Letter from the Editor

By Prof. Sean Henseler, CDR, USN (Ret.)
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From The Editor

Welcome to the first edition of MOC Warfighter! MOC Warfighter is an interactive, “on-line” magazine for naval officers and senior naval enlisted serving on MOC and CTF staffs, as well as commands, agencies, coalition partners, and others that routinely interact with them. Its overriding mission is to help MOCs efficiently and effectively plan, prepare, execute, and assess at the maritime operational level of war (OLW).

Purpose

The purpose of MOC Warfighter is to: 1) fulfill the CNOs mandate that “officers must possess preeminent expertise and proficiency in planning, organizing, and commanding at the operational level,” 2) provide a venue for airing critical issues and best practices at the MOC/CTF level of warfare and thus help create a strong feeling of group identity and shared knowledge among maritime professionals at the OLW, and 3) reflect the reality that Fleet and CTF staffs have become critical war fighting enablers that require a cadre of highly trained warfighters skilled in the art of warfare.

Articles

The articles in the addition are designed to inform, provide insights into best practices, and hopefully stimulate dialogue between and among MOC Warfighters. The feature article in this inaugural edition, co-authored by Rear Admiral James G. Foggo, III, explains how the C6F MOC adapted the operations and planning processes to accomplish its Operation Odyssey Dawn mission at the outset of the “Arab Spring.”

Rear Admiral Kenneth M. Perry, USN, Vice Commander of Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Command, offers a foreword to “Left of Splash: Legal Issues Related to the Use of Force to Counter Mining in the Strait of Hormuz” which poses critical questions for commanders, planners, and policymakers regarding the use of force to counter mining in this critical region.

Captain William Lawler, USN and Professor Jonathan Will, CAPT, USN (Ret.) present a concise, informative discussion of the "History and Development of the MOC” and assert that there are four challenges all MOCs must address in the near term to include: Crisis Transition, Planning Capacity and Management, Fires and Targeting Processes and Capabilities, and IO/Cyber Integration.
Professor John Mangold, LtCol, USMC (Ret.) describes the relationship between the “Operations Process and the Commander’s Decision Cycle” and argues that the JFCC and principal staff members can use the operations process to help determine when and where to perform leadership actions such as making decisions, issuing guidance, providing command presence, and terminating operations.

OSC Daniel Lee, USN observes that, as the operational tempo continues to increase and manning levels remaining at best static, it is imperative that MOC leadership re-think how to execute their increased mission set with the same or fewer personnel. In “Chiefs as a Resource on Fleet Staffs and Operational Planning Teams,” Lee argues that Chiefs trained to operate at the OLW can add significant value to the MOCs and that employing Chiefs to their maximum capabilities will expand staff capacity.

In "When Disaster Strikes: Understanding Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Response-Key Players and Processes," Professor David Polatty, CDR, USN outlines the key organizations that DoD will interface with during FHA/DR operations in order to provide MOC planners with a baseline level of knowledge to effectively plan and execute within the typically ad hoc command and control (C2) structures that exist during FHA/DR operations. In particular, his article focuses on several time-tested and emerging aspects of UN and USAID organization and doctrine that may be unfamiliar to many planners.

Finally, Thomas A. Heaney, Jr., Col., USA (Ret.) argues that fleet commanders and their staffs would be well served by incorporating design into their planning process and offers a methodology to do so. In his article "Time to Think About Design: Reconciling Operational Design with Navy Planning," Heaney offers an approach that combines conceptual planning concepts from existing joint and service doctrine and with the detailed Navy Planning Process.

### Other Departments

In addition to these articles, RADM James Kelly, USN (Ret.) provides a video introduction to MOC Warfighter and urges readers to submit comments and articles to ensure the continued vitality of a robust, professional dialogue.

You will also find several “departments” designed to help maritime OLW staffs more efficiently conduct daily tasks to include a MOC Doctrine update, MOC Reservist, key MOC References, useful MOC links, MOC Effective Practices, and the MOC Staff Officer’s Guide.

It is my hope that MOC Warfighter provides a forum for a professional exchange of ideas and best practices and becomes a “must read” for all Fleet staffs and those that interact with them. As such, readers are highly encouraged to comment on articles, submit articles and letters to the editor, contribute MOC news highlights and planning tools; anything that will enhance the Navy’s ability to plan and execute at the OLW. And, if you think the magazine would be interesting to a friend, feel free to forward a link to MOC Warfighter via email or Facebook!

Very Respectfully,
Sean P. Henseler
CDR, USN, (Ret.)
Editor in Chief