

I2CEWS

The traditional battlefield is changing, expanding and becoming more complex in the fast-paced information age. U.S. forces will be contested in all domains; therefore, it must prepare for non-kinetic engagements in the realms of spectrum, space, cyber and information operations – in competition and armed conflict.

The Intelligence, Information Operations, Cyberspace, Electronic Warfare, and Space Operations **(I2CEWS)** is a new force design element within the Multi-Domain Task Force (MDTF) pilot that simultaneously integrates cross-domain capabilities to help the Army defeat our adversaries' anti-access/area denial (A2/AD) efforts while creating our own stand-off conditions.

Combining I2CEWS capabilities in a single unit enables coordination and cross-domain synergy to produce multiple forms of offensive and defensive overmatch for MDTF across all domains.

While the I2CEWS is designed to function disconnected from the various enterprises and act independently, it is not a separate element outside of the MDTF. Instead, it will enable the MDTF to compete, penetrate the A2/AD environment and disintegrate stand-off while exploiting opportunities throughout the battlefield that will enable a window of advantage for maneuvers and long-range precision fires.

The past two years, the I2CEWS has participated in Cyber Blitz at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ. Cyber Blitz is a discovery experiment that is informing the Army how to perform information warfare across the full spectrum of operations. It is co-led by the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command's Command, Control, Communications, Cyber, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Center (CCDC C5ISR Center) and the US Army Training and Doctrine Command's Cyber Center of Excellence (TRADOC CCoE).

Cyber Blitz **2018** helped the Army pioneer the new task force design update by examining how the integration of I2CEWS, could help a Brigade Combat Team gain and maintain the advantage against a regional peer in multi-domain operations.

Cyber Blitz **2019** helped answer questions about how the Army could conduct I2CEWS operations by providing a realistic first look at how the I2CEWS could fight and win as part of the MDTF. It was the first time since their activation that the entire I2CEWS operated together as a unit, exercising all functions in distributed operations.

Cyber Blitz executed I2CEWS functions at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ, which in real time supported geo-spatial maneuver and live kinetic fires missions being executed simultaneously and in conjunction with U.S. Army Pacific's (USARPAC) Orient Shield Exercise in Japan. Missions included intelligence planning and support, information operations, offensive and defensive cyber operations, converging signals intelligence and electronic warfare as an operational capability, and space surveillance and effects.

The Army is using these lessons learned to flesh out doctrine, force design, concept of operations and employment and tactics, techniques and procedures as it continues to develop and refine the I2CEWS formation to support the MDTF across the full spectrum of operations. Lessons learned from the MDTF pilot program will in turn inform the future doctrine and force design for a MDO-capable Army in 2028.

The I2CEWS fall under America's First Corps, which is stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord and across the Pacific, including Hawaii, Alaska and Japan. America's First Corps' job is to "Deploy, Fight and Win" decisively in any environment to enhance security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. As the only Army corps aligned with U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM), I Corps is focused on near peer and large-scale ground combat.

While deployed, America's First Corps commands all branches of service - Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines - as well as international forces. America's First Corps possesses the capacity and capability to serve as a Joint Task Force, Joint Forces Land Component Command and Army Forces Headquarters: drive deployment readiness, shape the battlefield with deep fires, provide mission command to multiple divisions and enablers, leverage intelligence architecture, sustainment and maintain regional partnership.

I Corps has been at the forefront of the Army's MDO development, not only in planning and exercising, but in operationalizing it in the form of standing up the I2CEWS as part of USINDOPACOM's MDTF.

The Army's first I2CEWS battalion was activated at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington, Jan. 11, after two years of planning. The battalion is composed of four companies and will support units and joint task forces in the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command theater of operations. A second battalion has been approved for establishment in U.S. European Command in the near future. The unit is expected to grow over time as new needs are determined.

Media queries focusing on the I2CEWS should be sent to U.S. Army I CORPS:

POC: Lt. Col (P) Chris Hyde **Tel:** 301-677-7276 **Email:** richard.c.hyde.mil@mail.mil