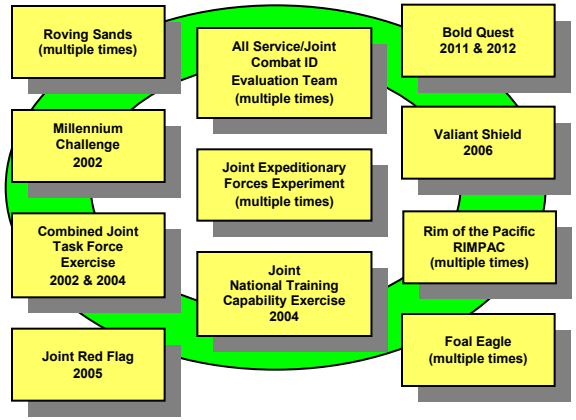
PAST EXERCISE SUPPORT

Since 1998, the JOCAT has deployed to over 30 joint/combined exercises supporting combatant commands such as Joint Forces Command, Pacific Command, US Forces Korea as well as the Joint Staff J6 and the US Air Force Experimentation Office.



POINTS OF CONTACT

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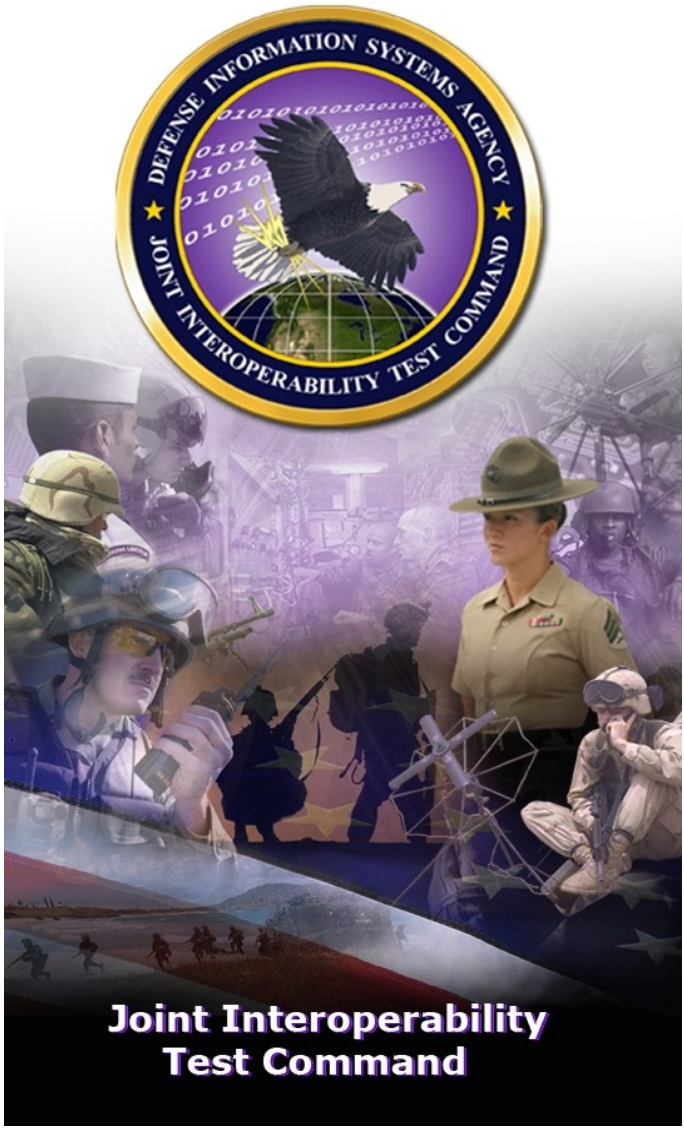
JOINT OPERATIONAL C4I ASSESSMENT TEAM (JOCAT)



INTRODUCTION

The Joint Operational Command, Control, Communications, Computers, & Intelligence (C4I) Assessment Team (JOCAT) is a deployable tactical data link (TDL) data collection, analysis, and assessment capability supporting exercises, testing, and real-world contingencies. The JOCAT serves as Joint Interoperability Test Command's (JITC's) field capability in meeting its Variable Message Format (VMF) and Link 11/16 interoperability certification mission. The JOCAT conducts system assessments against multiple versions of military standards to determine the systems' ability to exchange the information required to support and conduct military operations. Our mission is to determine the operational impact, both good and bad, of the people, procedures, and systems that collectively and interdependently form a TDL (or multi-TDL) network. Knowing what you can and can't do with a TDL today, will allow you to more accurately plan and execute operations tomorrow.

The team combines highly experienced professionals (engineers, operational analysts, and TDL analysts), and tools that we can tailor, customize, and deploy to meet the customer's specific requirements. The team's computers, toolsets, and radio equipment pack easily for deployment to exercise and event locations around the globe. We also operate from a laboratory at Fort Huachuca, Arizona connecting to distributed test networks as required.

CAPABILITIES

JOCAT provides both technical and operationally-focused assessments to include recommendations for system and networks improvement. During an exercise/event, the team provides technical, military standard, training, and operational support to the participants and the exercise/event leadership. The actual support the JOCAT provides depends on the event and the customer. JOCAT personnel participate in the exercise/event planning process to best identify the support requirements based on the exercise objectives, the participants, and the customer's specific requirements. The following paragraphs identify various types of support we provide:

System Capability/Functionality Assessments. The JOCAT performs assessments of live, virtual, and constructive systems' ability to exchange information via the VMF K-Series, Link 16 J-series, and Link 11 M-series messages in accordance with their respective military standards to perform two critical functions for Warfighter success:

- The surveillance function
  - correctly reporting and updating an entity
- The engagement (control) function
  - engagement of designated targets to include battle damage reporting

TDL Network Assessments. JOCAT not only looks at the systems' capabilities to perform critical Warfighter functions, but also assesses the ability of the TDL network (both RF and IP) to support and provide the systems and their operators the correct environment in which to exchange information. Our premise in doing so is that a network must support and provide the systems fully capable environment to exchange information. Failure of the network to do so defeats the systems' and their operators' efforts resulting in incomplete single integrated air, space, and ground pictures (SIAP, SISP, and SIGP) and common situational awareness.

Target Engagement Success. JOCAT can automatically determine how well the Link 16 architecture and its participating systems support the combat identification, baseline information exchange, surveillance function, and engagement (control) function associated with HOSTILE air, land points/tracks, and space surveillance tracks. We call this process the "Kill Thread." The results describe the success of each kill thread in terms of time, involved systems, and all their critical messages reported (or not reported!) on Link 16. This kill thread process has been expanded to include VMF messaging for joint and coalition digitally-aided close air support (CAS) missions.

Joint Interface Control Officer (JICO) Support. Working with JICO, JOCAT assists in the planning and pre-exercise development and assessment of network concepts, systems, and equipment. During the exercise, JOCAT continues supporting the JICO with real-time system and network analysis.

Teaming. The JOCAT's philosophy is don't duplicate what other organizations do; rather, leverage other organizations' capabilities through teaming to maximize the support provided to the Warfighter. We've worked side-by-side with a number of other organizations over the years and look forward to doing so again.

Immediate Feedback. The JOCAT participation on-site during exercises/events provides immediate feedback to the exercise director, the JICO, and the exercise participants on the TDL network operations and performance. By participating in the daily after action reviews, JOCAT provides a hard data to help determine the success of the exercise and training objectives.

ROAD AHEAD

JOCAT toolsets are continually upgraded to meet customer requirements as well as providing more detailed, in-depth analysis capabilities and we continue to seek new teaming opportunities with other organizations in an effort to maximize support for the Warfighter. The goal is to assess all TDLs and assess the participating systems in an operationally realistic, heterogeneous environment (multiple systems using different and/or multiple versions of the TDL standards) to determine the systems' ability to exchange timely, complete, and accurate information. The intent is to provide critical feedback on systems', networks', and their operators' ability to digitally exchange the information needed to successfully perform functions that are critical to the success of Warfighter missions in tomorrow's global battlespace.

We do not want the battleground to become
the system testing ground.
Those who will stand in harm's way tomorrow
will no doubt be thoroughly tested;
the systems upon which their lives will depend
must be thoroughly tested today.