



## Joint Education Offers Advancement Opportunities

By LTC Michael Petring

**AT** a “Town Hall” meeting for reserve component members held at the Pentagon in March 2009, the Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for Reserve Matters, Maj Gen Jim Graves, talked about how far the Advanced Joint Professional Military Education (AJPME) program has come over the past few years.

Attendance is up dramatically and the AJPME program has steadily increased the number of graduates from 80 officers in 2004 to more than 210 officers in 2008. In 2009, the AJPME course expects to graduate more than 350. But even with the recent expansion of AJPME, there is unused capacity remaining. As General Graves put it, despite the tremendous progress, “it is a waste to teach classes to empty seats.”

Some of the officers present at the Town Hall meeting described difficulty in obtaining a slot to AJPME. Reasons ranged from a shortage of slots available (a problem that is largely fixed), to unfamiliarity with the process to apply.

If you are interested in AJPME, but are either unaware of the process or thought that slots were not available, I encourage you to contact your service point of contact (listed at the end of this article) as chances are good that slots are available for those who apply. This article provides information on the AJPME program as well as tips on applying for it.

It is tempting to view AJPME as merely a necessary stepping stone on the path to becoming a joint qualified

officer (JQO). Although not a requirement today for members of the Reserves and National Guard, becoming joint qualified will likely become a factor for promotion to General Officer/Flag Officer (GO/FO) in the future. Some may question “so what”, especially if they are not primarily concerned about becoming a GO/FO. Many Reserve Component (RC) officers are genuinely more interested in the big picture of how our armed services work together than they are in gaining joint qualification. These officers want to improve their understanding of all things joint, and find that AJPME helps break down barriers in cooperation among services.

As Lt Col Jeff Waechter,

Director for the AJPME program at

the Joint Forces Staff College (JFSC), points out: “Jointness is not tied only to a billet. Joint education allows you to interact with other services on a daily basis, and builds confidence in those relationships.”

He further stated that “I get regular feedback from AJPME graduates that they are using what they have learned in their daily jobs as well as during deployments and exercises. The majority of regrets from graduates are that they didn’t take the course earlier.”

Others, while interested in the course, have elected to delay enrollment in AJPME or Joint Professional Military Education II (JPME II) courses until the completion of those courses becomes a requirement for their position or for promotion. Few joint duty assignment billets, relatively speaking, currently exist for

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the reserve components – listed on a Joint Duty Assignment List (JDAL) – but that may change in the future. Lt Col Waechter cautions against taking a “wait-and-see” approach: “If you’re waiting for a requirement to come out before applying to AJPME, you’re already behind. Once requirements are developed, demand for advanced JPME will increase significantly.”

### Who Should Attend AJPME


The target audience for the course is an RC officer serving in or destined to serve in a billet on a joint staff or a joint task force.

While AJPME is primarily for service members currently in or en route to joint duty assignments, the reality is nearly every RC officer should be prepared to work in a joint environment. Some graduates have reported that they were selected for joint assignments based on completion of AJPME.

The AJPME course requires a significant commitment in terms of time, dedication, and self-motivation. It is important for potential AJPME students to assess their family responsibilities, civilian employment schedules, and forecasted military duties to identify and overcome potential time requirement conflicts so they are best situated to successfully complete this course.

The course is worthwhile and the benefits are more than just a diploma or a check in the box. This is a chance to make yourself or your subordinates better officers and skilled ambassadors of the reserve component in the joint world.

### Tips for Applying to AJPME

- Applicants must be JPME Phase I complete
- Applicants should apply between intermediate level service schooling and senior service school
- Applicants should contact their service RC representative (not JFSC) – see list below. 

*Note: Although AJPME is targeted to the O4-O6 community, a significant number of GO/FOs have graduated from this course. As of this writing, 8 GO's are currently enrolled in AJPME.*

### Service Points of Contact for AJPME

**Army Reserve**  
USAR (HRC-STL)

POC: Ms. Angela Brown or Mr. George Jeter  
Comm: (314) 592-0000, x20412 (DSN 892)  
Email: [miledteam@conus.army.mil](mailto:miledteam@conus.army.mil)

#### Navy Reserve

USN (COMNAVRESFORCOM)  
CNRFC N7 - Training  
POC: LCDR Michael Fox or YN1 Michael Hightower  
Comm: (757) 322-6616 / 6619 (DSN 262)  
Email: [mike.fox@navy.mil](mailto:mike.fox@navy.mil)  
[Michael.hightower1@navy.mil](mailto:Michael.hightower1@navy.mil)

#### Marine Corps Reserve

USMCR (RAM-4)  
POC: Maj Luis Narvaez or Ms. Janet Green  
Comm: (703) 784-9125 (DSN 278)  
Email: [luis.narvaez@usmc.mil](mailto:luis.narvaez@usmc.mil)  
[Janet.green@usmc.mil](mailto:Janet.green@usmc.mil)

#### Air Force Reserve

USAFR (AFRC/A1TS)  
POC: MSgt Michael Jackson  
Comm: (478) 327-0232 (DSN 625)  
[Michael.jackson2@afrc.af.mil](mailto:Michael.jackson2@afrc.af.mil)  
SMSgt Alicia Cline  
Comm: (678) 655-4529 (DSN 625)  
Email: [Alicia.Cline@dobbins.af.mil](mailto:Alicia.Cline@dobbins.af.mil)

#### National Guard (Army and Air)

ARNG & ANG (NGB J-7)  
POC: Mr. Reuben Adams  
Comm: (703) 607-1832 or 5427 (DSN 327)  
Email: [reuben.adams@us.army.mil](mailto:reuben.adams@us.army.mil)

#### Coast Guard Reserve

USCGR  
POC: LTJG Yanira Tirado  
Comm: (202) 475-5450 / 5444  
Email: [Yanira.tirado@uscg.mil](mailto:Yanira.tirado@uscg.mil)

### References

See [www.jfsc.ndu.edu/schools\\_programs/rc\\_jpme/default.asp](http://www.jfsc.ndu.edu/schools_programs/rc_jpme/default.asp) for AJPME information on the Joint Forces Staff College website

See [www.dtic.mil/doctrine/index.html](http://www.dtic.mil/doctrine/index.html) for Information Paper on “Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) for the Reserve Components (RC)”, 25 Aug 2004