



UNITED STATES NAVAL WAR COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Newport, Rhode Island



International Programs

Contact Information

International Programs

U.S. Naval War College
Luce Hall
686 Cushing Road
Newport, Rhode Island, 02841
imsoc@usnwc.edu
usnwc.edu



*Scan the QR code with your smartphone,
or send us an email for more information!*

IMSOC Course Director

Professor Raymond Tortorelli
(401) 856-5236
raymond.tortorelli@usnwc.edu

Program Coordinator

CAPT Matthew Furlong, USCG
(401) 856-5216
matthew.furlong@usnwc.edu

IMSO

Dionne Horrabin
(401) 856-5207
dionne.horrabin@usnwc.edu

UNITED STATES NAVAL WAR COLLEGE



An Education Like No Other

The International Maritime Staff Operators Course (IMSOC) prepares mid-grade international maritime officers, and personnel from other uniformed services and government agencies, to support the planning and execution of complex maritime operations in a coalition environment.

This 12-week unclassified course is taught at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island and utilizes the U.S. Navy Planning Process (NPP) and Maritime Operations Center (MOC) construct. The IMSOC was established in response to maritime partners' demands for a course like the US-only Maritime Staff Operators Course (MSOC). IMSOC typically convenes twice a year; August-November and April-June.

The IMSOC is open to all uniformed military officers in the rank/paygrade of O-2 to O-5 (NATO OF-1 to OF-4). It is taught in English, so attendees must obtain a minimum score of 80 on the English Comprehension Level (ECL) Test. A typical course includes students from all global regions. Countries as large as Indonesia and as small as the Republic of Seychelles have registered in the past.

The course is designed to provide graduates the requisite knowledge and skills needed to 1) perform as a staff officer on a national or multinational/combined maritime staff, 2) apply the fundamental concepts at the Operational Level of Warfare in developing plans and conducting operations in a multinational maritime environment, and 3) perform as a member of an Operational Planning Team (OPT).

Students initially receive lectures that serve as building blocks to understand fundamental concepts and ideas related to the maritime environment and the operational level of warfare. Then, a thorough examination of Operation NEPTUNE allows students to understand how operational concepts are put into practice. Finally, drawing on all previous lessons, students are given an opportunity to develop their own Operational Order to address a fictitious international crisis.

Graduates receive an IMSOC Certification of Completion and a special pin to wear on their uniform.



Course Structure and Phases

Foundations

The foundational section is designed to prepare students to operate as part of a Maritime Component Commander's staff. Students receive approximately 45 lectures on topics ranging from "Introduction to Combined Maritime Operations" to "Operational Law." U.S. doctrine is the predominant focus for the class; however, students will also be exposed to other multinational concepts and planning processes. Many of the lectures include practical exercises. Most sessions are delivered by faculty from the Naval War College who also teach MSOC. The course at times is aided and assisted by international officers on the faculty who help broaden the scope and perspective of the course.

U.S. Navy Planning Process (NPP)

This phase lasts five weeks. It requires students to work through each NPP step developing the same products required for real operations. Faculty mentors guide student-led Operational Planning Teams (OPT) through each phase of the planning process.

Command Post Exercise (CPX)

During the one-week execution portion of the course, students will rotate between some of the typical Maritime Operations Center (MOC) cells. This rotation helps reinforce the knowledge gained in the Foundations and NPP portions of the course.

Reflections

Students end their time in the course with one-week dedicated to a review of the entire course. They also receive lectures on other planning processes, exercise planning, and learn about case studies relevant to their CPX experience. Additionally, students interact with the Naval War College's Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Distinguished International Fellows. They are retired alumni of the College who rose in rank to serve as the commander of their naval service. These in-resident senior international officers mentor students and lead discussion panels focused on leadership as well as the challenges found serving on a coalition staff.

Field Studies Program (FSP)

In addition to classroom work, students take an overnight trip to Boston, Massachusetts and another three-day trip to Norfolk, Virginia. 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 Capability Workshops (OCW)

The OCW consists of a visit to the Naval Station/Joint Expeditionary Base, Norfolk, Virginia, where students receive briefs on operational planning. This trip typically includes a visit to the NATO Allied Command Transformation (ACT), Combined Joint Operations from the Sea Centre of Excellence (CJOS COE), and U.S. Fleet Forces Command MOC.

Foundations

21 days

This portion welcomes students to the U.S. Naval War College and frames the course around the operational level of warfare in the maritime environment.

Students are introduced to concepts and ideas developed by preeminent Naval Theorists Admiral Alfred Thayer Mahan and Sir Julian Corbett. Using this foundational material, it frames for students how Navies shaped the past, operate in the present, and may influence the future.

Subsequent sessions build an extensive operations vocabulary for the students. These concepts are further developed by examining Operation NEPTUNE, the maritime component of Operation OVERLORD during World War II.

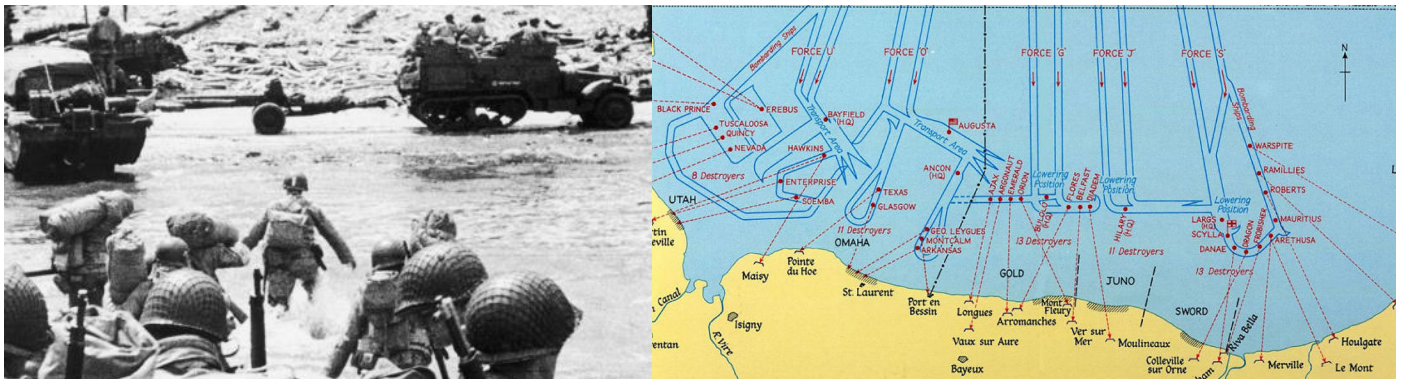
Students begin to work in breakout sessions by examining Operational Factors and Functions using the assigned historical case study.

Sessions

- Welcome and Course Overview
- History of the Naval War College
- Classic Naval Theorists
- Multiculturalism
- Levels of War
- Mission Command
- Commander's Decision Cycle
- Principles of Joint Operations
- Operational Factors
- Operational Functions
- Combined Maritime Operations
- Operational Warfare at Sea
- Warfare Capabilities
- Noncombatant Evacuation Operations
- Center of Gravity Analysis
- Information Operations
- Women, Peace, and Security
- Ethical Leadership

Specials

- Base Windshield Tour
- Newport Walking Tour
- Welcome Lunch and Restaurant Culture
- Ice Breaker Social and Bowling
- Class Photo
- Trafalgar Wargame



30 days

Students gain academic confidence, develop their analytical thinking skills, and learn how to function effectively as a team to accomplish a common objective.

- Operational Planning Team
- Risk Assessment
- Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief
- Operational Law
- Operational Assessment
- Operational Art and Design
- Information Management
- Targeting Overview
- Decision Support Matrix and Template
- Commander's Critical Information Requirements
- Commander's Intent and Guidance
- Staff Estimates
- Maritime Security Operations
- Maritime Domain Awareness
- Roles and Functions in a Maritime Operations Center (MOC)

- Concept of Operations Brief



Boston, Massachusetts Field Trip



The first two-day trip of the course takes students to Boston, Massachusetts. Officially, the City of Boston, it stood witness to several key events of the American Revolution and the nation's founding.

Students visit the famed Freedom Trail and USS Constitution, also known as "Old Ironsides," the world's oldest commissioned warship still afloat. Both venues have a deep historical connection and significance to the founding of the United States.

Additionally, students are exposed to other historical societies, law enforcement authorities, and local businesses. The trip concludes with dining at a local restaurant to help further understand what life is like in the New England region.



Norfolk, Virginia Field Trip



The second and longer trip occurs in Norfolk, Virginia. This city is home to the country's largest naval base and several of the nation's most important historical battlefields. The unique combination of historical and modern military sites encourages students to reflect on the evolution of naval missions over time.



As part of the Operational Capabilities Workshop (OCW), students visit Maritime Operational Centers (MOC) to receive briefings and tours to better understand the MOC concept. The second half of the trip focuses on the Field Studies Program (FSP) where students visit local Maritime and Battlefield Museums, both reinforcing America's founding roots. Like Boston, there are cultural opportunities that showcase life in the mid-Atlantic region.



COMMAND POST EXERCISE (CPX)

6 days

The CPX asks students to operate in a complex multinational environment in which the countries of the fictitious Rainbow Atoll face many complex, interwoven, and simultaneous maritime threats.

Students working as a multilateral task force in a Maritime Operations Center must use their learned operational planning skills to grapple with threats including; a violent extremist organization that is active at sea, weapons smugglers, and environmental and natural hazards.

By the end of this practical, students will have the opportunity to put their Operations Order into action, rotate through the various MOC cells, and respond to an unexpected crisis event.

Sessions

- Current Operations (COPS)
- Future Operations (FOPS)
- Future Plans (FUPLANS)
- NPP Crisis Action Team (CAT)
- Develop Fragmentary Order
- Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HA/DR)



REFLECTIONS

3 days

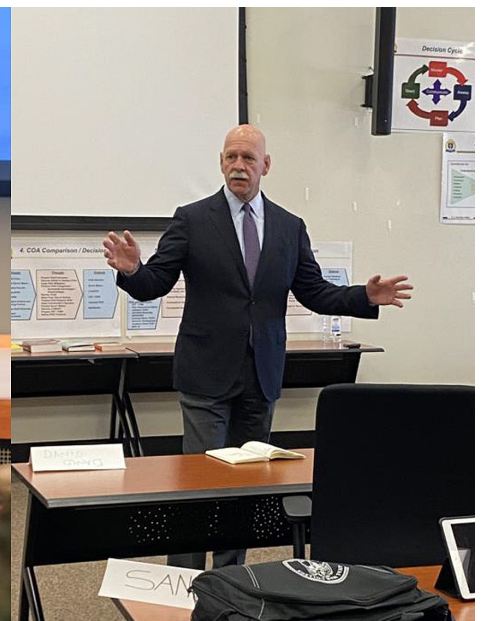
The final week synthesizes the information, lessons, exercises, and experiences gained throughout the IMSOC. It is also an opportunity to learn about other planning processes and how to plan an exercise.

Students participate in rich panel discussions with the U.S. Naval War College's Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) International Fellows. These Admirals reached the pinnacle of their respective careers and continue to service by sharing their invaluable leadership insights gained through a lifetime of outstanding service. Senior international officers in-residence also discuss their experiences and leadership lessons.

The week ends with a graduation ceremony inside the U.S. Naval War College Museum, the building that housed the College when it was established in 1884.

Sessions

- Coalition Staff Officer Discussion Panel
- Leadership Challenges Discussion Panel
- Coalition Exercise Debrief
- Other Planning Processes
- Cyberspace Brief
- Fundamental Concepts Review
- Course Summary



INTERNATIONAL MARITIME STAFF OPERATORS COURSE
CLASS OF 22-02 | NOVEMBER 4, 2022

