Joint Engineer Operations Course Overview

By Ms. Rachel M. Walkenbach

The joint engineer community continues to move forward in the process of educating and preparing its officers and noncommissioned officers for operations in the joint environment. The Joint Engineer Operations Course (JEOC), which was designed by engineers for engineers, will bring together engineers from all the Services. Not only will they 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, Quadrennial Defense Review*, February 2006, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff's *CJCS Vision for Joint Officer Development*, as well as from other sources. The joint engineer community has set its sights on developing engineers who are better prepared and who can quickly immerse themselves into the joint task force (JTF) and its ongoing campaign.

Course Description

The JEOC is a two-phase course designed for selected engineer officers (senior 0-3s and junior 0-4s), senior noncommissioned officers, warrant officers, and government civilians who may serve on a joint staff.

Distributed Learning Phase

The JEOC Distributed Learning (dL) Phase is open to all engineers for self-development in JTF engineer operations. It is a self-paced, self-development course consisting of current information in support of joint engineer operations. Joint engineers from across the Services and from combatant commands abroad have participated in the development of this course and its resources. An Army Knowledge Online (AKO) account is required for enrollment, but joint Service members will be sponsored for an AKO account in order to enroll in the course. The dL Phase is designed to be 40 to 48 hours and, although there is no obligation for completing the course after enrollment, a dL course certificate (good for one year after completion) is a prerequisite for attending the second phase, which is the Resident Phase. A student may elect to complete the JEOC dL Phase only, but the interaction and collaboration with students of other Services at the Resident Phase play a big factor in the success of JEOC.

The dL Phase consists of seven modules with associated lessons that introduce the student to—

- National Security Strategy Development.
- Joint Operations Planning.
- Joint Engineer Capabilities.
- JTF Engineer Staff Operations and Planning.
- Theater Engineer Operations.
- Joint Engineer Considerations and Relations With Joint Interagency, Intergovernmental, and Multinational Organizations (JIIM).
- Joint Environmental Considerations.

JEOC Dates and Locations

7-11 April 2008
Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri
U.S. Army Engineer School (USAES)

2-6 June 2008
Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio
Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT)

17-21 November 2008
Quantico, Virginia
HQ, U.S. Marine Corps
Marine Corps University

Resident Phase

The JEOC Resident Phase primarily consists of facilitator-led small-group discussions and associated practical exercises (PEs). Integrated throughout the course agenda are seven JTF engineer seminar discussions via video teleconference (VTC), guest speaker or panel discussions, and social activities with guests from specialized engineering fields.

The seven 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 noncommissioned officer in a simulated JTF engineer staff environment to develop a joint engineer solution. The seminars and practical exercises are—

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

The Resident Phase guest speakers and topics are as follows:

- Combatant Command Engineer – Area of Responsibility (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 (JS-J4) Theater and Joint Engineer Considerations
- Geospatial Engineering Capabilities Presentation
- Sourcing and the Request-for-Forces (RFF) Process
- Base Development and Planning
- Environmental Considerations for the JTF Engineer
- Senior Engineer Brief (Service Engineer Chief)
- Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Defeat Presentation
- Engineer Support to Joint Interagency, Intergovernmental, and Multinational (JIIM) Operations
- Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance – Engineer Roles in Disaster Operations
- Contractors on the Battlefield
- Defense Support to Civil Authorities (NORTHCOM)

Enrollment in the Resident Phase of JEOC is based on priority, considering the fact that only 45 students can be accommodated per course. 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

The 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.

All engineers are encouraged to enroll in the Joint Engineer Operations Course. For questions pertaining to enrollment, contact Mr. Dwayne Boeres at the Directorate of Training and Leader Development, United States Army Engineer School, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri 65583. He can also be reached at <*dwayne.boeres@us.army.mil*> or (573) 563-7065.

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