplomacy (DSPD). Those activities and measures taken by the Department of Defense components to support and facilitate public diplomacy efforts of the United States Government. (JP 3—**13**)

Influence Operations (IFO). Employment of capabilities to affect behaviors, protect operations, communicate commander's intent, and project accurate information to achieve desired effects across the cognitive domain. These effects should result in differing behavior or a change in the adversary decision cycle, which aligns with the commander's objectives. (AFDD 2—**5**)

Information Operations (IO). Actions taken to affect adversary information and information systems while defending one's own information and information systems. (JP 3—**13**) [*IO are the integrated employment* of the core capabilities of influence operations, electronic warfare operations, network warfare operations, in concert with specified integrated control enablers, to influence, disrupt, corrupt or usurp adversarial human and automated decision making while protecting our own.*] (AFDD 2-5) {Italicized definition in brackets applies only to the Air Force and is offered for clarity.}

Irregular Warfare (IW). A violent struggle among state and non—state actors for legitimacy and influence over the relevant populations. (AFDD 2-3)

Military Deception (MILDEC). Actions executed to deliberately mislead adversary military decision makers as to friendly military capabilities, intentions, and operations, thereby causing the adversary to take specific actions (or inactions) that will contribute to the accomplishment of the friendly mission. (JP 3—**13.4**)

Military Information Support Operations (MISO). Planned operations to convey selected information and indicators to foreign audiences to influence their emotions, motives, objective reasoning, and ultimately the behavior of foreign governments, organizations, groups, and individuals. The purpose of Military Information Support Operations is to induce or reinforce foreign attitudes and behavior favorable to the originator's objectives. (JP 3—**53**)

Operations Security (OPSEC). A process of identifying critical information and subsequently analyzing friendly actions attendant to military operations and other activities to: a. identify those actions that can be observed by adversary intelligence systems; b. determine indicators that adversary intelligence systems might obtain that could be interpreted or pieced together to derive critical information in time to be useful to adversaries; and c. select and execute measures that eliminate or reduce to an acceptable level the vulnerabilities of friendly actions to adversary exploitation. (JP 3—**13.3**)

Public Affairs (PA). Those public information, command information, and community relations activities directed toward both the external and internal publics with interest in the Department of Defense. (JP 3—**61**)

Strategic Communication (SC). Focused United States Government efforts to understand and engage key audiences to create, strengthen, or preserve conditions favorable for the advancement of United States Government interests, policies, and objectives through the use of coordinated

programs, plans, themes, messages, and products synchronized with the actions of all instruments of national power. (JP 5—0)