



# U.S. TRANSPORTATION COMMAND JECC



VOLUME 4 ISSUE 6

JOINT ENABLING CAPABILITIES COMMAND NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2011



## JECC Commander's Message

This is the first newsletter following my assumption of command of the Joint Enabling Capabilities Command (JECC) and I'd like to take a moment to thank our readers for their sustained efforts in support of the command. The JECC exists to bring value-added skill sets to the joint force commander and we could not succeed in our mission without the continued encouragement of the joint community. I am extremely honored to have been selected to command this organization and I look forward to leading the JECC into its future as a subordinate joint command under U.S. Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM).

As you will continue to read in our bi-monthly newsletters, the JECC strives for excellence and we are always looking for opportunities to enhance our members' expertise to supply the most capable and high-quality members for operational requirements. The first article in this issue highlights a course provided by U.S. Northern Command that expanded our Joint Deployable Team (JDT) members' knowledge of Defense Support to Civil Authorities operations.

Additionally, the JECC also initiated a follow-on block of instruction to our in-house Joint Enabling Capabilities Planners Course (JEC PC). This new Advanced JEC PC, detailed on page 4, builds on the lessons from the initial course and further develops the skill sets necessary for high-level joint planning and operations.

Also of note in the September edition of the JECC newsletter is an article on the Joint Communications Support Element's (JCSE) and the Joint Public Affairs Support Element's participation in U.S. Pacific Command's (USPACOM) exercise Talisman Sabre 2011 (see page 3). Members from both of these JECC subordinate commands have previous experience in USPACOM operations following deployments to support relief operations in Japan after the earthquake and tsunami earlier this year. Their participation was specifically requested for this exercise because of their operational knowledge following this real-world mission.

Finally, I'd like to call your attention to the article on page 7 that documents JCSE's support to U.S. Southern Command's Operation Continuing Promise. Five JCSE members recently returned after a five-month humanitarian mission in Central and South America during which they provided communications and connectivity for joint military members aboard the USNS Comfort.

I hope that you enjoy the articles included within this month's issue and I encourage any feedback or comments you may have on the content. Please send an email to [JECCNews@jecc.ustranscom.mil](mailto:JECCNews@jecc.ustranscom.mil) with any specific comments. Again, thank you for your support of the JECC as we settle into our place at USTRANSCOM and work towards excellence in our mission.

Respectfully,

**S. A. Stearney**  
Rear Adm., U.S. Navy  
Commander, Joint Enabling Capabilities Command



The JECC holds Change of Command.

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Communications specialists provide expertise during Operation Continuing Promise 2011.

Page 7

## USNORTHCOM facilitates a new course for the Joint Enabling Capabilities Command

Julianne Sympson  
USTRANSCOM JECC



Photo by USTRANSCOM JECC

From July 20 - 21, 2011 a six-man team from U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) facilitated a new course, the Joint Support Force - Staff Element (JSF-SE) Familiarization Course, to members from the Joint Enabling Capabilities Command (JECC) Joint Deployable Team. This training provided a substantial knowledge base in standing up a joint task force headquarters in support of a Defense Support to Civil Authorities operation.

The Joint Enabling Capabilities Command (JECC) Joint Deployable Team (JDT) members bring an advanced level of joint expertise in to the effective and efficient establishment of a joint task force headquarters (JTF HQ). They continually enhance these skill sets to respond to emergent requirements.

While the JECC deploys personnel overseas for emerging operational requirements, the command could also potentially assist in operations within the U.S. in a Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA) role. In the case of a

natural disaster, U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) could request the JECC's support to accelerate the effective standup and operation of a JTF HQ.

Correspondingly, the JECC looks for opportunities to expand their knowledge in disciplines that may be of use in potential future operations and in turn, increasing their employability. USNORTHCOM hosts a DSCA phase II course, which focuses on the intergovernmental and interagency

*USNORTHCOM facilitates a new course continued on page 2.*

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK OF THIS ISSUE. [Very Informative](#), [Informative](#), [Not Informative](#)



# USNORTHCOM facilitates a new course for the JECC

*USNORTHCOM facilitates a new course continued from page 1.*

response to a domestic emergency situation. USNORTHCOM and the JECC thought this course would be complementary to the JECC's continuing education process. However, due to the limited seats available in the course, USNORTHCOM provided a six-man mobile training team that traveled to the JECC's headquarters, located in Norfolk, Va., from July 20-21, 2011 to provide JDT members with a condensed version of the course; the Joint Support Force – Staff Element (JSF-SE) Familiarization Training Course.

The curriculum, which was developed especially for the 28 JDT planners who attended the course, was similar to the DSCA phase II course but narrower in scope and tailored for the JECC audience.

Unlike the DSCA phase II course led by DSCA-certified facilitators, the JSF-SE course was designed and taught directly by the personnel from the USNORTHCOM's Domestic Operations (DOMOPS) directorate, which was appropriate as they are a likely mission partner of the JECC during a DSCA operation.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Jeffrey Crapo, the lead planner from USNORTHCOM's DOMOPS and JSF-SE course facilitator, explained how providing this course was beneficial to the JECC and USNORTHCOM.

"This course provided a baseline for a DSCA environment in case the Joint Enabling Capabilities Command is requested to support U.S. Northern Command during DSCA operations," said Crapo. "This was a good opportunity for us to share domestic operations with the JECC and provide a better understanding of how states react to emergency responses."

Similar to the JECC's deployable teams, USNORTHCOM maintains JSF-SE teams of 16 personnel consisting of military and government civilians that are trained and



*Pictured left, U.S. Army Lt. Col. Jeffrey Crapo, the lead facilitator from U.S. Northern Command's (USNORTHCOM) Domestic Operations (DOMOPS) directorate, provided a condensed version of the Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA) phase II course that was specifically tailored for the joint planners and operators of the Joint Enabling Capabilities Command (JECC). Twenty-eight JECC Joint Deployable Team (JDT) members gained valuable insight on DSCA operations from the USNORTHCOM facilitators.*

ready to deploy in response to DSCA-related emergency response operations. These JSF-SE teams stand up a JTF HQ at the state-level and coordinate with the local National Guard units in order to quickly and effectively respond to a crisis situation.

In addition to familiarizing the JECC with the JSF-SE, the course also explained the complexities of a DSCA operation.

During a natural or man-made disaster on American soil, additional legal considerations, such as the Posse Comitatus Act which prohibits Armed Forces personnel to serve in a law enforcement capacity without permission from Congress, come into play due to the U.S. Code Title 10 which pertains to the Armed Forces and Title 32 for the National Guard. In the past, there were two separate commanders, one with authority to command the DOD military support and one with authority to command the National Guard forces. During the JSF-SE course, USNORTHCOM introduced the concept of the Dual Status

Commander (DSC) program that gives command and control of both Title 10 and Title 32 personnel to one commander which improves unity of effort.

A JECC member who has deployed on numerous occasions in support of real-world missions, U.S. Navy Capt. Tom Savidge, attended the JSF-SE course and appreciated the opportunity to meet the USNORTHCOM team. He spoke of the effectiveness of the course in familiarizing the JECC members with DSCA operations.

"This training event established a better understanding and a professional bridge between the JECC and USNORTHCOM, specifically the Domestic Operations directorate, that will prove to be important in the future," stated Savidge. "Domestic emergency response operations are complex particularly in how all the involved partners coordinate among each other and this course broadened and improved our understanding of crisis operations within the U.S."

Another JECC JDT reserve member who attended the course, U.S. Navy Capt. Elaine Hogg, is familiar with domestic emergency situations as a resident of Florida where destructive hurricanes are prevalent. She commented on the practical exercise during the course – coincidentally, a hurricane scenario – and the validity of the information presented

*"Domestic emergency response operations are complex particularly in how all the involved partners coordinate among each other and this course broadened and improved our understanding of crisis operations within the U.S."*

*- U.S. Navy Capt. Tom Savidge,  
Joint Enabling Capabilities Command member*

*USNORTHCOM facilitates a new course continued on page 3.*



## USNORTHCOM facilitates a new course for the JECC

*USNORTHCOM facilitates a new course continued from page 2.*

to the JECC JDT members.

"This was a valuable course that exposed JECC members to a whole other system that exists in crisis operations by working through a hurricane practical exercise scenario," said Hogg. "The JECC JDT should be well-versed in the legal considerations within states when the U.S. military personnel are requested to support domestic emergency operations and this course helped provide that knowledge base."

This training event not only better prepared JECC members for a USNORTHCOM-requested DCSA mission but also allowed the instructors to get some feedback on their pilot JSF-SE program from an experienced level of joint planners.

"USNORTHCOM regularly briefs the National Guard units in different states on

DSCA but this visit was a rare opportunity for us to engage with a command organization of active duty and reserve military members and educate them on their potential DSCA involvement," said Crapo.

The JSF-SE Familiarization Training Course was ideal for JECC JDT members to broaden their planning expertise for situations within the U.S. The formal training the JDT members received in the course will make them value-added members if called upon for a DSCA operation and built a stronger relationship with USNORTHCOM's DOMOPS. The JECC JDT continue to enhance their employability by participating in training opportunities that increase the JDT's breadth and depth



*Pictured center, U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Chris Bahner from U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) explains the complexity of operations during a Defense Support to Civil Authority (DSCA) mission. Members from the Joint Enabling Capabilities Command (JECC) worked through a practical exercise during the Joint Support Force - Staff Element Familiarization Course.*

of their knowledge of crisis response operations. ■

## The JECC's real-world experience enhances support to Exercise Talisman Sabre 2011

**Julianne Sympton**  
USTRANSCOM JECC

**T**he U.S. Transportation Command's Joint Enabling Capabilities Command (JECC) continually sends their deployable members abroad in support of combatant command-led exercises such as U.S. Pacific Command's (USPACOM) Exercise Talisman Sabre 2011 (TS11).

From July 11 – 29, 2011, five members from the Joint Communications Support Element (JCSE) and eight Joint Public Affairs Support Element (JPASE) members deployed to Camp Rockhampton, Australia, and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, to participate in TS11.

During this combined training event, the U.S. military and Australian Defense Forces exercised their interoperability as the two nations stood up a combined joint task force (CJTF). In addition to building lasting relationships with U.S. allies, TS11 also served as a joint task force headquarters (JTF HQ) recertification exercise for the U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet Command (C7F). The real-world experience JECC members

bring to these exercises enhances the training environment and further assists the exercise participants in learning how to efficiently and effectively transition a designated Service command headquarters into a JTF HQ.

The JECC's recent experience in support of the dual USPACOM missions following the 8.9 magnitude earthquake and tsunami in Japan strengthened the relationship between the JECC and various elements of USPACOM's staff and subordinate units. JCSE members provided communications support to the humanitarian assistance mission, Operation Tomodachi, while a team from JPASE brought joint public affairs expertise to the concurrent Operation Pacific Passage, the military-assisted, authorized departure of eligible family members from Japan.

Several of the JCSE and JPASE members that supported these efforts in Japan also participated in TS11, and therefore, were familiar with USPACOM's staff processes and standard operating procedures. Additionally, the JECC members were able to apply recent operational experiences from their missions in Japan during TS11, which

greatly enhanced the communications and public affairs requirements and training for this exercise.

JPASE, the sole joint command tasked with providing joint public affairs training, deployed members to both Australia and USPACOM's warfighting center, located in Hawaii. JPASE led the Media Cell in the Combined Exercise Control Group (CECG) and coordinated the development of exercise media products and activities which allowed the C7F Public Affairs staff to meet all their training objectives.

In an effort to replicate a realistic media environment, JPASE members participated in extensive coordination meetings and developed synthetic media products to provide the participants with a realistic training environment based on the JPASE personnel's previous experience during Operation Pacific Passage. In addition, JPASE personnel simulated press availabilities and media engagements through phone and email queries.

Ms. Aaronetta Stewart served as the JPASE lead planner during TS11 and

*The JECC enhances TS11 continued on page 4.*



# The JECC's real-world experience enhances support to Exercise Talisman Sabre 2011

*The JECC enhances TS11 continued from page 3.*

helped ensure the training audience coordinated all of the strategic and operational communication aspects of the JTF staff planning efforts. She also explained that JPASE's training mission and deployment mission are fundamentally related.

"The development of public affairs and communication strategy is vital to the success of any emerging JTF. It is imperative that we are able to quickly and accurately communicate our intentions and actions to the world audience," said Stewart.

"JPASE plays a pivotal role in helping joint task force headquarters train to this level, through exercises like Talisman Sabre."

In addition to the public affairs support, USPACOM's awareness of JCSE's capabilities and their equipment, which was instrumental during Operation Tomodachi, led the command to also request support for TS11. The JCSE members were stationed at Camp Rockhampton, Australia, for the duration of the exercise.

The highly-skilled team of communicators supplied an Early Entry Package (EEP), a communications system that provides

access to the unclassified network, classified network, Multi-national/Coalition information exchange networks, secure and non-secure voice and video teleconferencing and tactical satellite capabilities, for use during TS11. USPACOM requested the EEP because of its relatively small size, its ability to provide access to multiple networks and most importantly, for its scalability. During TS11, the EEP was scaled from its standard configuration of support to 40 users to a configuration that could support three times as many users.

JCSE member, U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. David Way, commented on support the JCSE team provided during the exercise and their unique ability to scale their equipment to the needs of a fluctuating JTF structure. He said this type of support is reminiscent of what they would be asked to provide during a real-world event.

"We maintained a 24-hour / seven-days-a-week work center similar to what we would provide if we deployed down-range," said Way. "During this exercise, the EEP was scaled up to provide voice

and data services for over 120 users as we expanded our network capability to 10 separate buildings on Camp Rockhampton."

The scalability of the JCSE's equipment and their communications expertise made JCSE an important part of forming the CJTF during TS11 and maintaining connectivity between USPACOM and its subordinate units spread across the globe.

Members of the JECC's subordinate commands have developed an intimate knowledge of operations in almost all of the combatant commands' areas of operations and can offer realistic joint expertise that enhances an exercise and assists in successfully meeting the exercise's objectives. The vast experience of JECC members, who have participated in numerous real-world deployments, brings a new aspect to exercises such as TS11. The JECC continues to build a library of best practices and lessons learned from operational deployments and are eager to apply this proficiency in future exercises for all geographic combatant commands. ■

## The JECC establishes the Advanced Joint Enabling Capabilities Planners Course

**Julianne Sympson**  
USTRANSCOM JECC

One of the main priorities of the Joint Enabling Capabilities Command (JECC) is identifying additional avenues to further educate members for emerging operational requirements. In coordination with this initiative, the JECC recently developed the Advanced Joint Enabling Capabilities Planners Course (JEC PC), a training platform designed to reinforce the application of the Joint Operation Planning Process (JOPP) and build on the knowledge base that is developed from operational experiences and previous training.

Twenty-one JECC Joint Deployable Team (JDT) members attended the inaugural Advanced JEC PC from August 15-19, 2011, at the JECC's headquarters on Naval Station Norfolk, Va.

The original JEC PC, a pre-requisite for the new advanced course, was originally

designed and initiated in 2007 to familiarize new JECC personnel with the JOPP and joint task force (JTF) operations. During this course attendees are provided with a real-world scenario and apply their instruction by developing a course of action (COA) briefing to address the situation. The course concludes with a presentation of the COA to the course's JTF commander for approval. Over the years, hundreds of JECC members and operational planners from other combatant commands, subordinate commands



Photo by USTRANSCOM JECC

Twenty-one members from the Joint Enabling Capabilities Command (JECC) Joint Deployable Team attended the Advanced Joint Enabling Capabilities Planners Course. U.S. Navy Capt. Geoffrey Gage (pictured above) identifies the importance of key factors to consider while working on the orders writing process during the practical exercise portion of the course.

and interagency organizations have benefited from the original JEC PC.

**The JECC establishes the Advanced JEC PC**  
*continued on page 5.*



# The JECC establishes the Advanced Joint Enabling Capabilities Planners Course

*The JECC establishes the Advanced JEC PC continued from page 4.*

The Advanced JEC PC takes the instruction a step further and allows attendees to use the scenario from the first course and build on what was initially produced. The course focuses on the commander's decision cycle, battle rhythm, operational design and effects assessment planning; all areas not covered in the original JEC PC. In addition, the advanced course spends significant time on orders writing, the seventh step of the JOPP, and the considerations that a joint operational planner should keep in mind when supporting an emerging requirement.

The lead facilitator for the new course and JECC member, Mr. Bill Phelps, constructed the course content and commented on the importance of this enhanced training opportunity.

"The JDT members are the primary training audience for this course and we have been working very closely with the JDT Commander to ensure we meet the needs and requirements that he identified," said Phelps. "The Advanced JEC PC offers further instruction to provide



*Pictured above, the Joint Enabling Capabilities Command (JECC) facilitated the inaugural Advanced Joint Enabling Capabilities Planners Course to further build on the JECC personnel's knowledge of the joint operation planning process. The best practices that each Joint Deployable Team member brought to the course was the strength of the course.*

Photo by USTRANSCOM JECC

JDT member, U.S. Army Lt. Col. Bethany Lenderman, shared her experiences from deploying with the JECC in 2010 in support of JTF-435 in Kabul, Afghanistan and provided her thoughts on the course.

"This formal training event allowed JDT

cussed what worked and didn't work on different JECC deployments," said Gage. "This complementary JEC PC course exposed the team to additional JTF-forming skill sets and was a great opportunity for me to get re-immersed with my JECC team members."

Upon completion of the Advanced JEC PC, the JDT members presented the JDT Commander, U.S. Army Col. Michael Corson, and JECC member, U.S. Navy Capt. Tom Savidge, with operations orders directing the initial roles and responsibilities of the JTF and received feedback from them based on their real-world experiences.

"As the two senior officers provided feedback on the various portions of the products, the ensuing discussion and critiques allowed all class participants to share their experiences and other ways to accomplish the tasks," said Corson. "This was really the true benefit of the course."

The Advanced JEC PC provided a forum to share the JDT's first-hand experiences and challenges associated with standing up a JTF headquarters. This unique method of instruction has successfully assisted the JDT members in obtaining even more expertise and skill sets that will be of value to a joint force commander downrange. ■

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*"The course allowed Joint Deployable Team members to solidify and consolidate our experiences to build corporate knowledge as we discussed what worked and didn't work on different JECC deployments."*

*- U.S. Navy Capt. Geoffrey Gage,  
Joint Deployable Team member*

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JDT members the skill sets they need to be better prepared for what they will be expected to do when forming a joint task force headquarters downrange."

The real value of the course, however, is the attendees, who are encouraged to apply operational experiences from past real-world deployments within the blocks of instruction. Their knowledge, derived from multiple deployments, provides valuable insight on JTF operations and improves the depth of understanding of the JOPP. This collaborative opportunity to share best practices and lessons learned from across the full spectrum of military operations proved to be the real strength of the course.

members to collectively share their experiences and provide a portfolio of different solutions that JDT members were tasked to solve during real-world deployments," said Lenderman. "Sharing our experiences in a case-study approach by topic during this course was value-added for JDT members to build confidence in knowing what the right fit was for different joint task force commanders."

U.S. Navy Capt. Geoffrey Gage, a JECC JDT member, also found the past operational experiences to be a highlight of the Advanced JEC PC.

"The course allowed JDT members to solidify and consolidate our experiences to build corporate knowledge as we dis-



# The Joint Enabling Capabilities Command holds Change of Command

Whitney Williams  
USTRANSCOM JECC

Following a two-year tour leading the Joint Enabling Capabilities Command (JECC), on Aug. 26, 2011 U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Walter E. Carter relinquished command of the JECC to U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Scott A. Stearney at Joint and Coalition Warfighting in Suffolk, Va.

U.S. Air Force Gen. Duncan McNabb, the commander of U.S. Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM), officiated the ceremony. McNabb's willingness to travel to Suffolk for the first JECC change of command since the organization transitioned to USTRANSCOM resonated with the staff and leadership.

Carter mentioned that McNabb's commitment to meeting the personnel at the JECC has been important for the command's morale.

"I have worked for General McNabb for just under two months and he has already visited the JECC multiple times and met with each member," he stated. "I know it means a lot to the staff that General McNabb has taken such an interest in our command and its mission."

The JECC, now a subordinate joint command of USTRANSCOM, was reassigned from U.S. Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM) to USTRANSCOM on July 1, 2011 as a part of USJFCOM's overall disestablishment.

Carter has commanded the JECC since July 2009 and has overseen the deployment of more than 750 personnel



Pictured above, the Joint Enabling Capabilities Command (JECC) held the JECC Change of Command ceremony at Joint and Coalition Warfighting in Suffolk, Va. On July 26, 2011, the former commander, U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Walter E. Carter turned over command of the JECC to the incoming commander, U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Scott Stearney (pictured front center). Stearney joined the command after serving as the chief of staff, Strike Force Training Atlantic.

Photo by USTRANSCOM JECC

and women of the JECC celebrate."

In Carter's last official event as the commander of the JECC, he spoke of the privilege he felt leading the dynamic team of military, government civilians and contractors.

"The accomplishments of the JECC stem from the quality individuals on this team," he said. "The ability of the personnel to collaborate and learn from each other is what has allowed this command to succeed."

Carter's next assignment will be as

the JECC.

"Your impressive history of command experience should give you the foundation to lead the men and women of the JECC through any global challenge ahead," McNabb stated.

Stearney has commanded at the squadron and major command level and most recently served as the chief of staff, Strike Force Training Atlantic. He is also familiar with the JECC's capabilities having served as chief of staff of Joint Task Force-435 and then Combined Joint Interagency Task Force-435. JECC members worked alongside Stearney as they supported the establishment of both task forces in 2009 and 2010, respectively.

Stearney concluded the ceremony with his vision for the JECC going forward.

"My commitment to General McNabb, the USTRANSCOM staff and the JECC personnel is to create a collaborative environment that will allow the JECC to continue to succeed and deliver the highest quality support in the shortest possible time," he explained. "Anytime; anywhere!"

For more information on the JECC, visit: <https://ustranscom.eim.amc.af.mil/jecc/default.aspx>. ■

*"My commitment to General McNabb, the USTRANSCOM staff and the JECC personnel is to create a collaborative environment that will allow the JECC to continue to succeed and deliver the highest quality support in the shortest possible time."*

*- U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Scott Stearney,  
Commander, Joint Enabling Capabilities Command*

in support of all the combatant and functional commanders. McNabb highlighted the guidance and direction that Carter provided to the JECC over the past 24 months.

"You are leaving an incredible impression on the JECC," McNabb said. "Your smooth leadership style was essential to the achievements the men

commander, Carrier Strike Group Twelve (USS Enterprise Carrier Strike Group).

Stearney, who was recently selected for his first star, was promoted to Rear Admiral by McNabb moments before the change of command ceremony took place. McNabb welcomed the new flag officer to the USTRANSCOM team and conveyed his confidence in Stearney's ability to lead



# JCSE's communications experts support Operation Continuing Promise 2011

Julianne Sympson  
USTRANSCOM JECC

From April 11 – August 31, 2011 the Joint Communications Support Element (JCSE), a subordinate command of the Joint Enabling Capabilities Command (JECC), provided ship-to-shore communications to the medical, veterinarian and engineering teams supporting Operation Continuing Promise 2011 (CP11).

Operation Continuing Promise is an annual U.S. Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM)-led humanitarian assistance (HA) mission to train U.S. military members on HA operations and strengthens U.S. relationships with multiple nations from the Caribbean, Central and South America.

JCSE has supported Operation Continuing Promise for the past three years with communications teams providing connectivity to the medical, veterinarian and engineering teams who engage with the local community to provide humanitarian and civic assistance.

This year, five JCSE members from the Fourth Joint Communications Squadron (4JCS), JCSE's U.S. Army Reserve Squadron co-located with JCSE headquarters in Tampa, Fla., supported CP11 as they trav-

eled aboard the USNS Comfort to Jamaica, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Haiti. The USNS Comfort is one of two hospital fleet ships currently commissioned in the U.S. Navy that can provide mobile, flexible and rapidly responsive medical and surgical care for U.S. military forces and HA missions when requested.

For several members of the JCSE team, this was the first time they deployed with the U.S. Navy giving them a greater perspective on the U.S. Navy lifestyle and the service's capabilities.

"This deployment aboard the USNS Comfort was a very unique experience," said the JCSE team's Officer-in-Charge, U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Travis Sorrell. "It was an interesting perspective to see what a U.S.

Navy deployment was like."

The JCSE team brought a high level of communications expertise and three Initial Entry Packages (IEP), mobile and tailorable communications packages that can provide network access for up to eight users, to support the CP11 mission.

As the USNS Comfort pulled into port the JCSE members were eager to provide the requested communication support to the CP11 teams. Sorrell coordinated the schedule of events and assigned



The Commander of the Joint Enabling Capabilities Command, U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Scott Stearney (center), met with the Joint Communications Support Element (JCSE) team as they returned from supporting Operation Continuing Promise. The JCSE team (pictured from left to right) consisted of U.S. Army Sgt. Michael Hope, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Kevin Woods, U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Travis Sorrell, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. William Smith and U.S. Army Sgt. Renard James.

Photo by USTRANSCOM JECC

each of the JCSE members a site and a corresponding CP11 team to support. Once assigned, the JCSE team ensured the necessary communications equipment was tailored to the needs of the requesting party.

At each port stop the JCSE members were some of the first personnel to depart the ship to set up communications and ensure connectivity from ship-to-shore. Inversely, upon completion of operations at each port, the JCSE personnel were the last members to return to the USNS Comfort before continuing on to the next destination.

Members from the JCSE team recounted their experiences on the deployment and shared the events that left a lasting impression on them.

## April 26, 2011 Panama Canal Transit

For JCSE member, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. William Smith, the Panama Canal transit was a moment of nostalgia as he remembered growing up and playing on the banks of the canal when he was younger.

"This was my second opportunity to support CP11 with JCSE and I reminisced about my childhood as we crossed the Panama Canal," said Smith. "These deployments supporting the humanitarian mission were a humbling reminder that

**JCSE supports Operation Continuing Promise  
continued on page 8.**



Photo provided by U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Travis Sorrell

Two members of the Joint Communications Support Element (JCSE) (pictured above) set up an Early Entry Package (EEP) on top of the roof of a building in Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala. The communications support they provided was mission essential for the medical, veterinarian and engineering teams that deployed in support of Operation Continuing Promise 2011.



# JCSE's communications experts support Operation Continuing Promise 2011

*JCSE supports Operation Continuing Promise continued from page 7.*

reinforced how lucky I am as an American citizen."

Although this was not the first time Smith had crossed the Panama Canal, he still enjoyed the opportunity to take a look back at his childhood and acknowledge how far he has come.

## June 2 – 12, 2011 in Tumaco, Colombia

Tumaco, Colombia proved to be an interesting stop for the JCSE team. The USNS Comfort had arrived for its scheduled port stop when an improvised explosive device (IED) attack south of Tumaco injured four people. The USNS Comfort was in the right place at the right time, and Colombian officials asked the ship to provide medical treatment to the four victims. JCSE members also adapted their communication efforts to support this unplanned event and provided communications to the U.S. Embassy, the local police force and the Colombian military.

JCSE member, U.S. Army Sgt. Kevin Woods, filled the request by establishing connectivity at a nearby hotel consisting of four accessible wireless and four network wired computers.

"We were able to acquire a wireless router from the local market and then set up everything; from getting the satellite linked for network access to providing standard information technology support to make everything work," said Woods.

JCSE's on-the-spot support contributed greatly to assistance the CP11 team provided following this event.

## June 30 – July 11, 2011 in Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala

Deploying to support CP11 helped the JCSE teams become even more familiar with the equipment they use as some locations required innovative methods to get the equipment up and running.

While supporting the medical team in Guatemala, two JCSE members, U.S. Army Spc. Michael Hope and U.S. Army Sgt. Renard James, scaled a building to set up their communications equipment.

"When we arrived at each site, the CP11 teams were not familiar with the

*"Providing communications to these mobile teams also meant you were a helping hand. I assisted the Continuing Promise teams with communications, of course, and also other tasks I never thought I'd do in my military career."*

*- U.S. Army Sgt. Michael Hope,  
Joint Communications Support Element member*

most optimal places to put our satellites to get signal," explained James. "In Guatemala, Sgt. Hope and I climbed on top of a building and carefully shuffled across a rickety tin roof to get a better line of sight to connect the satellite."

The JCSE members provided connectivity despite the varying geographical terrain whether it was a school courtyard, the balcony of a hotel or the rooftop of a building.

## August 18-30, 2011 in Port-au-Prince, Haiti

During CP11, veterinarian teams played a pivotal role to provide services to assist the locals with vaccinations, surgeries and treatments for their animals.

Hope traveled with the veterinarian teams in Haiti as they visited multiple locations treating nearly 340 animals a day.

"Providing communications to these mobile teams also meant you were a helping hand," stated Hope. "I assisted the Continuing Promise teams with communications, of course, and also other tasks I never thought I'd do in my military career."

Hope assisted the highly-skilled veterinarian teams as they provided treatments for rabies, deworming and other vaccinations to horses, livestock and dogs in the local villages.

Although the JCSE members' professional expertise was rigorously tested at each port by factors including geographic terrain, weather conditions and obscure locations, the team succeeded in

each requirement. Over the course of the deployment, the JCSE team provided over 1000 hours of connectivity. This incredible feat was mission-essential to the medical, veterinarian and engineering teams.

This deployment not only served as an opportunity to provide good will and servitude to several partner nations but it also allowed the JCSE members to put their communications skills to the test as they provided connectivity in some of the most obscure environments. The JCSE team fully appreciated the opportunity to support the medical and diplomatic capacity of this deployment and returned to Tampa, Fla. a more seasoned team of communicators. ■



U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Scott Stearney, Commander, Joint Enabling Capabilities Command (pictured right) welcomes home members from the Joint Communications Support Element (JCSE) after they disembarked from the USNS Comfort. The five-man JCSE team provided ship-to-shore communications during the five-month Operation Continuing Promise 2011 humanitarian mission throughout Central and South America.

Photo by USTRANSCOM/JECC



## U.S. TRANSPORTATION COMMAND JOINT ENABLING CAPABILITIES COMMAND

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## U.S. TRANSPORTATION COMMAND JOINT ENABLING CAPABILITIES COMMAND

*The Joint Enabling Capabilities Command (JECC) employs assigned joint enabling capabilities (JEC) for Global Response Force execution and emerging operational requirements. When directed, JECs deploy in order to provide immediate, short-duration support to establish, organize and operate a joint force headquarters.*

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