Advanced Operations Course (AOC)

The CGSOC Advanced Operations Course (AOC) prepares its graduates to serve as staff members and commanders with the ability to build and lead operational and tactical formations in Full Spectrum Operations in a JIIM environment.

AOC is the CGSOC branch credentialing course for all operations career field Army majors. Non-operations career field officers must complete the required career field training and specialized education or qualifying course for their functional area. CGSOC credentialing qualifies officers to pursue branch qualifying assignments as field grade officers at the rank of Major.

AOC is going through a major redesign for AY 09-10 and the course design will be presented to the Deputy Commandant for approval in late June 2009. Therefore, the information presented here is in **DRAFT** form and will likely go through several revisions before being finalized.

The AOC redesign purpose is:

- To ensure we support emerging Army and Joint doctrine
- To prepare students for operations in the current operational environment
- To nest curriculum with recent guidance on leader development
- To enhance predictability for faculty and students
- To increase student and faculty preparation and reflection time by limiting contact time to four hours per day
- To enhance the JIIM environment and instruction throughout the curriculum by integrating Sister Service, International, and Inter-Agency students in all instruction and exercises by ensuring course content is educational and relevant for all students, regardless of service, agency, or nationality
- To enhance student understanding of Generating Force support to the Operating Force from synchronization of ARFORGEN to the generation and sustainment of in-theater forces.

The AOC curriculum has three primary blocks of instruction consisting of:

- O100 - Campaign Planning;

- O200 - Force Generation; and
- O300 – Full Spectrum Operations.

Those primary blocks of instruction are supported by the Guest Speaker Program and three parallel blocks of instruction consisting of:

- H200 - Military Innovation in Peace and War;
- H300 - Roots of Today's Operational Environment;
- L200 - Leadership Applied; and B000 Battle Command Technologies.

The AOC concludes with a 10 week electives program implemented in two five week sessions as depicted in figure 2 below. Each student is required to complete a minimum of 192 hours (eight electives) to satisfy graduation requirements. A SOF Studies program and sister service program within AOC are also being considered for implementation during AY 09-10.

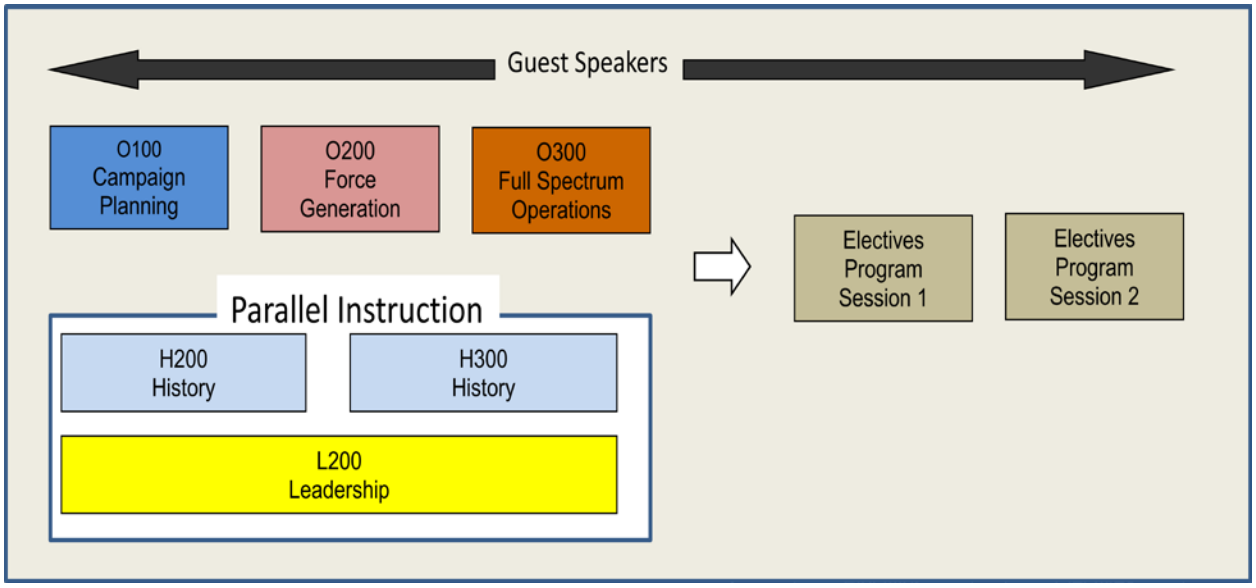

Figure 2. Advanced Operations Course (AOC)

O100 - Campaign Planning

The O100 - Campaign Planning block of AOC consists of 9 lessons totaling 66 hours which includes a 4 day end of block exercise. The learning objectives for this block are: produce a campaign concept; analyze the considerations for deploying, employing and sustaining forces at the operational level of war; and, analyze the impact of culture and geography within diverse regional environments. The Campaign Planning lessons are:

- Intro
- Okinawa Case Study
- JFACC
- SOF support to the CFLCC
- Mission Analysis
- Campaign Development (Joint Functions)
- Design the sustainment Brigade
- Campaign Development
- Campaign Development Exercise (Phase IV and V)

O200 - Force Generation

The O200 - Force Generation block of AOC consists of 9 lessons totaling 34 hours. The learning objective for this block is: apply the force generation process to generate and sustain ready forces. The Force Generation lessons are:

- Brigade capability briefs
- COCOM->DoD->Jstaff->JFCOM;RFF, TPFDL
- Resourcing: services; Synchronization
- ARFORGEN
- Gen Force Support to Theater; ASCC/ADCON
- Brigade training
- Deployment; Strategic + Brigade
- JRSOI
- Contracting, MAWS, WHNS other

O300 – Full Spectrum Operations

The O300 – Full Spectrum Operations block of AOC consists of 11 lessons totaling 148 hours which includes two - 7 days exercises. The first exercise is a division level exercise conducted in the middle of the block followed by a brigade level exercise at the conclusion of the block. The learning objective for this block is: evaluate the employment of Army tactical forces in full spectrum operations. The Full Spectrum Operations lessons are:

- Division Battle Command

- Tactical Sustainment
- Air Support to FSO
- Evaluate Div OPLAN
- Phase III Exercise
- Stability Case
- BCT C2
- Security Force Assistance
- Support to PRTs
- Phase IV Planning
- Phase IV Exercise

H200 - Military Innovation in Peace and War

The H200 - Military Innovation in Peace and War block of AOC consists of 10 lessons totaling 20 hours. The learning objectives for this block are: use historical context to inform military judgment; and, explain the major factors that shaped military innovation and institutional adaptation in peace and war. The Military Innovation in Peace and War lessons are:

- How Do Militaries Change?
- Interwar Mechanization
- Interwar Airpower Theory
- Carrier Airpower Between the Wars
- USMC Between the Wars
- Blitzkrieg, 1939-40
- The Soviet-German Conflict
- Midway/Battle of the Atlantic
- Bloody Lessons of Island Hopping
- Combined Bomber Offensive

H300 - Roots of Today's Operational Environment

The H300 - Roots of Today's Operational Environment block of AOC consists of 8 lessons totaling 16 hours. The learning objectives for this block are: use historical context to inform military judgment; and, explain the historical trends that have shaped today's operational environment. The Roots of Today's Operational Environment lessons are:

- People's Revolutionary War: America
- People's Revolutionary War: Mao
- Nuclear and Limited War
- Vietnam I: Insurgency
- Vietnam II: Vietnamization
- Transition in Post-Vietnam Era
- Non-Western Way of War

- Past as Prologue

L200 - Leadership Applied

The L200 - Leadership Applied block of AOC consists of 10 lessons totaling 22 hours. The learning objective for this block is: integrate your organizational level leadership perspective from a commander's purview The Leadership Applied lessons are:

- Battle Command in Major Combat Operations
- Battle Command in Irregular Warfare
- Battle Command and Developing Leaders
- Battle Command and Decision Making
- Battle Command and Assessing
- Battle Command and Ethics in War
- Battle Command in a Multi-Cultural Environment
- Battle Command and Moral Courage
- Battle Command and Communications
- Battle Command Applied

B000 Battle Command Technologies

The B000 Battle Command Technologies block of AOC consists of 2 lessons totaling 6 hours. This instruction is a lab scheduled during the common core for 3 to 8 staff groups at a time. The learning objective for this lab is: enable students to employ battle command technologies in planning and executing military operations. The Battle Command Technologies lessons are:

- ABCS Overview and Command Post of the Future
- Global Command Control System (GCCS) Intro and JOPES Planning

ELECTIVES PROGRAM

The Electives Program provides students the opportunity to enhance personal and professional growth through advanced applications. The program supports long-term professional development and is not merely focused on immediate follow-on duty requirements. The program is also designed to broaden the student's professional needs and not designed to be remedial in nature.

Each student must complete a minimum of eight elective courses (192 hours) to satisfy graduation requirements. The program consists of several components, including specialized tracks, focused programs, and electives.

A detailed MOI is published during the Common Core Course outlining elective requirements and administrative procedures.