

LESSON 9

SERVICE WARFIGHTING: THE UNITED STATES NAVY

“The seas are no longer a self-contained battlefield. Today they are a medium from which warfare is conducted. The oceans of the world are the base of operations from which navies project power onto land areas and targets. The mission of protecting sea lanes continues in being, but the Navy’s central missions have become to maximize its ability to project power from the sea over the land and to prevent the enemy from doing the same.”

—Timothy Shea
Project Poseidon, 1961

Lesson Introduction

This lesson examines the employment of the Navy’s cornerstone warfighting organization (the Fleet) and its relation to a Navy component commander in both a service or functional component command scenario. This lesson also includes other aspects of how the Navy fits into Joint operations. Additionally, it is important to understand what contemporary issues at the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) level affect the Navy’s component commanders and warfighters. The Atlantic and Pacific Fleet commanders must continually address future naval developments and how the commander will organize, train, and equip his operating forces to maximize potential force employment by the warfighter.

In recent years, Navy component commanders and numbered fleet commanders have become more concerned with the challenges of littoral warfare. These challenges include, but are not limited to, exercising sea control in an enclosed sea theater, combating land-based air, conducting undersea warfare, conducting straits warfare, and conducting mine warfare. These current and future issues challenge today’s Navy to respond in a unilateral, Joint, or combined role. The leadership of the Navy is identifying the capabilities required to fight these battles and assure littoral battlespace superiority and supremacy.

Student Requirements by Educational Objective

Requirement 1

Objective 1. Comprehend the tenets of Navy doctrine and relate them to Joint doctrine.
[JPME Area 2(a)(d)]

Read:

- Joint Pub 3-33, *Joint Force Capabilities*, 13 October 1999, pp. II-7 to II-9 (read section 4 “US Navy” only) (3 pages)
- NDP 1, *Naval Warfare*, 28 March 1994, pp. 31 to 43 (13 pages)
- “Forward...From the Sea: The Navy Operational Concept,” March 1997 (10 pages)

Navy forces can function within Joint task forces in two different ways, as a Navy (Service) component or as a functional component (Joint Force Maritime Component). Functioning in the service component mode, the Navy Component Commander is responsible for:

- Making recommendations to the Commander, Joint Task Force (CJTF) on the proper employment of naval forces.
- Accomplishing such naval operational missions as may be assigned.
- Assuming responsibility for areas of operations, when assigned.
- Coordinating logistical support through Navy channels for the naval forces.
- Informing their CJTF of planning for changes in logistical support that would significantly affect operational capability.
- Retaining responsibility for certain Navy-specific functions, such as internal administration, training, logistics, and intelligence operations.
- Conducting Joint training.
- Selecting and nominating specific units of the Navy for assignment to other subordinate forces.
- Providing, as requested, supporting Joint operation and exercise plans.
- Establishing combat identification, standard operating procedures, and other directives based on CJTF guidance.
- Planning and coordinating operations and employing naval forces in support of a CJTF’s concept of operations.
- Issuing planning guidance.
- Analyzing various courses of action.
- Coordinating with other Joint task force component and subordinate task forces to ensure that the most efficient support is provided to the CJTF.
- Evaluating the results of operations.
- Focusing on operational-level naval core capabilities.
- Functioning as a supported and supporting commander, as directed by the CJTF.

Functioning in the functional component mode, the Joint Force Maritime Component Commander (JFMCC) is responsible for:

- Advising the CJTF on the proper employment of all maritime forces under control of the JFMCC.

- Planning and coordinating maritime operations and employing designated maritime forces in support of the CJTF’s concept of operations.
- Issuing planning guidance.
- Analyzing various courses of action.
- Coordinating with the other Joint task force component commanders and subordinate task forces to ensure the most efficient support is provided to the CJTF.
- Evaluating the results of maritime operations.
- Focusing on operational-level functions and their span of control.
- Functioning as a supported and supporting commander, as directed by the CJTF.
- Establishing combat identification, standing operating procedures, and other directives based on CJTF guidance.

Requirement 2

Objective 2. Comprehend the capabilities and organization of the U.S. Navy, its roles, missions, functions, and core competencies and how they relate to other services. [JPME Area 1(a)(e)]

Read:

- U.S. Navy Mission and Organization “Always There When the Nation Calls,” by Gordon I. Peterson, *Seapower Almanac 2000* (8 pages).
- U.S. Navy official Web site extracts dated 29 October 2002 (24 pages)
- “New Command Unifies the Fleet,” by Admiral Robert J. Natter, *Proceedings*, January 2002 (5 pages)

View:

- Air Command & Staff College video, “Naval Forces (NAVFOR) Core Competencies and the Carrier Battle Group Capabilities” by Commander “Doc” Watson (21 minutes)

Atlantic and Pacific Fleet commanders have a dual chain of command. Administratively, they report to the CNO and provide, train, and equip naval forces. Operationally, they provide naval forces and report to the appropriate Unified Commanders. As units of the Navy enter the area of responsibility for a particular Navy commander, they are operationally assigned to the appropriate, numbered fleet. All Navy units also have an administrative chain of command with the various ships reporting to the appropriate type commander.

U.S. Atlantic Fleet

The U.S. Atlantic Fleet (LANTFLT) provides fully trained, combat ready forces to support United States and NATO commanders in regions of conflict throughout the

world. From the Adriatic Sea to the Arabian Gulf, Atlantic Fleet units respond to Presidential/Secretary of Defense tasking. Recent conflicts involving Atlantic Fleet units include Operation ALLIED FORCE in the Adriatic Sea and Operation DESERT FOX in the Arabian Gulf.

The Atlantic Fleet area of responsibility encompasses a massive geographic area including the area of the Atlantic Ocean from the North Pole to 28 degrees North latitude. Additionally, the area includes the Norwegian, the Greenland, and the Barents Seas. The 2nd Fleet is the operational Atlantic fleet, and they are responsible for operational tasking as well as training carrier battle groups and amphibious ready groups for forward deployments overseas.

Type commanders responsible for readiness support, logistics support, and administrative management support Atlantic Fleet forces. The type commanders include air, surface, submarine, and Marine forces for the Atlantic Fleet, each headquartered in Norfolk, Virginia.

While providing combat-ready forces to theater commanders in the world's hotspots is a primary responsibility, the Atlantic Fleet also joins NATO forces in supporting the Standing Naval Forces Atlantic, a permanent squadron of destroyers and frigates representing NATO forces in the Atlantic Region. Additionally, Atlantic Fleet units participate annually in UNITAS, a deployment to South America. This yearly deployment creates unique training opportunities with South American navies and spreads goodwill to our South American allies.

The Atlantic Fleet is also working to regionalize further its shore infrastructure management through three Regional Commanders (New London, Norfolk, and Jacksonville). Additionally, a comprehensive review of afloat forces' workload and training has been chartered by the CNO to reduce the demands placed upon Navy personnel during their Interdeployment Training Cycle (IDTC).

On a daily basis, a significant portion of the Atlantic Fleet is either currently serving in an overseas deployment, conducting underway exercises in preparation for deployment, or serving in some other phase of the IDTC. Recent Joint initiatives between the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets have led to a major change in the way business is conducted for surface ships and aircraft squadrons in the IDTC. Many inspections and administrative requirements have been eliminated or reduced in order to provide flexibility to unit commanders.

U.S. Pacific Fleet

The U.S. Pacific Fleet (PACFLT) staff reports administratively to the CNO and operationally to the Commander, U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM). In the Pacific Fleet chain-of-command, type commanders, numbered fleet commanders (as well as operational commanders), and regional commanders within the Pacific Fleet AOR report

to PACFLT. PACFLT provides ships, Sailors, and Marines in support of several force users within the Department of Defense.

The mission of the Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, is to support the USPACOM theater strategy and to provide interoperable, trained and combat-ready naval forces to USPACOM and other U.S.-unified commanders. This mission reflects changes since 1986, when the U.S. Congress passed the Goldwater-Nichols Act of 1986 to engender more cooperation and Jointness between the armed services. PACFLT's role has transitioned from that of warfighter to that of force provider, sustainer, and trainer for the unified commanders. The net effect of this change is that the operational chains of command are now shorter and more direct, while PACFLT and other force providers are able to focus on maintaining readiness.

The U.S. Navy's Pacific Fleet covers more than 50% of the earth's surface, encompassing just over 100 million square miles. Each day, Pacific Fleet ships are at sea in the Pacific, Indian, and Arctic Oceans, from the west coast of the U.S. to the Arabian Gulf. The Pacific Fleet encompasses approximately 200 ships, 2,000 aircraft and 250,000 Sailors and Marines. Together, they keep the sea-lanes open, deter aggression, provide regional stability, and support humanitarian relief activities.

Numbered Fleets

The Navy's war fighters are considered the five numbered fleet commanders. Their areas of responsibility are geographic in nature.

Second Fleet

The Commander, Second Fleet (COMSECONDFLT), under LANTFLT, plans for and, when directed, conducts battle force operations in the Atlantic command in support of designated unified or Allied commanders. The Commander, Second Fleet directs the movements of and exercises operational control over assigned units to carry out scheduled ocean transits and other special operations as directed by LANTFLT in order to maximize fleet operational readiness to respond to contingencies in the Atlantic command area of operations. The Commander, Second Fleet also plans fleet intertype training exercises and participates in Joint and combined exercises as directed.

COMSECONDFLT has permanent assignment with NATO's Supreme Allied Command Atlantic's (SACLANT) chain-of-command, as the Commander Striking Fleet Atlantic (COMSTRIKFLTANT). COMSTRIKFLTANT commands a multinational force whose primary mission deters aggression and protects NATO's Atlantic interests. Establishing and maintaining maritime superiority in the Atlantic, COMSTRIKFLTANT ensures the integrity of NATO's sea lines of communication. Countries contributing include: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Third Fleet

Naval forces trained by the Third Fleet Commander normally deploy to the Western Pacific/Indian Ocean for duty with Commander, Seventh Fleet and to the Arabian Gulf region for duty in support of Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command. Forces certified as “ready to deploy” at the conclusion of Third Fleet training depart fully prepared to face the full range of missions from humanitarian and peacekeeping operations to full engagement in major regional conflicts. In peacetime, Third Fleet continually trains Navy and Marine Corps forces for their expeditionary warfare mission. In keeping with the Department of the Navy strategic concept, “Forward...From the Sea,” these forces provide the flexibility and immediate response necessary to react to any emerging crisis from humanitarian and peacekeeping missions to major regional conflicts

Third Fleet’s primary mission is one of conflict deterrence, but in the event of general war, it would conduct prompt and sustained combat operations at sea to carry out the U.S. Pacific Fleet strategy in the theater. Such operations would be executed well forward and early in a conflict to carry out the primary wartime mission of Third Fleet – the defense of the western sea approaches to the United States, including Alaska and the Aleutian Islands.

In addition, Commander, Third Fleet is designated as a Joint Task Force (JTF) commander. In that capacity, the commander and his staff may be assigned responsibilities for command of Joint U.S. forces deployed in response to a specific event or contingency. As such, the JTF commander reports via a Joint chain of command to a unified commander. The Commander, U.S. Pacific Command, is the unified commander in the Pacific theater.

Fifth Fleet

U.S. Fifth Fleet (C5F), supports all naval operations in the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility (AOR). It encompasses about 7.5 million square miles and includes the Arabian Gulf, the Red Sea, the Gulf of Oman, and parts of the Indian Ocean. This expanse, comprised of 25 countries, includes Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, and Somalia.

The usual force of 20-plus ships, with about 1,000 people ashore and 15,000 afloat, consists of a Carrier Battle Group, Amphibious Ready Group, combat aircraft, and other support units and ships. Fifth Fleet exemplifies the Department of the Navy’s strategic concept, “Forward...From the Sea,” by maintaining the ability to respond immediately to any emerging crisis, from peacekeeping and humanitarian missions to asserting necessary force in regional conflicts.

Sixth Fleet

The Commander, Sixth Fleet, under U.S. Naval Forces Europe (USNAVEUR), plans for and conducts offensive or defensive naval combat operations when directed by USNAVEUR or other competent authority in order to establish and maintain control of the waters of, and air space over, the Mediterranean Sea, approaches thereto, adjacent inland areas, and the Black Sea. The Commander, Sixth Fleet performs the following functions: plans and conducts contingency operations, including evacuation of U.S. citizens; protects U.S. interests when directed by higher authority; provides a U.S. Navy presence in the Mediterranean area in support of U.S. Navy overseas diplomacy objectives and U.S. foreign policy; and carries out training operations to maintain fleet readiness, in order to carry out wartime, contingency, and peacetime responsibilities.

Seventh Fleet

The Commander Seventh Fleet (C7F) performs three jobs. First, C7F can be assigned as a Joint Task Force commander in the event of natural disaster or Joint military operation. Second, C7F is the operational commander for all naval forces in the western Pacific region. Finally, C7F is designated as the Combined Naval Component Commander for the defense of the Korean peninsula; in the event of hostilities, all friendly naval forces in the theater would fall under C7F control.

Requirement 3

Objective 3. Comprehend how Navy and Joint systems are integrated at the operational level of war. [JPME Area 1(a)]

Objective 4. Understand the effects of the transformation process on the Navy's future. [JPME Area 1(a), 5(d)]

Read:

- *Sea Power 21* by Admiral Vern Clark, pp. 1 to 15 (15 pages)
- "Transforming the 21st Century Surface Navy," by VADM Phillip M. Balisle, *Armed Forces Journal*, September 2002 (4 pages)
- "Net-Centric Is Not Decisive," by Dr. Milan Vego, *Proceedings*, January 2003 (12 pages)
- "Expeditionary Strike Groups 'Skip the Beach'," by David Brown, *Navy Times*, June 24, 2002 (3 pages)

In keeping with the Quadrennial Defense Review's call for transformation, the Naval Services are reexamining all concepts, forces, and associated operational techniques to ensure the retention and enhancement of the asymmetric advantages they have traditionally provided the United States. As Navy and Marine Corps operations demonstrated during the Afghan campaign, transformation is often more about how the

Navy fights than about the specific tools used. Nevertheless, the Navy has an obligation to search continually for innovative ways to outfit and employ existing forces and to identify how new platforms, systems, and technology can further transform the way the Navy projects power from the sea.

The Navy categorized the transformational capabilities that it seeks to achieve, according to a draft version of the Navy's roadmap dated June 12, 2002. The Navy's three main categories are **Sea Strike**, **Sea Shield**, and **Sea Basing**.

Sea Strike is a broadened naval concept for projecting dominant and decisive offensive power from the sea. Under the Sea Strike category, key transformational capabilities are listed as time-sensitive strikes; persistent intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR); information operations; and ship-to-objective maneuver (**STOM**, intended to "enable and sustain power projection of Marine forces directly from ships to objectives deep inland, eliminating the requirement for a lodgment").

Sea Shield involves "exploiting control of the seas, global naval presence, and networked intelligence to identify, track, and intercept threats... assuring access to contested littorals by leveraging expeditionary sensor grids that provide coverage from the seabed to space, cueing coordinated air, surface, and subsurface combatants and capabilities ashore to neutralize enemy threats and defend friendly forces... and projecting precise and persistent defensive power, deep over land to protect the entire Joint Operating Area (JOA)." It encompasses the transformational capabilities of theater air and missile defense, littoral sea control (including littoral anti-submarine warfare and mine countermeasures), and homeland defense.

Sea Basing "offers secure, sovereign, and mobile assembly areas and sanctuaries for key elements of the Joint force." The transformation capabilities associated with this concept are compressed deployment and employment time and the enhanced sea borne positioning of Joint assets. ForceNet, the Navy's planned architecture for sensors, networks, decision aids, weapons, warriors and supporting systems, will enable the realization of the above concepts and their associated transformational capabilities.

According to the author of "Net-Centric Is Not Decisive," Dr Milan Vego, the Navy's network-centric warfare (NCW) concept has evolved into a set of beliefs that cannot be seriously challenged within the Navy. He claims NCW focuses on the tactical level of war, revolving around so-called grids and targets and "short shrifts," the focus toward the operational level of war and military objectives and tasks. Vego voices some serious criticism about NCW and makes several poignant observations that are relevant to Operation Iraqi Freedom. It will be interesting to observe how this concept continues to evolve within the U.S. Navy.

Lesson Summary

An understanding of the U.S. Navy's capabilities and limitations is crucial to Joint/combined planning and will assist future commanders and staff officers in appreciating the complementary power the Navy offers within the Joint operational environment. Knowledge of Navy-specific doctrine and the interrelationship with Joint doctrine will be instrumental in achieving successful operations planning. How naval forces fight, either through service or functional component, through geographic fleets, through carrier battle groups, or through the use of expeditionary strike groups will be determined by the requirements levied by our nation and the future operating environment. Naval concepts, such as *Sea Power 21*, *Network-Centric Warfare*, or some similar concept to be developed by a future staff or CNO will continue to project how U.S. Navy forces will contend with future global threats and ever-changing national strategic interests.

JPME Summary

AREA 1					AREA 2				AREA 3					AREA 4					AREA 5			
A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D
X				X	X			X														X