Joint Engineer Operations Course

By Lieutenant Colonel Shawn P. Howley (Retired) and Mr. Michael A. Dascanio

Today, the United States enjoys an overwhelming qualitative advantage not only in our fielded capabilities but also in our cognitive approach to our duties; sustaining and increasing this advantage will require a transformation achieved by combining technology, intellect, and cultural changes across the joint community.[1] Professional military education—Service and joint—is the critical element in officer development and the foundation of a joint learning continuum which ensures that U.S. armed forces are intrinsically learning organizations.[2] The Joint Engineer Operations Course (JEOC) will soon be recognized as a key joint professional military education Phase I (JPME–I) course for engineers.

A small-group leader conducts a class during the JEOC.

Course Description

The JEOC has two parts: a high-end Distributed Learning (dL) Phase and a Resident Phase of instruction designed to prepare selected engineer officers, noncommissioned officers, and government civilians for duty on a joint staff in support of the joint task force (JTF) engineer and joint force commander. Successful completion of the dL Phase is a prerequisite for Resident Phase attendance. It is a 48-hour, self-paced course that can also be incorporated as a standalone self-development course.

Distributed Learning Phase

The dL phase is composed of eight modules:[3]

- United States National Strategy
- Joint Operational Planning
- Joint Engineer Capabilities
- Joint Task Force Engineer Organization
- Theater Engineer Operations
- Transition Planning and Considerations
- Environmental Considerations
- Resident Phase Read-ahead Packet

To enroll in the course, students must first have an active Army Knowledge Online (AKO) or Defense Knowledge Online (DKO) account. Once an AKO/DKO account is established, students should contact course administrator Mr. Dwayne Boeres at <*dwayne.boeres@us.army.mil*> to process their enrollment.

Resident Phase

The Resident Phase is a rotational training course conducted at the United States Marine Corps Engineer School, Quantico, Virginia; the United States Army Engineer School, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; the United States Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio; and the United States Navy Civil Engineer Corps Officer School, Port Hueneme, California. The course consists of five days of large- and small-group, facilitator-led instruction with a common operational scenario that parallels the training offered at the Joint Forces Service College. The Resident Phase has multiple seminar and video teleconference discussions between students and deployed joint engineer staffs. The table highlights the dates and locations for the resident courses. The objectives of the Resident Phase are to give students the ability to—

- Describe joint operations, joint warfare, and the joint planning system.
- Describe, comprehend, and apply joint engineer doctrine.
- Describe, comprehend, and apply joint engineer planning using scenarios, historical examples, case studies, and practical exercises.
- Describe and comprehend Service engineer capabilities and support requirements.

- Describe, comprehend, and apply the strengths, effects, and basic doctrinal employment concepts of concepts of Service engineers.
- Describe, comprehend, and apply employment principles for using Service engineer capabilities to support joint and Service engineer requirements.[4]

Resident seating priority is based on the needs of the Service to educate and train joint staff engineer personnel. Potential resident students are divided into three bands, depending on their status and probability of participation with a JTF engineer staff:

- *Band 1.* Personnel assigned to a JTF, combatant command, or component command.
- *Band 2.* Personnel with a high probability of being tasked to help stand up a JTF.
- *Band 3.* Captains preparing to join a prospective JTF headquarters, and all others who would benefit from the JEOC.

JEOC Rotational Course Schedule

Fiscal Year 2010	Location	Fiscal Year 2011	Location
2–6 Nov	United States Marine Corps University— Quantico, Virginia	1–5 Nov	United States Marine Corps University— Quantico, Virginia
12–16 Apr	United States Army Engineer School— Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri	11–15 April	United States Army Engineer School— Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri
14–18 June	United States Air Force Institute of Technology— Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio	13–17 June	United States Air Force Institute of Technology— Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio
26–30 July	United States Navy Civil Engineer Corps Officer School— Port Hueneme, California	25–29 July	United States Navy Civil Engineer Corps Officer School— Port Hueneme, California

Course Review

In February 2010, the JEOC underwent a course review at the United States Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM), supported by engineer staff representatives from regional and functional combatant commands. The course review was also supported by the education and individual training programs of USJFCOM's Joint Training Directorate (J-7) and Joint Warfighting Center; Joint Knowledge Development and Distribution Capability; and Operations, Plans, Logistics, and Engineering Directorate (J-3/4).

The purpose of the course review was to improve its currency and relevancy through feedback from the joint engineer community. The review enabled the JEOC training development team to refine the course so it could be entered in the Army Training Requirements and Resource System (ATRRS) and meet the USJFCOM J-7 joint certification criteria to validate the JEOC as a course for JPME–I. The JEOC training development team is considering adjustments to the dL Phase to improve the course's joint education material.

The Way Ahead

The JEOC is a joint logistics staff initiative directed through the Joint Operational Engineer Board, and the course and course management team are hosted by the United States Army Engineer School.[5] More than 500 students have graduated from this course for the joint force and an additional 160 will graduate this fiscal year. Key to the long-term success of the JEOC is establishing formal requirements funding for the course from the Services to the Army through the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command's Training Requirements Analysis System and the Joint Individual Learning Content Certification[6] processes and maintaining currency through feedback from the joint engineer community. To become a member of our adjunct faculty to facilitate a Resident Phase, contact Mr. Shawn Howley at <*shawn-howley @us.army.mil*>; 573-563-5088; or DSN 676-5088.

Lieutenant Colonel Howley (Retired) recently assumed duties as the JEOC program and course manager. He has worked in leadership and organizational development for Army units for more than 20 years.

Mr. Dascanio is a lieutenant colonel in the United States Army Reserve. He serves as the technical director of Training and Leader Development, United States Army Engineer School at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Endnotes

[1]Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Notice 1800.01, 15 July 2009, <*http://www.dtic.mil/doctrine/education/edu_ojpme.htm*>.

[2]Ibid.

[3]Joint Doctrine, Organization, Training, Materiel, Leadership and Education, Personnel, and Facilities Change Recommendation Document, 3 October 2008, pp. 5–7.

[4]Ibid, p. 9.

[5]Joint Engineer Operations Course Memorandum of Understanding, September 2008.

[6]Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Manual 3500.03B, 31 August 2007.