



Executive Level OLW Course (ELOC) Course Syllabus

<https://usnwc.edu/college-of-maritime-operational-warfare/Professional-Military-Education/Executive-Level-OLW-Course>

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Welcome

Welcome to the Executive Level OLW (Operational Level of War) Course (ELOC). This Syllabus is provided to lead you through the material of the course.

The demands on senior staff officers in the Maritime Operations Centers (MOCs) and Fleet Headquarters have increased significantly as the Navy's OLW capabilities have matured. This has generated a greater need to understand both the processes and interactions of staff elements to enable accomplishment of the vision of the Fleet Commander. An OLW Flag Governing Board requested that the Naval War College create an executive OLW course to link between the staff-focused Maritime Staff Operator Course (MSOC) and the commander-focused Combined/Joint Force maritime Component Commander (C/JFMCC) course.

This Executive OLW Course highlights senior staff concerns, primarily for O-6 level staff directors / assistants. Completion of Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) Phase I is assumed.

The ELOC will provide a comprehensive approach for how maritime staffs must act to translate strategic objectives into operational actions in a proactive manner to ensure favorable outcomes and achievement of those objectives in a complex operational environment. Students will gain an appreciation of the critical role of senior staff leadership within the MOC to enable simultaneous maritime operations to:

- Translate commander's vision and guidance
- Prioritize and manage staff resources
- Synchronize and align staff activities (internally and externally)
- Employ functions and forces
- Adapt the organization to mission requirements.

The **goal** of this course is to provide key insights to be able to understand both the commander and staff's perspective on MOC processes, procedures, relationships, coordination, and products and, most importantly, to understand what is required to align the two. The approach of this course is to *provide attendees with the ability to be the link that aligns the commander's vision and intent with the staff's actions.*

The curriculum uses existing naval and joint doctrine and developing concepts as primary references and is presented by experienced uniformed and civilian Naval War College faculty, with significant active duty Navy and Marine Corps experience, including successful command and staff experience with joint qualifications.

Course Outcomes

The primary course objectives are to:

- Comprehend the **strategic documents** (NSS / NDS / NMS / etc) which guide the development of maritime strategy.
- Appreciate that the MCC resides at the operational level and orchestrates tactical actions in consonance with strategic guidance to achieve operational objectives.
- Comprehend the **Operational Level of War (OLW)** and how the MOC enables operational maritime warfare.
- Understand how senior level staff participate in and apply the **Operations Process as well as supporting processes** through the challenging dynamic of **managing HQ and MOC resources**.
- Comprehend, and provide Fleet insights into, potential solutions to **staff manning and level of decision authority**.
- Understand the roles, relationships, and evolution of **Command and Control** within the maritime headquarters (MHQ) and the **Maritime Operations Center (MOC)**.
- Understand the senior staff's pivotal position in **translating the Commander's vision and guidance into action**, both internal and external to the staff.
- Understand the need for the senior staff officer to anticipate and facilitate the translation of junior staff questions and concerns to the commander.

Course Organization

At the highest level, this course revolves around four (4) basic elements. Each element contains a number of distinct faculty-moderated sessions meant to encourage discussion among students. Our approach in providing this information is to begin with the basics, building on those essential concepts, doctrine and practices to enable you to apply them in case study-based planning and execution efforts.

- **Foundations** briefly discusses the major national strategy and concept documents governing the U.S. military and how the maritime specific documents will apply to the Maritime / Navy Component Commander (MCC/NCC) level. Also discussed are Operational Art, the Operational Level of Warfare, Operational Law and the basic organization constructs.
- **Decision Making** discusses in detail the Operations Process, the Navy Planning Process and the Joint Intelligence Preparation of the Operational Environment, and the emerging Design process.
- **MOC and Staff** explores the fundamental concepts, description and characteristics of a MOC in a working environment with a focus toward the JFMCC. Observation of and interaction with the Maritime Staff Operator Course (MSOC) MOC facilitates an understanding of senior-staff interface with MOC processes. A comparison of the existing Numbered Fleet Staff organizations and functions is also provided, along with flag and MOC Director perspectives on staff.

- **Command and Control** provides insight into the methodologies, complexities, and challenges of command and controlling from an OLV perspective. Also provided are insights into the preparation, assessment, and transition activities associated with the Operations Process.

Course Materials

Maritime Component Commander Guidebook

Readings

The term **SCAN** should be interpreted to mean: a review of the Table of Contents, the document's Executive Summary (if provided), and the introduction to each chapter in the document. The student should browse additional areas of interest that attract his/her attention.

The Joint Doctrine, Education and Training Electronic Information System (JDEIS) Web Portal contains the entire Joint Electronic Library: <https://jdeis.js.mil/jdeis/index.jsp> (or .smil for classified portions of the JEL).

The Navy Warfare Development Command, NDLS Library contains current and in progress Navy specific doctrine: <https://portal.nwdc.navy.mil/NDLS/default.aspx>.

ELOC Session Schedule

Contained on this website.

ELOC Critique

This is YOUR course, initiated by FLEET requests. Please take the time to help us improve it by providing critique comments in the daily forms provided during the course.