

OG

— AD Arch is preparing a letter

D/DOMD/2/1/7

28 February 1997

DGICS

DGMO

Copy to:

D Pol(ICS)

Chief Librarian

OMD/AD(Information)

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, COMMUNICATION STRATEGY AND THE INTERNET

1. We are due to meet on 5 March to discuss progress on these papers.

2. I attach drafts in various stages of development; that on the Internet is the most immature and is intended to flag up the key issues that will need to be addressed. In the case of the communication paper, there will need to be some consultation with the TLBs before we take it much further and we would hope to do that during March. And 2nd PUS has asked to be kept in touch with this work (especially that on communication) and I plan to put a note to him shortly.

{signed}

DOMD

CHOTS: DOMD

Implications

1. Positive in network → many
2. In people
3. Pilot.

DRAFT

MOD's USE OF THE INTERNET

INTRODUCTION

- Internet is a world wide network of computers created by the interconnection of many smaller networks which allows some 30 million people worldwide to communicate electronically
- access to databases and other sources has opened a vast repository of electronically accessible information; offers significant benefits for MOD through improving dissemination and use of information, and through ease of communication with the public and our allies.
- Internet's success results partly from its anarchic nature but any large organization needs to have a framework of how connections are to be made and which facilities are to be used to get the best from the functions available

USE OF THE INTERNET

- three different areas of use:
 - a means of publishing our own information for external consumption;
 - an external source of information;
 - a means of external communications (including electronic trading)
- examples
 - [Army or RN web site]

- [searching for information]
- [communication during Ex PURPLE STAR]

ISSUES

Publishing

- endorse the principles that:
 - the MOD's own presence on the Internet is properly part of the public presentation of Defence and the Armed Forces.
 - a MOD Web site should be exploited as a tool for placing information in the public domain and for enhancing the public perception of Defence.
 - any information published in this way must also be available internally without connecting to the public Internet [connect with Information Management paper].
 - any sites maintained by each of the three Services and by other bodies (such as DASA and DERA) must contain links to the MOD Home page. (Issue of corporate look and feel?)
- the arrangements for the management and development of this site and its links need formalised: D-INFOD should be given responsibility for emphasis of the site as a PR vehicle, and for its the design and maintenance; responsibility for the arranging the supply of information should lie with the Department's 'Information Resource Coordinator' as determined by the Info. Management Strategy; implications - cost, staffing, skills.

Information source

- constraints: eg quality, copyright, skill in use, alternative sources, ie refer to Information Management Strategy

Communications

- endorse the principle that it should be possible to send and receive external e-mail from as many MOD networks as possible: DGICS be charged with developing technical solutions and procedural guidelines for their implementation.

FRAMEWORK OF RULES

- need framework to ensure optimum benefit is obtained from usage of Internet:
 - connection: business case, security issues (incl viruses), legal issues, technical issues (incl MOD's own server - [costs])
 - define discipline: using the facilities; monitoring usage, bypassing departmental systems, alternative options