

Overview

Command and General Staff Officer Course

The Command and General Staff School (CGSS) provides the Command and General Staff Officer Course for U.S. Army field grade officers and selected officers from the U.S. DoD and International Military Students. The goal is to prepare career officers with a larger context of unified action—multi-service, interagency, and multinational operations. Achieving unified action in wartime requires building competence and confidence through peacetime training and education, training, as we will fight.

CGSOC Structure

CGSOC consists of two components, the Common Core Course and the Field Grade Credentialing Course. The US Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC) is the proponent for the development and delivery of the Common Core Course curriculum to all field grade officers, regardless of career field or component. Proponent for the Credentialing Courses resides with the career field proponents, with the Combined Arms Center (CAC) being the proponent for the Operations Career Field (OPCF).

Common Core Course

All active component Army senior Captains and Majors receive the Common Core Course through resident attendance at Fort Leavenworth or a permanent Satellite Campus site. Those Reserve Component and Special Branch officers not attending the resident course or a Satellite Campus receive their Common Core via The Army School System (TASS) or Advanced Distributive Learning (ADL).

The Common Core Course prepares field grade officers with a warrior ethos and warfighting focus for leadership positions in Army, joint, multinational and interagency organizations executing full spectrum operations. The course emphasizes:

- Warfighting in full spectrum operations (FSO) and today's operational environment
- Balance how to think versus what to think
- Complex problem solving across FSO
- Balanced focus on current ops, future ops and plans functions
- Staff principles and concepts
- Know how to synch actions to attain effects

Field Grade Credentialing Course

The field grade-credentialing course for OPCF officers is the Advanced Operations Course (AOC) conducted at Fort Leavenworth. The AOC develops officers with a warfighting focus for battalion and brigade command capable of conducting full spectrum operations in joint, multinational, and interagency environments with the requisite competencies to serve successfully as division through echelons-above-corps staff officers. AOC emphasizes a Warfighting focus through:

- Integrated full spectrum scenario with execution centric focus
- Simulation performance based execution
- Theory and doctrine of war
- Conduct of war - Army, Joint and

Multinational operations

- Command leadership and decision making in battle
- Planning, synchronization and execution of operations
- ARFOR, JTF, Division and Brigade exercises

All students complete their education by selecting elective courses from the Electives Program. Students can use these elective offerings to complete the requirements for a Focused Program that awards an Additional Skill Identifier (ASI).

The Teaching Team

The Teaching Team methodology delivers both the Common Core Course and AOC for both resident and Satellite Campus students. The Teaching Team is responsible for providing instruction to students, organized as staff groups, throughout the academic year and provides oversight for all exercises resident in the curriculum. Teaching Team instructors also serve as professional development coaches for students. In this role they are responsible for mentoring, providing feedback, facilitating, counseling, observing, and assisting the students in achieving their professional development goals. Teaching Teams include a mix of task-organized instructors from all the academic departments.

The staff and faculty include civilians, international officers, and field grade officers with experience in all branches and services. The vast majority of our civilian faculty is retired officers. Our faculty keeps the curriculum fresh and relevant via augmentation tasking to the Combat Training Centers and operational deployments in support of ongoing operations. Their experiences help invigorate the classroom discussion and curriculum.

Technology

Student exposure, training, and education with current and emerging battlefield visualization automation begins early.

All students are exposed to the Army Battle Command System (ABCS) suite of hardware and software. Throughout the AOC curriculum students use these tools, with practical application during the JTF, Division, and Brigade exercises. AOC students participate in a Brigade exercise emphasizing battle command in a similar format as that offered during the Pre-Command Course. In addition:

- All students receive ABCS Awareness training during the Core curriculum
- AOC students can elect to take one of several digital electives focusing on specific branch-related hardware and software
- About 25 percent of all exercises are built using digital MTOE BLUEFOR

School Year Organization

Two CGSOC pre-term preparatory courses and two sister-service indoctrination courses are held for selected international and US officers. The resident school year is organized into three terms. Each term is composed of one or more thematic blocks of instruction taught in subject modules spread over one or more lessons. The Common Core Course is taught in Term I; the AOC and Elective Program are taught over Terms II and III.

Preparatory Courses

The Air Force Element of the CGSC conducts an Indoctrination Course for USAF officers and the Navy Element conducts one for USN, USMC, and USCG officers. Attending the CGSOC Preparatory Course follows these service specific courses.

There are two preparatory courses for students attending CGSOC Core curriculum and AOC. The first is the International Military Student (IMS) Preparatory Course

(IMSPC) (P910). This course is mandatory for all international students. It is a 16-day course providing international officers survival skills needed to function in CGSOC at Ft Leavenworth, the local community and to begin the DOD Field Studies Program educational process. It exposes the IMS to the small group instruction methodology, which is used in the majority of CGSOC instruction. The course consists of discussion of professional and cultural topics, introduction to the use of automated systems, practical exercises in basic research and writing methods, and other subjects.

The second preparatory course is the Intermediate Level Education (CGSOC) Preparatory Course, (P930); consisting of 8 days of instruction. The first days are basic fundamentals taught by Center for Army Tactics (CTAC), and the final days are logistics operations instructed by Department of Logistics and Resource Operations (DLRO). This course forms the entry-level basis for all combined arms tactics instruction for the CGSOC. It explains how the Army as a whole conducts combat operations on the modern battlefield. The 10 lessons explain the Army's doctrine for war, the major combat and combat support battlefield operating systems (maneuver, fire support, air defense, intelligence, mobility/survivability, and command and control) that commanders must synchronize to successfully conduct war, and describe the structure of major Army tactical echelons of command (corps, divisions, and brigades).

The course emphasizes acquiring knowledge of fundamental terms, concepts, principles, and organizations.

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