BASIC ENCYCLOPEDIA NUMBER (BEN) AND DPI STANDARDIZATION

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Entity, or target, identifiers are a unique alphanumeric convention that can be assigned to a range of entities, including facilities, individuals, equipment, organizations, and virtual. One example of an identity identifier target ID is the widely recognized BEN system. All involved targeteers should understand an operation's theater BEN plan. While many targets already have unique entity identification assigned, many identified during combat do not. Without an established plan for assigning BENs, components may take it upon themselves to assign them, creating the potential for confusion and incompatibility with targeting automation and databases. Confusion can adversely affect the battle rhythm, or worse, result in targeting errors. Standard desired point of impact (DPI) numbering is also important, especially given that much DPI production will be federated to multiple organizations. A theater DPI registry may ensure standardization of DPIs and eliminate duplication and possible error.

The naming convention should address both static and mobile targets. It is usually not feasible to assign standard BENs to mobile targets including high-value targets. However, for proper data base management, such mobile targets still require some sort of identification. While the numbers may not be actual BENs, the theater should still have some way of identifying the target. Again, air operations center (AOC) planners should understand the theater naming convention to minimize targeting errors and the time needed for effective air planning.

Proper database management is necessary for effective targeting. Many systems used in the field are "stovepiped" and cannot talk to one another. If interoperable systems and databases are not available, it is the responsibility of the end users of the problematic system to work with the targeting and systems maintenance staffs to develop procedures (in peacetime) to overcome the difficulties associated with using systems that are not interoperable. There are many users of information in the AOC. Ideally, everyone should work from the same database to facilitate effective use of manpower and coordination.

Targeteers should coordinate with many different teams to ensure the flow and management of data and database information in the AOC is as seamless as possible.[1] Those with whom targeteers should coordinate include (but are not limited to):

- Analysis, Correlation, and Fusion Team (ACF Team). The ACF Team in the intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance division (ISRD) is responsible for updating enemy order of battle (EOB) databases. Targeteers should be able to pull from this database to ensure targeteers are using the most current EOB.

- ISR Operations Team. The ISR Ops Team in the ISRD is responsible for planning and coordinating intelligence-gathering missions by air component assets. They also have insight into intelligence-gathering platforms that the air component does not own, including spacecraft. Ensuring targeting and collection management databases are the same may reduce the time required to task collection assets to support targeting efforts, especially in the case of dynamic targeting.

- Targets and Tactical Assessment (TGT/TA). The TGT/TA team is comprised of two primary cells, the target development cell and the TA cell, which provide direct support and embedding of personnel to other AOC divisions to ensure continuity in the targeting effort. This team provides full-spectrum effects-based approach to operations (EBAO) based targeting development, solutions, and products/materials in support of the air tasking cycle. It is also responsible for assessing the immediate results and effects of tactical operations. Often, these assessments lead to some type of follow-on action by friendly forces.

- Senior Intelligence Duty Officer (SIDO) Team. The ISR Team in the combat operations division (COD), led by (and sometimes consisting only of) the senior intelligence duty officer (SIDO), provides intelligence support to ATO execution in the areas of analysis, collection management, targeting, and assessment. Having main targeting databases interact with those in the combat operations division is essential for seamless targeting support when the ATO requires modification. This importance is magnified when supporting dynamic targeting operations, especially those involving time sensitive targets (TST).

- Operational Assessment Team (OAT). The OAT in the SD is responsible for determining whether or not desired effects are being created and if those effects are leading to the attainment of CFACC and CFC objectives. The targeting database should be interoperable with that used by the OAT so that specific targets can be tracked to specific effects and objectives.

- Strategy Plans Team. The strategy plans team in the strategy division is responsible for building the overall air component strategy and is responsible for producing the Joint Air Operations Plan (JAOP). This phase of planning may involve a need to access targeting databases in order to support JAOP creation.

[1] See Air Force Instruction 13-1 AOC, Volume 3 for an expanded discussion on AOC divisions and teams.

- The Strategy Guidance Team. The strategy guidance team is responsible for the AOC's transition from operational-level to tactical-level planning and culminates in the air operations directive (AOD). The guidance provided is typically short-range; 24-hours to 10 days from execution. This team develops operational guidance, prioritizes operational and tactical objectives, and determines tactical allocation.

- Information Operations Team (IOT). The IOT is responsible for identifying and integrating employment of information related capabilities (IRCs) into targeting and planning to achieve desired effects. Based upon its full integration throughout the AOC planning cycle, the IOT is also often able to recommend different options or parallel courses of action to maximize success in achieving a specific effect.

- Special Technical Operations Team (STOT). The STOT is responsible for maintaining access to and identifying the correct billets for special technical operations information. This billeted-access program informs the appropriate personnel of specialized capability options to achieve desired effects in support of the commander's priorities. The STOT is responsible for ensuring a compartmented joint integrated prioritized target list (JIPTL), is available to the commander to augment the primary draft-ATO and a STO representative should be intimately involved throughout the ATO planning cycle.

The main targeting database is the modernized integrated database (MIDB) with its associated data access layers, which can be accessed via the joint targeting toolbox (JTT) and command and control (C2) tools like the Theater Battle Management Core System (TBMCS). Problems with compatibility between upgraded versions of MIDB and TBMCS has forced targeteers in some theaters to utilize workarounds in order to transfer data between systems. Specialized databases also exist with functional tools like JCAAS and the Space Integrated Planning Service (SIPS). Given the potential for incompatibility and diverging information, a thorough understanding of the interoperability and processes to maintain synchronicity between databases and C2 tools is necessary for successful execution of operations.

Steps have been taken to prevent datum errors. CJCSI 3900.01C, *Position (Point and Area) Reference Procedures*, was produced to provide clear guidance on the use of both horizontal and vertical datums and standard coordinate and height formats for most operations. The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) produces all new maps with the WGS-84 datum and in joint operations users should now reference horizontal and vertical coordinates to this datum. GPS also broadcasts its coordinates in this same datum. However, some possibility for error still exists. NGA reproduces certain older maps that use a WGS-72 datum. Also, if one is forced to use local maps, different countries use different datums. Most of the time, utilizing datum conversion software can minimize the possibility for error. In any case, targeteers should understand the different datums used in their theater prior to hostilities so measures can be taken to ensure accurate coordinates are provided to warfighters.

Limiting the number of datums used in theater is the obvious solution. However, as this is not always possible, especially in coalition operations, targeteers should be aware of the different datum needs of all the capabilities that may be used in the operation.