



Optimizing Interoperability since 1947

DAMO-SSI

24 May 2006



American, British, Canadian, Australian, & New Zealand Armies' Program

Purpose of Briefing:

- **Background**
- **Organization and Structure of ABCA**
- **Quadripartite Standardization Agreements (QSTAGs)**
- **Upcoming Program Efforts**



ABCAs Program History

- **ABCAs resulted from close cooperation during World War II**
- **Began with Britain, Canada, and America (BCAs)**
- **1947 - “Plan to Effect Standardization”**
- **1964 - Australia joins**
- **1964 - Basic Standardization Agreement (BSA)**
- **1965 - New Zealand becomes associated, through Australia, in 1965**
- **2004- US Marine Corps becomes associate member**
- **2006- New Zealand becomes a full member**



Mission (2003):

The ABCA Program is to optimize interoperability through cooperation and collaboration in the continuous pursuit of standardization and mutual understanding in order to integrate the capabilities of the ABCA Armies.



- **Contemporary Operational Environment/Emerging Threats:** ABCA Armies' contribution in the War on Terrorism.
- **Transformation and Modernization:** The implications of transformation and change on Armies and their ability to conduct coalition operations.
- **Joint Interagency Multinational (JIM):** The implications for multinational land operations within the joint environment.
- **Capability Integration:** Maintenance and development of integrated full-spectrum land operational capabilities.
- **Knowledge Exploitation:** Exploiting the institutional learning and knowledge-based management that exists within Armies.
- **ABCAs Products:** Production of doctrinal, materiel, and tactics, techniques and procedures/ technical standardization between Armies.

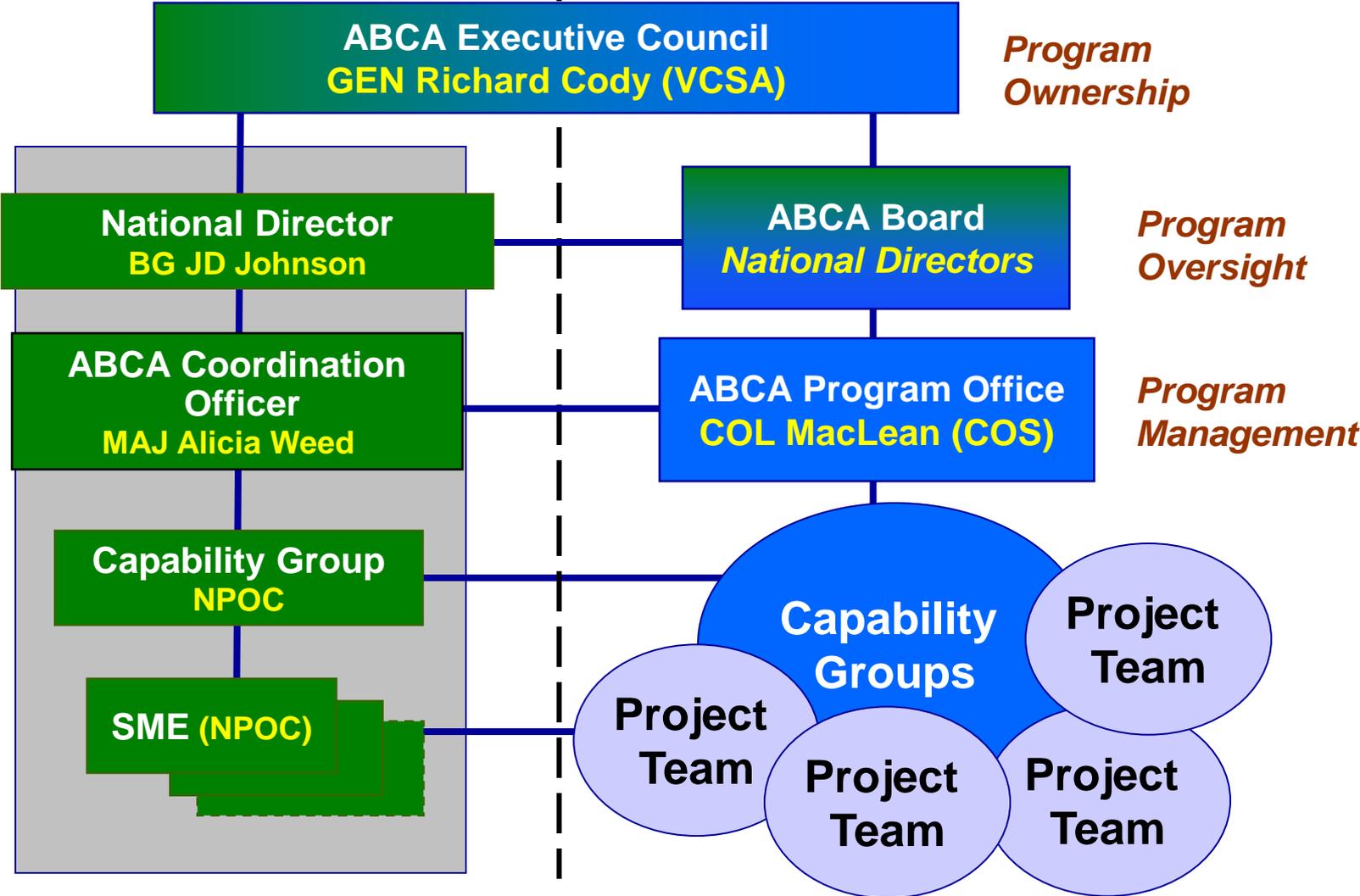
US Army Relationship to Program



Armies' Interoperability Program

US Army

ABCA Program



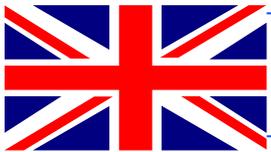
Capability and Support Group Leads



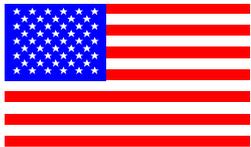
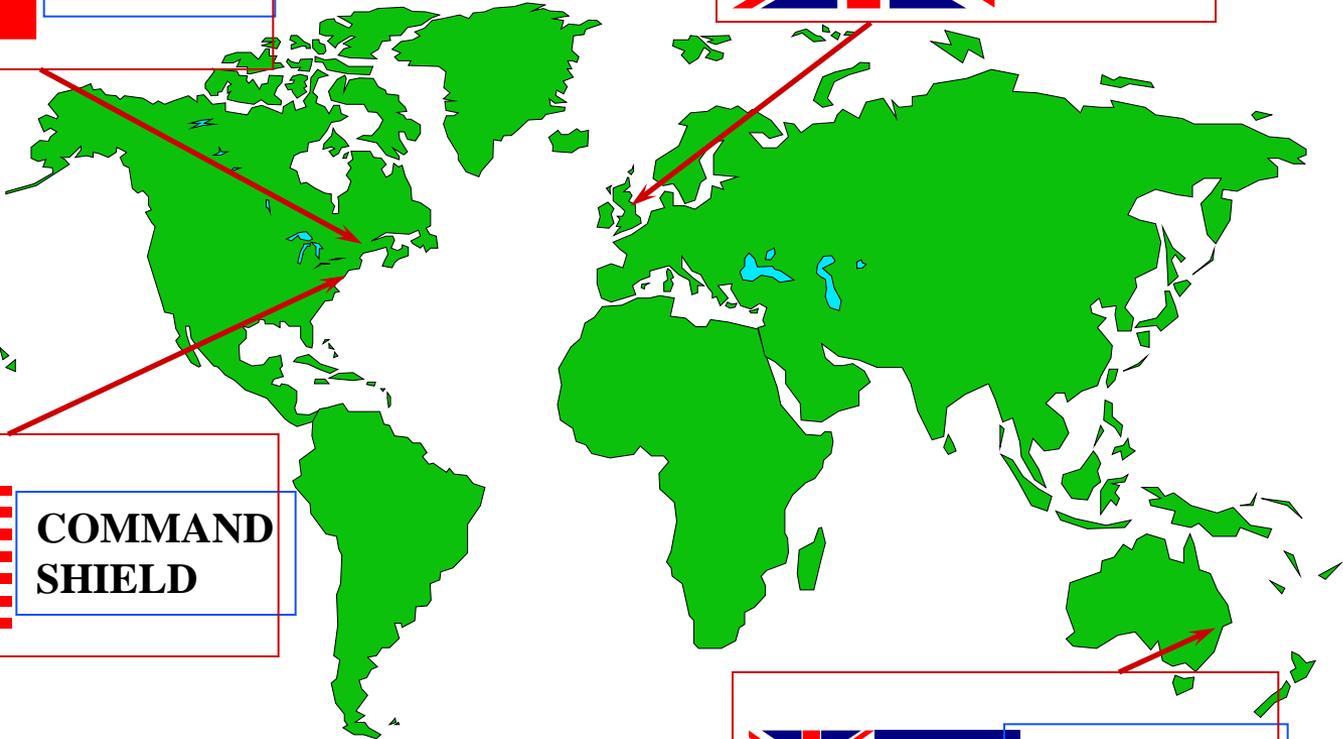
Armies' Interoperability Program



**SENSE
SCIENCE**



**ACT
FUTURES**



**COMMAND
SHIELD**



**SUSTAIN
EXERCISES**





Products:

- **ABCA QSTAGs (Quadripartite Standardization Agreements), covering materiel and non-materiel issues**
- **Coalition Operations Handbook**
- **Advisory Publications that provide information.**
- **ABCA Architectures (Current Generic, Exercise, Future)**
- **Information exchange between Subject Matter Experts**



- **Ownership of ABCA Standards belongs to each capability group based on their subject matter expertise, and the nature of the QSTAG**
- **2005-2006 ABCA work cycle included many product maintenance project teams**
- **Recommendations for further review, retention or cancellation**
- **Product maintenance is ongoing and will be a regular part of the Program's work in the future**



OUTCOMES, ABCA Annual Meeting, March 2006:

- **7 ABCA Standards planned for the 2006-2007 ABCA Work Cycle**
- **Sample issue areas: Identification, Transfer and Treatment of Captured Personnel, Liaison Officer Training, Asset Tracking and In-transit Visibility, Regulation and Tracking of ABCA SOF Casualties**
- **Continuing review and maintenance of existing ABCA Standards for relevance and possible revision, especially with respect to CBRN and Engineer products**



Trends:

- **Movement away from cover-sheeting NATO STANAGs.**
 - Redundant effort
 - Australia and New Zealand have been given access to all unclassified NATO STANAGs for their consideration and compliance
- **Focus on current operations, lessons learned, and problem-solving**
- **Moving away from solely focusing on the creation of new products**
- **Emphasis on future concept 2015-2020 timeline**