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Subject: Status of MCTAIC

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Fellow Marines/ Marine Corps Intelligence Professionals,

Now that the Marine Corps intelligence associations have completed their separate 2003 meetings, it is time for a status report on the Marine Corps Tri-Association Intelligence Committee and its Strategic Plan (charter).

Please examine the addree list. I've expanded the list to ensure all relevant officials were included. If I failed to include someone you believe should receive this message, please identify them and send me their email address. I'll send them a copy. I've also included several officials of the newest intelligence association (see below).

You may recall that MCTAIC had its roots in a December 2001 meeting between BGen Ennis and representatives of the three original associations (MCCA, MCCIA, and MCIA). Based on that meeting a small group developed a strategic plan designed to facilitate coordination among the associations and between the associations and the Intelligence Division, HQMC. Such coordination would be accomplished without, in any way, detracting from the uniqueness, character, or independence of the separate associations. Two associations initially voiced concern over the concept. I believe these concerns were addressed and resolved to everyone's satisfaction. If any of you still harbor reservations about this concept of coordination and



cooperation, please respond with your specific concerns and we'll work earnestly to resolve them.

Since MCTAIC was created, another Marine Corps intelligence association has been formed- the Marine Corps Interrogator-Translator Team Association (MCITTA). The association had a highly successful meeting in Las Vegas this year with superb attendance for the initial meeting and vigorous support and participation from former interrogator-translators. MCITTA elected to conduct its 2004 meeting in San Antonio. If scheduling permits, however, I would hope to see MCITTA personnel join us in Reno next year, particularly those who have overlapping membership in one of the other three associations.

What has MCTAIC accomplished?

Our plans for the co-located individual association meetings and the combined social activities in Reno next year reflect what I believe is one of our first significant accomplishments. Perhaps most significant is the increased communications between the associations and HQMC and the sense of a real "community" among all Marine Corps intelligence professionals, active and retired, Regular and Reserve, officer and enlisted, military and civilian, generalist and specialist. I'd also say that the retired Marine Corps intelligence community today is much better informed on Marine Corps intelligence matters, more in tune with the Active and Reserve forces, broader in its outlook and understanding of all aspects of Marine Corps intelligence, and better prepared to participate in and contribute to the evolving nature of Marine Corps intelligence. The results of the recent Marine Corps Intelligence Community Conference, summarized in the latest DIRINT Newsletter and forwarded to the associations last week, provided association members with an inside view of Marine Corps intelligence today, particularly as reflected in the Iraqi experience.

MCTAIC has also facilitated HQMC support for the associations. BGen Ennis is a strong supporter as is Mike Decker. When in Portsmouth a year ago, I promised MCCA that HQMC would support its San Antonio meeting. Not only did Gen Ennis attend, but he also brought along the CO of the Marine Corps Cryptologic Support Battalion. Gen Ennis has had his staff prepare special material for inclusion in association publications. Furthermore, he has made available the periodic newsletters sent to his active duty intelligence leaders to be shared with the associations.

MCTAIC was utilized as the action agency to prepare the DIRINT's Reading List. Although the number of actual contributors was fewer than I had hoped, each of the associations participated and contributed.

MCTAIC provides a focus for what I consider to be one of the most critical and far-reaching actions, the preparation of a history of Marine Corps



intelligence. Each association has a historian, although the effort and focus vary within the associations. The Marine Corps has never prepared a study of its own intelligence history and Marine Corps historians, for one reason or another, have generally neglected intelligence in their writings. We now have the opportunity to correct this deficiency. I consider this topic of sufficient importance to establish a MCTAIC Intelligence History Committee. If association leaders agree, please inform me of your historian or history POC to assist me in this effort.

We have modified the strategic plan to ensure each association has the opportunity to chair the committee. The modified plan will be disseminated in a few weeks.

We have established measures to "deconflict" annual meeting dates to enable attendance by those of us who belong to more than one of the associations. We can assist each other in planning of meetings. For example, I recently sent a message to MCITTA and MCCA suggesting that the MCITTA action officer in San Antonio contact the MCCA AO who was responsible for the recent MCCA meeting in that city. Although I have had no feedback, I would like to think that this type of coordination could have potential benefits.

The key to the MCTAIC future, of course, may very well be determined by the events in Reno. Reno has the potential of being the best attended, most significant and far-reaching event in Marine Corps intelligence history. With full support and attendance from the three (four) associations and with the full and active support of HQMC, Reno could be an exceptional demonstration of the esprit, cohesiveness, and professionalism of Marine Corps intelligence, active duty and retired. I've been around for over fifty years and know of no occasion, which had the potential of Reno. While each association will have its own individual meetings and social activities, I'm very hopeful that we will see parochialism set aside for the combined activities and the enthusiastic support from everyone. Please note that the most recent DIRINT newsletter states that the Fall 2004 Intelligence Community Conference is tentatively planned for September in Fallon, Nevada, a relatively short distance from Reno.

(As an aside, I'll transmit to each association an article I wrote for the Naval Intelligence Professionals (NIP) Quarterly concerning our Reno meeting and the MCTAIC concept; I made the point that the Marine Corps is doing something that the Navy would find extremely difficult. When you read this article, please remember that I wrote the article for a Navy audience that has frequently held questionable views on Marine Corps intelligence.)



Future MCTAIC Actions:

The issue of membership should be addressed both individually by the associations and later in a collaborative manner. We cannot overlook the aging of our members. Organizations need newer, younger blood, and we're no exception. Perhaps even more important, membership actions must take into account the constantly changing nature of Marine Corps intelligence. We now have senior intelligence generalists— Radio Battalions may be commanded by officers with minimal hands-on Sigint experience; Sigint officers may command Intelligence Battalions; the CI/Humint Company may be commanded by a ground intelligence officer. The Interrogator-Translator MOS was recently deleted and its active duty members added to the CI/Humint community to substantially improve its reach and capabilities. These are just a few examples, but they suggest that we should look seriously into matters concerning membership, and how the constantly evolving nature of the community will (or should) affect our efforts separately and collectively.

As just one example, I can see that current active duty 0210s and 0211s, if they are fully language qualified and interrogation-translation qualified, may be torn between wanting to belong to MCCIA or to MCITTA. It probably won't be an issue for the retired IT community, since when they were on active duty, their MOS was separate and distinct, and they understandably have pride in their unique skills and contributions over the decades. As another example, MCIA's charter permits membership from anyone with an intelligence MOS, while the other associations have more MOS-specific requirements.

These are matters which involve all of us, and I suggest that we'll resolve them more effectively together than we might if we work independently of the other. I believe our committee members need to discuss this issue, identify potential areas of disagreement, and work together toward resolving them before they become difficult. Please let me know your thoughts on forming a MCTAIC Committee to discuss and resolve these issues.

The Strategic Plan calls for elections next year. This requires the selection of chairman nominees from the associations, the election of a chairman from among the nominees, and the designation of association representatives. I will prepare a separate message on this topic at a later date.

We may be asked to review the Dirint's Book List for additions, deletions, or comments.

The associations should inform the chairman and other MCTAIC representatives of their association meeting places for the next several



years. After reviewing the Reno experience, we should decide when and where (or if) to hold another combined single site meeting. We should also try to deconflict annual meeting dates so we can encourage interactive participation and attendance in those intervening years when there is no joint meeting scheduled

Some personal thoughts.

As many of you know I have undertaken research into the history of Marine Corps intelligence. I'm certain that this will eventually result in a book; the question is whether it will be in my lifetime. It is an extremely challenging and daunting task if it is to be done properly. By this I mean the history should be comprehensive, accurate, credible, relevant, and a tribute to all Marine Corps intelligence professionals. I intend to devote most of my time, energy, and attention to this project. Since the historical information is primarily located up north (Historical Centers, museums, National Archives, *Gazette*, and many key personnel), I will be in those areas frequently, perhaps even relocating.

I solicit the support of all MCTAIC members in this history effort, not just in your association role, but also personally.

In the interest of improved communications, I would have no objections to the associations sharing this message with their members, either in your newsletters or on your web sites. I will also forward to the associations the article I prepared for NIP on MCTAIC. My mention in that article of "*MCQUIC*," by the way, was tongue-in-cheek. If you wish to edit the article or this message before sending to your members, please feel free to do so while keeping my thoughts in context.

Finally, it is obvious that I believe in MCTAIC and would like to see it continue and prosper. This will only happen with the support of the association leadership and an attitude of inclusiveness and coordination. We can be vital parts of a more significant whole without losing our individual identities and character. I welcome your thoughts.

Semper Fidelis

John Guenther

