

International Maritime Staff Operators Course

The International Maritime Staff Operator Course (IMSOC) was jointly designed by the U.S. Naval War College (NWC) International Programs department and the College of Maritime Operational Warfare to prepare 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.

Eligibility

- This course is designed for mid-grade international officers but is open to all uniformed military officers, O3-O5 or NATO OF2-OF4. Students must obtain a minimum score of 80 on the English Comprehension Level test.

Location & Duration

- The twelve-week curriculum for students is divided into three core components and is taught at NWC in Newport, Rhode Island.

Learning Format

- The course is conducted in a seminar format augmented by team planning exercises, tabletop discussions, case studies, and on-site visits.

Outcome

- Students will gain the understanding of art, science, and impact of the maritime domain on multinational operations. They will also learn to apply the Navy Planning Process (NPP) for solving complex maritime problems.

General Program Overview

- Orientation | Welcoming New Students, Required
Welcomes new students to the college and includes a tour of the campus, the Newport Naval Station, and city of Newport.
- Lectures | Core Curriculum, Required
Study topics ranging from an introduction to Combined Maritime Operations to Operational Law and many of these studied topics will include a practical exercise.
- Navy Planning Process | Core Curriculum, Required
Work through the steps of the Navy Planning Process, developing an Operations Order based on a fictitious scenario, the students then transition this order to execution.
- Execution Phase | Core Curriculum, Required
Rotate between typical Maritime Operations Center (MOC) cells; this rotation helps reinforce the knowledge gained in the foundational and NPP portions of the course.
- Reflections Week | Core Curriculum, Required
Students interact with in-resident senior US and international officers during leadership panels focused on the challenges of operating in a multinational force.
- The Field Studies Program & Visiting Other Venues | FSP & Workshops, Required
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. Students will visit other venues, on an opportunity basis, that support the curriculum.