



U.S. JOINT FORCES COMMAND JOINT CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT AND EXPERIMENTATION'S CONCEPT PRIMER

Joint Operations Concepts (JOpsC)

The Joint Operations Concepts (JOpsC) capabilities-based approach focuses on how the United States can defeat a broad array of capabilities that any adversary may employ, rather than on the identities of the adversaries.

Introduction

The Joint Operations Concepts is a family of documents that forms a framework to describe how the joint force intends to operate 15 to 20 years from now. It provides the operational context for the transformation of the armed forces of the United States by linking strategic guidance with the integrated application of joint force capabilities.

JOpsC describes the conduct of joint military operations in the context of interagency and multinational coordination across the full range of military operations. It focuses on joint military operations at the operational and strategic level of war and describes the integration of emerging capabilities across the domains of air, land, sea, space, and information, as well as the development of subordinate operating, functional, and enabling concepts.

JOINT OPERATIONS CONCEPTS

- ❑ Is an overarching articulation of how the future joint force will operate in all military operations
- ❑ Is the unifying framework used to develop subordinate operating concepts, functional concepts, enabling concepts, and integrated capabilities
- ❑ Helps to structure joint experimentation and assessment activities to validate subordinate concepts and capabilities-based requirements.

The JOpsC **capabilities-based approach** focuses on how the United States can defeat a broad array of capabilities that any adversary may employ, rather than on the identities of the adversaries and on where they may engage joint forces or U.S. interests. This approach shifts from threat-based force development to force planning, based on the desired capabilities for any given military operation.

Concept Description

The current and anticipated future strategic setting clarifies the requirement to transform the way the United States conducts joint military operations. Identifying the potential capabilities of adversaries and adapting forces to counter those capabilities will allow the joint force to meet the challenges of the future and to achieve **full spectrum dominance**—the ability to sense, understand, decide, and act faster than any adversary in any situation. To this end, JOpsC indicates that the joint force must be:

Fully integrated. The joint force must move beyond conflict resolution toward fully integrated elements. Capabilities and systems provided by the services, combatant commands,

and combat support agencies must be “born joint” and fully integrated to provide inherently interoperable and synergistic joint capabilities to the joint force commander.

Expeditionary. These joint force elements must be rapidly deployable, employable, and sustainable throughout the global battlespace, regardless of antiaccess or area-denial environments and independent of existing infrastructure.

Networked. The joint force must be linked and synchronized in time and purpose and must turn nearly simultaneous information dissemination into actions. Networked joint forces must increase operational effectiveness by allowing dispersed forces to more efficiently communicate, maneuver, share a common operating picture, and achieve the desired end-state.

Decentralized. The joint force must use the power of interdependent joint capabilities, while operating jointly at lower echelons. Collaborative planning and shared knowledge allow greater autonomy and increased freedom of action at lower levels, enabling subordinate commanders to compress decision cycles, to seize the initiative, and to exploit fleeting opportunities.

Adaptable. The joint force must be prepared to respond quickly to any contingency with the appropriate capabilities. This requires versatile, adjustable forces that may be employed in a wide variety of missions and that may adapt fundamental capabilities to the mission without losing significant operational capability.

Decision-superior. The joint force must attain decision superiority—the state at which better-informed decisions are made and implemented faster than an adversary can react, or in a noncombat situation, at a tempo that allows the force to shape the situation or to react to changes quickly and to accomplish its mission. To facilitate decision superiority, the joint force must gain and maintain information superiority.

Lethal. The joint force must acquire increased and refined capabilities to destroy an adversary and his systems in all conditions and environments. It must use technological advances to attain greater precision and more devastating target effects at longer ranges and in close combat, while limiting undesired collateral effects.

As it applies these attributes to its role as an integrated instrument of national power, the joint force must:

Organize. Services and combatant commands must develop, organize, and train their forces in order to provide desired joint capabilities. Capabilities-based force packages combine and establish habitual relationships among elements of joint, multinational, and interagency capabilities that are tailored for specific military operations.

Plan and prepare. The joint force must plan against the anticipated capabilities of an adversary or of other likely contingencies, as identified through in-depth studies of the operational environment. Standing joint force planning cells design operational plans to achieve desired end-states. Designated joint task forces routinely evaluate those plans in live, virtual, and constructive scenarios via exercises.

An effects-based approach, which employs a systems methodology, is particularly applicable to an adversary’s leadership, command-and-control, economic, information, cultural, and military systems. The aim is to produce specific effects that disrupt the adversary’s decision-

making, that alter intent, that diminish capability, and that force the adversary to comply with the will of the United States. This approach may complement or supplant attrition or control.

Operate. Joint forces are forward-based, forward-deployed, or available for employment from the United States. Expeditionary capabilities, coordinated with other instruments of national power, shape the battlespace to our advantage, set initial conditions to achieve strategic objectives, provide assured access to the conflict region, and develop the required infrastructure to support joint force activities.

The future joint force must conduct distributed, nonlinear operations, rather than traditional, sequential operations, which emphasize linear battle-line movement and contiguous support structures. In contrast, nonlinear operations are multidirectional and multidimensional, from regionally or globally dispersed locations, applied directly against an adversary's geographically dispersed critical vulnerabilities. Commanders must employ maneuver forces, precision engagement, and information operations to apply immediate and continuous pressure on any adversary. The joint force also must engage persistently in protracted operations when a crisis cannot be resolved quickly.

A distributed force requires fully integrated, globally synchronized, agile sustainment. Its highly networked logistics system is distribution-based and responds to meet the real-time demands of its users. Global synchronization of the entire logistics system is essential to sustain distributed operations. Expeditionary forces must be able to sustain themselves for the initial phase of an operation, after which an agile logistics sustainment and distribution system must support continuous and distributed joint operations.

Subordinate Concepts

The JOpsC provides the conceptual, first-level framework to guide future joint operations, as well as the concept development and experimentation of subordinate joint, service, combatant command, and combat support defense agency organizations. JOpsC comprises these interrelated subordinate concepts:

Joint operating concepts. A future joint force commander must plan, prepare, deploy, employ, and sustain a joint force to achieve objectives for all military operations. Joint operating concepts guide the development and integration of joint functional and service concepts to provide joint capabilities. They articulate the measurable detail expanded from more general JOpsC guidance needed to conduct experimentation and to allow decision-makers to compare alternatives.

- INITIAL JOCs**
- ❑ Major combat operations
 - ❑ Stability operations
 - ❑ Homeland security
 - ❑ Strategic deterrence

Joint functional concepts. A future joint force commander must integrate related military tasks to attain capabilities for all military operations. Joint functional concepts derive specific context from the joint operating concepts to provide coherent capabilities for all operating concepts. They also promote common attributes to conduct experimentation and to measure effectiveness. Functional concepts are being developed by the joint staff and are aligned with the five areas of joint warfighting capabilities assessment.

- JOINT FUNCTIONAL CONCEPTS**
- ❑ Command-and-control
 - ❑ Battlespace awareness
 - ❑ Force application
 - ❑ Focused logistics
 - ❑ Protection

Enabling concepts. The most specific of all military concepts, enabling concepts must link their conceptual prescriptions to the next generation of military capabilities. The enabling concepts of information operations and interagency and multinational partners are integral to future operations and are intertwined throughout all operations. They crosscut both functional and operating concepts.

ENABLING CONCEPTS

- Information operations
- Interagency partners
- Multinational partners

Implications for Joint Warfighting

Transformation is a continuous process. Therefore, the Department of Defense must develop methods that assess conventional and proposed systems to define required joint capabilities. The process must validate capabilities, considering all doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel, and facilities solutions to advance joint warfighting requirements, and must field the capabilities needed to deter and defeat adversaries.

Concept Application

The JOpsC is applicable to combatant commands, services, combat support defense agencies, and the joint staff for concept development and experimentation. JOpsC was used as the conceptual basis for Unified Quest, the U.S. Army–USJFCOM cosponsored experimentation event, and in USJFCOM’s Pinnacle Impact—both in spring 2003. These documents will be used and refined in a series of USJFCOM workshops and other experimentation events, with the next version due to the Secretary of Defense in December 2003.