

Joint Engineer Operations Course: A Combined Approach

By Lieutenant Colonel Shawn P. Howley (Retired) and Major Charles R. McGinnis (Retired)

In his “Chairman’s Vision” on 15 July 2009, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff remarked, “Today, the United States enjoys an overwhelming qualitative advantage not only in our fielded capabilities, but 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 The Joint Engineer Operations Course (JEOC) continues to be an important element of the joint engineer cognitive framework. During the 2010 training year, the JEOC program educated 293 Service engineers in preparation for current or future joint engineer staff assignments.² The JEOC program continues to focus on developing the operational engineering capabilities of Service engineer officers, noncommissioned officers, warrant officers, and Department of Defense civilian leaders preparing to join combined joint task forces in support of combat operations around the world.

The JEOC program consists of two phases:

- Phase I is an eight-module online distributed learning course focused on building joint engineer knowledge and comprehension necessary for a firm joint engineering foundation.³
- Phase II is a five-day resident educational event that is focused on the application and analysis of the joint engineer operational environment through large-group lectures and small-group practical exercises and discussion.⁴

Phase I online learning and Phase II resident discussion enhance the development and effectiveness of the joint engineer staff officer upon assignment to a joint staff.

The JEOC program continues to build capacity and meet the current educational needs of our Service engineers by refining the curriculum to enhance the understanding of our current interagency, intergovernmental organization, and nongovernmental organization coordination environment.⁵ To improve the learning opportunities for Service and multinational engineer students, the program has adjusted the course information; Phase I (online) and Phase II (resident) are now open to multinational engineers, whose resident seats are coordinated through a sponsoring combatant command—each of which is allocated one seat per year. A goal of the JEOC program is to seat two multinational engineer officers per resident class. During the 2010 training year, the JEOC program educated four multinational engineers. We encourage multinational engineers to register and complete Phase I and then attain a seat for Phase II through their sponsoring combatant command.

Recently, the JEOC program was modified to directly support combatant command engineers deployed outside the continental United States (OCONUS).⁶ In September 2010, the United States Pacific Command (USPACOM) hosted a JEOC class at the Navy Education Center, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, to improve the abilities of their joint staff engineers. The class successfully trained and educated joint and Service engineers from USPACOM’s area of responsibility. In March 2011, the United States European Command (USEUCOM) hosted a JEOC class to improve their joint staff engineers and multinational staff engineers. The class was conducted at the Military Engineering Center of Excellence (MILENG COE) in Ingolstadt, Germany, and successfully trained and educated joint, Service, and multinational engineers from USEUCOM’s area of responsibility.

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JEOC Rotational Course Schedule			
Fiscal Year 2011	Location	Fiscal Year 2012	Location
1–5 Nov	United States Marine Corps University— Quantico, Virginia	31 Oct–4 Nov	United States Marine Corps University— Quantico, Virginia
11–15 April	United States Army Engineer School— Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri	9–13 April	United States Army Engineer School— Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri
13–17 June	United States Air Force Institute of Technology— Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio	18–22 June	United States Air Force Institute of Technology— Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio
15–19 Aug	United States Navy Civil Engineer Corps Officer School— Port Hueneme, California	23–27 July	United States Navy Civil Engineer Corps Officer School— Port Hueneme, California

Currently, the JEOC program is scheduled to conduct four core resident classes in training years 2011 and 2012. The program started with a successful JEOC offering at the United States Marine Corps University in November 2010 and is on schedule for the remaining classes for this training year.

The course is a United States Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM) Joint Training Directorate/Joint Warfighting Center (J-7) joint professional military education (JPME)-certified course, which is on the Army Training Requirements and Resource System (ATRRS) under course number 4A-F16/030-F20. To enroll, 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 their respective course administrators or Mr. Dwayne Boeres, (573) 563-7065 or <dwayne.boeres@us.army.mil>, to process their enrollment. JEOC Service representatives may be contacted through the Joint Knowledge Online network at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/portal/index.jsp;jsessionid=141B46CC25D62C3BE4D1592E2CA4197A.appd02_3>.

Future objectives for the program for training year 2011 are to continue to update the course material with relevant information from current operations and lessons learned provided by combatant commands and combined joint task forces operating around the world. Additional enabling objectives to support the JEOC program this training year are—

- Establishing a training partnership with the MILENG COE.
- Updating the Joint Forces Command Engineer Battlebook.

- Conducting the annual course review.
- Being prepared to support OCONUS combatant command staff engineer training. 

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Major McGinnis (Retired) is a JEOC training specialist. He has worked in leadership and organizational development of Army units for more than 20 years.

Endnotes

¹Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction (CJCSI) 1800.01D, *Officer Professional Military Education Policy (OPMEP)*, 15 July 2009, <www.dtic.mil/cjcs_directives/cdata/unlimit/1800_01.pdf>, accessed 20 December 2010.

²“Joint Engineer Operations Course,” *Engineer*, Vol. 40, January–April 2010, pp. 34-35.

³Benjamin S. Bloom, *Taxonomy of Education Objectives*, Pearson Education, Boston, 1956.

⁴Ibid.

⁵Brigadier General Bryan G. Watson, “Clear the Way,” *Engineer*, Vol. 40, May–August 2010, pp. 2 and 10.

⁶CJCSI 3500.01F, *Joint Training Policy and Guidance for the Armed Forces of the United States*, 19 November 2010, <www.dtic.mil/doctrine/training/cjcsi3500_01f.pdf>, accessed 20 December 2010.