

Maritime Staff Operators Course

The Maritime Staff Operators Course (MSOC) provides resident education in the application of the Maritime Operations Center (MOC) concept, organization and processes; maritime operational level of warfare concepts, terminology and processes; and the Navy Planning Process (NPP) in order to produce graduates capable of immediately supporting the commander's decision cycle at the operational level of warfare in a dynamic and complex environment.

Eligibility

- The course is for Navy chiefs and officers, O1 -O5, en route to a MOC or operational-level maritime staff. U.S. Government. Civilians are also eligible (GS11-GS14). Students require a Secret clearance to attend.

Location & Duration

- MSOC is a five-week course held at U.S. Naval War College (NWC) in Newport, Rhode Island.

Learning Format

- The course is conducted in a seminar format and culminates with practical planning and execution application using a complex, fictitious case study, and a Battle Lab experience.

Outcome

- Officer students (O1-O5) receive an Additional Qualification Designation (JOM) upon completing the course and enlisted personnel (E7+) receive a Navy Enlisted Classification (831A) certificate. MSOC graduates receive partial credit for College of Distance Education's (CDE), Naval Command & Staff (NC&S) Online Program.

General Program Overview

- Strategy, Operational Art, and Operational Functions | Line of Effort
Students are introduced to the fundamental aspects of joint warfare. The initial academic sessions culminate in a comprehensive discussion of the Battle of Leyte Gulf which synthesizes the key aspects of operational art.
- Maritime Command and Control | Line of Effort
The second series of academic sessions focus on the core aspect of operational-level warfare – command and control (C2) of maritime forces, the employment of maritime capabilities, and how the Navy executes operational C2 via the MOC construct.
- Planning and Preparation | Line of Effort
This series of academic sessions use operational art and MOC processes as its foundation to engage students in practical exercises using a contemporary scenario that reinforces class lectures and uses a “learn then do” methodology. The students then employ the NPP, with emphasis on key techniques, supporting concepts, and doctrine to perform the six steps of the NPP.
- Execution | Line of Effort
This last week of the course is the synthesizing event of MSOC, where the class functions as a MOC staff and applies joint and service concepts, fundamentals, doctrine and knowledge of the NPP within the context of a realistic scenario. The intent is to demonstrate how internal and external activities support the commander's decision cycle.