

THEATER AIR EMPLOYMENT

Mode: Seminar

Lesson No. 4-17-S

1. Introduction.

a. The proper employment of air power in a theater campaign has been a contentious issue since the first introduction of the airplane in warfare. DESERT STORM proved to be an example of the successful application of air power in support of a theater campaign. The technological advances demonstrated in DESERT STORM have continued and even accelerated since that time. The theory and procedures associated with theater air employment continue to evolve as each Service wrestles with a new and dangerous world in the 21st century.

b. This lesson focuses the seminar discussion in two parts. It is designed to provide information and discussion on the basics of JFACC operations. Call it "JFACC 101." During this first part, the lesson takes the fundamentals found in Joint Pub 3-56.1, Command and Control for Joint Air Operations, and groups the doctrine information into four pieces: (1) Command and Control, (2) Planning, (3) Targeting, and (4) Desired Effects. This lesson offers the JFACC view in terms of its integration into the entire campaign objectives and its support of the Service components.

c. In the last 90 minutes, the discussion shifts to a student-led briefing on air power in an asymmetric environment. After the formal part of this brief, the seminar should discuss the air power issues that will exist against an asymmetric opponent using the briefing as the centerpiece for the discussion.

2. Learning Objectives. The objectives of this lesson are for each student to:

a. Comprehend the capabilities of modern and future air power systems to contribute to theater campaign objectives and how Service doctrines influence theater campaign plans and operations.

b. Analyze current doctrine on the application of air power in a joint campaign as it complements the JFC's campaign objectives.

c. Discriminate the strengths and weaknesses of current doctrine and procedures used by the Joint Force Commander, Joint Force Air Component Commander, and other components in the application of air power.

3. Student Requirements.

a. Tasks. All students will complete the required readings and be prepared to discuss how the JFACC and other component commanders interact to support the Joint Force Commander. One or two selected students will be assigned a reading and brief the seminar.

b. Required Readings.

(1) Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. Joint Pub 3-56.1, Command and Control for Joint Air Operations, 14 November 1994. Review and Scan pages v thru xiii, II-2 thru II-4, II-6 thru II-8, III-2 thru III-3, and IV-1 thru IV-6. These pages provide guidance on: JFACC use and authority, joint air operations planning, targeting and tasking for joint air operations. (Student Issue)

(2) Scales, Robert H. Certain Victory: The US Army in the Gulf War, Office of the Chief of Staff, United States Army, Washington, D.C., 1993. (Course 4 Selected Readings, AY02, Implementing National Military Strategy)

(3) Tirpak, John A. "Short's View of the Air Campaign," Air Force Magazine, September 1999. (Course 4 Selected Readings, AY02, Implementing National Military Strategy)

(4) Tilford, Earl H., Jr. "Operation Allied Force and the Role of Air Power," Parameters, Winter 1999-2000. (Course 4 Selected Readings, AY02, Implementing National Military Strategy)

(5) Hallion, Richard P. "Air Power and Asymmetric Threats," Address to the Australian 2000 Air Power Conference, 8-9 May 2000, Aerospace Centre, Canberra, Australia. (Course 4 Selected Readings, AY02, Implementing National Military Strategy) (For assigned students)

c. Suggested Readings.

(1) Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. Joint Pub 3-0, Doctrine for Joint Operations, 10 September 2001. Review pages III-25 thru III-46. These pages provide guidance on: key planning considerations, control and coordinating measures, and functional combatant command support. (Student Issue)

(2) Concept for Future Joint Operations: Joint Vision 2020. (Student Issue)

(3) Stambaugh, Jeffrey E. "JFACC: Key to Organizing Your Air Assets for Victory," Parameters, Summer 1994. This article gives a concise summary of the development of the JFACC concept through the Gulf War and a discussion of the current doctrine surrounding the JFACC. (Library Reserve Shelf)

(4) Warden, John A. III. "Epilogue—The Gulf War in Concept," The Air Campaign (Revised Edition), to Excel, New York, 1998. (Library Reserve Shelf)

(5) Davis, Richard G. Carl A. Spaatz and the Air War in Europe, Washington, D.C., Center for Air Force History, 1993, pp. 119-220. (Library Reserve Shelf)

4. Points to Consider.

a. How does a ground force commander integrate air power into his scheme of maneuver and ensure his priority targets are included in the air tasking order?

b. How does the Joint Force Commander ensure the weight of the JFACC air effort is consistent with his campaign phases and objectives? What is the role of the Joint Targeting Coordination Board? What decisions of the Joint Force Commander have the most influence on the development of the air war?

c. Who decides for the theater-wide air interdiction mission which target sets are deemed most likely to achieve the desired operational level effects?

d. Who decides the relative priority (or percentage) of air effort the JFACC is to apply to the mission-type orders/tasks he has been given?

e. If the JFACC advises the Land Component Commander that the air resources available for air interdiction in his AO are insufficient to achieve the desired operational effects by the time required, what actions should be taken?

f. What are some considerations the JFC should weigh in deciding where to position a forward boundary for the Land Component Commander's AO?

g. What are some considerations the Land Component Commander should weigh in deciding where to position the FSCL?

h. How does the JFC ensure unity of effort for air defense of his forces and Theater Missile Defense?

5. Relationship to Professional Joint Education (PJE) Learning Areas.

a. PJE LA 4.b. Objectives, Readings, Points to Consider

b. PJE LA 4.c. Objectives, Readings, Points to Consider

c. PJE LA 4.e. Objectives, Readings, Points to Consider

d. PJE LA 4.g. Objectives, Readings, Points to Consider

e. PJE LA 5.a. Objectives, Readings, Points to Consider

f. PJE LA 5.b. Objectives, Readings

g. PJE LA 5.c. Objectives, Readings, Points to Consider

h. PJE LA 5.d. Objectives, Readings, Points to Consider

6. Relationship to USAWC Institutional Learning Objectives (ILOs), Enduring and Special Themes.

a. ILOs: 6 and 7

b. Enduring Themes: History and Jointness

c. Special Themes: Warfare in the 21st Century and Multinational Operations