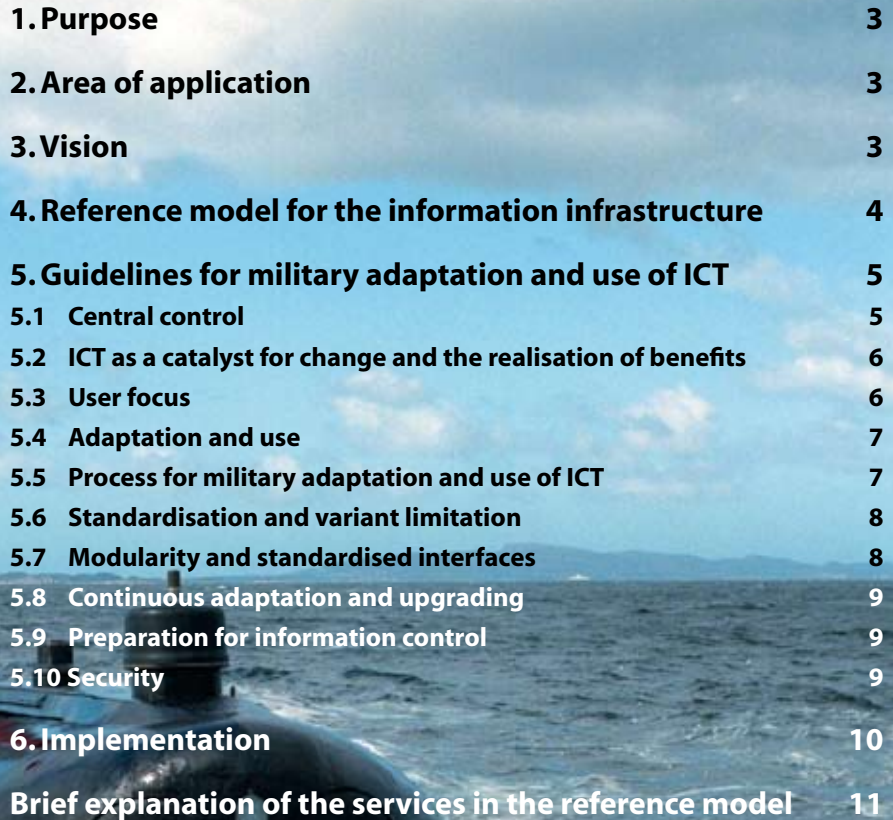Policy for military adaptation and use of

information and communication technology

in the Norwegian Armed Forces

Approved 1st September 2005

Contents

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a foundation for the Norwegian Armed Forces' common organisational culture regarding adaptation and use of information and communication technology (ICT) for military purposes. This in particular implies that a common vision and central guidance must be provided to all stakeholders. The policy therefore serves an explanatory as well as a governing function.

The policy builds on the intentions and guiding principles expressed in previous long-term defence plans and parliamentary proposals, and provides an increased focus on the adaptation and use of ICT in an operational context.

2. Area of application

This policy applies to all military adaptation and use of ICT in Norwegian Armed Forces. In cases where ICT is used exclusively in connection with research, development and experimentation, this policy is intended as guidance.

3. Vision

Technology, in particular ICT, is instrumental to the transformation of the Armed Forces. Secure exchange and distribution of information through networks will provide our forces with more comprehensive and updated bases for decision and enable rapid and synchronised action, with the appropriate means to respond to all types of situations.

Innovations within ICT provide substantial possibilities for further improved efficiency related to the operational activities, in particular operational support, as well as administration. Through increased use of standardised solutions combined with a reduction in both types and number of applications, as well as improved system interoperability, substantial savings can be generated.

The ICT core adapted and used for military purposes will in this document be referred to as the defence information infrastructure. This infrastructure includes information, processes, standards and technology as well as the necessary operations and maintenance personnel. The future information infrastructure shall support network based operations by facilitating an interactive, network oriented organisation of the Armed Forces' resources, from strategic to tactical level , both nationally as well through interaction with allied or coalition forces, including relevant civil agencies. Thus interoperability is the guiding principle for the defence information infrastructure. Priority will also be given to improvements regarding important operational characteristics like flexibility, response time and deployability.

4. Reference model for the information infrastructure

Figure 1 depicts the new reference model for the defence information infrastructure. The model reflects design work in the Armed Forces as well as equivalent results from Alliance partners and civil sector. Military adaptation and use of ICT shall focus on solutions that, to the extent possible adhere to the reference model, subject to financial and technical limitations at the time of realisation.

The defence information infrastructure consists of functionally oriented decision support services and core services, interconnected by the communications infrastructure.

• *The functionally oriented decision support services support user groups with common requirements for information and process support. These services build on and utilize the core services.*

• *The information infrastructure core services are common and describe available basic information and process*

support. The fact that the services are common, does not imply that they are universally available, but rather that these services are standardised throughout the Armed Forces.

• *The communications infrastructure provides quality tested mechanisms interconnecting the functionally oriented decision support services and core services as well as various decision, effector and sensor components.*

In principle, all the services are independent of one another and of the communication solutions. The interfaces between the information infrastructure and the decision, effector and sensor components are represented by the various services.

The services in the reference model are further described on page 11.
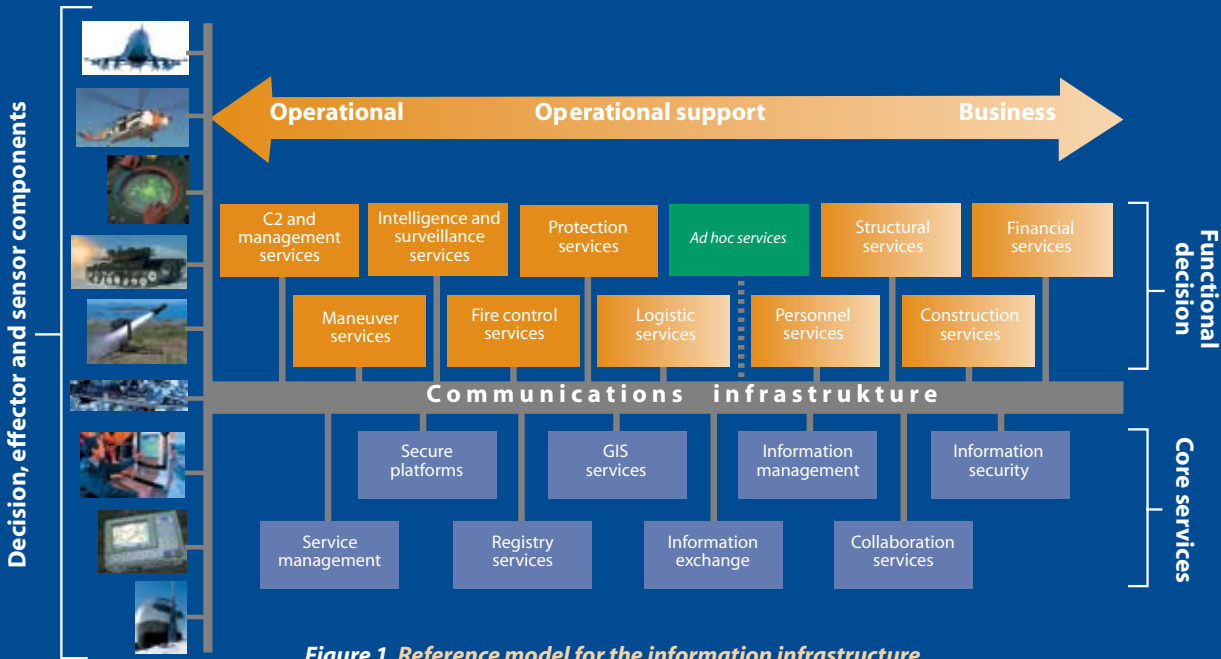

Figure 1. *Reference model for the information infrastructure.*

5. Guidance for military adaptation and use of ICT

5.1 Central management

ICT is instrumental to the desired transformation towards more network based operations. In order to avoid incurring substantial costs through suboptimization of technology application and lack of comprehensive gains analysis, there is a need for strategic level central management focusing on three particular areas: