

Training today's warfighter

JNTC, DMO enable full-spectrum battlespace dominance

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ORLANDO, Fla. — The Joint National Training Capability is one of the cornerstones of the Department of Defense's Training Transformation. It allows the warfighter to realistically train in a Joint environment. The underlying idea of JNTC is to link the services' live, virtual and constructive training environments into a single, cohesive one.

According to the U.S. Joint Forces Command's Web site, this training transformation creates joint warfighting conditions through a networked collection of interoperable training sites and nodes that synthesize personnel, doctrine and technology to achieve combatant commander and service training requirements.

Distributed Mission Operations is the backbone of Air Force Training Transformation and, therefore, a major part of the Air Force Agency for Modeling and Simulation's contribution to JNTC.

According to its concept of operations, DMO will enable battlespace dominance in service, joint, coalition and civil support operations, through integration of live, virtual, and constructive capabilities, systems and environments. DMO will be a force multiplier that maximizes warfighting capability.

JNTC and DMO are only the first steps in providing the Joint Force Commander the most capable and best trained Air and Space Force possible.

Based on lessons learned in Afghanistan and Iraq, the days of fighting as service stovepipes are over.

JNTC and DMO are leading to that moment when training within service stovepipes disappears. By joining various service's live ranges and adding virtual and constructive forces, training opportunities increase, the ability to train in a more complex environment expands, and warfighters become more knowledgeable and comfortable working within the environment they will face in the next conflict.

According to the DMO CONOPS, "The technology embedded in advanced weapons and sensors requires the development and maintenance of complex skills and knowledge focused on mission performance. DMO may be the only way warfighters can acquire the knowledge and practice the skills necessary to effectively employ complex weapons and weapons systems."

DMO has already had significant impacts on the warfighter. It was used to practice vignettes that were later used as the basis of operations in Iraq. It has also been used to practice and hone the skills and procedures for time critical targeting, and it provides a threat environment that can not be replicated short of war.

DMO provided digital training for Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System crews, allowing the JSTARS crews to see threat environments they could only see during war and fine tune the procedures they would use communicating the vital information to ground and air commanders.

Joint Battlespace

Joint Red Flag, a designated JNTC event, will link 10 separate training audiences via DMO, joining what previously would have been at least five

separate service venues. It goes beyond adding a joint flavor to Red Flag. Joint Red Flag '05 will feature two air operations centers, three coalition partners, the Marine Corps as the coalition force land component commander the Air Force as the coalition force air component commander and an Army Brigade rotation at the national training center.

Virtual Flag/Blue Flag is another series of exercises combining current capabilities to create an enhanced decision environment. The idea behind Virtual Flag/Blue Flag is to link virtual cockpit simulators with the simulations that normally drive the exercise.

Typically, the Joint Conflict and Tactical Simulation provides the ground entities for the Air Force synthetic environment for reconnaissance and surveillance, Predator simulator and the virtual surveillance target attack radar system, as well as the Army's common ground station. This allows the warfighters at the Combined Air Operations Center — Nellis, the VSTARS and the CGS to practice procedures in a Joint environment too expensive to duplicate using real-world assets.

Ready for the fight

The modeling and simulation master plan stresses, "Warfighter Readiness focuses on putting the Warfighter in an environment to improve warfighting decision-making, execution, skills and processes."

As JNTC ramps up to 40 events a year, warfighters will be continuously training in a joint decision environment, so fighting in such an environment will become second nature.