



National Defense University



Joint Force Leadership

Keystone 25-2

June 2025



Overview

Mission Command

Role of the CSEL

Best Practices



Mission Command

“Operating on intent through trust,
empowerment, and understanding”
- CJCS

Definition

The conduct of military operations
through decentralized execution
based on mission-type orders
-Joint Pub 3-0

Attributes

- ✓ Trust
- ✓ Intent
- ✓ Understanding

“Mission Command is essential at the operational and strategic level.”
“Enables speed, agility, and decisiveness at the tactical level while providing
the necessary decision space at the higher level for the up and out
engagement to anticipate and set conditions.”

-Senior FO/GO



Role of the CSEL

- *Emphasize/Reinforce **Bond** between JFC/CSEL*
 - *BFC/KLE*
 - *Battle Rhythm*
 - *Travel*





Role of the CSEL

- *Codify CSEL role in Mission Command*
 - *Decision-Making **Styles***
 - *Staff, Services, CCMDs, and FOAs*





Role of the CSEL

- *Understand Complexity in CCMDs/JTFs*
 - Command **Messaging**
 - Info **Sharing**





Role of the CSEL

- *Inform future JFCs on how to employ CSELs*
 - **Support** to JTF HQs





Mission Command

Role of the CSEL

- Help Set Conditions for **Subordinates'** Success
- Ensure **Understanding** of Mission/Intent
- Help Subordinates w/ Efforts in Line with **CDR guidance**
- Recommend When Needed on Resource **Allocation**





Mission Command

Role of the CSEL

- Build **Trust** for Commander...Transparency
- Ensure **Common Understanding** throughout Subordinate Units and HQ Staff
- Foster Trust within the **organization**
- **Always** Answer the WHYs





Command Senior Enlisted Leader

Best Practices

- You do **NOT** have a comfort zone
- **Create** other leaders through:
 - **Empowerment**
 - **Inclusion**
 - **Transparency**
 - **Constructive Feedback**
 - **Trust**

Don't be a Tourist. You Have a Job to do!



Command Senior Enlisted Leader

Best Practices

- You must be well versed on **DIMEFIL, PMESII, JIIM**
- Understand the **Joint Force and Global Integration**
- Understand **Partnerships and Collaboration**
- Learn and Know **Joint Doctrine**
- Understand **Foundational Documents**
 - **NSS, NDS, NMS**
 - **UCP, JSCP, GCP, OPLANS, CONPLANS**
 - **DPG, GFMAP, CRA**



Questions

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