

Pfc. Amber R. Williams

BPAS-W 020-08

Feat 4

## JEPAC

It was 11:30 p.m. The fifteen students in class 010-08 waited to receive their diplomas from the Joint Expeditionary Public Affairs Course at the Defense Information School here Jan. 18.

JEPAC was the first course that has offered joint service public affairs professional development to higher enlisted servicemembers and officers who may be deploying.

This course allows public affairs professionals to train in a joint service environment, which will allow for more thorough direct communication in the public affairs field, said Marine Maj. Ricco T. Player, a course developer with the DINFOS public affairs leadership department.

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JEPAC/ 2-2-2

This course took more than two years to plan and develop, he said.

The lesson plan was well into its first year of development, said Player, who started working on the project July 2007.

“I helped fine-tune the course,” said Player

The preparation for this course was completed over the two-week Christmas vacation at DINFOS, he said.

This course was developed because of requests from the different military branches to have an interactive joint service public affairs leadership course that teaches communication skills in a joint environment, said Player.

“Hard-charging young DINFOS trained killers would deploy and were not able to communicate to the staff in a joint environment,” said Player.

There are many aspects taken into account with the development of a course like this, he said.

DINFOS is responsible for the development of a team that creates a preview of what the course will entail. The team will send the preview out to all five branches of the military. All the military branches will give the development team feedback. Then, the

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JEPAC/ 3-3-3

development team will fine-tune the lesson plan and offer the course, said Player.

A course at DINFOS is not validated until the third time students go through it successfully, he said.

Feedback from the students and personnel from different services play a major role in the development of the course, said Player.

“It is trial and error,” he said.

The first class is to determine what needs to be improved upon in the course. The second class is to refine the lesson plan after the initial changes have been implemented. The third class should function smoothly, said Player.

The long 11-day class started Jan. 7, said Staff Sgt. Jose R. Colon a graduate from JEPAC. Colon is stationed in Vilseck, Germany with AFN Bavaria as the station noncommissioned officer in charge.

“I learned a lot,” said Colon

The information that was given about who the go-to person is in the chain of command of a joint service environment is very important to a functioning public affairs department, he said.

“There was great initiative on the staff’s part to come up with the scenarios and the ideas behind the course,” said Colon.

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JEPAC/ 4-4-4

The course explains the more detailed public affairs principles that a servicemember will encounter in a leadership position. The information is important for any one in a leadership position that may be deploying, said Colon.

The instructors were successful presenting the information in a comprehensive manner, said Colon.

The JEPAC class' second cycle will begin in September and revisions should be complete by 2009, said Player.

DINFOS has successfully incorporated a course geared toward teaching leadership and cooperation within the five military branches to further the advancement of joint service public affairs.