

The Marine Corps Information Operations Center (MCIOC) Change of Command

The Marine Corps Information Operations Center (MCIOC) conducted its first Change of Command Ceremony (COC) at the National Museum of the Marine Corps 19 January at 1530. The transfer of command from Colonel James P. Gfrerer to Colonel Christopher L. Naler represented the continuing maturation of a new and growing operational capability within the United States Marine Corps.

The MCIOC has provided Information Operations (IO) related support to the Marine Corps and to forward-deployed Marine Corps Air Ground Task Forces (MAGTFs) since their official opening on 9 July 2009. From that time through to today, the MCIOC has established itself as the clearinghouse for the MAGTF Commanders and the Marine Corps to obtain full-spectrum Information Operations (IO) planning and Military Information Support Operations (MISO formerly, known as Psychological Operations or PSYOP) support. In addition to providing operational support, as the Marine Corps' Executive Agent for IO, the MCIOC has supported the development of IO through doctrinal writing and review, organizational support, training, materiel, leadership, personnel and facilities (DOTMLPF), and has enabled the integration of IO into MAGTF operations worldwide.

At the direction of senior Marine Corps leadership, the MCIOC was designated a Command in August 2011. Colonel Gfrerer, the MCIOC's first Commanding Officer, pioneered efforts to integrate and execute Information Operations across the Marine Corps. The large turnout for the ceremony, with representatives from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Staff, Army, Navy, and Air Force, illustrated the operational impacts of the MCIOC under the leadership of Colonel Gfrerer.

The Presiding Official for the COC, Lieutenant General Richard T. Tryon, DC PP&O, not only recognized Colonel Gfrerer's contributions but he also highlighted the true uniqueness of what the MCIOC brings to the fight. He went on to officially welcome Colonel Naler and his family to this extremely challenging and exceptional Command. The MCIOC currently has personnel and teams deployed in Afghanistan and with Marine Expeditionary Units.