

# JEOC

## JOINT ENGINEER OPERATIONS COURSE

By Mrs. Rachel M. King (formerly Rachel M. Walkenbach) and Mr. Dwayne E. Boeres

The joint engineer community continues to be the tip of the spear for engineering initiatives, and one of its greatest success stories is the Joint Engineer Operations Course (JEOC). This joint engineer opportunity prepares joint staff personnel to respond quickly and adapt effectively to the changing strategic environment. The JEOC is designed to ground students in the responsibilities of a staff officer assigned to the joint engineer staff section of a joint task force (JTF). The major focus of the course is to introduce students to joint doctrine, planning, and operations (specifically engineer operations), and the type of engineer staff positions and associated products engineers are required to develop. Educating and preparing our mid- to senior-level officers, warrant officers, and senior noncommissioned officers (NCOs) for operational assignments in the joint environment, the JEOC operates on the prevailing principle that no engineer should perform a task without first having been educated and trained. This course—which was developed by engineers for engineers—brings together engineers (varying in ranks from E-6/7 to O-6) from all five Services, government civilians, selected multinationals, and contractors to better prepare engineer operational planners to serve within joint, interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational (JIIM) environments.

Not only will engineers use what they learn in the current operational environment, but they will also use it for future applications to meet the challenges faced by engineer forces of the 21st century. The need for the JEOC is based on guidance from the *National Military Strategy*, the *Quadrennial Defense Review*, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff *CJCS Vision for Joint Officer Development*, as well as other sources. The joint engineer community has set its sights on developing engineers who are better prepared and who can engage and influence engineering factors within the JTF and its combatant commands' areas of responsibility (AORs).

### Course Description

The JEOC is a blended course consisting of both a distributed learning (dL) Phase and a Resident Phase designed for selected engineer officers, senior NCOs, warrant officers, and government civilians who may serve on a joint staff.

#### Distributed Learning Phase

The JEOC dL Phase is open to all engineers for self-development in JTF engineer operations. Designed to be about 48 hours, this no-obligation, self-paced, self-development course consists of current information in support of joint

#### JEOC Dates and Locations

##### FY 2009 & FY 2010 (Tentative)

The Joint Engineer Operations Course now rotates to four locations each year, providing a course offering at the United States Army Engineer School, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT), Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio; Civil Engineer Corps Officers School (CECOS), Port Hueneme, California; and the Marine Corps University, Headquarters (HQ) Marine Corps, Quantico, Virginia.

13-17 April 2009	3-7 August 2009
12-16 April 2010	26-30 July 2010
Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri	Civil Engineer Corps Officer School
United States Army Engineer School	Port Hueneme, California
15-19 June 2009	5-9 October 2009
May 31-4 June 2010	(TBD) October 2010
Air Force Institute of Technology	HQ, United States Marine Corps
Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio	Marine Corps University Quantico, Virginia

engineer operations. From across the Services, engineers from combatant commands, government agencies, and contractors have participated in the development of this course and its resources. Students may elect to complete the JEOC dL Phase only, but the interaction and collaboration with students of other Services at the Resident Phase greatly contribute to the success of JEOC.

The dL Phase consists of eight modules with associated lessons that introduce the student to the following:

- Formulating and Integrating United States National Security Strategy
- Joint Operational Planning
- Joint Engineer Service Capabilities: United States Army, United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Air Force, United States Coast Guard
- JTF Engineer Staff Operations and Planning
- Theater Engineer Operations and Base Camp Planning
- Joint Engineer Considerations and Relations with JIIM

- Theater Environmental Considerations
- Resident Phase Preparation Module

Although there is no obligation for completing the dL Phase after enrollment, a dL course certificate (good for one year after completion) is a prerequisite for attending the Resident Phase. An Army Knowledge Online (AKO) or Defense Knowledge Online (DKO) account is required for enrollment.

The dL course enrollment is conducted through e-mail contact with the JEOC Service representatives. (See information at the end of this article.) The Service representative will direct you to the course administrator. For enrollment, you will need to request sponsorship for an AKO account or provide your AKO username information at the time of your request. The administrator will process your enrollment and provide information for access to the JEOC Blackboard site. The dL course is gated and graded and provides a completion certificate (Resident Phase requirement only). The JEOC is not yet an Army Training Requirements and Resources System (ATRRS) integrated course, but course officials are in the process of obtaining United States Joint Forces Command joint certification.

### Resident Phase

The JEOC Resident Phase primarily consists of facilitated small-group discussions and associated practical exercises (PEs). Integrated throughout the course agenda are thirteen JTF engineer seminar discussions via video teleconference (VTC), guest speaker or panel discussions, and social networking activities with guests from specialized engineering fields. The thirteen seminars are aligned with PEs built around likely JTF scenarios. Students must demonstrate their knowledge and ability to apply joint Service engineer capabilities, common functions, and responsibilities of a JTF engineer staff officer or NCO in a simulated JTF engineer staff environment to develop a joint engineer solution. The small-group discussion topics and PEs are as follows:

- Service Engineer Capabilities
- Engineer Support Plan
- JTF Assignments, Functions, and Roles
- Horizontal Staff Integration
- Engineer Functions
- Facilities Engineering and General Engineering
- Outside-the-Wire JIIM Considerations

Resident Phase seminar briefing and discussion topics are as follows:

- Combatant Command Engineer–AOR Briefing
- Theater JTF Engineer Perspectives and Lessons Learned
- Coalition Engineer Panel (A, B, C Countries)
- JTF Engineer Observations and the Effects-Based Approach to Operations

- Senior Engineer (Joint Staff J4) Theater and Joint Engineer Considerations
- Sourcing and the Request-for-Forces (RFF) Process
- Base Development and Planning
- Environmental Considerations for the JTF Engineer
- Senior Engineer Brief (Service Engineer Chief)
- Engineer Support to JIIM Operations
- Contractors on the Battlefield Panel Seminar and Dinner
- Defense Support to Civil Authorities (United States Northern Command)

Enrollment in the Resident Phase of JEOC requires completion of the dL Phase of the course and a contact request to the Service representative or to the course administrator. Requests for Resident Phase attendance should be made 120 days in advance. Because course quotas fill quickly, consider enrollment as early as possible; seats can be held up to a year in advance. Each course offering supports 60 students. Top priority goes to personnel assigned to a JTF, combatant command, or component command. Second priority goes to personnel with a high probability of being assigned to a joint billet. Third priority is for other personnel who would benefit from attending JEOC.

### Summary

**T**he JEOC is a Joint Staff J4 initiative directed through the Joint Operational Engineer Board (JOEB), and the course and the course management team are hosted by the United States Army Engineer School at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. The joint engineer community is working to finalize the JEOC as a joint, permanently funded and established functional course by FY2010. This course has graduated 324 engineers from all five Services who are now better prepared for the evolution of the joint warfighter.

*Engineer staffs and planners are encouraged to enroll in the Joint Engineer Operations Course!* This course provides sufficient grounding for students to understand the responsibilities of a staff officer assigned to the joint engineer staff section of a JTF. The major focus of the course is to introduce students to joint doctrine, planning and operations (specifically engineer operations), and the types of engineer staff positions and associated products engineers are required to develop. For information pertaining to enrollment, contact the course administrator, Mr. Dwayne Boeres, at the Engineer School's Directorate of Training and Leader Development. He can be reached at <dwayne.boeres@us.army.mil> or (573) 563-7065. 

*Mrs. King is the JEOC Course Manager. She is a former Army officer and has worked the development and execution of the JEOC for five years. She is a contractor with C2 Technologies, Inc.*

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