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### Three USAF Offices To Combine

The Air Force is consolidating three information technology directorates at the Pentagon into a single entity. A Dec. 7 news release announced that the warfighting integration (XI), chief information officer (CIO), and communications operations offices will merge to form the Networks and Warfighting Integration-CIO Directorate.

Senior USAF leaders believe the consolidation will enable the service to more easily integrate current and emerging technologies with warfighting operations. The move reflects the Defense Department's growing dependence "on information generated and shared across worldwide networks," stated the release.

The director of networks and warfighting integration will be a lieutenant general, with a senior executive service civilian serving as deputy. The director also will serve as the service CIO. The new directorate will report to the Air Force Secretary.

Currently, Lt. Gen. William T. Hobbins is deputy chief of staff for warfighting integration, while John M. Gilligan serves as Air Force CIO.

The Air Force Pentagon Communications Agency, which was subordinate to the Communications Operations Directorate, now will fall under the Air Force administrative assistant.

—*Adam J. Hebert*