



Customer Spotlight: Digital Currencies as National Threat and Opportunity



Digital currency, and more specifically cryptocurrency, is gaining explosive adoption and having significant impact on national and international banking systems, e-commerce and most notably, our national security. Decentralized cryptocurrency allows straightforward peer-to-peer monetary exchange entirely online. It is widely popular because it does not involve third parties like banks or credit card companies thus avoiding oversight and fees. Cryptocurrencies use blockchain and encryption as enabling technologies to authenticate anonymous money transactions. In 2021 alone total transaction volume for cryptocurrencies exceeded \$15.8 trillion, up 567% from 2020. Understanding of issues and opportunities associated with the rise of cryptocurrency is mission critical. Cryptocurrency is a \$3 trillion asset class that is rapidly scaling. It is evident that more of our adversaries are turning to cryptocurrency to execute their mission, creating a growing challenge for national security leaders.

We recently spoke with COL Brian Smith of U.S. Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) about their Digital Currency and National Security Executive Overview video on the JKO platform. The video was created to provide executive-level awareness of how cryptocurrency and blockchain functions, its implications to national security, and global adoption and usage by nations and other actors in the global environment.

COL Smith emphasized the importance of raising awareness of cryptocurrency at our senior levels, detailing why it's important to our mission, across areas of responsibility and national security. The video covers the basics of what it is, how it works, the scale, the risks, and more importantly, the national security implications including the specific malign actors and nation states that are using this emerging technology to their advantage. Along with the challenges, COL Smith pointed out the opportunities to exploit this source of intelligence. US and international law enforcement agencies are using blockchain analysis to identify how hackers are laundering stolen funds in real time and working with compliant exchanges and platforms to identify opportunities to freeze or seize funds before they are sent to bad actors for nefarious purposes.

In short, cryptocurrency touches all areas of national security, and the insights that can be gained from the blockchain can serve as an additional overlay for analysis in support of counter-threat finance efforts. The threat of terrorists and narco-traffickers using cryptocurrency to raise and transfer funds will continue to grow and evolve as these threat actors become more sophisticated. This is why building the capacity to conduct blockchain analysis is so important to stay ahead of these evolving threats and to ensure that we are equipped to navigate the 21st century battle space.

The digital currency video provides senior leaders with an executive-level understanding and 'so what' of cryptocurrency. Emerging digital value transfer systems will impact the DoD operationally. Our policy and decision makers must understand the impacts, applications and threats to DoD interests as they are faced with emergent policy, capability and authority decisions.

To learn more, check out the video, SOCOM-US844-Digital Currency and National Security Executive Overview on JKO at <https://jkodirect.jten.mil>.



Give Us Your Thoughts!

We want to hear from you as we move into strategic planning for next year and beyond. Tell us how we can improve our training tools or better meet your training needs. Visit our web page at www.jcs.mil/jko and get your ideas submitted!

EJPME Student and Alumni Spotlight

Solving the puzzle of joint operations with Joint Operations Directorate Senior Enlisted Leader (SEL), U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt., Jonie Escorpiso, from USSOUTHCOM's Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF-South).



What joint experiences have you had?

Early in my career, I operated in joint environments as a Command and Control Battle Management Operator and Weapons Director during training, exercises, and deployments. Additionally, I was fortunate to be the Command Senior Enlisted Leader (CSEL) for NATO's Combined Air Operations Center Torrejon (CAOC-T) in Spain. Presently, I am the Joint Operations Directorate Senior Enlisted Leader (SEL) at the Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF-S) in Florida.

How has EJPME impacted your experiences in a joint environment?

Quite honestly, it significantly impacted my experiences in a joint environment. Had I not completed EJPME I would've been behind the curve as a joint leader as it laid an academic foundation for me. I had spent the majority of my career focused on becoming an expert within my career field, branch, AFI and doctrine, etc. and EJPME showed me that there is still so much to learn, especially if I wanted to lead in a joint environment.

Tell us about an experience you've had where your EJPME knowledge came into play.

EJPME primed me with the academic knowledge to step into my new role at JIATF-S so I wasn't playing "catch up" with regard to terminology, organizational structures, and operational integration, among other areas. Having that foundation before stepping into the role allowed me time to focus on my unit's mission which facilitated my ability to advise, support, and make informed decisions promptly.

What is the most important thing you've learned about joint operations?

The most important thing I've learned about joint operations is that every service plays an important role. They each have their capabilities but it's our "interdependence [that] is critical to overall joint effectiveness." It requires us as joint leaders to see how we can effectively integrate those capabilities to achieve mission success. I think of joint operations as a puzzle. You don't just throw all the pieces onto a table thinking they're going to be perfectly placed. You have to take your time to see how each piece fits into the puzzle to create the bigger picture.

What do you feel is the most important subject for future joint leaders to know?

It's hard to narrow it down but a deep understanding of joint force development coupled with an understanding of service culture is one of the most important subjects for a leader to learn. We need to understand how to grow our team and how to do that from a joint perspective.

What advice do you have for current students?

Take your time going through the courses, especially if you have a projected assignment to a joint unit. You may not remember everything verbatim but having at least heard it or read it once is extremely beneficial.

What's next for you?

I will be attending the National Defense University, Joint Forces Staff College, Joint and Combined Warfighting School.

What would we be surprised to learn about you?

I am trying to learn how to play the banjo.

Is there anything else you'd like to share?

As we continue to evolve as a joint force we need to recognize when we may not be the expert in a particular domain, capability, or approach and to rely on one another's joint expertise to accomplish the mission.

Individuals may be nominated for this quarterly distinction by the EJPME Program Manager or their Command Senior Enlisted Leader (SEL). If you are a CSEL interested in nominating an EJPME student or alumni, please contact the Program Manager, Mr. John Lipps, at john.r.lipps.civ@mail.mil.

New on JKO: Joint Exercise Training Support (JETS)

The JETS feature now consolidates existing JKO training courses by "Learning Category" for each Combatant Command or Joint Task Force. The Learning Categories provide recommended or requested training courses for Joint Exercise Designers and Joint Exercise Training Audience members. The courses are placed in the Learning Categories based on: the Exercise Scenario, Exercise / Training Objectives, Exercise Design and Control Group activities, Lessons Learned based on recent operations or training events, Special Areas of Emphasis, CCMD Desk Officer or Event planner selected courses, or in support of Deployable Training Division (DTD) Face-to-Face Academics. JETS training completion reports are available for the CCMD or JTF Training Coordinators.



Earlier this year JKO developed the JETS Learning Category for USSOUTHCOM's joint exercise PANAMAX '22 with the Exercise Control Group reporting 37 course completions and Training Audiences members from USSOUTHCOM Headquarters, US Army South and Joint Task Force Guantanamo with 123 course completions, plus 4 Multi-Nationals completing courses.

VCLASS Helps Expand METC Training

The following is the third in a series of articles highlighting a partner organization, the Defense Health Agency (DHA), and its use of JKO products and services to help meet its mission. Here we examine the DHA, Medical Education and Training Center's (METC) use of JKO's Virtual Classroom tool, VCLASS.



When an organization's mission is to train the world's finest medics, corpsmen, and technicians, it requires a robust training environment. The METC does just that, and VCLASS assists in this mission.

The METC, located on Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, delivers over 48 military-medical academic programs and annually graduates 16,500 enlisted medical personnel. Students from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard learn side-by-side at the world's largest enlisted healthcare education campus. Within this most extensive consolidation of military training in the Department of Defense history, medical enlisted personnel experience work in a Joint environment. Consolidating curriculum, classrooms, instructors and students allows all services to learn from each other and adopt the highest standards.

Inside the JKO learning management system (LMS), VCLASS provides an interactive classroom environment for academic coursework, seminars, continuing education, and training. Its courses feature live streams, video-captured educational sessions, lessons, tests/quizzes, grades, a chat room, automated completion certificates and more.

The METC uses VCLASS to expand its training and networking of students. Networking now expands outside the classroom. Anyone can be admitted into a VCLASS, including leadership, those in the field, civilians, and current or past; onsite or remote; or self-paced or scheduled students. Since 2019, the service-wide organization, the DHA, has used over 200 VCLASS classrooms with over thirty thousand students. The METC was the first DHA organization to use VCLASS as a part of its training delivery.

For more information on ways your organization can use VCLASS to meet its mission's needs, please get in touch with JKO Knowledge Services Branch Chief George (Matt) Matais at george.m.matais.civ@mail.mil.

Military Support in Domestic Emergencies

Nearly 5,000 National Guard troops are now in Florida helping in the aftermath of devastation from Hurricane Ian. Guard members work with local authorities to maximize the impact of available assistance. They help using ground assets including vehicles, tankers, wreckers and boats, as well as helicopters for search and rescue operations. In addition to search and rescue, the troops are also helping with air support operations, damage assessment, communication support, distribution and route clearance missions.

When a national incident takes place, whether it is a natural disaster, terrorism event, or other domestic emergency, preparedness training underlies our military response. JKO hosts two Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA) courses addressing DOD support for domestic emergencies. These courses focus on the National Preparedness Goal and explain how the National Preparedness Guidelines and National Planning Scenarios are applied to strengthen the nation against all types of threats and hazards. By the completion of the courses, students will be able to identify the response agencies; the appropriate level of response for local, state, regional, and federal agencies; the structures in place to coordinate the efforts of emergency activities; the steps that should be taken to control the impact of the incident; key authorities that apply; and DOD's role in the mission. National disasters can strike at any time, whether they be weather related events or man-made threats. Take this opportunity to review preparedness guidelines and add refresher training, such as the DSCA Phase 1 Overview, to your My Training tab on JKO.



DID YOU KNOW ?

The JKO Strategic Communications team recently completed a user experience test for the newly created JKO webpage during the annual JTSC conference.



Rachael Gaul (left) and Shannon Curtin (right) took volunteer users through various interactive usability tests to collect feedback on the webpage. We learned some pretty insightful things about people’s awareness of the site and how they use it. The team is already at work making revisions based on the feedback we received. We also had interest and requests for information about other JKO tools. We look forward to talking more with our customers about their usability experience with the web page and JKO tools.

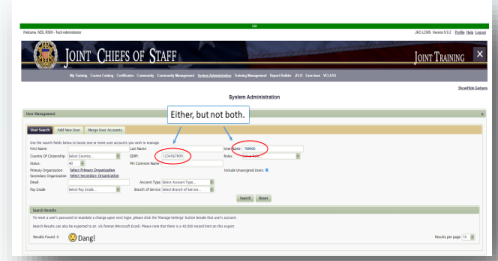
If you haven't visited the JKO webpage, make sure you check it out. New content is posted monthly and we're working hard to constantly improve the user experience.

www.jcs.mil/jko

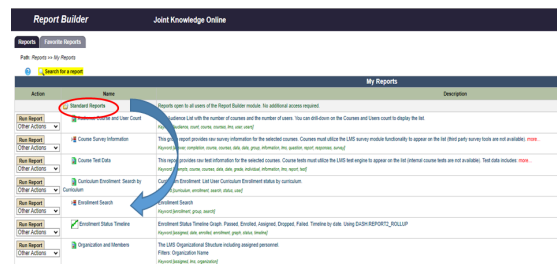
Tips From A Training Coordinator

Finding Accounts Using Report Builder

A frustrating situation a training coordinator (TC) deals with on occasion is not being able to locate an individual in the JKO LCMS. A TC can only access individuals in the same primary organization as the TC, or an individual who is not assigned to a primary org (Unassigned). If an individual’s Profile shows them assigned to an organization other than the TC’s, the LMS will not allow the TC to access the account. However, a TC can determine an individual’s primary organization, and additional information that may make it possible for the TC to contact the individual they are trying to locate by using **Report Builder**.

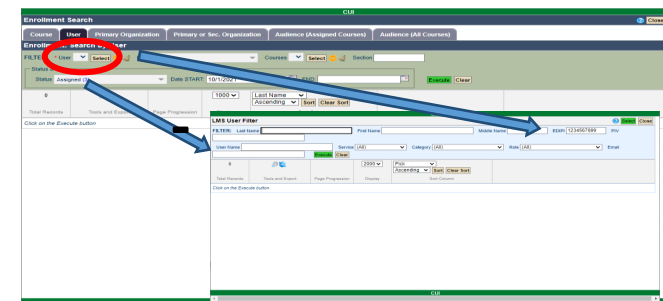
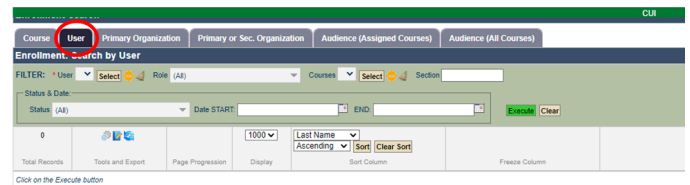


After confirming that neither a valid EDIPI or a Username, finds the account, enter **Report Builder**, select **Standard Reports**, then **Enrollment Search Report** and then click **Run Report**.



When the Enrollment Search opens, select the **User** tab.

Enter either a valid EDIPI or a Username. Click **Enter**.



Note: Searching with a first and last name may yield a multiple number of accounts that cannot be specifically identified.

The TC can now see the individual’s primary organization and email. The TC can now attempt to contact the individual and request the account holder update their account Profile so as to make them visible to the TC.

#	Pick	Full Name	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Edipi	Piv	User Name	Country	Organization	Account Type	Email Address
1		JOHN DOE	DOE	JOHN	M	1234567899	789900	US	NOT YOUR ORGANIZATION	Government Service Civilian		john.m.doe.civ@mail.mil

For complete instruction with screenshots, go to www.jcs.mil/jko.