



# *Joint Force Leadership*



*CSM (R) Alston*



# 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**



# **Mission Command- SEL Role**

- Help set conditions for subordinates success
- Ensure understanding of mission/intent
- Help subordinates with prioritizing efforts in line with Commander's guidance
- Recommend when needed on the allocation of resources
- Build trust for Commander with subordinates by ensuring transparency
- Ensure common understanding flows throughout the subordinate units and headquarters staff personnel
- Fosters trust within the organization
- Always answer the WHYs



# *Battlefield Circulation & KLEs*

- Commanders priorities and intent should drive their focus
- Battlefield circulation is all about the unit visited; and how the SEL can be value add for them
- Don't be a tourist—Have a task and purpose
- Where should they be? The place of biggest impact for the Commander and unit
- Be an IG out there—Usually you can go anywhere, be a part of anything with flexibility of movement
- They should look “down and in”, as well as “up and out” for affects/effects
- Ensure NCOs are in B2C2WGs and OPTs
- Always look for seams and gaps; then cover down



# *SEL Key Tasks*

- Commanders/Units Forward Observer
- Commanders/Units “Honest Broker”
- Constantly seek situational understanding
- Know Commander’s decision cycle and what he/she is contemplating
- Be an all inclusive leader (Officers, Civilians, Contractors, and Enlisted)
- Read, Read and keep Reading
- Represent the Commander and Command in all you do
- Be involved in talent management
- Understand all authorities (e.g., Title 10, Title 32, Title 50, etc)



# Questions

