

CYBER VANGUARD

VOL. 1, ISSUE 1

FROM CONCEPT TO COMMAND

WHAT IS THE MCIC
ENTERPRISE?



NOVEMBER 2025

FORT MEADE, Md. – The Marine Corps Information Command (MCIC) has expanded its role in modern warfighting by integrating cyberspace, space and influence operations into a single enterprise. In today's battlespace, wars are fought not only in the air, on land and at sea but also in the information environment. It is in the information environment that network defense, space capabilities and the contest for influence shapes outcomes as much as traditional kinetic firepower.

The 39th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Eric Smith, emphasized the importance of multi-domain integration in Force Design 2030. In support of that vision, the Marine Corps established the concept of the MCIC to act as the central point of coordination for information maneuver forces.

The MCIC, established in 2022, serves as the integrator of operations in the information environment. This ensures Marine forces can employ tailored non-kinetic capabilities alongside traditional combat power. All of these capabilities support concepts such as Expeditionary Advanced Base Operations and Stand-In Forces.

Lt. Gen. Matthew Glavy, while serving as the commander of Marine Corps Forces Cyberspace Command, championed the idea of convergence. Convergence is simply the recognition that information-related capabilities gain strength when employed together, using a combined arms approach to achieve mutually complementary effects in battle. Convergence shaped the creation of the MCIC enterprise, which unifies cyber, space, signals intelligence, human intelligence and information operations to support Marine commanders worldwide.

The modern MCIC formation consists of Marine Corps Forces Cyberspace Command, Marine Corps Forces Space Command, Joint Forces Headquarters-Cyber Marines, the Marine Corps Service Cryptologic Component and Joint Task Force ARES. Together, these organizations are commonly referred to as the MCIC Enterprise, a network that synchronizes planning through integrated processes and shared situational awareness, improves coordination, and ensures that Marines have access to cutting-edge non-kinetic capabilities on the battlefield.

Comparatively Maj. Gen. Joseph A. Matos III, the current commanding general of the MCIC, describes the commands as the fingers of a hand. Fingers functioning on their own achieve distinct effects but when brought together to form a fist those effects increase exponentially. The fist delivers integrated effects capable of imposing significant cost on the adversary while supporting the Marine Corps, Fleet Marine Force and Joint Force.

“As the commander of multiple units that each each have exclusive information related capabilities, I'm distinctively positioned to make formations tailored specifically to commanders on the forward edge of conflict.”

-Maj. Gen Matos III

Each organization adds unique capabilities that form the foundation of the enterprise. Marine Corps Forces Cyberspace Command conducts defensive cyber operations. Marine Corps Forces Space Command leverages space capabilities to provide awareness, targeting and protection. Joint Forces Headquarters-Cyber Marines and Joint Task Force Ares execute offensive cyberspace operations. The Marine Corps Service Cryptologic Component ensure seamless coordination between Marine Corps signals intelligence forces and the National Security Agency.

Subordinate commands such as the Marine Corps Cyberspace Warfare Group and the Marine Corps Cyberspace Operations Group directly support Marine Corps Forces Cyberspace Command. The Marine Corps Information Operations Center and the Marine Cryptologic Support Battalion provide training, force generation, network defense and operational integration for the MCIC proper.

The MCIC enterprise provides information environment battlespace awareness, which ensures commanders have an understanding of threats and opportunities across multiple domains. Its strength comes not only from advanced tools but also from the Marines who drive it. The enterprise depends on leaders and staff who have a foundational understanding of combined arms. They combine adaptability, discipline and intellectual curiosity to turn capabilities into effects in the battlespace.

These qualities have allowed the enterprise to contribute to exercises and operations including Elite Constellation 25, Pacific Sentry and Balikatan. In each case, the MCIC refined operational concepts and demonstrated its growing role in support of U.S. and Marine Corps global requirements against every named adversary within the U.S. national defense strategy.

“My forces are engaged globally with all peer competitors and pacing adversaries 24/7/365, protecting the Marine Corps Enterprise Network (MCEN), supporting the command and control (C2) of forces across geographic and functional combatant command lines of effort, and delivering advanced non-kinetic effects that maintain narrative advantage, systems overmatch, and force resilience. Every day we get better at what we do,” said Matos.

The lessons from these exercises continue to shape how the enterprise integrates with Marine and joint forces. By operating as a single command element, the MCIC turns individual capabilities into coordinated effects that expand the options available to commanders. This approach strengthens readiness for future conflicts and reinforces the Marine Corps’ ability to compete in the information environment.

“We’ve come a long way since the MCIC was stood up and I’m excited for the future of this command. We have outstanding service members and civilians who are passionate about what they do in the interest of national security. They are always finding ways to move the needle forward,” Matos said.

Since its inception, it has proven itself as a critical enabler for all commanders who rely on integrated non-kinetic effects. As Force Design 2030 advances, the MCIC enterprise ensures the Marine Corps stays ahead of adversaries in the fight for the information environment.



AROUND THE HORN



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