



February 12, 2016

Information Warriors,

As you know, we are transforming the IDC to the IW Community within CNO's "Design for Maintaining Maritime Superiority." More than a simple name change, the transformation reflects the next step in our evolution with emphasis on operationalizing our collective capability within the Blue Line of Effort: Strengthen Naval Power at and from the Sea. Specifically, CNO's intent is to double down on advancing and integrating our collective capabilities, which he has thought of as "Information Warfare" since last fall.

The adoption of IW by the larger community is a positive and necessary step. It acknowledges the more expansive contributions of Intel, IP, METOC, and Space Cadre (beyond SIGINT, EW and Cyber Operations) as fundamental to Information Warfare. Herein lays opportunity: "Information Warfare" is not defined in joint doctrine. We have the ability and opportunity to create its meaning over time, which is consistent with how all human language evolves.

Similarly, identifying the single word or phrase that perfectly captures the confluence of our core missions and what we (181X, 184X, 681X, 781X, 784X, CT ratings and Civilians) bring to the fight is elusive. The fact that we execute across SIGINT, EW, and Cyber operations, however, is neither random or happenstance...we execute these missions based upon the fact that our (Officer, Enlisted, Civilian) core skills underpin each of them and that those very skills apply uniquely to the converged Electromagnetic Spectrum and Cyberspace Domain. So what is it that binds these core missions together and us to them?

We all may have different answers to this question based upon our experiences. I believe our value is rooted in our ability to leverage technology to solve problems in the converged domains *and* deliver operationally-relevant effects. We *deliver effects* IN the converged domain (EW and Cyber) and *enable effects* in other warfare domains (SIGINT). Our operations are both offensive and defensive. We hunt and engage adversaries in the converged domain. We rarely have the complete view of the adversary; we must rely on ingenuity, critical thinking, problem solving, and predictive analysis combined with knowledge of the converged domain and the adversary to complete the puzzle and the mission. Whether our particular mission involves getting more information (exploit), or providing full spectrum warning (analyze), restoring the integrity of a compromised network (hunt), or delivering strategic-operational-tactical effects (act), we must solve puzzles often pursuing missing pieces and elusive adversaries. Puzzle solving in the converged domain binds our core missions together and those missions to us. In the broadest sense of the words, we ARE code breakers and code makers. And we pursue others that do the same.

I am personally motivated by our heritage established by Captain Joseph J. Rochefort, Station HYPO, OP-20-G, and the "On the Roof Gang" and our natural evolution of that rich heritage in the information age. We didn't evolve because we changed our name to IW. We evolved because we took advantage of the opportunity that TTP and technology *we built* has afforded us to make relevant operational contributions – as we always will.

Evolution is an imperative: rebranding ourselves as Cryptologic Warfare honors that heritage, links us with our talented enlisted force, and challenges us to deliver operationally-relevant warfighting effects in our converged domain. "Cryptologic Warfare" is and will be based on what we DO, not what we say or how dictionaries or Wikipedia may define it today. It is up to us to ensure our Navy, Joint and national partners understand what our officer corps can deliver.

I have solicited inputs over the last few months from a top-down perspective. This has generated discussions at lower levels and on the blog *Station Hypo*. I've paid attention to the postings, albeit from a very small representation of our community. What I have shared above represents my thinking based on my cross-community view of what we do, how we do it, and where we are heading. I want to know that the community can embrace this vision and move forward, before I make the final decision. If you have another recommendation that represents the core of what we do, that emphasizes all and excludes none, I will consider it. Please be aware that "Cyber Warfare" is off the table for a whole host of reasons, not the least of which is the fact that most of what we do in SIGINT and EW would not be considered by DOD Policy as Cyber Operations. Finally, whatever name we choose must be "owned" by the community.

Change is difficult, and not everyone will be pleased (whatever the decision). I wanted you to have the benefit of my thinking, and solicit your input in order to build ownership. It is critical that whatever name we choose must be "owned" by the community. As a community, we will embrace the final choice and move forward together.

PERS-4410 has created the survey on their website, which can be accessed from the links below. The survey will be open until 1800 EST 22 FEB16. I will review the results and make the final decision shortly after I consume the inputs. I am very excited by our opportunities and look forward to your feedback.

NPC IW Homepage:

<http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/officer/Detailing/IWC/IW/Pages/default.aspx>

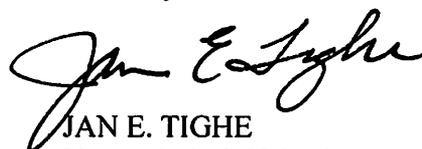
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Sincerely,



JAN E. TIGHE  
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy