



UNITED STATES SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER
7701 TAMPA POINT BOULEVARD
MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA 33621-5323

9 February 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Charter of the Joint Special Operations University

1. The Joint Special Operations University (JSOU) was established by the Commander, U. S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) in September 2000 to prepare Special Operations Forces (SOF) to shape the future strategic environment by providing joint special operations education and research. Since that time, JSOU has constantly adapted to the joint academic needs of the command, adding an array of operational and strategic level courses, establishing a Joint Senior Enlisted Academy, providing specialized education for Headquarters USSOCOM and the Theater Special Operations Commands (TSOC), reinforcing the SOF Chairs in Professional Military Education, providing an educational component to TSOC International Engagement programs, conducting SOF focused research and publication, and increasing its distance learning capability. Now in its 16th year, JSOU is poised to occupy a modern academic facility while pursuing national-level postgraduate accreditation and recognition as an international center of excellence for special operations learning and research. The time is right to re-affirm JSOU's position within the command and provide the tools and authorities that assure its contribution to future SOF capability.

2. Therefore, JSOU is designated a direct reporting educational activity of the command and the attached *Charter for the Joint Special Operations University* is approved. JSOU shall be considered a directorate-level organization, reporting to the Commander, but distinct from the management headquarters function of the command. The President will continue coordination with the Director, Force Management and Development for education policy and will adhere to HQ USSOCOM staff processes and directives.

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JOSEPH L. VOTEL
General, U.S. Army
Commander

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CHARTER of the Joint Special Operations University



1. General. The Joint Special Operations University (JSOU) is an educational institution that serves as the U.S. Special Operations Command's (USSOCOM) Academic Center of Excellence for Special Operations studies and research. JSOU is designed to create, promote and sustain post-secondary scholarship through teaching, research and outreach in the strategic and operational art of joint special operations. The university is organized to facilitate the Title 10 United States Code responsibilities of the Commander, USSOCOM to prepare Special Operations Forces (SOF) to carry out assigned missions and to increase the combat readiness of the force. This is accomplished by conducting specialized courses of instruction not normally offered in other professional military education programs.

2. Mission. Prepare Special Operations Forces to shape the future strategic environment by providing specialized joint professional military education, developing SOF specific undergraduate and graduate level curriculum and by fostering special operations research, analysis and outreach in support of USSOCOM objectives.

3. Vision. A globally recognized academic institution of higher learning dedicated to enhancing Special Operations knowledge and its application. This vision is achieved by maintaining the highest standards of an accredited academic institution, delivering high-quality and relevant instruction, when and where needed, retaining a highly credentialed faculty proficient in multiple teaching methods and by rapidly adapting to a changing global environment. The result is a career-long framework of joint SOF education that, when combined with Service-provided educational opportunities, significantly improves the intellectual competence of the force required to successfully perform current and future Special Operations missions.

4. Organizational Structure.

a. The Joint Special Operations University is established as a direct reporting educational activity, a subordinate element of the U.S. Special Operations Command, collocated at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. The JSOU President, a Senior Executive Service position, will report to the Commander, USSOCOM.

b. JSOU is organized as a university, consisting of a military Vice President; a Command Senior Enlisted Leader (CSEL); a Department of Academics responsible for accreditation, academic standards, student support and education technology; a College of Special Operations to deliver accredited post-secondary through graduate-level SOF-specific curricula; an Enlisted Academy that provides career-long joint professional

military education of non-commissioned officers; a Center for Continuing Education that conducts predominately non-credit curricula and provides international education to support Theater Special Operations Command (TSOC) engagement objectives; a Center for Special Operations Studies and Research that functions as the USSOCOM intellectual center for research and analysis; and library, research and publication functions that directly support the education mission.

5. Responsibilities and Functions.

a. The JSOU President is appointed by the Commander, USSOCOM as the Chief Executive Officer of the university and is responsible for the administration, organization and supervision of assigned personnel, as well as the management of resources necessary to carry out the JSOU mission. To accomplish these prescribed duties, the President shall:

(1) Serve as the senior advisor to the Commander, USSOCOM on joint SOF education.

(2) Coordinate on educational matters, as required, with the USSOCOM staff, USSOCOM component commands, the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC), the TSOCs, the Military Services, the Joint Staff, Federal Agencies and both U.S. and International civilian academic institutions.

(3) Manage the academic affairs and governance of the university according to this charter and applicable Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) and USSOCOM guidance and directives.

(4) Represent USSOCOM at the Military Education Coordination Council (MECC), and through the CSEL, the Enlisted Military Education Review Council (EMERC) synchronizing and deconflicting the command's education strategy with the Joint Staff, Service Professional Military Education (PME) and Joint PME institutions.

(5) Act as the civilian hiring authority to ensure JSOU faculty members meet USSOCOM requirements and U.S. Department of Education (DoEd) accreditation standards as administered through a DoEd recognized accrediting agency.

(6) Chair the USSOCOM Education Council, an advisory group formed to integrate, synchronize and deconflict Joint SOF professional development initiatives and educational activities throughout the SOF Education Network.

(7) Report annually to the USSOCOM Board of Regents, a deliberative body consisting of the CDR, USSOCOM (or his designate as the chair) and members of the Commander's Decision Roundtable (CDRT), on the status of JSOU academic programs, strategic plans and allocated resources necessary to execute its mission.

(8) Assure the relevance, quality and scope of all JSOU curricula and programs through periodic assessment and stakeholder input. Place emphasis on consistency and the avoidance of duplication to sustain accreditation.

(9) Provide policies and a proper climate to pursue and maintain academic freedom and responsibility by encouraging thoughtful consideration, discussion, research and debate while ensuring the protection of classified and controlled unclassified information.

(10) Coordinate and approve articulation agreements, memoranda of understanding and similar mutual support agreements with other educational institutions in accordance with relevant USSOCOM command directives.

b. The primary functions of the Joint Special Operations University are to:

(1) Develop and conduct joint education programs focused on joint special operations, including specialized courses of instruction, professional development workshops, and academic symposia. These shall include SOF-specific undergraduate and graduate level courses and certificates (but not academic degrees) administered in accordance with DoEd-recognized accreditation standards.

(2) Enable Special Operations focused academic research and intellectual outreach with DOD, Federal Agency, civilian academia, and selected policy centers or institutions (“think tanks”).

(3) Provide an enlisted Career Education Program to compliment Service-provided professional military education while supporting the SOF peculiar joint education of Non-commissioned Officers.

(4) Conduct specialized education for USSOCOM Headquarters, USSOCOM components, the TSOCs and JSOC with in-residence, distance learning and Mobile Education Team (MET) academic programs.

(5) Support HQ USSOCOM, the NATO Special Operations Headquarters and TSOC international engagement objectives through educational programs.

(6) Facilitate student interaction and connectivity between USSOCOM components, the National Capital Region, and TSOCs, with JSOU classrooms using academic liaisons, learning technologies and the SOF Information Environment (SIE).

(7) Provision library resources and information services appropriate to the academic level and scope of the University's programs, to include research and library services needed across the SOF Enterprise.

(8) Develop and support graduate level special operations electives and other related instructional activities at intermediate and senior level officer professional military education institutions and, where appropriate, senior non-commissioned officer academies.

(9) Maintain nationally recognized standards for curriculum, faculty, student support and institutional effectiveness while pursuing the highest levels of accreditation and course credit.

(10) Develop and implement distance learning courses and academic programs to meet the needs of a dynamic, globally postured force.

6. Environment & Stakeholders.

a. JSOU is a unique DOD institution that provides special operations education to U.S. SOF, the Joint Force, International Allies and Partners, and key Federal Agencies. It maintains a high degree of special operations expertise and academic agility to support the academic needs of Headquarters USSOCOM, its Components and their schoolhouses, the JSOC, TSOCs, the DOD PME system, and partner civilian and military colleges and universities. As the proponent of joint professional education throughout the special operations community, JSOU supports the entire Joint team of officers, non-commissioned officers, warrant officers and civilians. JSOU's diverse faculty is its greatest resource, comprised of military members, government civilians and both part time adjuncts and full time contractor instructors plus selected guest speakers.

b. As an accredited federal institution, JSOU conducts its programs in accordance with standards and principles of the appropriate civilian academic accreditation commission, Department of Education policies and Department of Defense Instructions pertaining to military educational institutions. JSOU complies with all appropriate directives and policies of HQ USSOCOM. It maintains close coordination with the education proponents of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict (ASD-SO/LIC), the Joint Staff Director for Joint Force Development (J7) and all USSOCOM Directorates.

7. Resources.

a. Personnel – JSOU will maintain a highly qualified, academically credentialed faculty comprised of active and reserve military, government civilians, subject matter experts, guest lecturers and full-time/part-time adjunct faculty.

b. Financial – JSOU will maintain a detailed annual budget and submit input to the USSOCOM Program Objectives Memoranda. These will be coordinated through the USSOCOM Headquarters Resource Sponsor (SOCS-RM).

c. Information Technology (IT) – In coordination with HQ USSOCOM J6, JSOU will maintain a responsive IT capability, specializing in education technology, for classroom, student support and distance learning requirements.

d. Facilities – JSOU will maintain a dedicated and secure academic facility and environment conducive to instruction and learning.

8. References.

- a. Title 10, United States Code, Section 167
- b. DODI 5100.01, Functions of the Department of Defense and Its Major Components, 21 Dec 2010
- c. CJCS Instruction 1800.01E, "Officer Professional Military Education Policy" (OPMEP), 29 May 2015
- d. CJCS Instruction 1805.01A CH1, "Enlisted Professional Military Education Policy" (EPMEP), 20 Sep 2011
- e. Commander, USSOCOM Memorandum, "Joint Special Operations University Charter," 15 June 2000 (cancelled)
- f. Commander, USSOCOM Memorandum, "Intent to Establish the Joint Special Operations Forces Senior Enlisted Academy," 13 March 2008
- g. Commander, USSOCOM Memorandum, "USSOCOM Commander's Education and Training Guidance, Fiscal Years 2015-18," December 2014
- h. Commander, USSOCOM Memorandum, "Directive to Establish the USSOCOM Career Education Program," 11 July 2012
- i. United States Special Operations Command Narrative, 11 Nov 2014
- j. Initial Capabilities Document (ICD) for Joint Special Operations Education Requirement, 8 March 2010
- k. DOTMLPF-P Change Request (DCR) for JSOU Accreditation, August 2015
- l. DOTMLPF-P Change Request (DCR) for JSOU Enlisted Academy Career Education Program, May 2014

Approved by the Commander USSOCOM on 1 February 2016