



JOINT MATTERS

We are One Step Closer to a Joint Total Force

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NOW all reservists can receive credit, even retroactive credit, for their joint experiences and education. Department of Defense (DoD) policy, effective on 1 October 2007, finally gave the full-time reservist a path to become joint qualified. The most recent step towards a "Total Force" Joint approach was taken on 28 March 2008, when Dr. David S.C. Chu, the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD/PR), signed into policy the "Reserve Component Officer Joint Qualification Program Guidance."ⁱ This interim guidance outlines criteria for how traditional reservists, who serve in joint assignments periodically, or in a less than full-time capacity, can earn joint credit and joint qualifications.

This newest addition to the Joint Officer Management program addresses reserve experience that meets the definition of Joint Mattersⁱⁱ accrued in a part-time status.ⁱⁱⁱ Though officially in effect now, Dr. Chu's interim guidance will be incorporated into DoD Instruction (DODI) 1300.19 *DoD Joint Officer Management Program*, at its next scheduled update. For reservists O-6 and below, serving periodically, it takes a cumulative of six years of joint experience and the requisite joint education to become Level III qualified.^{iv} Level III qualification results in a service member being designated as a Joint Qualified Officer or JQO.

DODI 1300.19 also allows all officers, both active and reserve, to earn joint qualification along one of two paths.^v This instruction defines these paths as the Standard Duty Assignment (S-JDA) path and the Experience Joint Duty Assignment (E-JDA) path. A temporary provision enables Reserve Component (RC) officers to receive retroactive credit for joint experience prior to October 2007. For example, joint experience gained in non-JDAL (Joint Duty Assignment List) positions in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Joint Staff, Combatant Command Headquarters and Defense Agencies Headquarters, between October 1, 1986 and September 30, 2001, is eligible. In the end, a reserve officer will get the same joint credit as an active duty officer previously received. Requests for retroactive credit will be accepted until 30 September 2010.^{vi}

The Joint Staff J-1, in coordination with the Combatant Commands, recently added full-time Guard and Reserve positions currently on joint manning documents to the JDAL. Serving full-time in a JDAL position for three years is

considered to be the S-JDA path of obtaining joint credit. Under the new Joint Qualification System (JQS), it is the intent of the DoD to process full-time reservists in the same manner as their active duty counterparts when considering them for joint qualification designation. This means once an officer has served three years in a full-time JDAL position, and has also completed the appropriate level of joint education, that officer will automatically be nominated by their service or component for Joint Qualification Level III. Officer nominations are forwarded to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for his endorsement prior to submission to the USD/PR for final approval. Prior to full implementation, it will be incumbent on the officer to request credit.

Reservists with less than three years full-time joint experience can receive joint credit through the second path, E-JDA. This is a self-nomination process which starts with entry of joint experience along with supporting documentation on the JQS Self-Nomination Website.^{vii}

All submissions are reviewed by the JQS Experience Review Panel to determine two things: first, does this self-nominated experience meet the definition of joint matters and, if it does, how many points should the panel award for this experience. The first ever JQS Experience Review Panel met in February 2008 and reviewed joint experience nominations packages from both the Active and Reserve components. Additional review panels are scheduled to convene several times throughout the year. Once an officer has enough experience points and the requisite joint education for a particular level, the service or component then can nominate that officer for level II, III or IV joint qualification.^{viii} The table below depicts the process for becoming a JQO.

The future requires a total force that can operate effectively in a joint environment, at home and abroad. Two major policy steps toward creating a Joint Total Force were accomplished in the last year. The first recognized full-time reserve component officers working in joint billets and the second recognized guardsmen and reservists' contributions to the joint war fight through traditional reserve service. To become a truly Joint Total Force, future steps need to include: defining the reserve component requirement for joint qualifications and leadership emphasis. Stay tuned for more on these steps in a future Joint Matters article.

ⁱ Dr. Chu, David S., USD/PR directive-type memorandum titled Reserve Component Officer Joint Qualification Program Guidance published 28 Mar 2008 located at: http://www.jcs.mil/ngrm/RC_S-JDA_PolicyDTM28Mar08.pdf.

ⁱⁱ "Joint Matters" is defined in Section 519 of Public Law 109-364, John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007, that can be found at: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109_cong_public_laws&docid=f:publ364.109.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ Primarily, this experience falls into one of two categories: traditional unit drill status or individual mobilization augmentees assigned to a joint activity manning document or other experience performing duties that meet the definition of joint matters.

^{iv} Completion of Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) Phase I and JPME Phase II (or Advanced Joint Professional Military Education in lieu of JPME II) is required in order to meet the joint

education requirements to become Level III Joint qualified, and be formally designated a Joint Qualified Officer (JQO).

^v For more information see DODI 1300.19, available online at <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/130019p.pdf>.

^{vi} To ensure parity, RC officers who served in joint organizations and would have met the statutory requirements of chapter 38 of title 10 US Code will be credited with the same joint credentials that were available to active component officers dating back to the implementation of the Goldwater Nichols Act of 1986. See the self-nomination website at <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/jqs> for more details and the procedures for submitting retroactive requests.

^{vii} This self-nomination website can be found at: <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/jqs>.

^{viii} Table E3.T1 in DoDI 1300.19, DoD Joint Officer Management Program, p. 17 for details.

Table 1: OSD Fact Sheet on Joint Qualification System

