

## Course Administrative Details

NETSAFA MASL #P 179622  
NATO ETOC MOP-MO-35436  
CANTRAC CIN H-2G-9066

- Two courses per year: March–May, July–September
- Unclassified course
- Students unaccompanied
- Accommodations available on base

***“Excellence through collaboration”***



Students participate in a “Rehearsal of Concept” drill which refines the operational level plan the IMSOC students have developed.

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

Admiral Arleigh A. Burke  
Former President, USNWC

## International Programs Contact Information



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

IMSOC@usnwc.edu

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

**Program Coordinator**  
**CAPT Andrew Schanno, USCG**  
(401) 856-5216  
andrew.schanno@usnwc.edu

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



Luce and Pringle Hall (home of International Programs), USNWC



UNITED STATES NAVAL WAR COLLEGE  
**INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS**

*Newport, Rhode Island*

**IMSOC**  
**INTERNATIONAL MARITIME STAFF**  
**OPERATORS COURSE**

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 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).



IMSOC Class of 2023-02

*Current as of January 2025*

## 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

### Foundations

Students build the maritime operational knowledge required to understand the operational level of warfare with approximately 45 lectures. Topics range from an Introduction to Combined Maritime Operations to Operational Law, Warfare Capabilities, and Multiculturalism. U.S. doctrine is the predominate focus of the class; however, students will also be exposed to other multinational concepts and planning processes (UN, NATO, and Interagency).



Students discuss course work at the U.S. Naval War College

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

### Navy Planning Process (NPP)

This portion of the course requires students to work through the steps of the Navy Planning Process developing the same products required for real operations.

### Execution Phase

During the execution portion of the course students will rotate between typical Maritime Operations Center (MOC) cells and working groups. 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)

In support of the core objectives of this course, the OCW consists of a visit to a Navy or Coast Guard Station/Joint Expeditionary Base, where students receive briefs and tours related to the operational level. This trip may include a visit to the Combined Joint Operations from the Sea Centre of Excellence (CJOS COE) or a U.S. MOC subject to availability.

### Other Venues

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