



CONTEMPORARY AND EMERGING WARFARE

CW5550

SYLLABUS

AY 26

**JOINT PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION
PHASE I INTERMEDIATE LEVEL COURSE**

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
AIR COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE
*Twenty-First Century Leaders for Twenty-First Century Challenges***

Current as of 5 Jan 2026

**AIR COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE
MAXWELL AFB, AL**

FOREWORD

This syllabus for the Contemporary and Emerging Warfare course for the Air Command and Staff College, –January—March 2026, provides an overview of the course narrative and objectives and a detailed description of each lesson to assist students in their reading and preparation for lecture and seminar. Included herein is information about the course’s methods of evaluation, the schedule, and the fulfillment of joint professional military education core goals.

Contemporary and Emerging Warfare represents merging lessons learned from contemporary conflicts with emerging technologies and threats to prepare for future conflicts. This challenge will require many new innovative ways of thinking, operating, and assessing the adversary.

SIGNED

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CONTEMPORARY AND EMERGING WARFARE COURSE OVERVIEW

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Contemporary and Emerging Warfare (CW) course examines military capabilities, limitations, threats, and technology in contemporary and emerging conflicts. Additionally, it addresses joint doctrine and adversary trends in strategic competition. This course is designed to expose students to lessons learned in contemporary conflicts and apply them to future ones. Students will study current and emerging threats across the great power competition continuum and how our joint force's doctrine and capabilities can enable strategic solutions for integrated deterrence and future wars. The operating environment is dynamic, and our joint force must understand the interdependencies of each service to combat the emerging threats within great power competition. This course will introduce joint all-domain operations in the contested environment, providing insight into the operational conditions expected for the United States military and its allies, and explore security challenges as outlined in the 2022 National Defense Strategy, with a specific focus on all-domain warfare and the challenges posed by China, Russia, North Korea, and Iran.

This course begins its first phase by studying emerging technologies, followed by threats they pose to contemporary warfighting domains and their relevance to integrated deterrence and strategic competition. It then transitions to how contemporary operational concepts of logistics and sustainment, command and control, and domains are impacted by emergent technologies. In the second phase, the course will examine adversaries' capabilities, doctrine, and current operations, with particular emphasis on real-world case studies such as the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Taiwan and the South China Sea in US-China relations, and the implications of the Abraham Accords for Iran and the Middle East.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Examine the capabilities and limitations of military power in contemporary and emergent conflicts
2. Articulate how the modern joint force operates in all domains
3. Link friendly and adversary capabilities, theories of war, and methods of force employment in contemporary and emerging warfare
4. Apply creative thinking and problem-solving methods about airpower and joint operations in the 21st-century operational warfighting environment

COURSE METHODS OF EVALUATION

1. CW-600 (E): TALKING PAPER

Deliverable: Students will compose a talking paper to demonstrate executive writing and senior leader communication. The assignment will focus on providing talking points for an air component commander in preparation for an air chiefs summit with partner nation air component commanders and air chiefs regarding emerging threats to their respective AOR. This paper will be 1 page in length and follow Tongue and Quill formatting.

Prompt: You are an Action Officer (AO) on a MAJCOM air component commander's action group (CAG). You are tasked to prepare the talking points for the commander ahead of an air chiefs summit. The discussion is aimed at "what emerging technology poses the greatest threat to air operations in 2027."

The paper is worth 20% of the course grade and is due electronically in Canvas by 1700 on 30 January 2026.

Additional Instructions:

1. **Type of Assignment:** Graded, take-home, written talking paper.
2. **Time Allotted:** From issuance on 6 Jan (Day 1) to 30 Jan 2026 by 1700.
3. **Resources:** You must use evidence from course content and may use other materials provided in the ACSC curriculum along with personal experience.
4. **AI Usage:** No AI use permitted.
5. **Length:** 1 page.
6. **Style:** Formatting will be in accordance with the Tongue and Quill "Talking Paper" (Chapter 16, 223) and an example template will be provided to the students.
7. **Endnotes:** All essays must give credit for using others' ideas, thoughts, and concepts in the endnotes. Citations are required for both direct quotations and paraphrasing of material. Endnotes come at the end of the essay and do not count against the page limit. Please see AU-1: Air University: Style and Author Guide, Second Edition for guidance on formatting endnotes. No bibliography is required.
8. **Collaboration:** Students must follow ACSC guidelines on collaboration.
9. **Turn-in Procedures:** Submit online through Canvas. Your CW instructor may provide additional guidance.
10. **Questions:** Refer any questions about the above guidelines to your CW instructor.

2. CW-601 (E): TALKING PAPER

Deliverable: Students will compose a talking paper to demonstrate executive writing and senior leader communication. This paper will be 1-2 pages in length and follow Tongue and Quill formatting.

Prompt: You are an AO on your MAJCOM air component commander's action group (CAG). In response to growing Sino-Russian military cooperation, the Joint Staff has tasked the air component to assess potential threat transfers. You are tasked to prepare a talking paper for the commander that analyzes how key operational and tactical lessons from the Russia-Ukraine conflict could be adapted and employed by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in a Taiwan contingency. The paper must identify the single most critical vulnerability this "threat transfer" would create for US and allied airpower and propose a specific, high-impact countermeasure.

The paper is worth 20% of the course grade and is due electronically in Canvas by 1700 on 27 February 2026.

Additional Instructions:

1. **Type of Assignment:** Graded, take-home, written talking paper.
2. **Time Allotted:** From issuance on 6 Jan (Day 1) to 27 February by 1700.
3. **Resources:** You must use evidence from course content and may use other materials provided in the ACSC curriculum along with personal experience.
4. **AI Usage:** No AI use permitted.
5. **Length:** 1-2 pages.
6. **Style:** Formatting will be in accordance with the Tongue and Quill "Talking Paper" (Chapter 16, 223) and an example template will be provided to the students.
7. **Endnotes:** All essays must give credit for using others' ideas, thoughts, and concepts in the endnotes. Citations are required for both direct quotations and paraphrasing of material. Endnotes come at the end of the essay and do not count against the page limit. Please see AU-1: Air University: Style and Author Guide, Second Edition for guidance on formatting endnotes. No bibliography is required.
8. **Collaboration:** Students must follow ACSC guidelines on collaboration.
9. **Turn-in Procedures:** Submit online through Canvas. Your CW instructor may provide additional guidance.
10. **Questions:** Refer any questions about the above guidelines to your CW instructor.

3. CW-602 (E): STAFF STUDY REPORT

Deliverable: Students will write a staff study report based on the CW course material where they identify an operational problem tied to a threat actor from phase 2 and propose a solution. This paper will be 4-6 pages in length and follow Tongue and Quill formatting.

The paper is worth 40% of the course grade and is due electronically in Canvas by 1700 on 13 March 2026.

Prompt: Identify an operational problem tied to a threat actor from Phase II and, using course material covered in the entire course, propose a solution.

Additional Instructions:

1. **Type of Assignment:** Graded, take-home, staff study.
2. **Time Allotted:** From issuance on 6 Jan (Day 1) to 13 Mar 2026 by 1700.
3. **Resources:** You may use any course content and other materials provided in the ACSC curriculum. Students can use outside materials.
4. **AI Usage:** Some Gen AI permitted. You may use AI for copyediting, brainstorming, and organization. Do not use AI for content creation or generation. Cite an AI use to include an explanation of how AI was utilized.
5. **Length:** 4-6 pages.
6. **Style:** Formatting will be in accordance with the Tongue and Quill “Staff Study” (Chapter 17, 229-236).
7. **Endnotes:** All essays must give credit for using others’ ideas, thoughts, and concepts in the endnotes. Citations are required for both direct quotations and paraphrasing of material. Endnotes come at the end of the essay and do not count against the page limit. Please see AU-1: Air University: Style and Author Guide, Second Edition for guidance on formatting endnotes. No bibliography is required.
8. **Collaboration:** Students must follow ACSC guidelines on collaboration.
9. **Turn-in Procedures:** Submit online through Canvas. Your CW instructor may provide additional guidance.
10. **Questions:** Refer any questions about the above guidelines to your CW instructor.

4. CW-603 (C): CLASS ACADEMIC CONTRIBUTION

Students are expected to attend lectures and seminars, individually read the assigned pages, participate in class exercises, and contribute to seminars. Additionally, students are expected to formulate thoughtful responses to the listed discussion preparation questions prior to each seminar. This contribution is worth 20% of the course grade.

COURSE ADMINISTRATION

All readings in this course are electronic files posted on Microsoft Teams and Canvas. Students can access the syllabus, lecture videos, electronic readings, and other supplemental materials online through Microsoft Teams and Canvas.

Please refer any questions to:

- Dr. Jared “Axis” Donnelly, Course Director, jared.donnelly@au.af.edu, Office 193B
- Lt Col James “Motel” Six, Deputy Course Director, james.six@au.af.edu, Office 117
- Maj Lee “Outlaw” Langdon, Instructor, lee.langdon.1@au.af.edu, Office 183
- Maj Kaylee “Zippo” Martin, Instructor, kaylee.martin.1@au.af.edu, Office 122
- Maj Chris “Toby” Tobiere, Instructor, christopher.tobiere.3@au.af.edu, Office 190

CONTEMPORARY AND EMERGING WARFARE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

DAY 1: EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

DATE: 8-9 January 2026

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Identify key emerging technologies that are shaping the security environment.
2. Analyze the implications of these technologies for military capabilities and operations.
3. Explore the influence of emerging technologies on airpower employment.

LESSON OVERVIEW

CW 501 (L): Emerging Technology (Dr. P.J. Springer)

Overview: This lecture will delve into the historical evolution of technology and its impact on military strategy including transformative technologies that have the potential to reshape the character of warfare in the near future. It will touch on the development of robotic military systems, advanced artificial intelligence and autonomous systems, and quantum computing.

CONTACT HOURS: 1.0-hour lecture

CW 502 (S): The Increasing Complexity of War

Overview: This seminar will focus on key emerging technologies and their potential effects on warfare. Concepts such as artificial intelligence, lethal autonomous weapons systems, and quantum computing, etc., are becoming more common, and it is crucial to understand their potential application and consequences in warfare. Discussions in seminar should focus on potential advantages for the United States and allied countries to bolster defense and deterrence.

CONTACT HOURS: 2.0-hour seminar

OPERATIONAL REFLECTION

In your most complex mission or operational challenge, is there a particular emerging technology that could have altered your planning process or resolved an ethical dilemma you faced? What problems could that technology have solved but also what challenges would it potentially create?

REQUIRED (118 pgs)

1. Axios. *Conversation with Mike Allen and General Mark Milley*. Video interview. New York: Axios, 2024.
2. Office of the Director of National Intelligence. *Future of the Battlefield*. Global Trends report. Washington, DC: ODNI, April 2021.
3. Congressional Research Service. *Emerging Military Technologies: Background and Issues for Congress*. Washington, DC: CRS, February 2024.
4. Jones, Seth G. "The Tech Revolution and Irregular Warfare: Leveraging Commercial Innovation for Great Power Competition." Washington, DC: Center for Strategic and International Studies, January 30, 2025.
5. Sanders, Gregory, and Audrey Aldisert. "Burden Sharing via Modular Open Systems Approaches: A Collaborative Path to Affordable Mass." Washington, DC: Center for Strategic and International Studies, December 10, 2024.

RECOMMENDED

1. VanHerck, Glen D., and Jacqueline D. Van Ovost. "Fighting to Get to the Fight." *Military Times*, May 31, 2022.
2. Smith, Scott. "Air and Missile Defense in the Western Pacific." *U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings*, January 2024.

DAY 2: Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

DATE: 12-13 January 2026

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Understand the role of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) in modern military operations.
2. Analyze the potential benefits and challenges of AI/ML in decision-making and operational planning.
3. Discuss the ethical and operational implications of autonomous systems in warfare.

LESSON OVERVIEW

CW 503 (L): Emerging Technology and Future Threats (Maj Megan Muniz)

Overview: This lecture will explore the applications of artificial intelligence and machine learning in military contexts, including autonomous systems, predictive analytics, and decision support tools. It will also address the ethical and operational challenges posed by these technologies.

CONTACT HOURS: 1.0-hour lecture

CW 504 (S): The Future of AI in Military Operations

Overview: This seminar will focus on the implications of AI and ML for military operations, including the speed of decision-making, data management, and the need for human oversight. Discussions should consider both the potential advantages and the risks associated with adversarial AI and data security.

CONTACT HOURS: 2.0-hour seminar

OPERATIONAL REFLECTION

Reflecting on a time-sensitive operation you have led, how might AI-driven automation have changed your decision-making timeline, and what specific measures would you implement to ensure ethical accountability in a combat scenario? Is there a particular type of AI or ML algorithm that you believe would work best?

REQUIRED (47 pgs)

1. Kuntz, Carol. *Artificial Intelligence and War: How the Department of Defense Can Lead Responsibly*. Washington, DC: Center for Strategic and International Studies, June 2025. (pgs 12-27)
2. Department of Defense. *Data, Analytics, and Artificial Intelligence Adoption Strategy*. Washington, DC: Department of Defense, June 27, 2023.
3. Department of the Air Force. *AFDN 25-1: Artificial Intelligence*. Washington, DC: Department of the Air Force, April 8, 2025.
4. Scharre, Paul. "The Risks and Rewards of Artificial Intelligence." *Military Matters* podcast, 43 minutes. 2023.

RECOMMENDED

1. Alperovitch, Dmitri. "Why Quantum Computing May Be Overhyped but AI Isn't." *Geopolitics Decanted* podcast, 56 minutes. 2023.
2. Helmus, Todd C., and Bilva Chandra. *Generative Artificial Intelligence Threats to Information Integrity and Potential Policy Responses*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND

Corporation, April 2024.

3. Probasco, Emelia S., Helen Toner, Tim G. J. Rudner, and Matthew Burtell. *AI for Military Decision-Making: Harnessing the Advantages and Avoiding the Risks*. Washington, DC: Center for Security and Emerging Technology, April 2025.
4. Google Threat Analysis Group. *Adversarial Misuse of Generative AI*. Mountain View, CA: Google, January 29, 2025.

DAY 3: CYBER

DATE: 15-16 January 2026

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Understand the cyber domain and its significance in modern warfare.
2. Analyze offensive and defensive cyber capabilities and their integration into joint operations.
3. Discuss the challenges of attribution, escalation, and deterrence in cyberspace.

LESSON OVERVIEW

CW 505 (L): Cyber in Contemporary Warfare (Dr. Joshua Sipper)

Overview: This lecture will provide an overview of the cyber domain, including key concepts, capabilities, and challenges. It will also discuss the role of cyber in joint operations and the importance of cyber resilience.

CONTACT HOURS: 1.0-hour lecture

CW 506 (S): Cyber Domain and Changing Security Environments

Overview: This seminar will focus on the strategic implications of cyber warfare, including discussions on attribution, escalation, and legal frameworks. Students will analyze case studies of cyber operations and discuss strategies for countering cyber threats.

CONTACT HOURS: 2.0-hour seminar

OPERATIONAL REFLECTION

In a past operation within your theater, how did a cyber threat (e.g., network breach or disinformation) challenge your mission, and what specific integration of cyber operations could have turned that vulnerability into an advantage?

REQUIRED READINGS (92 pgs)

1. Department of Defense. *Cyber Strategy of the Department of Defense*. Washington, DC: Office of the Secretary of Defense, July 2023. (pgs 1-15)
2. Executive Office of the President. *National Cyber Strategy*. Washington, DC: The White House, March 2023. (pgs 7-34)
3. National Cyber Security Centre. *Russian GRU Targeting Western Logistics Entities and Technology Companies*. London: NCSC, May 2025. (pgs 3-16)
4. National Cyber Security Centre. *IRGC-Affiliated Cyber Actors Exploit PLCs in Multiple Sectors, Including U.S. Water and Wastewater Systems*. London: NCSC, December 2024. (pgs 1-11)
5. Doshi, Rush. *Threats from PRC Cyber Actors and Transnational Criminal Groups*. Testimony before the U.S. Congress. Washington, DC: Georgetown University, March 2025. (pgs 1-6)
6. Jensen, Benjamin, et al. "Securing Cyber and Space: How the United States Can Disrupt China's Blockade Plans." Washington, DC: Center for Strategic and International Studies, March 2025. (pgs 1-7)
7. Sherman, Justin. *Confronting Russia's Cyber Power*. Washington, DC: Atlantic Council, May 2025. (pgs 2-15)

RECOMMENDED

1. Jones, Seth G. *Russia's Shadow War Against the West*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2025.

DAY 4: ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM OPERATIONS

DATE: 20-22 January 2026

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Understand the importance of the electromagnetic spectrum in military operations.
2. Analyze electronic warfare capabilities and their integration into joint force planning.
3. Discuss the challenges of spectrum congestion and denial.

LESSON OVERVIEW

CW 507 (L): Electromagnetic Spectrum Operations (Maj Zev “HOT JAM” McCarty)

Overview: This lecture will explore the role of the electromagnetic spectrum in modern warfare, including electronic warfare, spectrum management, and the integration of EMS operations into joint force planning.

CONTACT HOURS: 1.0-hour lecture

CW 508 (S): Emerging Domains and Changing Security Environments

Overview: This seminar will focus on the challenges and opportunities presented by the electromagnetic spectrum, including discussions on spectrum congestion, denial, and emerging technologies for maintaining spectrum dominance.

CONTACT HOURS: 2.0-hour seminar

OPERATIONAL REFLECTION

During a mission where communication or radar systems were critical, what specific EMS-related failure or success shaped the outcome, and how could next-generation EMS tools address a similar challenge in your current role?

REQUIRED (89 pgs)

1. Department of Defense. *Electromagnetic Spectrum Superiority Strategy*. Washington, DC: Department of Defense, October 2020.
2. Department of the Air Force. *AFDP 3-85: Electromagnetic Spectrum Operations*. Washington, DC: Department of the Air Force, December 14, 2023.
3. Perrin, Simon. *The Importance of Electronic Warfare for European Land Forces: Lessons from the War in Ukraine*. Brussels: FINABEL, March 2025.
4. Black, James. *Directed Energy: The Focus on Laser Weapons Intensifies*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, January 2024.
5. Smith, Robert. “Maneuver at Lightspeed: Electromagnetic Spectrum as a Domain.” *Over the Horizon*, no. 5 (November 2018).

RECOMMENDED

1. Congressional Research Service. *Overview of the Department of Defense Use of the Electromagnetic Spectrum*. Washington, DC: CRS, August 10, 2021.
2. Millner, David H., Stephen Maksim, and Marissa Huhmann. “BeiDou: China’s GPS Challenger Takes Its Place on the World Stage.” *Joint Force Quarterly* 105 (2nd Quarter 2022): 64–73.
3. Easley, Mikayla. “DoD Preparing for First Large-Scale Demonstration of Spectrum-Sharing Technology in 2025.” *DefenseScoop*, April 23, 2025.

DAY 5: SPACE

DATE: 26-27 January 2026

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Understand the importance of space-based capabilities to the joint force.
2. Analyze threats to space assets and strategies for space resilience.
3. Discuss international norms and agreements related to space operations.

LESSON OVERVIEW

CW 509 (L): Space in Contemporary Warfare (Dr. Coyote Smith)

Overview: This lecture will provide an overview of space-based capabilities, including satellite communications, navigation, and ISR. It will also discuss the challenges of operating in a contested space environment and the importance of space domain awareness.

CONTACT HOURS: 1.0-hour lecture

CW 510 (S): Space Domain and Changing Security Environments

Overview: This seminar will focus on the strategic implications of space operations, including discussions on threats to space assets, strategies for space resilience, and international norms and agreements related to space.

CONTACT HOURS: 2.0-hour seminar

OPERATIONAL REFLECTION

In an operation reliant on space-based assets like GPS or satellite imagery, how did their availability—or lack thereof—impact your success, and what specific contingency plans would you develop for a space-contested environment in your region? What capabilities, if any, would you be willing to sacrifice for an increased emphasis on space?

REQUIRED READINGS (127 pgs)

1. Center for Strategic and International Studies. *Space Threat Assessment 2025*. Washington, DC: CSIS, 2025.
2. Harrison, Todd, Kaitlyn Johnson, Thomas G. Roberts, and Makena Young. *The Future of Military Power Is Space Power*. Washington, DC: CSIS, 2025.
3. United States Space Force. *Space Force Doctrine Publication-1*. Washington, DC: Headquarters, U.S. Space Force, 2025.
4. United States Space Force. *Space Warfighting: A Framework for Planners*. Washington, DC: U.S. Space Force, 2025.
5. Johnson, David A., et al. *Lessons from the War in Ukraine for Space*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2025.

RECOMMENDED READINGS

1. Laird, Burgess, et al. *Deterring China's Use of Force in the Space Domain*. Arlington, VA: Center for Naval Analyses, 2025.
2. Heginbotham, Eric, et al. *The Expansion of China's Military Space and Counterspace Capabilities*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2025.
3. United States Space Force. *U.S. Space Force Commercial Space Strategy*. Washington, DC: U.S. Space Force, 2024.
4. China Aerospace Studies Institute. *China's Different Approach to Space Situational Awareness*. Maxwell AFB, AL: Air University Press, 2024.

DAY 6: INFORMATION

DATE: 29-30 January 2026

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Understand the role of information operations in modern warfare.
2. Analyze the importance of information operations in shaping military outcomes.
3. Discuss challenges and opportunities in the information environment.

LESSON OVERVIEW

CW 511 (L): Information Operations (Lt Col Janson)

Overview: This lecture will explore the role of information operations in shaping the battlefield, including psychological operations, influence campaigns, and the importance of perception management.

CONTACT HOURS: 1.0-hour lecture

CW 512 (S): *Human Behavior and Information Operations in Warfare* Overview: This seminar delves into the practical application of information operations to influence human *behavior*, building on the lecture's theoretical foundation. Students will analyze case studies, such as Russia's disinformation campaigns in Ukraine or China's influence efforts in the South China Sea, to evaluate the effectiveness of strategies like narrative control and cultural engagement. Discussions should focus on how militaries can design and implement information operations to counter adversary narratives, win local support, and achieve mission objectives, while navigating ethical and operational challenges in diverse cultural contexts.

CONTACT HOURS: 2.0-hour seminar

OPERATIONAL REFLECTION

Recall an operation where local population dynamics or misinformation affected your objectives—how did you adapt, and what specific information operation strategy could have shifted the outcome in your favor?

REQUIRED (72 pgs)

1. Department of Defense. *Strategy for Operations in the Information Environment*. Washington, DC: Department of Defense, July 2023.
2. Singer, P. W. "How Ukraine Won the #LikeWar." *Politico*, March 12, 2022.
3. Department of the Air Force. *AFDP 3-13: Information*. Washington, DC: Department of the Air Force, 2023. (pgs 1-7, 11-19)
4. Joint Chiefs of Staff. *JP 3-04: Information in Joint Operations*. Washington, DC: Joint Staff, 2023. (I-1 to I-9, II-1 to II-4, III-27 to II-29; VII-1 to VII-2)
5. Temple-Raston, Dina. "How the U.S. Hacked ISIS." *National Public Radio* podcast, September 26, 2019.
6. International Institute for Strategic Studies. "Driving Wedges: China's Disinformation Campaigns in the Asia-Pacific." In *Asia-Pacific Regional Security Assessment 2024*. London: IISS, May 2024.

DAY 7: LOGISTICS, SUSTAINMENT, AND MOBILITY IN A FUTURE FIGHT

DATE: 2-3 February 2026

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Understand the execution of and challenges facing the Joint Deployment and Distribution Enterprise (JDDE) in the emerging security environment.
2. Discuss how the DOD is challenged with balancing limited mobility capacity with global demand signals of varying strategic priority, and how this is marginally offset (with additional challenges) by commercial support.
3. Explore the challenges posed by the emerging security environment to critical support missions and the future of logistics in a contested environment.
4. Understand the relationship between modern airpower functions and effectively executing logistics operations.

LESSON OVERVIEW

CW 513 (L): Global Logistics, Sustainment, and Mobility (Brig Gen Zuhlsdorf, PACAF/A4)

Overview: This lecture will expand on the lessons learned in Airpower Strategy and Operations (AO) by covering the DoD's global logistical enterprise and examine real-world examples connecting the challenges of combat planning demand signals and the ability to feasibly support and sustain those plans. It will look at historical examples of logistical planning and delve into how logistics and sustainment work today.

CONTACT HOURS: 1.0-hour lecture

CW 514 (S): Logistics and Sustainment in Doctrine and Concept

Overview: The first part of this seminar will focus on the projection and sustainment of combat power through execution of the Joint Deployment and Distribution Enterprise (JDDE) by air, land, and sea. Students will also discuss the DOD's reliance on commercial support and contracting, the emerging security environment, contested logistics, supply chain security, and expectations of commercial support/availability in a peer conflict.

CONTACT HOURS: 2.0-hour seminar

OPERATIONAL REFLECTION

Think of a deployment or TDY where logistics strained your unit (e.g., fuel shortages or delayed parts). How could partnering with the commercial sector and leveraging technologies like autonomous resupply drones, 3D printing, or others have resolved that specific issue? What advantages and risks would this kind of integration present?

REQUIRED (97 pgs)

1. Turner, J. *Victualing Victory: Logistics From Lake George to Khe Sanh, 1755-1969*. Air University, 2016. (pgs 188-280)
2. Williamson, Sally. "Logistics Contractors and Strategic Logistics Advantage in U.S. Military Operations." 2023.
3. Perna, Gus, and Guy Beougher. "Contested Logistics: Who's in Charge?" 2024. (pgs 1-13, SKIM 14-29)
4. Fleming, Joslyn, et al. *Naval Logistics in Contested Environments*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2024. (pgs 1-2, 12-27)
5. Lantes, Korey. "REFORPAC's Pacific Playbook." *Journal of the Air Force Historical*

Foundation, Fall 2025. (pgs 7-18)

RECOMMENDED

1. U.S. Transportation Command. *FY24 JDDE Challenges*. Scott AFB, IL: USTRANSCOM, 2024.
2. Joint Chiefs of Staff. *JP 4-10: Operational Contract Support*. Washington, DC: Joint Staff, March 4, 2019.
3. Department of the Army. “Transforming Army Sustainment to Contend with a Contested Logistics Environment.” Washington, DC: Army.mil, February 2024.
4. Leftwich, James A., et al. *Exploring Options to Improve Supply Chain Operations*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, March 2024.
5. Office of Inspector General. *USAID’s Gaza Response*. Washington, DC: OIG, 2024.
6. Brathwaite, K., and M. Konaev. “The Real Key to Victory in Ukraine.” 2022.

DAY 8: COMMAND AND CONTROL (C2)

DATE: 5-6 February 2026

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Understand JADC2 initiatives and how this approach to contemporary Command and Control will inform future operating environments.
2. Analyze how emerging technology and the JADO concept will inform JADC2 and impact the kill chain.
3. Discuss how JADC2 is informing USNORTHCOM-NORAD Homeland Defense C2 modernization initiatives.

LESSON OVERVIEW

CW 515 (L): Command and Control (Col Ryan Hyde)

Overview: This lecture will focus on the future of Command and Control (C2) in the Air Force from the perspective of the 505th Command and Control Wing. Incorporating emerging technology and concepts, challenges, limitations, and opportunities will be discussed to inform students of ways the Air Force is currently enhancing C2 for future operations.

CONTACT HOURS: 1.0-hour lecture

CW 516 (S): Command and Control in Doctrine and Concepts

Overview: This seminar will explore and critically think about how current C2 doctrine and future concepts might be employed, specifically within distributed control and contested environments. To do so, the seminar will build on current C2 concepts to define the contemporary JADC2 approach and how it will inform future operating environments. Analysis and operational application of JADC2 will be examined along with other examples of US military technological improvements that could enable more effective joint operations. Homeland defense initiatives will also be discussed in terms of how the JADC2 concept is aiding in modernization plans.

CONTACT HOURS: 2.0-hour seminar

OPERATIONAL REFLECTION

In a high-pressure tasking or mission that you led, how would shifting to a distributed control model have altered your coordination with subordinates, and what specific leadership adjustments would you make to manage chaos in a contested domain?

REQUIRED (66 pgs)

1. Department of Defense. *Summary of the Joint All-Domain Command and Control Strategy*. Washington, DC: Department of Defense, March 2022.
2. Joint Chiefs of Staff. *JP 3-0: Joint Operations*. Washington, DC: Joint Staff, 2022. (pgs III-1 to III-15)
3. O'Shaughnessy, Terrence J. "Decision Superiority Through Joint All-Domain Command and Control." *Joint Force Quarterly* 99 (4th Quarter 2020).
4. Coleman, Frederick. *Clearing the Fog and Friction of Command and Control*. Arlington, VA: Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies, January 2023.
5. Cantrell, Thomas L. "JADC2 Culture at the Operational Level of War." *Air & Space Operations Review* 2, no. 1 (Spring 2023).

RECOMMENDED

1. McGiffin, Joseph. "Mission (Command) Complete." *Joint Force Quarterly* 113 (2nd Quarter 2024).
2. Priebe, Miranda, et al. *Distributed Operations in a Contested Environment*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2019.
3. Air Land Sea Space Application Center. *5G & Edge Computing: The Future of the DoD and JADC2*. 2023.

DAY 9: EMERGING CONCEPTS

DATE: 9-10 February 2026

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Describe Joint All Domain Operations (JADO), JADO efforts within the joint force and partners, and how the Air Force contributes to JADO.
2. Explain ACE, ABMS, EABO, and the operational considerations of Integrated Deterrence.
3. Discuss how the Joint Functions will be accomplished within these emerging concepts.

LESSON OVERVIEW

CW 517 (L): The Conceptual Foundations of Joint All Domain Operations (Col Hellesto)

Overview: Col Hellesto will provide an overview of the foundational concepts of Joint All Domain Operations and will help students grasp the complexity and impact of maneuver in multiple domains beyond air, space, and cyberspace. Col Hellesto will examine lessons learned from previous conflicts and provide context for future operations. Finally, Col Hellesto will examine terms and definitions to reinforce students' understanding of simultaneous maneuvers and provide linkages to the Joint Planning Process.

CONTACT HOURS: 1.0-hour lecture

CW 518 (S): Emerging Concepts

Overview: This seminar focuses on operational concepts the joint force and partners are developing to address emerging threats that are changing the character of war. These concepts are meant to counter anti-access area-denial strategies, meet adversaries in cyberspace and the information environment, and capitalize on effects from combinations of domains while exploiting the interdependencies of the enemy. No operational concept is born fully formed. Joint All-Domain Operations, Agile Combat Employment, and Expeditionary Advanced Basing Operations are all concepts in development that still have a lot of unanswered questions about how, what, and perhaps why we will conduct operations with these approaches.

CONTACT HOURS: 2.0-hour seminar

OPERATIONAL REFLECTION

Considering a conflict you have studied or fought in, how might the fusion of AI, cyber, and space capabilities have changed a critical turning point, and what specific role would you play in adapting the joint force to that reality?

REQUIRED READINGS (85 pgs)

1. Joint Chiefs of Staff. *JP 3-0, Appendix D: Fundamentals of Joint-All Domain Operations*. Washington, DC: Joint Staff, 2024.
2. Reilly, Jeffrey M. "Multidomain Operations." *Air & Space Power Journal*, Spring 2016.
3. Department of the Air Force. *AFDN 1-21: Agile Combat Employment*. Washington, DC: Department of the Air Force, August 23, 2022.
4. United States Marine Corps. *Tentative Manual for Expeditionary Advanced Base Operations*. Quantico, VA: USMC, May 2023. (pgs I-1 to I-6)
5. Congressional Research Service. *The Army's Multi-Domain Task Force*. Washington, DC: CRS, December 26, 2023.
6. Kramer, Franklin. *NATO Multidomain Operations*. Washington, DC: Atlantic Council, 2024.

RECOMMENDED READINGS

1. Donnelly, Jared, and Jon Farley. "Defining the 'Domain' in Multi-Domain." *Over the Horizon*, September 17, 2018.
2. Mroszczyk, Michael. *Multi-Domain Effects Battalion*. Fort Leavenworth, KS: U.S. Army, 2024.
3. Center for International Maritime Security. *Fighting Distributed Maritime Operations*. Washington, DC: CIMSEC, 2023.
4. McEnany, Brian. *The Russo-Ukraine War*. Arlington, VA: Association of the United States Army, 2024.
5. Joint Chiefs of Staff. *JP 3-0: Joint Operations*. Washington, DC: Joint Staff, 2022.

DAY 10: EUCOM: RUSSIAN OPERATIONAL CONCEPTS

DATE: 19-20 February 2026

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Evaluate modern Russian operational concepts through their real-world application in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, focusing on concepts such as hybrid warfare, cyber operations, and disinformation.
2. Assess US security interests and implications of Russia's actions in Ukraine and NATO's strategic posture in Europe.
3. Explore how Ukraine's resistance and NATO's response shape our understanding of countering Russian threats.

LESSON OVERVIEW

CW 519 (L): The Air War in Ukraine (Dr. Justin Bronk)

Overview: This lecture examines modern Russian operational concepts and military doctrine through the lens of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Topics include Russia's use of hybrid warfare (e.g., irregular forces, propaganda), cyber operations (e.g., attacks on Ukrainian infrastructure), and conventional tactics (e.g., artillery and maneuver warfare). Using recent examples from the conflict, the lecture will highlight how these actions reveal Russia's strategic goals and operational methods, with implications for US security and European stability.

CONTACT HOURS: 1.0-hour lecture

CW 520 (S): Decoding Russia Through Ukraine: Implications for US and Europe

Overview: This seminar uses the Russia-Ukraine conflict as a primary case study to unpack Russian operational concepts, emphasizing the latest developments in the war. Students will explore how Russia's tactics in Ukraine—such as cyberattacks, disinformation campaigns, and territorial annexation—reflect its broader military strategy. Discussions will focus on how these insights inform US security priorities (e.g., deterrence, cyber defense) and European stability (e.g., NATO cohesion, energy security). Perspectives from Ukrainian experts, US military officials, and European leaders will enrich the analysis.

CONTACT HOURS: 2.0-hour seminar

OPERATIONAL REFLECTION

Based on a European deployment or exercise you have participated in, how would Russia's use of drones and electronic warfare in Ukraine challenge your unit's mission, and what specific countermeasure would you prioritize in response? Alternatively, how do recent developments in Ukrainian and Russian tactics challenge operational doctrine for your specialty?

REQUIRED (132 pgs)

1. Center for Naval Analyses. *Russian Concepts of Future Warfare Based on Lessons from the Ukraine War*. Arlington, VA: CNA, August 2025. (pgs 5-15, 52-74).
2. Hvizda, David, et al. *Dispersed, Disguised, and Degradable*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2025. (pgs 7-33)
3. Kagan, Frederick W., et al. *Ukraine and the Problem of Restoring Maneuver in Contemporary Warfare*. Washington, DC: Institute for the Study of War, 2024. (pgs 17-59)
4. Jones, Seth G., and Seamus Daniels. *Deterring Russia: U.S. Military Posture in Europe*. Washington, DC: Center for Strategic and International Studies, January 27, 2025.

5. Deptula, David A., and Christopher J. Bowie. *The Significance of Air Superiority: The Ukraine-Russia War*. Arlington, VA: Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies, July 2024.

RECOMMENDED

1. Jones, Seth G. *Ukrainian Innovation in a War of Attrition*. Washington, DC: Center for Strategic and International Studies, February 2023.
2. Petraitis, Davis. “The Russian Concept of New Generation or Non-Linear Warfare.” *Journal on Baltic Security* 10, no. 1 (2024).
3. Thomas, Timothy L. *Russian Military Thought: Concepts and Elements*. Fort Leavenworth, KS: Foreign Military Studies Office, August 2019.
4. Freedman, Lawrence. “Why War Fails.” *Foreign Affairs*, July 2022.
5. Monaghan, Sean, et al. *Is NATO Ready for War?* Washington, DC: Center for Strategic and International Studies, June 2024.
6. Defense Intelligence Agency. *Russia Military Power*. Washington, DC: DIA, 2017.
7. Watling, Jack, et al. *Preliminary Lessons from Ukraine’s Offensive Operations, 2022–2023*. London: Royal United Services Institute, 2024.
8. Kofman, Michael, and Rob Lee. “Not Built for Purpose: The Russian Military’s Ill-Fated Force Design.” *War on the Rocks*, June 2, 2022.
9. Lee, Rob, and Philip Wasielewski. *Russia’s War in Ukraine: Critical Vulnerabilities*. Philadelphia, PA: Foreign Policy Research Institute, June 2023.
10. Kjellén, Jonas. *Russian Electronic Warfare*. Stockholm: Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI), September 2018.
11. Troika Compendium. *How Russia Fights*. 1st ed. March 2025.

DAY 11: NORTHCOM: Homeland Defense and Border Operations

DATE: 23-24 February 2026

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Understand NORTHCOM's mission, area of responsibility, and operational priorities, including homeland defense, civil support, and security cooperation.
2. Examine the legal and policy frameworks governing military involvement in homeland security, focusing on the capabilities and limitations of Title 10 (active-duty) forces, and assess what Title 10 forces can do in border security operations compared to what they have done, including distinctions from National Guard (Title 32) roles.
3. Explore the growing importance of the Arctic and NORTHCOM's role there in addressing regional security challenges.

LESSON OVERVIEW

CW 521 (L): NORTHCOM's Role in Homeland Defense and Security (Col Frushour)

Overview: This lecture covers NORTHCOM's mission to safeguard North America (United States, Canada, Mexico, adjacent waters, Arctic) via integrated defense with NORAD. It addresses homeland defense (air, maritime, missile), civil support (disasters, pandemics), and security cooperation (joint exercises, intel sharing for counter-narcotics, border stability). It also examines Title 10 forces' limited border roles due to Posse Comitatus and NORTHCOM's growing Arctic role in awareness and partnerships to counter emerging threats.

CONTACT HOURS: 1.0-hour lecture

CW 522 (S): Military Support to Homeland Security: Capabilities vs. Actions

Overview: This seminar analyzes military involvement in homeland security under NORTHCOM, contrasting Title 10 capabilities (logistics, surveillance) with historical actions. It reviews legal constraints (Posse Comitatus, Title 10/32) using case studies. The seminar also explores NORTHCOM's security cooperation (joint exercises, intel sharing) to counter transnational threats, highlighting the interplay of capabilities, laws, and partnerships.

CONTACT HOURS: 2.0-hour seminar

OPERATIONAL REFLECTION

In a domestic operation (e.g., disaster response or border security), how did the Posse Comitatus Act limit actions, and what specific workaround would you propose to balance legal restrictions with mission needs if you were asked to support NORTHCOM/NORAD?

REQUIRED (68 pgs)

1. Guillot, Gregory M. *Statement Before the House Armed Services Committee*. Washington, DC: U.S. Congress, April 1, 2025.
2. Congressional Research Service. *The President's Authority to Use the National Guard or the Armed Forces to Secure the Border*. Washington, DC: CRS, June 15, 2023.
3. Nunn, Joseph. *The Posse Comitatus Act Explained*. New York: Brennan Center for Justice, February 2025.
4. Berbrick, Walter, and Lars Saunes. *Conflict Prevention and Security Cooperation in the Arctic Region*. Newport, RI: Naval War College, September 2020. (pgs 15-46)
5. Soofer, Robert. *First, We Will Defend the Homeland*. Washington, DC: Atlantic Council, January 4, 2025. (pgs 5-10) [

RECOMMENDED

1. Congressional Research Service. *Defense Primer: Defense Support of Civil Authorities*. Washington, DC: CRS, April 9, 2025.
2. RAND Corporation. *Report on the Arctic Capabilities of the U.S. Armed Forces*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, November 1, 2023.
3. Dennis, Hannah. *The Golden Dome (Iron Dome) for America*. Washington, DC: Congressional Research Service, April 16, 2025.
4. Kuntze, Magnus. *Addressing Arctic Vulnerabilities*. Washington, DC: Center for Strategic and International Studies, December 17, 2024.
5. Center for Excellence in Disaster Management & Humanitarian Assistance. *Case Study No. 9: Defense Support of Civil Authorities*. Honolulu, HI: CFE-DM, n.d.

DAY 12: INDOPACOM: CHINESE OPERATIONAL DESIGN IN THE FIRST ISLAND CHAIN

DATE: 26-27 February 2026

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Analyze modern Chinese operational concepts, with a particular focus on their application to Taiwan and the South China Sea, and assess their implications for US military strategy in the Indo-Pacific.
2. Understand the strategic significance of Taiwan and the South China Sea as potential flashpoints, and evaluate the role of ASEAN countries and US allies in countering Chinese threats in these areas.
3. Discuss the challenges and opportunities presented by China's military modernization, especially in relation to Taiwan and the South China Sea, and explore strategies for maintaining regional stability.

LESSON OVERVIEW

CW 523 (L): A Chinese Focus on Taiwan and the South China Sea (Dr. Ian Easton) - Virtual

Overview: This lecture examines modern Chinese operational concepts, spotlighting Taiwan and the South China Sea as critical flashpoints shaping US military strategy in the Indo-Pacific. It covers China's anti-access/area denial (A2/AD) strategy targeting Taiwan, including its amphibious and cyber capabilities, and its assertive actions in the South China Sea, such as island-building and maritime militia operations. The lecture also addresses how these developments influence US military planning and the contributions of ASEAN countries and US allies in maintaining regional security.

CONTACT HOURS: 1.0-hour lecture

CW 524 (S): Countering A2/AD and Maritime Coercion: Taiwan and SCS Contingencies

Overview: This seminar delves into the strategic challenges of countering Chinese military modernization, emphasizing Taiwan and the South China Sea as potential conflict zones. Students will discuss scenarios like a Taiwan contingency or a South China Sea incident, analyzing escalation risks and US and allied responses. Case studies will highlight practical implications, with a focus on the roles of ASEAN and key allies such as Japan and Australia in stabilizing the region.

CONTACT HOURS: 2.0-hour seminar

OPERATIONAL REFLECTION

In an INDOPACOM exercise or deployment you have led or could possibly lead, how would China's A2/AD systems disrupt your force projection, and what specific allied capability from Japan or Australia would you rely on to break through? How about from other allied or neutral countries? How would this change depending on if there was a blockade? Major combat operations?

REQUIRED (51 pgs)

1. U.S. Army Mad Scientist. "How China Fights." *The Convergence* podcast, December 9, 2021.
2. Burke, Edmund J., et al. *People's Liberation Army Operational Concepts*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2020.
3. Brands, Hal, and Zack Cooper. *Dilemmas of Deterrence*. Washington, DC: Center for Strategic and International Studies, March 2024.
4. Poling, Gregory. *Strengthening U.S.–ASEAN Ties*. Testimony before the U.S. House of

- Representatives. Washington, DC: CSIS, June 10, 2025.
5. Easton, Ian. *Hostile Harbors: Taiwan's Ports and PLA Invasion Plans*. Arlington, VA: Project 2049 Institute, July 22, 2021. (pgs 1-3, 15-17, 23-24)
 6. Department of the Army. *ATP 7-100.3: Chinese Tactics*. Washington, DC: Department of the Army, 2021. (pgs 2-1 to 2-7)

RECOMMENDED

1. Kamphausen, Roy D., et al. *China's Military Decision-Making in Crisis*. Seattle, WA: National Bureau of Asian Research, 2023.
2. Department of Defense. *Military and Security Developments Involving the PRC*. Washington, DC: Department of Defense, 2024.
3. Cancian, Mark F., et al. *The First Battle of the Next War*. Washington, DC: CSIS, January 2023.

DAY 13: INDOPACOM: CHINESE GLOBAL POSTURE, CAPABILITIES, AND STRATEGIC INFLUENCE

DATE: 2-3 March 2026

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Compare China's strategic goals across different regions and assess their cumulative impact on the global balance of power. linking them to theories of war and methods of force employment.
2. Evaluate the effectiveness of US and allied multi-domain strategies in deterring China's global aggression, considering its activities in the Arctic, Africa, and the Middle East, to inform joint force operations.
3. Analyze how China's gray zone activities and economic influence in the Indo-Pacific region affect US military capabilities and operational freedom.

LESSON OVERVIEW

CW 525 (L): China's Strategic Activities (Dr. Phil Gueriero)

Overview: This lecture offers students a detailed exploration of China's strategic activities in the Indo-Pacific. Dr. Gueriero will focus on strategic interests and the domestic issues that drive China's actions abroad including demographic, water resources, energy, and trade.

CONTACT HOURS: 1.0-hour lecture

CW 526 (S): Gray Zone to Global: Assessing PLA Operations and Strategic Posture

Overview: This seminar delves into China's contemporary military operations, both domestic and international, providing a comprehensive assessment through the 2024 DOD Annual Report. Primary readings will analyze potential conflicts, operations, and technological advancements from a "Red" perspective. Discussions will focus on China's gray zone operations, global military engagements, and tensions outside its borders, emphasizing its influence beyond the Indo-Pacific region. Participants will critically evaluate Chinese military concepts and capabilities, gaining insights crucial for Phase 3 of the CW course.

CONTACT HOURS: 2.0-hour seminar

OPERATIONAL REFLECTION

As a squadron commander deployed to the Indo-Pacific, you discover that Chinese Belt and Road Initiative investments have given Beijing control over critical port facilities, telecommunications infrastructure, and supply chains across your area of operations. During a crisis, China leverages these economic relationships to deny your forces access to key logistics hubs, restrict intelligence sharing with partner nations, and limit your operational maneuver space...all without firing a shot. How do you adapt your mission planning when traditional allies face economic coercion to limit your access?

REQUIRED (110 pgs)

1. Department of Defense. *Military and Security Developments Involving the PRC*. Washington, DC: Department of Defense, 2024. (pgs 8-19, 136-147)
2. Cancian, Mark F. *Security in the Western Pacific*. Washington, DC: CSIS, January 2024.
3. Shatz, Howard J., et al. *China, Smart Cities, and the Middle East*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, August 14, 2025. (pgs 1-35)
4. Ditter, Timothy. "Africa Is China's Testing Ground." Arlington, VA: Center for Naval

Analyses, October 10, 2024.

5. Pezard, Stephanie, and Abbie Tingstad. *Is the Polar Silk Road at an Impasse?* Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, February 6, 2025.
6. Boulègue, Mathieu. *Sino-Russian Cooperation in the Arctic*. Washington, DC: Center for European Policy Analysis, July 8, 2025.

RECOMMENDED

1. Cooper, Zack, and Gregory Poling. “The South China Sea Dog That Hasn’t Barked... Yet.” *War on the Rocks*, June 2024.
2. Pezard, Stephanie, et al. *China’s Activities in the Arctic*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2025.
3. State Council Information Office. *China’s Arctic Policy*. Beijing: People’s Republic of China, 2018.

DAY 14: INDOPACOM: NORTH KOREA DOCTRINE, THEORIES OF WAR, AND CAPABILITIES

DATE: 9-10 March 2026

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Analyze North Korea's military activities and capabilities, including its nuclear and missile programs, and assess their implications for US military strategy in the Indo-Pacific.
2. Evaluate North Korea's contributions to the Ukraine conflict, focusing on its military support to Russia, such as artillery shells and missiles, and discuss the global security ramifications.
3. Explore the strategic partnership between North Korea and China, assessing its historical foundations and current dynamics, and evaluate how deepening North Korea-Russia ties may alter this relationship. Further examine the broader implications of these shifting alliances for regional stability.
4. Discuss the role of South Korea, Japan, and other regional partners in countering North Korean threats through joint deterrence and defense strategies.

LESSON OVERVIEW

CW 527 (L): North Korean Military Capabilities and Global Impact (TBD)

Overview: This lecture examines North Korea's military capabilities, with a focus on its nuclear and missile programs. It highlights North Korea's significant contributions to the Ukraine conflict, including the provision of artillery shells and missiles to Russia. The lecture also explores the burgeoning strategic partnership between North Korea and Russia, and how this may affect the North Korea-China relationship with considerations on regional stability, global security and US strategy.

CONTACT HOURS: 1.0-hour lecture

CW 528 (S): Countering North Korean Threats: Regional and Global Perspectives

Overview: This seminar assesses the challenges of countering North Korea's military advancements, including its nuclear and missile capabilities. Students will explore North Korea's military support to Russia in the Ukraine conflict, including their signed security pact. The seminar will also analyze how the Russia-North Korea relationship is influencing the North Korea-China relationship, and finish with evaluating the roles of South Korea, Japan, and other partners in deterrence and defense efforts.

CONTACT HOURS: 2.0-hour seminar

OPERATIONAL REFLECTION

Reflecting on your understanding of deterrence from past roles, how does North Korea's growing role with Russia and China shift your approach to INDOPACOM planning? Has this fundamentally changed the way in which the US operations are planned in the area?

REQUIRED (95 pgs)

1. Defense Intelligence Agency. *North Korea Military Power*. Washington, DC: DIA, 2021.
2. Council on Foreign Relations. *North Korea's Military Capabilities*. New York: CFR, June 28, 2022.
3. Cha, Victor, and Joseph Bermudez. "The North Korean Missile Threat." *The Impossible State* podcast, April 1, 2022.

4. Dashdorj, Zorigt. *The Global Ramifications of the Russia–North Korea Pact*. Liechtenstein: GIS Reports, January 14, 2025.
5. Fong, Clara. *Understanding the China–North Korea Relationship*. New York: Council on Foreign Relations, November 21, 2024.

RECOMMENDED

1. National Intelligence Council. *North Korea: Scenarios for Leveraging Nuclear Weapons Through 2030*. Washington, DC: NIC, January 2023.
2. Klingner, Bruce. “North Korean Cyberattacks.” Washington, DC: Heritage Foundation Asian Studies Center, September 2, 2021.

DAY 15: CENTCOM: IRANIAN OPERATIONAL CONCEPTS

DATE: 12-13 March 2026

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Analyze Iranian operational activities and capabilities, including its nuclear program, proxy warfare, and ballistic missile advancements, and assess their implications for US military strategy in the Middle East.
2. Understand the role of Israel, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, and other regional partners in countering Iranian threats amidst a changing Middle East.
3. Discuss the broader implications of the Abraham Accords for US strategy, considering the region's ongoing transformation and challenges in Gaza and Syria.

LESSON OVERVIEW

CW 529 (L): Iranian Military Capabilities and Regional Dynamics (TBD)

Overview: This lecture provides an overview of Iranian military capabilities, including its nuclear ambitions, proxy networks, and ballistic missile programs. It emphasizes the impact of the Abraham Accords on the Middle East, exploring how normalization between Israel and Arab states has shifted alliances and elicited responses from Iran, such as intensified proxy activities and diplomatic efforts. The lecture also addresses the region's ongoing changes, including fluid conflicts across the region, and the roles of Israel, GCC states, and other partners in countering Iranian influence.

CONTACT HOURS: 1.0-hour lecture

CW 530 (S): Countering Iranian Threats

Overview: This seminar examines strategies for countering Iranian threats in a dynamic Middle East, with a focus on the Abraham Accords' implications for Iran. Students will discuss how the accords have altered regional alliances, Iran's responses—such as increased proxy warfare and cyber operations—and the potential for enhanced cooperation among Israel, GCC states, and other US partners. The seminar will also address the region's evolving landscape, noting the challenges posed by Gaza and Syria, and explore how these factors shape US strategy and how it conducts military operations.

CONTACT HOURS: 2.0-hour seminar

OPERATIONAL REFLECTION

The United States has been attempting to pivot away from the CENTCOM theater to focus on INDOPACOM for over a decade, how much progress do you think has been done in that regard and do you think the trajectory of recent developments is a step in the right direction or not?

REQUIRED (59 pgs)

1. Eisenstadt, Michael. "Iran's Gray Zone Strategy." *PRISM* 9, no. 2 (March 2021).
2. U.S. Department of State. *U.S. Security Cooperation with Israel*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, April 25, 2025.
3. Simon, Steven. *Israel and the Persian Gulf*. Washington, DC: Quincy Institute, June 2021.
4. Levitt, Matthew. "Why War? Why Now?" *Just Security*, June 26, 2025.
5. Kateb, Alexandre. *The Abraham Accords After Gaza*. Washington, DC: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, April 25, 2025.

RECOMMENDED

1. Notte, Hanna, and Jim Lamson. “The Uncomfortable Reality of Russia and Iran’s New Defense Relationship.” *War on the Rocks*, July 24, 2024.
2. Henke, Glenn A. “Enduring Threats and Enduring Presence.” *Military Review: Space and Missile Defense*, 2024.
3. Watts, Stephen, Bryan Frederick, et al. *Proxy Warfare in Strategic Competition*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, March 2023.
4. International Institute for Strategic Studies. *Iran’s Networks of Influence in the Middle East*. London: IISS, 2019.