



# ***National Defense University***

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## ***Joint Force Leadership***

**Keystone 26-1**

**January 2026**



# ***Overview***

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***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*







## ***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**

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- 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, OPLANS, CONPLANS**
  - **DPG, GFMAP**





# ***Questions***

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