



International Maritime Staff Operators Course (IMSOC) Overview

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IMSOC@USNWC.edu
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OVERVIEW

International Maritime Staff Operators Course (IMSOC) prepares mid-grade international naval officers to support the planning and execution of complex maritime operations in a coalition environment. The 12-week unclassified course is taught at the Naval War College in Newport, RI and utilizes the U.S. Navy Planning Process (NPP) and Maritime Operations Center (MOC) construct. IMSOC was established in response to maritime partners' demands for a course similar to the U.S. only Maritime Staff Operators Course (MSOC).

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

IMSOC is designed for mid-grade naval officer (LCDR) but is open to all uniformed military officers in the rank/paygrade of O-2 to O-5 (NATO OF-1 to OF-4). IMSOC is taught in English and attendees must obtain a minimum score of 80 on the English Comprehension Level (ECL) test.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The overarching student course objectives are to:

- **UNDERSTAND** the art and science of multinational maritime operations;
- **UNDERSTAND** the impact of the maritime domain on multinational operations;
- **UNDERSTAND** the operational level planning processes as exemplified by the U.S. Navy Planning Process (NPP);
- **UNDERSTAND** the organization and functions of an operational level of war maritime headquarters as typified by the U.S. Maritime Operations Center (MOC);
- **UNDERSTAND** similarities and differences between the U.S. NPP and other planning processes;
- **APPRECIATE** the complexities of operating in a multinational staff;
- **APPLY** the Navy Planning Process to solve complex maritime problems in a simulated scenario;
- **BUILD** enduring professional and personal relationships within the international community;

EXPECTATIONS OF THE GRADUATE:

On completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Perform as a staff officer on a national or multinational/combined maritime staff;
- Apply the fundamental concepts of operational art in developing plans or conducting operations in a multinational maritime environment;
- Perform as a member of an Operational Planning Team (OPT).

APPROACH

Orientation/Introduction

Orientation welcomes new students to the College and includes a tour of the campus, the Newport Naval Station, and city of Newport. The orientation also includes lectures on the history of the Naval War College, US government, American society, and US Military culture.

Regional Maritime Capabilities/Challenges students from each country will brief the unique capabilities of their nation's maritime forces, multinational relationships that influence operations in their region, and cultural considerations.

Core Curriculum

Foundation. The foundational section comprises the biggest portion of the course. Students will receive approximately 45 lectures on topics ranging from an Introduction to Combined Maritime Operations to Operational Law. US doctrine is the predominant focus for the class.; however, students will also be exposed to other multinational concepts and planning processes (UN, NATO, and Interagency). Many of these lectures will include a practical exercise. For example, following the one-hour lecture on Command and Control is a two-hour practical exercise in which students will apply those C2 principles to actual events that occurred during Operation Neptune (the Normandy landing in World War II). Most lectures are delivered by faculty from the College who also teach MSOC, aided and assisted by international officers on the faculty, specifically to broaden the scope and perspective of the course. Additionally, several retired, international 'four star' admirals (all College alumni and former chiefs of their navy) interact with students during leadership panels. Initial sessions are a review of key operational art and fundamental concepts of the operational level of war.

Navy Planning Process (NPP). This portion of the course, which is five weeks long, requires students to work through the steps of the Navy Planning Process developing the same products required for real operations. The faculty mentors the student-led operational planning teams through each phase of the planning process.

Execution Phase During the one-week execution portion of the course students will rotate between typical Maritime Operations Center (MOC) cells. This rotation helps reinforce the knowledge gained in the foundational and NPP portion of the course. Depending on class size, these cells include:

Current Operations (COPS): COPS primarily focuses on monitoring and assessing on-going operations and execution of the commander's intentions. It is the central point for all planning cells to forward key events and receive information related to the execution of operations.

Future Operations (FOPS): FOPS conducts operational level planning for near term operations and branch plans. FOPS serves as a continuity linkage for transition planning from the Future Plans center to Current Operations cell.

Future Plans (FUPLANS): FUPLANS is responsible for operational planning in support of assigned missions and the command's involvement in the Theater Security Cooperation Plan (TSCP). It conducts analysis and coordination of future operations, phase 0 and beyond.

Assessments: Assessments facilitates the commander's ability to adapt to changing circumstances and to exploit opportunities, respond to developing problems or modify schemes of maneuver. Assessment enables the commander to estimate the overall progress of an operation as it unfolds.

Field Studies Program/Operational Capability Workshops

The Field Studies Program (FSP) The FSP is designed to ensure students gain an understanding of the responsibilities of governments, militaries and citizens to protect, preserve, and respect the rights of every individual.

Operational Capabilities Workshops (OCW)

Norfolk, VA - In support of the core objectives of this course, the OCW consists of a visit to Norfolk Naval Station/Joint Expeditionary Base, where students will tour a major naval ship, and receive briefs on operational planning. This trip includes a visit to the NATO Allied Command Transformation, Combined Joint Operations from the Sea Centre of Excellence, and U.S. Fleet Forces Command MOC.

Other Venues- Students will visit other venues, on an opportunity basis, that support the curriculum.

CONTACTS

Professor Ray Tortorelli (Course Director)

raymond.tortorelli@usnwc.edu (401) 841-1494

Andrew Elvin (Program Support)

Andrew.elvin.ctr@usnwc.edu (401) 841 6534

Dionne Horrabin (International Military Student Officer)

dionne.horrabin@usnwc.edu (401) 841-2010