



**Doctrine Update
for
Joint Publication 1, *Doctrine for the Armed Forces of the United States*
25 March 2013**



“JP 1 is the capstone publication for all joint doctrine, presenting fundamental principles and overarching guidance for the employment of the Armed Forces of the United States.” This revision presents the evolution of joint guidance and military theory that forms the core of joint warfighting doctrine. Revision changes include:

Discussion on theoretical concepts informing doctrine

- **“War is socially sanctioned violence to achieve a political purpose.”** War’s nature is changeless, but warfare evolves constantly. (Page I-3)
- **“Warfare is the mechanism, method, or modality of armed conflict against an enemy. It is ‘the how’ of waging war. Warfare continues to change and be transformed by society, diplomacy, politics, and technology.”** (Page I-4)
- The US military recognizes two basic forms of warfare – traditional and irregular – with the difference being each type’s strategic purpose. Note that war may have both traditional and irregular dimensions. (Page I-5)
 - **Traditional Warfare.** “The strategic purpose of traditional warfare is the imposition of a nation’s will on its adversary nation-state(s) and the avoidance of its will being imposed upon us.” (Page 1-5)
 - **Irregular Warfare.** “The strategic point of irregular warfare is to gain or maintain control or influence over, and the support of, a relevant population.” (Page 1-6)
- **The two fundamental strategies** in the use of military force are strategy of annihilation and strategy of erosion. (Page I-4)
 - **Annihilation** is “to make the enemy helpless to resist us, by physically destroying his military capabilities.” (Page I-4)
 - **Erosion** is “to convince the enemy that accepting our terms will be less painful than continuing to aggress or resist.... In such an approach, we use military force to raise the costs of resistance higher than the enemy is willing to pay. We use force in this manner in pursuit of limited political goals that we believe the enemy leadership will ultimately be willing to accept.” (Page I-4)

Discussion on DOD's support to the informational instrument of power

- DOD operates in a world of interconnected global networks and evolving social media platforms. Every DOD action that is planned or executed, word that is written or spoken, and image that is displayed or relayed, communicates the intent of DOD, and by extension the USG, with the resulting potential for strategic effects. (page I-12)
- DOD makes every effort to synchronize, align, and coordinate communication activities. Communication synchronization entails focused efforts to create, strengthen, or preserve conditions favorable for the advancement of national interests, policies, and objectives by understanding and engaging key audiences through the use of coordinated programs, plans, themes, messages, and products synchronized with the actions of all instruments of national power. (page I-12)
- Within DOD, JFCs implement higher-level communication guidance through the commander's communication synchronization process. JFCs provide guidance and their staffs develop the approach for achieving information-related objectives and ensuring the integrity and consistency of themes, messages, images, and actions to the lowest level through the integration and synchronization of relevant information-related capabilities. Considering the messages our words, images, and actions communicate is integral to military planning and operations and should be coordinated and synchronized with DOD's interorganizational partners. (page I-13)

Defines Global Synchronizer responsibilities

- "SecDef... may assign a combatant commander... global synchronizer responsibilities. Unless directed by SecDef, the global synchronizer's role is not to execute specific plans, but to align and harmonize plans and recommend sequencing of actions to achieve strategic end states and objectives of a global campaign plan" (Page III-7)

Clarifies tactical control (TACON) authorities

- Codifies the use of TACON when attaching forces. "Commanders of subordinate commands, including JTFs, will be given operational control (OPCON) of assigned forces and OPCON or TACON of attached forces by the superior commander." (Page V-6)
- "TACON does not provide the authority to give or change the function of the subordinate commander." (Page V-8)
 - Function: "The broad and enduring role for which an organization is designed, equipped, and trained." (Page GL-8)

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