

# JKDDC's Pentagon Preview

The Joint Knowledge Development and Distribution Capability, part of the Pentagon's overarching Training Transformation program, will provide tracked, tailored, shared learning content.

## By Andrew Goodman

Joint duty on the staff of a U.S. combatant commander or other joint organization has never been more challenging. The concept of "jointness" has evolved to include operating and training with interagency, intergovernmental and multinational forces and organizations, as well as with the services. The deployment of joint task forces to support relief and recovery operations following the December 2004 tsunami in Southeast Asia served notice that the National Command Authority routinely considers these units, and the evolving standing joint force headquarters organization, in its toolkit of forces to employ. On and off the battlefield, joint warfighters must also deter and defeat an expanding number of increasingly complex capabilities and threats, including weapons of mass destruction.

On January 31, 2005, one of the Training Transformation (T2) program's three pillars, the Joint Knowledge Development and Distribution Capability (JKDDC), released the Interim Distribution Capability. The capability will better prepare joint warriors to meet these challenges in their assignments through just-in-time training after they report for duty, or by completing courses before they arrive at a new command.

Dr. Paul Mayberry, the deputy undersecretary of defense for readiness, who has policy oversight over T2, told attendees at a February 22, Pentagon media event that while the widely publicized Joint National Training Capability supports staff and unit training, JKDDC is focused on the individual. Through the JKDDC portal, all DoD personnel, including Reserve, civilians and contractors, have access to products developed by JKDDC and made available through other organizations.

During the media event, David Evans, the director of the JKDDC Joint Management Office, and his team demonstrated that Army Knowledge Online and Navy Knowledge Online are the initial pieces of an evolving infrastructure, which will permit single sign on, anytime, anywhere access to authorized content and learner progress tracking.

Evans and his office report to U.S. Air Force Major General Jack Catton, the director of operational plans and joint force development, J-7, Joint Staff.

JKDDC courses are expected to be accessed over the Internet, Non-Secure Internet Protocol Router Network (NIPRNET) and Secret Internet Protocol Router Network (SIPRNET). In the spirit of collaboration that has been the hallmark of other T2 programs, about 35 organizations, comprised of the services, the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other department organizations, vetted combatant-commander requirements and developed prioritized lists of courses for production and distribution.

An initial curriculum baseline of 38 courses will be completed by December 2006. Two representative JKDDC courses are the Senior Non-Commissioned Officers Joint Professional Military Education Course and Standing Joint Force Headquarters Fundamentals.

An SAIC-led consortium consisting of Camber Corp., Cornerstone Industry, Professional Solutions, ThoughtLink, EDO Corp. and Dynamics Research Corp. was awarded the initial contract in July 2004 to provide program support. Concurrent Technologies Corp. is also on the team and supplies subject matter expertise and other capabilities.

Mayberry provided three challenges to the JKDDC military-industry team. First and foremost on Mayberry's list was the continued use of standards. He recalled that JKDDC course content is conformant with the department's Advanced Distributed Learning initiative's Sharable Content Object Reference Model (SCORM) and encouraged the team to continue to use these standards to develop follow-on modules and courses.

Mayberry's second observation was that the courses demonstrated at the event were smaller modules of knowledge that can be used in other content, which in turn, should be tailored "just like we tailor our forces." He added, "We need to have sharable content which can be used across platforms, but can also be tailored to specific needs, given diverse audiences-our interagency and intergovernmental partners, or coalition members-who may operate with the services."

Mayberry stated that JKDDC's broad array of information will need to be linked to personnel and readiness reporting systems, to help assess individuals who complete the courses and support other processes.

Bringing this vision to fruition will require organizing all of the content-content retrieval, content tagging, and content storage. Mayberry said this effort will be "our next hurdle as we go forward."

*Editor's note: The JKDDC portal can be accessed at [www.jkddc.net](http://www.jkddc.net) <<http://www.jkddc.net>>.*