

Enhancing Joint Task Force Cognitive Leadership Skills

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Military ground forces in Joint Task Forces (JTFs), both now and in the future, are likely to perform operations in which they must be interdependent with the cultures of other Services, governmental agencies, multi-national forces, and the populations of countries in which operations are occurring. JTF staff member exposure to other services may be limited; they may not be familiar with other Service competencies. Today's war also requires cognitive skills from a warfighter who must deal with social, cultural, and language barriers. The focus of this project is on overcoming these barriers through jointness in leadership training. We conducted front-end analysis to determine the components of shared mental models of JTF staff members' understanding of jointness, cultural differences among the Services, and operational capabilities and environments where these issues are especially important. Based on this analysis, we developed approaches to training that can rapidly enhance the cognitive leadership skills required for ground component officers and non-commissioned officers to be effective in a Joint Task Force.

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