

Combat Assessment Course Syllabus

2026



Joint Targeting School

Joint Staff, J-7

**The Joint Staff
Joint Targeting School
1905 Regulus Avenue
Virginia Beach, VA 23461-2099**

**Joint Training Course
Combat Assessment Course**

2026

INTRODUCTION

Joint Staff J-7 is the lead agent for this joint training course syllabus, which is authorized for issue by the Joint Targeting School. This syllabus is directive in nature and prescribes the overall training strategy and amount of instruction required for a student with the entry prerequisites to attain course goals and graduate. Units tasked to implement this syllabus will ensure each student who graduated possesses the knowledge, skills and proficiencies set forth in the course training standards. Within the syllabus and other directive constraints, the amount and level of training devoted to mission elements, events, subjects or phases should be adjusted as required to meet individual student needs. Instructions governing publication and revision of this syllabus are contained in *CJCSM 3500.03D, Joint Training Manual for the Armed Forces of the United States*. This syllabus does not take precedence over applicable governing directives.



DAMIEN T. JOHNSON,
Lieutenant Colonel, USAF
Director, Joint Targeting School

Chapter 1

Course Description

1. **Title:** Combat Assessment (CA) Course
2. **C Joint Qualified Officer (JQO) Certification Date:** 20 November 2025
Course earns 1.0 Joint Qualified Officer (JQO) point.
3. **Joint Qualified Officer (JQO) Certification Expiration Date:** 20 November 2028
4. **Course Identifiers**
 - a. **Joint “S” Code:** S357
 - b. **USA CIN:** 303JTS003
 - c. **USAF CIN:** X50ZN14N3—OB6A
 - d. **USMC CIN:** N46HFQ3
 - e. **USN CIN:** S-3A0004
 - f. **FMS MASL:** P122024
5. **Objective:** Provide procedures and techniques for the Combat Assessment methodology as outlined in CJCSI 3162.
6. **Location:** 1905 Regulus Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA 23461-2099
7. **Duration:** 5 Training Days.
8. **Entry Prerequisites:** Minimum of a SECRET Security clearance. Review of the executive summaries for the following Joint Publications: JP 3-60, and JP 5-0. Students will leverage principles from these publications starting on day 1 of the course and will be tested on them during both course exams.
9. **Status Upon Graduation:** Graduates are awarded 1.0 Joint Qualification Officer Points and receive Certificates of Completion.
10. **Academic Training**

	<i>hours</i>
a. Course Prerequisite	4.0
b. JTS Instruction (lecture)	15.0
c. JTS facilitated practical exercises	15.0
d. Homework (professional reading)	2.0
e. Student-led briefings	6.0
f. Exam Preparation	1.0
g. Academic evaluation	1.0
Total Approximate Course Hours	44.0

Chapter 2 Course Administration

Section A - Syllabus Management

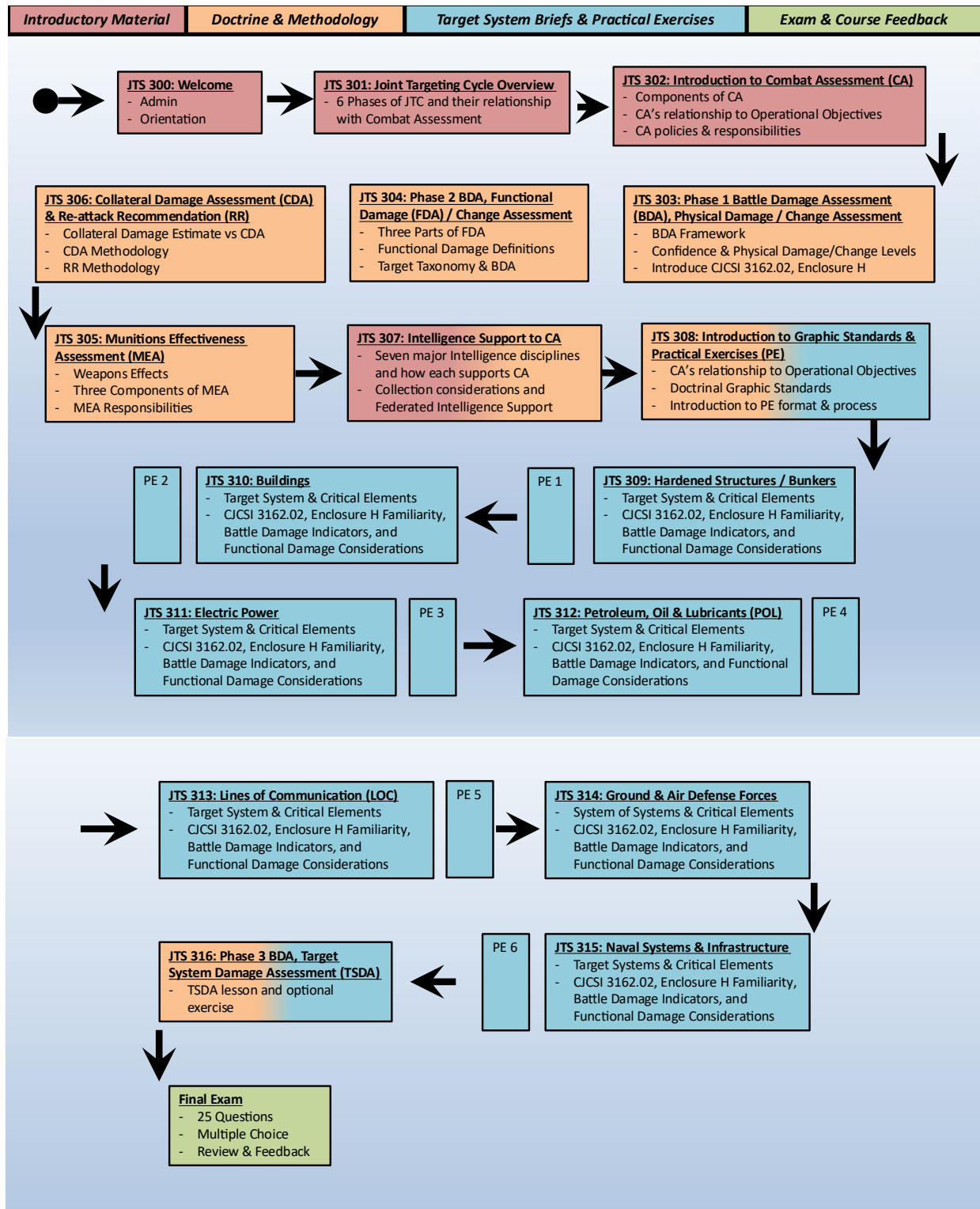
1. **Syllabus Interpretation:** This syllabus is directive and must be followed as written.
2. **Syllabus Review:** JTS conducts syllabus reviews on an annual basis or as directed by the JTS Director. Following syllabus review, the JTS Director approves any syllabus modifications.
3. **Syllabus Content.**
 - a. **Updates:** Course managers approve all lesson updates prior to course presentation.
 - b. **Modification:** The JTS Director approves all syllabus modifications and lesson additions prior to course inclusion.
 - c. **Frequency of Review:** JTS reviews syllabus content on an annual basis. JTS executes additional content reviews when lesson references are updated.

Section B - Training Management

1. **Course Manager Responsibilities:** The JTS Director designates course managers. The course manager is responsible for monitoring the content of the assigned course. Prior to course start, the course manager approves the course schedule and flow of events.
2. **Instructor Responsibilities.**
 - a. **Lecture:** Instruction will not exceed 60 minutes without a scheduled break. Individual classes may decide to extend instruction past 60 minutes without a break.
 - b. **Practical Exercises:** JTS instructors will facilitate practical exercise discussion and work. Students are expected to use the information provided and apply the Combat Assessment methodology to make an informed assessment.
3. **Course Standards:** Students must achieve a minimum of 80% on the end of course exam. Students are expected to attend all blocks of instruction and actively contribute to practical exercises.
4. **Training Capacity:** JTS course capacity is 30 seats for in-resident sessions. If a student fails to arrive at the course on the first day of in-residence training JTS will open the seat to the standby list. Student quotas are managed based upon established JTS quota prioritization.
5. **Training Materials:** The following is a list of materials needed to accomplish the BDA course outlined by this syllabus.
 - a. Academic lectures
 - b. Practical exercises
 - c. CJCSI 3162 Methodology for Combat Assessment
 - d. DIA Critical Elements Handbook
 - e. Exam
6. **Unsatisfactory Performance**
 - a. **Exam Failure:** If a student fails to achieve a score of 80% on the final exam, the student will be remediated on the exam material and be allowed to correct missed items. Students are given one re-attempt for exam scores below 80%.
 - b. **Unexcused Absences:** Two unexcused absences will result in removal from the course at the discretion of the course manager and director.
 - c. **Cheating/Unprofessional Behavior:** Any instances of cheating will result in dismissal from the course. Unprofessional behavior will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and may include counseling by staff up to dismissal from the course and formal correspondence to the member's commanding officer.

- d. **Security Violation:** All Security violations will be dealt with on an individual basis and may result in removal from the course.
- e. **Dismissal from Course:** In the case of a student's dismissal from the course for not achieving the academic and/or overall performance standards, student will not receive a certificate of completion or Joint Qualification Officer Points. The student's current commanding officer will be notified through formal correspondence.

Chapter 3 Course Flow



Chapter 4

Lesson Descriptions

<u>Lesson ID</u>	<u>Lesson Name</u>	<u>Duration</u>
JTS 300	Welcome	1.0

Objectives: Introduce JTS instructors and outline JTS mission. Address administrative concerns and requirements. Outline curriculum and course expectations. Facilitate student introductions.

JTS 301	Joint Targeting Cycle Overview	1.0
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Objectives: Introduce the six phases of the Joint Targeting Cycle (JTC), introduce and define targeting-specific terminology, summarize the joint targeting process with focus on how it impacts on combat assessment.

JTS 302	Introduction to Combat Assessment	1.0
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Objectives: Introduce the four components of Combat Assessment (CA), identify its purpose in the JTC emphasizing its relationship to the Commander's decisions and Operational Objectives, and summarizing CA policies and responsibilities.

JTS 303	Phase 1 Battle Damage Assessment (BDA): Physical Damage Assessments	1.0
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Objectives: Introduce the BDA Framework, explain Physical Damage / Change Assessment levels, their associated Confidence Levels, and introduce Enclosure H of the CJCSI 3162.

JTS 304	Phase 2 BDA: Functional Damage Assessments	0.5
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Objectives: Describe the three parts of a Functional Damage Assessment (FDA) and their definitions and discuss the relationship between Target Taxonomy & the Phases of BDA.

JTS 305	Munitions Effectiveness Assessment (MEA)	1.0
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Objectives: Describe weapons effects, weapon categories and the three weapon hit indicators.

JTS 306	Collateral Damage Assessment (CDA) & Re-attack Recommendation (RR)	1.0
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Objectives: Describe Collateral Damage Methodology and compare that with CDA methodology, discuss the role of Civilian Harm Reduction and Mitigation to CDA, and describe the RR methodology.

JTS 307	Intelligence Support to CA	1.0
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Objectives: Introduce and describe collections management and its importance for CA, describe the seven major Intelligence disciplines and how each can support CA, and discuss considerations for Federated Intelligence Support as it relates to CA.

JTS 308 Introduction to Graphic Standards & Practical Exercises (PE) 1.0

Objectives: Re-emphasize CA's relationship with Operational Objectives and how baseline Phase 1 & 2 BDA reports build the foundation for higher-level CA, introduce and describe the doctrinal standards for Combat Assessment Graphics, and describe the format and expectations of the PEs.

JTS 309 Hardened Structures / Bunkers 1.0

Objectives: Describe hardened structures, their characteristics, weaponeering considerations and the process of assessing battle damage to them. Emphasize familiarity with Enclosure H of the CJCSI 3162, specific Battle Damage Indicators (BDI), and FDA considerations.

JTS 310 Buildings 1.0

Objectives: Describe building types and construction and the process of assessing battle damage to buildings. Emphasize familiarity with Enclosure H of the CJCSI 3162, specific BDIs, and FDA considerations.

JTS 311 Electric Power (PWR) 1.0

Objectives: Describe electric power systems and components. Describe the process of assessing battle damage to Electric Power systems and emphasize familiarity with Enclosure H of the CJCSI 3162, specific BDIs and FDA considerations.

JTS 312 Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricants (POL) 1.0

Objectives: Describe the POL target system, components and the process of assessing battle damage to POL systems and emphasize familiarity with Enclosure H of the CJCSI 3162, specific BDIs and FDA considerations.

JTS 313 Lines of Communications (LOC) 1.0

Objectives: Describe the target system, it's components and the fundamentals of assessing battle damage to the four major LOC system components (highways, airlift, railways) and emphasize familiarity with Enclosure H of the CJCSI 3162, specific BDIs and FDA considerations.

JTS 314 Ground Forces & Military Equipment 0.5

Objectives: Describe the fundamentals assessing battle damage to military ground forces including personnel, units, and equipment. emphasize familiarity with Enclosure H of the CJCSI 3162, specific components and their BDIs, FDA considerations.

JTS 315 Ships and Naval Infrastructure 0.5

Objectives: Describe the fundamentals assessing battle damage to ships and naval infrastructure including port facilities, quays and cranes. emphasize familiarity with Enclosure H of the CJCSI 3162, specific components and their BDIs, and FDA considerations.

Objectives: Instructor-guided discussion and vignette on the challenges and considerations associated with conducting TSDA. Summarize the process and doctrine of conducting Phase III, Target System Damage Assessment and introduce the practical exercise.

Chapter 5 Practical Exercise Descriptions

<u>Exercise ID</u>	<u>Exercise Name</u>	<u>Duration</u>
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PE 1	Hardened Structure	2.0
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Objectives: Conduct Phase 1 and Phase 2 BDA on a Hardened Structure target engagement. Produce and brief a combined CA graphic, including PDA, FDA, and any additional assessments, e.g. MEA, CDA, Additional Damage (AD), required by the scenario.

PE 2	Buildings	2.0
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Objectives: Conduct Phase 1 and Phase 2 BDA on a building target engagement. Produce and brief a combined CA graphic, including PDA, FDA, and any additional assessments, e.g. MEA, CDA, AD, required by the scenario.

PE 3	Electric Power	2.0
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Objectives: Conduct Phase 1 and Phase 2 BDA on an Electric Power Station target engagement. Produce and brief combined a CA graphic, including PDA, FDA, and any additional assessments, e.g. MEA, CDA, AD, required by the scenario.

PE 4	POL	2.0
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Objectives: Conduct Phase 1 and Phase 2 BDA on a POL facility target engagement. Produce and brief a combined CA graphic, including PDA, FDA, and any additional assessments, e.g. MEA, CDA, AD, required by the scenario.

PE 5 & 6	LOC	2.0
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Objectives: Conduct Phase 1 and Phase 2 BDA on an LOC system component (either a bridge, or an airfield) target engagement. Produce and brief a combined CA graphic, including PDA, FDA, and any additional assessments, e.g. MEA, CDA, AD, required by the scenario.

PE 7	Military Equipment	2.0
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Objectives: Conduct Phase 1 and Phase 2 BDA on various RADARs. Produce and brief combined CA graphic, including PDA, FDA, and any additional assessments, e.g. MEA, CDA, AD, required by the scenario.

Objectives: Conduct Phase 3 TSDA on provided scenario including target system FDA, re-attack recommendations, RFIs and any additional assessments

**Chapter 6
Student Evaluations**

<u>Event ID</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Duration</u>
JTS399	Final Exam	1.0

Objectives: Students will demonstrate the ability to apply the combat assessment methodology to conduct BDA (assess physical and functional damage on various target elements, targets, and target systems), and an understanding of the processes and responsibilities associated with the other three components of CA: CDA, MEA and RR.

Chapter 7

Course References

1. Joint Publications

- a. Access: <https://jdeis.js.mil/jdeis/index.jsp?pindex=2>
- b. Reference
 - JP 2-0, Joint Intelligence
 - JP 3-60, Joint Targeting
 - JP 5-0, Joint Operational Planning

2. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Directives

- a. Access: https://ca.dtic.mil/cjcs_directives/index.htm
- b. Reference
 - CJCSI 3162, Methodology for Combat Assessment
 - CJCSI 3370, Target Development standards

3. Service and Agency Publications

- a. Reference
 - DIA-13-1308-855 Critical elements Handbook
 - DI-2820-2-03 BDA Reference Handbook