



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
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ATZL-LSG-D

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MEMORANDUM FOR Battalion and Brigade Commanders of Command and General Staff Officer Course (CGSOC) Distance Learning (DL) Intermediate Level Education (ILE) Students

SUBJECT: Support of Students Completing CGSOC via Distance Learning

1. Reference: Army Regulation 350-1 (Army Training and Leader Development), 10 December 2017.
2. This memorandum provides information regarding the construct of CGSOC-DL ILE. You have been identified as the commander of a field grade officer enrolled in the Distance Learning Command and General Staff Officer's Course (ILE). Officers enrolled in DL-ILE have a difficult task trying to complete ILE while juggling their current job.
3. The CGSOC consists of a Common Core (CC) component that meets Joint Professional Military Education Level 1 requirements and the required field grade officer credentialing course. The credentialing course for Basic Branch officers is the Advanced Operations Course (AOC).
 - a. The CC course assists field grade officers in moving from a tactical-level focus to an operational-level perspective. It also provides graduates with the knowledge, skills, and attributes to adapt and dominate in Unified Land Operations.
 - b. The AOC course educates and trains field grade leaders to serve on echelon above brigade staffs and lead battalion and brigade-sized units in the execution of unified land operations using mission command. It prepares Basic Branch officers to develop the professional skills and competencies they will require as senior field-grade leaders.
4. The DL version of CC consists of three phases. Phase 1 – foundations, ethics, and the strategic context of operational art. This phase should take students approximately four months to complete. Phase 2 – history, leadership, force management, unified action, joint, and Army doctrine. The Joint and Army doctrine lesson (C400) in Phase 2 is the most difficult lesson and the one in which most students fail or fall behind. This phase should take approximately eight months. Phase 3 – Joint Application of Operational Art and MDMP. This phase should take approximately four months. A student moving through the course at the suggested pace should complete the entire common core course in 16 months.

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SUBJECT: Conduct of CGSOC DL ILE

5. The Advanced Operations Course consists of four modules: Train and Deploy; JRSOI; Defense; Offense; and Consolidating Gains. Woven throughout each module is history and leadership lessons nested with the module theme. The course is designed with practical exercises focused on a division conducting large-scale combat operations (LSCO).

6. The Department of Distant Education (DDE) conducts AOC over 12-months in a synchronous and asynchronous distance-learning environment. Small groups consist of 16-18 students and one instructor. Students complete the same learning objectives as resident students using online lessons, exams, written assignments, and online collaboration for tactical and operational exercises. AOC includes online collaborative sessions with classmates and the instructor, approximately every two weeks.

7. DDE currently uses Blackboard (Bb) to deliver CC and AOC. Students use Bb to access readings, assignments, and briefing templates; submit assignments; collaborate with fellow students, and participate in discussion threads. Instructors use a wide array of materials to enhance the learning experience including the latest doctrinal publications, audio-visual aids, historical case studies, and scenarios based on the current operating environment to enhance the learning experience.

8. On average, students should spend 8-10 hours per week on ILE-DL completing readings, computer-based instruction, individual work, and group projects (AOC only).

9. ILE is a critical component of your officer's professional military education. We appreciate your support as your officers complete this course. Our goal is to provide you with a more capable officer for your organization and the Army. As part of this effort, we ask that you speak with your officer about their enrollment in ILE, ask him/her for updates on their progress, and add this PME objective to their OER Support Form. Our instructors maintain a great level of flexibility to assist the student officer in progressing, engaging and completing the course while understanding each officer has other operational requirements and personal responsibilities.

10. Point of contact is the undersigned at: frank.s.victor.mil@mail.mil, or (913) 758-3343.

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