JSOFSEA Class 25 “The silver class’

**Graduation/course Overview:**

I have been selected out of a class of 55 students to give a 5-7 min speech at our graduation.

Graduation will take place in a hall/conference room. I will be standing behind a podium and there will be approximately 75-100 personnel (55 students and 25-40 attendees). I will not know the name of Distinguished guest till the day before graduation so I will just need to work that in prior to the start.

The graduation is for the Joint Special Operations Forces Senior Enlisted Academy (JSOFSEA).

This course is 9 weeks in length and is a requirement for Senior Enlisted service members (Sergeant Major level).

This course is significant due to being a joint course consisting of Special Operations Forces from all components of the military: US Army, US Air Force, US Marines, US Navy, US Coast Guard, International Special Operations Forces, students (1 x Canada and 1 x Czech), and members from the US Government agencies.

It is a Special Forces academy for all branches/components to come together and learn from the instructors/course curriculum but mainly from each other’s experiences throughout their careers (leadership challenges in both garrison and war/combat), their units specific capabilities (what they bring to the table), how to combined each units capabilities and efforts in both training for war and combat, and to create relationship/networks which each member can leverage in the future to achieve a whole of government approach in combatting terrorism and the nation’s security.

**I would like my speech to be geared towards:**

* in a manner to inspire and thank
* would like to extend an IMMENSE measure of gratitude to the JSOFSEA instructors and staff for their mentorship, professionalism, and wise counsel on behalf of class 25
* thank classmates for learning all that I learned from them
* that is was a privilege to be able to attend this course with all the students
* How we need to take the experience and education we’ve received throughout the class, and put it to good use back at our home units and down range and ensure are subordinates gain from our knowledge earned throughout the course as we go back to spread the knowledge.
* How what we have learned has set us up for success in our future assignments and to be value added to our officer counterpart
* I’d like to close by presenting this legacy gift on behalf of JSOFSEA class 25 to serve as a symbol of our thanks, and to serve as a reminder of the Silver class graces to the grounds of the Joint Special Operations Forces Enlisted Academy.

**This course teaches:**

Operational and Strategic level planning

Leadership

Oral Communications

History and the evolution of the United States Special Forces and senior enlisted advisors (enlisted Sergeant Majors)

Joint, Interagency, Intergovernmental, and Multinational (JIIMM) Environment (basically meaning working together in a unity of effort to achieve the nations objectives in securing the United States from global threats).

Policy to Action: How strategic level guidance is worked down to our level and the operations we conduct

We learned a lot about interagency, intergovernmental and non-governmental agencies, departments, and services and what it is that they do.

We learned a lot about how what we do at the tactical level (operations, activities, and actions ) is nested in to national level policy and strategy.

**Below are some blurbs from some papers I wrote throughout the course. I feel these maybe of some use as you tackle this speech, It provides a general understanding of what we learned or covered throughout the course:**

The United States, its interests, and their partnered nations confront global threats from advancing adversaries, which require persistent and continuous global engagements. Through the Global SOF Network (GSN), U.S. Special Operations Forces (SOF) and their partnered force play a critical role in these persistent and continuous engagements by preventing, combatting and eliminating the adversaries responsible for these global threats. As these threats evolve, become uncertain, and create a complex strategic security environment, SOF, and their partnered nation military, through a unity of command, will require additional instruments of national power and efforts. These instruments and efforts will need to come from governmental and non-governmental agencies, organizations, departments, and services through unified action, creating a Joint, Interagency, Intergovernmental, and Multinational (JIIM) environment. With cooperation, coordination, and synchronized efforts through a unity of command and unified action, a “Whole-of-Government Approach (WOG)” forms and unity of effort is achieved. To achieve success through a unity of effort, all members of the JIIM network must contribute their efforts towards the same shared desired end state.

The United States (U.S.) is the most powerful nation in the world whose national and global interests are affected by global threats, foreign policy, and international order. The U.S. must protect their interests, defend their nation and its people, and ensure the preparedness of the nation for a future environment comprised of uncertainty and complexity. The U.S. achieves these goals through constant analysis of the global environment, more specifically focused on current and potential threats, current foreign policy and affairs, national and global prosperity, and the nation’s climate of security. Through this analysis, the President of the United States (POTUS) provides national strategic direction, commonly referred to as presidential doctrines. In the current day, this doctrine is presented by the POTUS in the form of the continuously revised National Security Strategy (NSS). The NSS highlights important enduring interests and the instruments of national power required to achieve national objectives and security. The global environment naturally produces occurrences which result in diverse forms of global conflict and terrorism, economic peril or instability, requiring the U.S. to prioritize their objectives ensuring its people and interests are secured.

When asked to describe Noncommissioned Officers (NCO), most people will describe a character from a war movie or book of an old combat wore sergeant who is angry, bitter and educated only in the art of war. However, when people are asked the same question in regards to officers, most will describe an intelligent and sophisticated individual who makes decisions and directs orders. Fortunately, these common perceptions of Officers and NCOs are in the past according to Gen. (ret) Martin Dempsey, who believes as the Profession of Arms (POA) transforms and shapes into Joint Force 2020. The renewal of the POA’s commitment to themselves and their nation is essential to ensuring the best and finest force in the world. The time for renewing that commitment is now. As the POA approaches an increase of threats worldwide during a political and financially constrained environment, leaders will require a higher level of education. A higher level of education will help to facilitate a stronger command element that will know how to think creatively and critically while understanding the “whole-of-government” approach, from not only the officer corp but from the senior and junior enlisted ranks at all levels of operations.

Over the last 15 years of the nation’s enduring global war on terror, the profession of arms has spearheaded the nation’s efforts to ensure the safety and security of the nation and its interest. As the nation’s adversaries advance and continue their efforts, the profession of arms must renew their commitments to ensure the nation’s security (Dempsey, n.d.). In “America’s Military – A Profession of Arms White Paper,” the former Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS), Gen. (Retired) Martin Dempsey provided commitment renewal guidance and direction through seven components. One of the most critical components highlighted in Dempsey’s guidance is the component of mission command, which necessitates the key element of trust (Dempsey, n.d.). However, as the U.S. enters into a fiscally constrained, insecure, and rapidly evolving environment, the profession of arms is forced to operate in small-scale and decentralized operations, which require trust and the continuity of this critical element (U.S. Special Operations Command, 2014). Small and decentralized operations force the profession of arms into a rotational joint command structure where the continuity of trust is not always present. The profession of arms must properly align their commands and establish the continuity of trust to embrace mission command and quickly adapt to the current and future threats and defeat the nation’s adversaries.

The Profession of Arms is a unique profession that embodies proficiency, expertise, and skill. Those that volunteer become members of a joint team that operate in a unity of effort to defend their great country, its interests, and the American people. In “America’s Military – A Profession of Arms White Paper,” the former Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS), Gen. (Retired) Martin Dempsey explains the Profession of Arms. He elaborates on seven characteristics that embody the definition of the profession of arms. The seven components include; values, the military professional, trust, leadership as the foundation, mission command, jointness, and the way ahead (Dempsey, n.d.). To ensure this profession is capable of defending their nation against advancing adversaries, they must be able to identify their strengths to maintain and their weaknesses to improve.