

US JOINT FORCES COMMAND MORNING NEWS CLIPS

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I. Information Sharing

A. "Jointness": The New Battlefield Watchword In Data Sharing" By Amber Corrin *Federal Computer Week*

Article reports that as operational needs evolve, so have its inherent requirements. Better technology, better situational awareness and better communications have become the imperatives that drive military decision-making. And at the center of it all: information sharing. Article mentions USJFCOM.

II. Closing USJFCOM

A. "Shoot Down This Bad Plan" *Suffolk News-Herald*

Commentary which argues that something should be happening at Suffolk City Hall regarding Friday's news that a defense department board of economic and business advisors plans to recommend closing down Joint Forces Command. Article mentions USJFCOM.

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A. "U.S., South Korea Enter Second Day Of Joint Drills" By John M. Glionna and Ju-min Park *Los Angeles Times*

Article reports that a powerful four-day show of joint U.S. and South Korean sea and air power entered its second day without incident Monday, despite North Korea's pledge to start a "sacred war" over the maneuvers. Article does not mention USJFCOM.

IV. Future Force

A. "U.S. Army Studies Options For Future Force" By Kate Brannen *Defense News*

Article reports that by December, the U.S. Army will complete a number of studies to help it determine what the force will look like for the next six years, according to a memo from Lt. Gen. Daniel Bolger, deputy chief of staff, G-3/5/7. Article does not mention USJFCOM.

V. Unmanned Programs

A. "DOD Invests In Tomorrow's UAV And Sensor Features" By Amber Corrin *Defense Systems*

Article reports that dozens of universities are on the receiving end of \$227 million over five years in research funding from the Defense Department and will use the money to bankroll exploration of high-tech capabilities, including for sensors and unmanned aerial vehicles. Article does not mention USJFCOM.

'Jointness': The New Battlefield Watchword In Data Sharing

By Amber Corrin

Federal Computer Week

July 26, 2010

Defense Department officials have been pushing the military services to meet modern warfare needs by working together. But “jointness,” as it’s often called within the armed forces, is easier said than done.

As operational needs evolve, so have its inherent requirements. Better technology, better situational awareness and better communications have become the imperatives that drive military decision-making. And at the center of it all: information sharing.

“Going without joint efforts is obsolete,” Gen. James Mattis, commander of the U.S. Joint Forces Command, told members of Congress recently. “In this age, I don’t care how tactically or operationally brilliant you are, if you cannot create harmony – even vicious harmony – ...you need to go home, because your leadership is obsolete.”

However, working together isn’t easy, particularly among the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, where turf battles and internecine competition are as old as the services themselves. This disjointed culture is slowly adapting to the Information Age, but as any Pentagon official will say, it isn’t happening overnight.

Beyond the cultural resistance, however, information sharing is also obstructed by splintered networks and messaging systems. Disparate capabilities in technology and communications hinder coordination on the ground. Synchronization is hampered by the sheer mass of the military effort. And there remain questions over just how to integrate all the various pieces into a single, enterprisewide solution.

“This is not a one-size-fits-all world,” said Glen White, technical director of the Program Executive Office for Command and Control Capabilities at the Defense Information Systems Agency. “There [are] a wide variety of capabilities. How do we support everybody?”

Nevertheless, jointness is the goal. It’s behind every effort DOD takes on these days, particularly in one of the biggest issues the department faces: data sharing. And progress is being made. Several programs, particularly those under DISA, are breaking the silos that have long impeded coordination.

DISA’s groundbreaking Forge.mil collaborative environment offers a secure platform for information sharing and software development across programs. Here, users from the Defense Department, other federal agencies and even approved defense contractors can work together on projects that previously would have required in-person meetings. Forge.mil has more than 2,000 users and roughly 100 projects under way, according to project director Rob Vietmeyer.

DISA itself is taking on an active role in fostering jointness by providing the infrastructure for shared communications and data. Before stepping down this summer as DISA’s director of strategic planning and information, John Garing said the agency could end up housing data centers that would be run by the military and help facilitate data sharing. “We need to spread data around the enterprise,” Garing said. It’s a mission DISA is taking seriously with an active role in information-sharing efforts.

On the ground, troops are using the Tactical Ground Reporting system to share intelligence gained from patrols and other activities in Afghanistan and Iraq. TIGR is like a wiki on steroids: Detailed maps contain clickable pinpoints for data on certain locations and trouble spots, complete with satellite imagery and messaging tools gleaned from social media.

TIGR offers 360-degree street-level patrol views and 400 miles of street coverage in Iraq. Mapping in Afghanistan is under way, said Mari Maeda, the program manager at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency who helped create TIGR.

Currently deployed by the Army, TIGR is in use by more than 50,000 service members and is on track for expansion, developers say.

NATO's Afghan Mission Network is another key tool for joint efforts. The freshly operational, secured network acts as a single repository that offers a situational picture on the ground in Afghanistan. Insiders call it a game-changer because the network is used by all coalition forces, including Afghan authorities.

Those solutions have one thing in common: They're built for information sharing, and officials agree that's the backbone of jointness.

"A critical thinker/warrior will know how to acquire knowledge, process information from multiple sources, and make timely, accurate decisions in complex, ethically challenging and ever-changing environments," Gen. Mattis said in testimony before Congress in May.

Through those solutions and others like them, the coordination of multiple information sources is slowly building a seamless defense.

Shoot Down This Bad Plan
Suffolk News-Herald
July 24, 2010

Something should be happening right now, as you read this newspaper, at Suffolk City Hall regarding Friday's news that a defense department board of economic and business advisors plans to recommend closing down Joint Forces Command.

State and federal officials were quick to denounce the Defense Business Board's reported plans Friday to recommend the closure as part of billions of dollars in cost-saving measures that Defense Secretary Robert Gates had charged it with finding. Even city officials – once they became aware of the stories on the issue that were pending or already in play in various Hampton Roads media outlets – sent out a press release saying they would be "closely monitoring" the process as it winds toward an official recommendation in October.

In a highly unusual show of solidarity, Virginia Congressmen J. Randy Forbes, Glenn Nye, Rob Wittman and Bobby Scott joined Senators Jim Webb and Mark Warner in releasing a statement Friday afternoon stating the key strategic importance of JFCOM to American military effectiveness and readiness.

We hope our representatives in Washington, D.C., will follow through with the secretary of defense, with the chairmen of the Armed Services Committee in both the House of Representatives and the Senate and with anybody who will listen.

The message is simple, and it led the group's press release on Friday: "The ability of our Armed Forces to operate jointly is one of the key components that sets our military apart from others across the world." As JFCOM leads in training and development of that concept, closing the command "would be a step backward and could be harmful to the capabilities of the finest military in the world."

At a local level, the loss of JFCOM would be economically catastrophic. The command employs 2,200 people in Suffolk and more than 6,300 at its three Hampton Roads locations. With an operating budget of nearly \$704 million, it provides contracts worth \$534 million.

Without JFCOM, the Virginia Modeling and Simulation Center would struggle for a reason to exist. Without JFCOM, companies like Lockheed Martin and Cobham might wonder whether there's any reason to stay in Suffolk. Without JFCOM, the economic revival that has been led by Harbour View and much of the rest of North Suffolk would likely die with a whimper, bringing down the rest of the city with it. Suffolk has been spared the worst effects of the recession largely because of JFCOM and the companies that have sprung up to support the command. A North Suffolk without JFCOM would be a quiet place with a lot of vacant warehouse buildings and empty three-story brick homes.

Keeping that image in mind, Suffolk officials should be working right now to coordinate with officials in other Hampton Roads cities, in Richmond and in Washington, D.C., to develop a strategy to undermine the DBB's recommendation before it ever is made. The proposal cannot be allowed to get traction inside the Pentagon. The time to start fighting it is today.

U.S., South Korea Enter Second Day Of Joint Drills
By John M. Glionna and Ju-min Park
Los Angeles Times
July 26, 2010

A powerful four-day show of joint U.S. and South Korean sea and air power entered its second day without incident Monday, despite North Korea's pledge to start a "sacred war" over the maneuvers.

Dubbed "Invincible Spirit," the participants in the joint military exercises – featuring about 20 vessels, including the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier George Washington – left port just after dawn Sunday, shadowed by hundreds of U.S. and South Korean fighter jets.

The drills provided a potent reminder for the government in Pyongyang of the consequences of escalating tensions on the Korean peninsula. The exercises have been in the works since the March 26 sinking of a South Korean naval ship that killed 46 crewmen. An inquiry led by South Korea concluded that the ship was struck by a North Korean torpedo; North Korea has denied involvement.

Pyongyang has criticized the military maneuvers – the largest launched by the U.S. and South Korea since 1976 and the first to include the F-22 Raptor stealth fighter jet in South Korean airspace – and threatened to start a "retaliatory sacred war." North Korea also has put its military and residents on high alert, according to local media.

The maneuvers, involving more than 8,000 service members from the U.S. and South Korea, were witnessed by four officers from Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Forces, officials here said. In the coming days, the war games will include "a drill for infiltration by submarines," according to an official for the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff who requested anonymity.

The March sinking of the naval patrol ship Cheonan, which Seoul called the worst military attack since the end of the Korean War, prompted the investigation by an international team of experts that ended up implicating the North.

Although condemning the incident, the United Nations Security Council stopped short of naming North Korea as the perpetrator. Still, international pressure has been building to punish strongman Kim Jong Il's regime for the incident.

After a visit last week to the heavily armed demilitarized zone, which divides the two Koreas, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton announced that the U.S. would impose new sanctions on the North in retaliation for the Cheonan attack. Days later, the European Union suggested that it too would consider new sanctions against Pyongyang.

The military drills, initially scheduled to take place in the Yellow Sea, were moved to the Sea of Japan after China complained about the presence of the 97,000-ton George Washington, a symbol of U.S. military might with about 5,000 crewmen and a capacity to carry dozens of aircraft, including F-18 fighter jets.

On Saturday, the North Korean military denounced the games in a statement read on Korean Central Television in Pyongyang, saying the drills by "the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet forces deliberately push the situation to the brink of war."

Although termed defensive in nature, the exercises were expected to include firing artillery, dropping anti-submarine bombs and air-to-air refueling, South Korean officials said.

Capt. Ross Myers, commander of the George Washington's air wing unit, called the maneuvers an effort to maintain "peace and stability" on the Korean peninsula but told the Yonhap news agency in Seoul on Sunday that such a powerful military presence was seen as a threat by Pyongyang, which considered such drills a rehearsal of invasion. Said Myers: "North Korea doesn't want these exercises."

U.S. Army Studies Options For Future Force

By Kate Brannen

Defense News

July 23, 2010

By December, the U.S. Army will complete a number of studies to help it determine what the force will look like for the next six years, according to a memo from Lt. Gen. Daniel Bolger, deputy chief of staff, G-3/5/7.

Gen. Martin Dempsey, head of Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), is leading the effort to design the force for 2013-18, according to the memo, signed by Bolger on July 6. Bolger recently replaced Gen. James Thurman, now in charge of Army Forces Command, in the G-3/5/7 role, which is part of TRADOC. The memo outlines the study schedule and pinpoints who is in charge of the various efforts.

Dempsey must complete analysis of "the Army's most critical brigade level force design, force mix issues, and Warfighting Functional Strategies," in time to influence the Force Management Review for the Pentagon's next two program objective memorandums, the memo states.

By December, TRADOC must complete its assessments and recommendations for the future force. Those assessments need to consider upper-level guidance, lessons from Iraq and Afghanistan, and insights from the Army's Unified Quest war-gaming exercise, according to the memo.

One of the Army's key goals for the 2013-18 period is to increase the time at home between deployments for the active and reserve forces. For 2012-14, the Army wants to provide its soldiers in the active force two years at home between one-year deployments and four years at home for the reserve component, according to the memo. For 2015-17, the Army wants to increase those numbers to three years at home for the active force and five years for the reserves.

From 2012 to 2014, the Army plans on 20 brigade combat teams (15 in the active component and five in the reserves) and 90,000 "worth of enablers" to support combatant command requirements. Those numbers drop to 15 brigade combat teams (12 active and three in the reserves) and 72,000 worth of enablers. "Requirements will increase for Army forces to conduct overseas engagements activities over this period," the memo says.

The Army needs to develop a "strategic narrative and identify" a transition point for moving to three years at home between deployments for the active force, and five years at home for the Army National Guard and Reserve, according to the memo.

The Army also is carrying out a cost-benefit analysis of other options - for example, 27 months between nine-month deployments versus the one- to three-years ratio, the memo says. That study is expected to be completed in August.

The office of the Army vice chief of staff, Gen. Peter Chiarelli, is responsible for developing and revising generating force requirements "based on new policy and programs." That won't be completed until November, the memo says.

The Army's G-8 office and the office of the assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology will develop a revised modernization strategy, with a deadline of Sept. 1. According to the memo, the Army is conducting analysis in all of these areas throughout the summer, with campaign modeling to begin shortly.

Toward the end of August, Gen. George Casey, the Army chief of staff, is expected to provide guidance for the 2013-17 spending plan. Casey is being updated throughout the process and will begin the approval process for the finalized plans later in the fall. Work on the 2014-18 plans will continue through next summer.

DOD Invests In Tomorrow's UAV And Sensor Features
By Amber Corrin
Defense Systems
July 23, 2010

Dozens of universities are on the receiving end of \$227 million over five years in research funding from the Defense Department and will use the money to bankroll exploration of high-tech capabilities, including for sensors and unmanned aerial vehicles.

The Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI) is responsible for the funding, which is the result of a highly competitive contest held by the Army Research Office, the Office of Naval Research and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research. Based on the proposals selected in the fiscal 2010 competition, a total of 67 academic institutions are expected to participate in the 32 research efforts, according to a DOD release.

One of the projects, called "Provably Stable Vision-Based Control of High-Speed Flight through Forests and Urban Environments," will conduct research in advanced UAV sensing and control. The project is for small UAVs that will be modeled after birds, said Russ Tedrake, associate professor of electrical engineering and computer science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the lead institution for the UAV flight project.

"Everything changes when you're suddenly the size of a bird and flying through an open environment," Tedrake said. "Your perception changes and wind matters a lot, so you have to determine how to control flight." "We need to understand the capabilities to train the computers and vision systems," he added.

To do so, part of his team's research will involve using real birds with cameras attached to track their flight and get an idea of real trajectories as the birds fly through synthetic forests and urban environments, Tedrake said.

Onboard cameras and sensors would measure aspects of the environment such as wind flow, a key element of developing advanced UAVs that can be as small as a bird. "A wind gust that would be a minor nuisance to a fighter jet could be comparable to the flight speed of a bird or small UAV," Tedrake said.

Eventually, the research could be used to develop small UAVs that have onboard processing and decision-making capabilities. For something that small in environments such as forests or cities, “even a line-of-sight link would be too slow,” he said.

The DOD funding is a catalyst for research that breaks away from what’s currently being done. “There are two faces to the UAV word: the conventional tried-and-true aircraft control technology and the next-generation UAVs in the research world. And we’re just beginning to dream up new UAV capabilities,” Tedrake said, adding that research will get under way this fall.

The funding also will go toward other sensor-based projects that could be the future of military technology, including one led by the University of Washington called “Remote Sensing and Data-Assimilative Modeling in the Littorals,” which will explore advanced sensing technologies for naval vessels.