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Prof Steve Kornatz, CAPT/USN(Ret)
US Naval War College
College of Operational and Strategic Leadership
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SUBJECT

Naval War College (NWC) Executive Level OLW Course (ELOC) Information Paper

BACKGROUND

The following information is derived from ELOC reference material and is provided for situational awareness for ELOC attendees. This paper provides a baseline of knowledge to help prepare attendees for Day One class lectures. This background information is intended to serve as a refresher for JPME Phase 1 education and provides basic information – more detailed information can be found on the NWC ELOC public website, “Course Materials.”

CONCEPTS

Operational Level of War (OLW): The level of war at which campaigns and major operations are planned, conducted, and sustained to achieve strategic objectives within theaters or other operational areas.
- activities at this level link tactics and strategy
- establish operational objectives needed to achieve the strategic objectives
- sequence events to achieve the operational objectives
- initiate actions
- apply resources to bring about and sustain these events
(NWP 5-01/JP 1-02)

Joint force commander (JFC): A general term applied to a combatant commander, sub-unified commander, or joint task force (JTF) commander authorized to exercise combatant command (command authority) or operational control over a joint force.
(NWP 5-01/JP 1-02)

Joint force maritime component commander (JFMCC): The commander within a unified command, subordinate unified command, or JTF responsible to the establishing commander for making recommendations on the proper employment of assigned, attached, and/or made available for tasking maritime forces and assets; planning and coordinating maritime operations; or accomplishing such operational missions as may be assigned. (NWP 5-01/JP 1-02)

Maritime Operations Center (MOC): The collective name for the boards, bureaus, cells, centers, and working groups that execute the maritime headquarters operations functions. The MOC is also a physical space in a maritime headquarters that is principally used for the monitoring, assessing, planning, and direction of the current operations. (NWP 5-01/NTRP 1-02)
**Combatant command (command authority) (COCOM):** nontransferable command authority established by title 10, exercised only by unified or sub-unified combatant commanders unless directed by the President or Secretary of Defense. Also provides full authority to organize and employ commands and forces as the combatant commander considers necessary to accomplish assigned missions. (JP 1.02)

**Operational Control (OPCON):** A command authority granted to an allied/multinational maritime commander with operational command to direct forces assigned. Operational control is the authority to perform those functions of command over subordinate forces involving organizing and employing commands and forces, assigning tasks, designating objectives, and giving authoritative direction necessary to accomplish the mission. (JP 1.02)

**Tactical Control (TACON):** Command authority over assigned or attached forces that is limited to the detailed direction and control of movements or maneuvers within the operational area necessary to accomplish missions or tasks assigned. (JP 1.02)

**Commander's critical information requirement (CCIR):** An information requirement identified by the commander as being critical to facilitating timely decision-making. The two key elements are friendly force information requirements (FFIR) and priority intelligence requirements (PIR) (JP 3.0).

**Command and Control:** Command is the doctrinal assignment of authority. Possessing a measure of command is a prerequisite to exerting control. Control is defined as guiding the operation. When a commander redirects uncommitted forces to exploit an enemy mistake, he is guiding the operation—controlling it. (VADM Robert Willard, USN, C7F, Proceedings, OCT 2002)

**Executive Level OLW (ELOC) Course**

Supports the Navy’s improved ability to plan and command and control at the OLW, by providing fleet staff principals (O6s) thorough insights on managing people, processes, and resources of the staff to support the commander in timely, informed and proactive decision-making. Provides staff principals the framework to translate Commanders’ vision and guidance into action.