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. 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’ requests for a course like the U.S.-only Maritime Staff Operators Course (MSOC).

“Most important among people or among nations or among navies is friends.”

Admiral Arleigh A. Burke
Former President, USNWC
Course Objectives

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

Course Modules

Orientation

Student Regional Maritime Capabilities/Challenges

Foundation
Students will receive approximately 45 lectures on topics ranging from an Introduction to Combined Maritime Operations to Operational Law. U.S. doctrine is the predominate focus for the class; however, students will also be exposed to other multinational concepts and planning processes (UN, NATO, and Interagency).

Naval 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.

Execution Phase
During the two-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 portions of the course.

Field Studies Program (FSP)
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 consist of a visit to Naval Station Norfolk/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 Center of Excellence, and U.S. Fleet Forces Command MOC.

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

“Students will gain the understanding of art, science, and impact of the maritime domain on multinational operations.”