

JCOC 60: Participant Survey Results

(Numbers denote number of responses to a particular question, unless otherwise noted.)

1. What were the major issues you considered in accepting the JCOC invitation?

Focus of JCOC:	35	Prior commitments:	19
JCOC itinerary:	35	Work schedule:	22
Length of JCOC program:	16	Holiday/vacation:	0
Dates of JCOC:	17	School graduation plans:	4
Date invitation received:	2	Other participants:	6
Cost of JCOC program:	5	Discussions with past JCOC:	13
Other:	4	participants	

3. Were the instructions and information you received prior to JCOC adequate? If not, please explain.

General itinerary	Yes 47	No 1
Cost/payment information	Yes 45	No 3
Registration instructions	Yes 46	No 2
Clothing/equipment information	Yes 42	No 6
Daily activity level	Yes 28	No 6

Prior Information Comments:

- Need the phone numbers of where I'd be.
- Need office contact during business hours.
- I would like to know the ranks and insignia of each of the branches and how they correlate to each other.
- Need info earlier, especially the full schedule
- Don't bring too many clothes
- Maps showing locations of sites visited
- Warning about the pace: no time for phone calls, personal business
- More emphasis on number of items you'll collect along the way and to bring two bags large enough to handle everything.
- Biographical information on participants prior to arrival.

General Scheduling Comments:

- Notified of invitation the day before the program began, with no previous indication of being on a waiting list.
- More time at end of each installation for general questions about visit
- Cut back evening socials and cocktails and get more sleep
- Cut the Pentagon Day.

4. How did you find the individual segment of the program? (1 = very uninformative; 7 = Very informative)

Pentagon:	5.67
Coast Guard:	6.73
Army:	6.89
Air Force:	6.34
Marine Corps:	6.69
Navy:	5.61

5. What was your general feeling about each segment of the individual programs? (1 = very negative; 7 = very positive)

Pentagon program:	5.8
Coast Guard program:	6.64
Army program:	6.54
Air Force program:	6.5
Marine Corps program:	6.36
Navy program:	6.1

6. Please grade the individual program segments on a scale of 1-10. (10 being the highest.)

Pentagon program:	7
Coast Guard program:	8.73
Army program:	8.96
Air Force program:	8.23
Marine Corps program:	9.02
Navy program:	7.52

Pentagon Comments:

- Would have liked to have heard candid visions from the SECDEF.
- Do a strong portion on the role of the Reserves & National Guard for each branch of the military.
- Not enough on how Services coordinate activities and redundancy.
- The situation room portion was poorly done and could have been real instead of the "regular visitor show."
- I felt that the Secretaries were not as prepared for their briefs as the other presenters during the week.
- Not sure that it's order is best.
- Minimal knowledge of Department at beginning. Didn't understand briefings till later
- Briefings should be more focused.
- More emphasis on issues of public concern
- Move to last visit to accommodate questions
- More information about the tactical interaction of the forces
- Too much sitting. Too long without break
- Quite dry -- difficult to pay attention. Impressed with high-level of briefers.
- High level of commitment to the program

Coast Guard Comments:

- WOW!
- They articulated their mission very well. Also they distinguished their mission relative to the other Services very well.
- Superb. A good way to begin the field portion of the conference. A great addition to the complement of all services represented of all in the program.
- Obvious excitement and commitment to JCOC Program. Activities were well planned, executed and highlighted unique aspect and mission of Coast Guard.
- Should be full participant and lead a team
- A great day, definitely should be a permanent part of the program. Very well organized and informative program. I may have learned more here than anywhere. What a terrific service and terrific people.

Army Comments:

- Loved driving the tanks. Liked MRE experience. Liked the access to enlisted. Felt General [Schwarz] clearly communicated his vision & priorities.
- Didn't get enough time to examine equipment and spent too much time on base tour. Would have liked to know about Force XXI.
- The hands on with tanks, firing 120mm was excellent
- Drop the barracks inspection.
- Driving the Bradleys was a highlight
- Simulations a little too complex to try to participate and still get big picture
- Schwarz was wonderful
- Allowing much direct participation gave more chances to inter-relate with soldiers in the field.
- Liked activities and interaction w/troops.
- The portions on social services were important. We needed to see and focus on this type of issue. And, of course they let us play with the toys, too. A terrifically informative visit.
- Quality of Life area was very informative.

Air Force Comments:

- Cranston needs an attitude change. He was aloof and appeared bothered by us.
- Loved night ops --Thought the deployment was very well done & addressed an important aspect. Liked experience of shooting M16's & feeling of what happens as enemy approaches. Liked simulators.
- Could have been a little less programmed. Too difficult for them to coordinate to a script.
- The Air Force shouldn't be paying for technology on bombs with both MacDonald Douglass and Lockheed. This is a waste of money and money could be used for Soldiers.
- Focus [was] on equipment not people. Toys impressive, but more time with Airman & Airwomen would have helped.
- Eglin portion not as good as Hurlburt
- Static displays are more effective after a demonstration
- Very high-tech. Little time with the enlisted personnel.
- Needed more time to see static display.
- Well organized; night operation very special.

- A superb mix - The more intimate focus on special operations, combined with a show of air equipment. I loved it.

Marines Comments:

- We were treated like we had no intelligence.
- Very effective way of demonstrating interrelationships of air, ground and sea.
- Well done. Concept on seeing how mission is done was excellent.
- Let's give more money to infantry men!
- The entire program was excellent.
- I really liked the concept of seeing a mission from beginning to end.
- The best executed; the most involvement; the best presentation with a healthy and sobering shot of reality.
- Less formal presentations and more opportunity to participate in activities
- More time to converse with officers, enlisted
- Good to have lots of high ranking officers taking part. Innovative in programs.
- Best group - best story telling technique.
- Liked troop interaction on "siege of the Building day."
- This was wonderful -- after days focused on individual pieces of equipment or small group activities, it was thrilling and informative to focus on a larger military operation and how it was carried out. A great and key piece of the program.

Navy Comments:

- I remain unclear on several of their functions.
- Did not get to eat with the enlisted personnel. They kept with the officers only.
- Sub program was great. The rest of the organization was marginal.
- Wanted more access to the enlisted troops. They seemed not to be ready for us and not well organized.
- Would have liked more time with average Sailors.
- Trip to the Stennis was absolutely excellent.
- Somewhat disorganized.
- After air ops [portion of tour], the question was, "what do you want to see now?"
- The Sailors lacked enthusiasm and the execution was poor.
- Carrier seemed less organized than others [portions of JCOC]; too much standing around; fact that daily operations were continuing was no excuse. Seal part was very good.
- Carrier good - overnight good - felt that we were just another load of people. Way too much down time standing around. They reclaimed the day with activities back on shore.
- More explanation of workings of Stennis prior to boarding
- Carrier visit poor. Not well organized. Not enough time to meet enlisted folks.
- Would have liked more time with SEALs
- While exciting to visit Stennis, the level of information was primarily statistical.
- Excellent experience staying on carrier
- Show COD orientation video prior to flying on COD (instead of on ship)
- Too casual

- Only service branch which did not assign a flag officer to escort the group and provide continuing discussion of role of Navy.
- Logistics not as tight as other portions of trip
- Did not organize meals, etc. with enlisted
- We had a very different feeling about the morale, willingness to talk about what they were doing, interesting having outsiders know what they do, etc. Interaction with personnel-- especially enlisted -- was less positive and informative than in other services. There was more a feeling that we were in people's way.
- Lacked organization, left to chance, airmen on carrier were not friendly or communicative like all other visits. Comments were made to us as we traveled through the carrier or we were ignored and not responded to.
- The Navy portion was the least structured. For example, we ate breakfast with ourselves and not with sailors. A place to sit down while we waited 1-1/2 hours for the COD transport would have been good and during that time had meetings with sailors.
- Carrier & Submarine excellent and interesting. But top flag grade officers don't seem to be as involved and committed to the program and to their own service's disadvantage.
- Less personal than the other trips, but I think its the nature of the carrier experience. Going there, watching the flight operations, and taking off was stupendous. And the submarine and SEALs were great too. A suggestion: Maybe include a bit more on how carriers work in battle, how they work with their groups.
- Need better coordination of small groups, tours ... on aircraft carrier

13. Did you have enough time to talk with junior enlisted and officers?

Yes 34 No 10

14. Did you have enough time to interact with senior decision makers?

Yes 36 No 7

15. Which military service do you feel gave you the best and least opportunity to interact with people?

Best for enlisted and junior officer interaction:

Coast Guard:	11
Army:	26
Air Force:	3
Marine Corps:	18
Navy:	5

Least for enlisted and junior officer interaction:

Coast Guard:	2
Army:	1
Air Force:	6
Marine Corps:	30
Navy:	6

Best for senior officer and decision maker interaction:

Coast Guard:	5
Army:	20
Air Force:	12
Marine Corps:	20
Navy:	2

Least for senior officer and decision maker interaction:

Coast Guard:	1
Army:	4
Air Force:	2
Marine Corps:	3
Navy:	33

16. How valuable did you feel traveling by different forms of military airlift was to the program as a whole?

Very valuable:	44
Valuable:	4

17. Were the accommodations and meals generally acceptable?

Accommodations:	Yes — 48
Meals:	Yes — 47

19. Did you feel the schedule was too demanding, was just about right, or that you had too much free time?

Schedule was too demanding, not enough free time:	15
Schedule was demanding, not enough free time:	31

22. Regarding defense and national security issues before JCOC 60, would you say you knew:

More than most people:	22
About the same as most people:	23
Less than most people:	3

23. As a result of participating in JCOC, do you feel you will be more inclined to discuss defense and national security issues with others?

Yes — 47

No — 1

General Recommendations

- Too many “boxed lunches” between full meals. Seemed wasteful. Fruit/snacks better option.
- MRE should be tasted not eaten. Food was great.
- Thanks for the vegetarian meals.
- Would have liked more time with the enlisted.
- 20 hour day not realistic. No free time to handle minimal office contacts. Should allow a solid six hours sleep per night.
- Do not allow cell phones.
- Ethnic and to a lesser extent gender, diversity of the officers and decision makers with whom we met was lacking.
- JCOC Newsletter
- Unit patches from each unit visited
- Always repeat the question and ensure everyone can hear answers
- Better information related to women in the military. There were 20 women in the group!
- More time to review impressions and issues at the end of each day in cluster groups.
- Would have liked more exposure to Biological Warfare and Terrorism.