

## Executive Summary of the MECC working Group Meeting

10 October 2018

- The Working Group of the Military Education Coordination Council convened at National Defense University on 10 October 2018. All MECC schools were present. Most representatives were Provosts and Deans. Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom also sent officers to participate, as did each of the Service education offices.
- Jerry Lynes led the opening discussion about the views of the Secretary and the Chairman regarding Professional Military Education. Of note was their vision that PME, and specifically Joint PME, must ensure a focus on warfighting and strategy along with providing graduates the skills needed to communicate the grim realities of war to civilian overseers. We should seek awareness if perhaps JPME contains too many topics that prevents a deep dive into the study of warfighting. While JPME continues to produce quality officers, its purveyors must never become complacent in this task.
- Further discussion involved preparing for the MECC principals' October meeting when discussion will include input into the upcoming Chairman's PME Guidance, GIO, technological warfare drivers, General Wilhelm's study, rapid changes in the character of war and the need for PME to adapt to this turbulence.
- The Working Group heard about the possible formation of a MECC + board to help discern issues and provide analysis of concerns important to the military education enterprise. This would make available more diversity of thought to benefit all. The school representatives agreed to provide working members (not Deans) to support this effort.
- JPMED presented the J-7 response to the Nuclear Posture Review Implementation Guidance Task #20A. This task required development of a plan to increase knowledge across the force regarding nuclear capabilities and concepts. All the MECC schools participated in the plan development and are prepared to implement when DepSecDef accepts the plan.
- JPMED discussed the status of the Process for the Accreditation of Joint Education (PAJE) program. The well-configured six-year cycle allows PAJE teams to review all 30 JPME programs. The cycle distributes programs across the years so demands on PAJE teams are appropriately balanced. The schools' contribution of faculty to PAJE teams is not equally distributed and J-7 urged schools to participate more frequently. J-7 also encouraged all Deans to work to become qualified to lead PAJE reviews.
- JPMED led a discussion of the Prototype Officer Professional Military Education Policy. This policy is notable for proposing a shift from providing guidance on curriculum content to providing guidance about achievement of student learning outcomes. When adopted, schools will have increased freedom to design curricula in ways they deem appropriate to achieving student learning outcomes. Under the new policy, there will be increased emphasis on assessment to validate that students have actually attained the knowledge, skills, and attitudes as declared by the programs' mandates. The new policy may impact PAJE methods.

- The mechanism for Chairman influence into JPME curricula is through the Special Areas of Emphasis (SAE) process. Stakeholders desiring inclusion into curricula can petition for inclusion in the small number of SAEs presented for Chairman approval each year. The J7 asked each school representative begin to consider the SAEs, which are currently advisory in nature, as mandatory for inclusion in curriculum. The representatives will rank their preferences for the 2019 set of SAE nominations that the J-7 will use to provide a draft list for approval.
- Each MECC school and the attending FVEYS offered a short presentation on activities of note in their institutions. The common element crossing all schools appears to be that the extreme budget pressures of recent years have ebbed, SERBs are no longer disrupting military faculty, schools often receive high-level requests and are sufficiently flexible to implement, and small irritants have lessened as lessons are learned.