



## Project Planning with Your Superior Officer

### Summary

- Users practice conversational strategies with a supervisor through a simulated status update with Army Lieutenant Colonel Steve Jones.
- Intended for soldiers in the American Army focusing on joint operations in Afghanistan, and applicable to anyone interested in “managing-up.”
- Engaging, different conversations promote repeated practice and generalizable skill building.
- Users receive ongoing feedback as well as a post-conversation assessment of their mastery of the learning objectives.
- Contracted through Northrup Grumman to meet the needs of the United States Joint Forces Command

### Scenario

- Users assume the role of a member of the Operational Planning Team (OPT) giving a status report to a superior officer concerning a series of earthquakes in the Nangarhar province of Afghanistan.
- ALC Jones behaves different in every simulated conversation, based on variations in mood, patience with the user, and level of knowledge and respect for Afghan customs.
- Jones’s level of trust and cooperation with the user will change based on the rapport the user is able to build with him.
- Topics that the user can discuss during the status update include the following:
  - The liaison officer’s lateness and the decision to reschedule that meeting.
  - An update on the meeting with the PRT leader, and reporting that a member of that team offended the elders in Afghanistan through cultural insensitivity.
  - The meeting with the elders is rescheduled until Saturday; this meeting will discuss the rebuilding of the medical clinic and possibly a new location.
  - A tent in inventory that may serve as a temporary medical facility, given Jones’s permission.



### Learning Objectives

After achieving mastery through repeated conversations, the user will be able to:

- Identify the best way to brief, advise, and solicit information during a status update
- Demonstrate an awareness of things to avoid when discussing information with a superior
- Demonstrate a knowledge of Afghan culture
- Advise a superior officer to resolve potential conflicts within planned courses of action
- Solicit information from a superior to clarify goals and objectives



### Seat Time

- Approximately an hour of e-learning material including cultural information and tips on talking to superior officers.
- Simulated conversations last 5 minutes.
- The average user will require 3 hours to achieve mastery of the learning objectives but can learn the basics in as little as one hour.

NOTE: Figure does not account for longer-term “refresher” sessions, which will vary by user.

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