

**STATEMENT OF INTENT BY**

**THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**AND**

**THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT  
BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

**REGARDING**

**ENHANCED COOPERATION ON CARRIER OPERATIONS AND  
MARITIME POWER PROJECTION**

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Department of Defense of the United States of America (DoD) and the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (MoD), hereinafter referred to as “the Participants,” desiring to establish the guiding principles for the purposes of effective cooperation on the generation, training, operation, and sustainability of their respective aircraft carrier forces, have reached the following understandings.

## II. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this Statement of Intent (SOI) is to record the Participants’ intention to ensure that national efforts in the generation, training, operation, and sustainability of their respective carrier forces are harmonized and effective, and to seek to achieve the maximum interoperability and synergy of effort in maritime power projection. To achieve these aims, this SOI describes various cooperative activities that are envisioned, facilitated by the exchange of Information under existing agreements and arrangements, to identify opportunities for effective cooperation, including but not limited to:

- (a) identifying and removing obstacles to cooperation between the Participants’ respective organizations and other national authorities, as appropriate;
- (b) identifying ongoing or future national efforts with the potential for harmonization; and,
- (c) implementing, when mutually desirable, specific cooperative efforts and activities under current and/or separately developed agreements or arrangements.

The background for this SOI and the potential areas of cooperation are described below and in Annexes A and B, respectively. The Participants recognize that effective carrier cooperation would enhance interoperability and foster achievement of each Participant’s national objectives. Accordingly, the following general areas of cooperation are envisioned:

### **Political-Military Cooperation:**

From a political-military perspective, cooperation on carrier operations and maritime power projection is critical to ensure long-term interoperability between the United States and the United Kingdom across the full spectrum of capabilities. The goal of such cooperation is to ensure that, should the need arise, both nations can operate jointly and seamlessly in contingencies well into the future, much as the Participants have done in the past. Such cooperation is also a concrete example of how by working together on a complex mission set, Allies can address gaps in national or NATO capabilities. The successful implementation of this SOI would indeed be a road-map for other Allies seeking to combine efforts and resources to ensure that NATO has the critical capabilities it needs. In a time of declining defense budgets and fiscal austerity, this bold initiative is on the cutting edge of activities that would be required to maintain the Participants’ global military advantage.

**Military-to-Military Cooperation:**

- Engagement in cooperative efforts and activities that enhance the ability of U.S. and UK aircraft carriers to operate effectively regardless of the threat or environmental conditions.
- Planning and organizing combined training and exercise opportunities to increase and enhance each Participant’s skills in warfare disciplines.
- Assisting in the identification and development of skills and training required by the MoD to operate carrier-capable, fixed-wing aircraft on MoD aircraft carriers safely and efficiently.
- Facilitating the exchange of operational information, as well as military and civilian personnel, that may assist with enhancement of existing and/or future aircraft carrier capabilities or operations.
- Facilitating participation in cooperative activities designed to maximize the Participants’ advantage in aircraft carrier warfare.
- Facilitating the exchange of warfare data, and the analysis of information flowing from this data, in support of mutually determined objectives.
- Maximizing the mutual benefits of interoperability in fleet operations.

**Equipment and Material Cooperation:**

- Facilitating participation in foreign military sales agreements to assist in the establishment and support of future MoD carrier capability.
- Maximizing the potential synergies and mutual benefits of programmatic and technical interoperability in the Participants’ ongoing and future development, acquisition, and support efforts, including effective and efficient use of the Participants’ respective industrial base capabilities.
- Facilitating the exchange of information and pursuit of cooperative efforts and activities relating to the development, test and evaluation, acquisition, and support of U.S. and UK carrier capabilities.

**III.  
DEFINITIONS**

For purposes of this SOI, the following definitions are to be used:

Classified Information	Official information that requires protection in the interests of national security and is so designated by the application of a security classification marking. This information may be in oral, visual, magnetic, or documentary form or in the form of equipment or technology
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Cooperate	The terms “cooperate”, “cooperative”, and “cooperation” as used herein refer to collaborative efforts and activities undertaken in furtherance of this SOI, including efforts and activities pursued or implemented under the terms of existing information exchange agreements; activities and efforts that take place pursuant to foreign military sales agreements; activities and efforts that may occur through existing or yet to be established training and/or personnel exchange agreements; and, efforts and activities mutually undertaken through separately negotiated and mutually established international agreements. The terms do not mean international cooperative efforts except for, as stated herein, those specifically implemented through separately negotiated and mutually established international agreements.
Contractor	Any entity awarded a contract by a Participant or a Participant’s Contracting Agency.
Contractor Support Personnel	Persons specifically identified as providing administrative, managerial, scientific, or technical support services to a Participant under a support contract.
Controlled Unclassified Information	Unclassified information to which access or distribution limitations have been applied in accordance with applicable national laws or regulations. It could include information that has been declassified but remains controlled and information that has been designated by either Participant as being provided For Official Use Only.
Information	Knowledge that can be communicated by any means, regardless of form or type, including, but not limited to, that of a scientific, technical, business, or financial nature, and also including photographs, reports, manuals, threat data, experimental data, test data, computer software, designs, specifications, processes, techniques, inventions, drawings, technical writings, sound recordings, pictorial representations, and other graphical presentations, whether in magnetic tape, computer memory, or any other form, and whether or not subject to intellectual property rights.
Third Party	A government other than the Government of a Participant and any person or other entity whose government is not the Government of a Participant.

**IV.  
EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION**

a. The Participants recognize that the information exchange and cooperative efforts and activities contemplated by this SOI are to be executed in accordance with each Participant's national laws, regulations, and policies. The Participants further recognize that the exchange of Classified Information, Controlled Unclassified Information, or any other Information is to be predicated upon the safeguarding of such Information exchanged or shared between Participants in accordance with the provisions of the agreements or arrangements under which the exchange or sharing occurs. It is acknowledged by the Participants that each is to have the right to ensure to its own satisfaction that its Information is to be protected before it is exchanged.

b. The Participants intend to use existing agreements or arrangements, such as Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and Information Exchange Annexes (IEAs), to exchange Information in furtherance of the objectives of this SOI to the maximum extent possible. When the Participants use an existing MOU or IEA, the provisions of that MOU or IEA, including its disclosure and use provisions, are to take precedence over the provisions of this SOI.

c. Any Classified Information exchanged is to be used, transmitted, handled, and safeguarded in accordance with the terms of the General Security Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United States of America, of April 14, 1961, as amended, and the Security Implementing Arrangement thereto, dated January 27, 2003. Any Controlled Unclassified Information that is to be exchanged under this SOI is to be marked as "CONTROLLED UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION//REL U.S. DOD AND UK MOD" unless otherwise mutually decided.

d. Subject to paragraph IV.e. below, information provided under this SOI is to be furnished without charge and is to be used for information and evaluation purposes only, and access to such Information is to be strictly limited to individuals, including Contractor Support Personnel, whose access is necessary for the purposes of this SOI. This Information is not to be further disclosed except in accordance with paragraph IV.e. of this SOI.

e. The Participants are to ensure, through national laws, regulations, and procedures, that any information provided in accordance with this SOI is to be used only for the purpose for which it has been provided. Information is not to be disclosed or released to any Third Party or Contractor, or used for any other purpose, without the prior written consent of the furnishing Participant.

**V.  
MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE**

A detailed management and governance structure, including functional Working Groups to manage specific activities, is to be established to implement the objectives of this SOI. This structure is described in Annex B and shown diagrammatically in Annex C to this SOI.

These management and governance arrangements are to be established and implemented in a manner that avoids duplication of existing management and governance arrangements as set out in existing agreements or arrangements. When the Participants use an existing agreement or arrangement, such as an MOU or IEA, the provisions of that MOU or IEA, including its management and governance provisions, are to take precedence over the provisions of this SOI.

## **VI. GENERAL**

There is to be no transfer of funds between the Participants pursuant to this SOI.

Visits by the Participants to the other that are necessary to accomplish the objectives of this SOI are to be subject to the normal international visit clearance procedures recognized by the Participants and are to be coordinated through official channels.

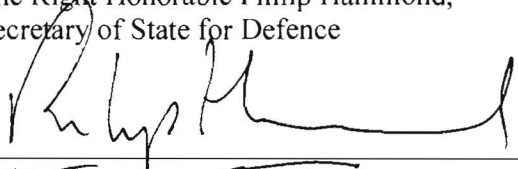
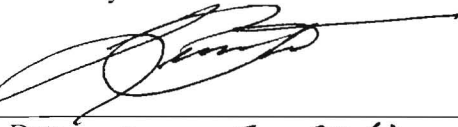
## **VII. LEGAL STATUS**

It is not the intent of the Participants that this SOI be legally binding under international law. This SOI is not intended to obligate either Participant to make or provide any financial or non-financial contribution for any purpose, nor is it intended to obligate either Participant to perform any work, award any contract, exchange information, or transfer funds.

## **VIII. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This SOI is to become effective on the date of the last signature below and is to remain in effect for ten years, unless terminated or extended. This SOI may be amended or extended by mutual written consent of the Participants. Either Participant may, upon 90 days written notification to the other Participant, terminate this SOI. Such notice is to be the subject of immediate consultation between the Participants to decide upon the appropriate course of action.

Signed (in duplicate) as designated below:

FOR THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
The Right Honorable Philip Hammond, Secretary of State for Defence 	The Honorable Leon Panetta, Secretary of Defense 
Date <i>January 5th 2012</i>	Date <i>July 5, 2012</i>

## Annex A

### BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

The Department of Defense of the United States of America (DoD) and the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (MoD) aspire to the defense of mutual interests. The Participants see a common goal in the employment of aircraft carriers to achieve these aspirations and seek to achieve the maximum interoperability and synergy of effort.

The MoD can make important contributions to the knowledge base of the DoD and the U.S. Department of the Navy (DoN) by providing insight into aircraft carrier design, human-machine interface, and operational employment considerations as the MoD aircraft carrier program evolves. The MoD may also be able to provide future support facilities for weapon exercises, signature measurements, and forward support of common systems, carrier-based aircraft, or defensive weapons. In turn, the DoD may contribute to the knowledge base and tactical proficiency of the MoD by providing insight into design considerations, analysis of alternatives, and tactics and doctrine development for the employment of aircraft carriers and supporting forces, as well as potential future reciprocal use of test ranges and other equipment and facilities.

Training and experience are vital for the generation and maintenance of full aircraft carrier operational capability. An immediate requirement is for the UK MoD to develop and gain experience in carrier operations, both in terms of aircrew and, importantly, the wider skill set required to ensure safe and credible carrier operations. Thereafter, the type of training that is most suitable for instilling operational capability is practical exercising at sea between the aircraft carrier and supporting forces of both Participants. The Participants can gain great mutual benefit from this type of exercise cooperation between their Armed Forces.

The Participants can potentially benefit by the exchange of information in the development of the MoD's future aircraft carrier capability.

The benefits that can be gained from cooperative activities can only be gauged by the gathering and analysis of pertinent data. Mutual cooperation in the field of aircraft carrier and supporting forces data exchange may offer synergistic benefits in anticipating problems, resolving issues, and offering lessons-learned.

The appropriate lessons drawn from data exchange and analysis may stimulate additional cooperative research and development. It is anticipated that mutually beneficial advantage would flow from cooperation in research projects designed to enhance the warfighting ability of the aircraft carrier and supporting forces of both countries' Armed Forces.

The exchange of data and experiences on issues of mutual interest in aircraft carriers would benefit both Participants and should be encouraged as much as possible by the research and development organizations of the DoD and MoD and the operational forces related to each other's aircraft carriers.



## **Annex B**

### **SCOPE OF SUBJECTS COVERED BY THIS STATEMENT OF INTENT**

This Annex identifies areas of potential cooperation between the Participants with regard to information and activities related to carrier operations and its contribution to maritime power projection that may be mutually beneficial.

(1) Information and activities relating to:

- a. The coordination of combined aircraft carrier exercises.
- b. Reconstruction and analysis of products derived from combined exercises.
- c. Tactical capability development data.
- d. Advice on operational concepts that might increase the capability and interoperability of aircraft carriers and supporting forces.
- e. Carrier-based aircraft data, analysis, and advice.
- f. Technical information that is to advance the war-fighting capability of the aircraft carrier forces of both countries.

(2) Facilitating access to and use of their respective facilities, equipment, and personnel as follows:

- a. DoN aircraft carriers and support facilities, and MoD aircraft carriers' design and construction facilities.
- b. Base facilities.
- c. DoN and MoD aircraft carrier research, engineering, test, and analysis facilities, excluding facilities associated with Naval Nuclear Power.
- d. Ranges used by aircraft carriers and support forces.
- e. Defense scientific laboratories for the purpose of aircraft carrier research.
- f. Loan, exchange, or purchase of equipment for the purpose of the stated objectives.
- g. Operation orders, doctrine, instructions, and guidance where these are necessary for the furtherance of the stated objectives.
- h. Military, administrative, scientific, and engineering personnel exchanges, initially focused on developing the suitably qualified and experienced personnel necessary to generate, operate, and sustain a UK aircraft carrier operational capability.

(3) Areas of further bilateral cooperation in the form of additional agreements or projects and/or arrangements as follows:

- a. Projects to improve the design characteristics and operational effectiveness of MoD aircraft carriers, particularly as to the proper installation and use of aircraft launch and recovery equipment.
- b. Projects to improve aircraft carrier combat systems, aircraft handling and management systems, and aircraft launch and recovery equipment.
- c. Projects to enable aircraft carriers to achieve their full operational potential.
- d. Projects to develop improvements for human-machine interface systems, particularly in the areas of aircraft handling and management in both peacetime and wartime environments.
- e. Projects for sensors and defensive measures development, upgrade, or support.
- f. Projects for the exchange of information on the design, development, and fielding of an MoD aircraft carrier.

(4) Reviewing and exploring additional areas of mutual interest relating to aircraft carriers and their supporting forces that may be identified by the Working Groups established under this SOI.

## **MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE**

This SOI is to be subject to regular review by the Participants and is to be taken forward in accordance with the Management and Governance structure set out below.

Principal activities under this SOI are to be taken forward by the four Working Groups, listed below, plus any additional Working Groups that may be necessary to meet the overall objectives of this SOI.

Working Groups are to identify areas for enhanced cooperation; identify impediments to progress and the achievement of agreed objectives; make recommendations regarding the ways and means to achieve objectives; elevate opportunities and plans to appropriate senior U.S. and UK decision makers; and report status periodically to the next level of the governance structure.

- a) Policy – To address policy issues related to the stated envisioned cooperation and execution of the SOI, and to address and route for senior-level decision any issues it determines necessary, including matters of a legal or policy nature, as well as those arising from discussions in the other Working Groups, or as directed by the oversight committees. The Policy Working Group may also serve as a resource for the various working groups and oversight committees on policy-related issues.

- b) Training and Personnel – To address Carrier and Air Wing capability and interoperability, Joint Combat Aircraft (JCA)/Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) training, specific skills related to operating and maintaining the carrier, and other related topics as required.
- c) Equipment – To address Air Launch and Recovery Equipment, aircraft and ship interface, enabling capabilities (Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition, and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) / Unmanned Carrier-Launched Airborne Surveillance, and Strike (UCLASS) / Air-to-Air refueling), and other related topics as required.
- d) Doctrine and Concepts – To address the development of a UK Carrier concept of employment to cover the full spectrum of deployment options, deployment patterns, Air Group composition, command and control, common terminology and language, and other related topics as required.

The Participants are to designate co-leads for these Working Groups, who are to be responsible for developing a Charter and a prioritized Work Plan for the Working Group, including tasks that could be funded via current and/or future foreign military sales cases, where appropriate, and for reporting progress quarterly to the Joint Executive Committee.

The Joint Executive Committee (JEC) is to be co-led by the Commander, U.S. Naval Air Forces Atlantic, and the UK Director Precision Attack. The JEC is to approve each Working Group's Charter and Work Plan; provide related direction and guidance; evaluate the areas of enhanced cooperation being proposed by the Working Groups; make commitments to the limits of their delegated authority; eliminate or elevate impediments; and make biannual reports to the Executive Oversight Council (EOC).

The EOC is to be co-led by the U.S. Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy for Plans, Policy, Oversight and Integration, answerable to and serving as the U.S. Under Secretary of Defense for Policy's representative, and the UK Director General Security Policy. The EOC is responsible for overall cooperation as outlined in this SOI, or as determined necessary by the EOC co-leads; is to provide direction and guidance to the JEC; is to receive periodic reports from the JEC as needed or requested; is to convene biannually to receive additional reporting from the JEC and to discuss ongoing carrier cooperation; and is to present an annual update on the progress of cooperation to the Bilateral Defense Acquisition Committee.

The Management and Governance hierarchy for this SOI is shown diagrammatically in Annex C.

**Annex C**  
**MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS – DIAGRAM**

