

United States Marine Corps School of Advanced Warfighting



The School of Advanced Warfighting develops lead planners and future commanders with the will and creative intellect to design and execute joint campaigns and naval expeditionary operations.

Overall classification: **Unclassified**
Current as of: 22 July 2022



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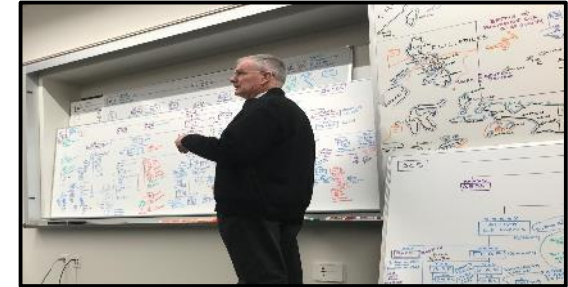


Curriculum Overview

Three concurrent, student-centered courses to develop lead planners and future commanders with the will and creative intellect to design and execute joint campaigns and naval expeditionary operations.



7100:
Operational
Art



SAW Graduate
Adaptive Planner / Leader
Creative Problem-Solver
Expert Operational Artist



7300:
Changing
Character of
Conflict



7200:
Operational
Planning

- Education Focus: Operational Level of War
- Graduates earn Masters in Operational Studies
- US Marine Students are awarded the 0505 (Operational Planner) and 0506 (Red Team) occupational specialties. Equivalent designations awarded across DoD services

- 48 weeks in the academic year
- Approximately 105 x 2-hour seminars
- 9 weeks of planning exercises
- 7 weeks of staff rides (3 events)
- Oral comprehensive exams (fall semester)
- Approximately 500 pages of individual and group written products
- Approximately 24,000 pages of reading including historical texts, publications, and journals

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Curriculum Design

Three Concurrent Courses



7100: Operational Art

18th Century

19th Century

20th Century to Present

Emergence of Modern War
Seven Years War
French-Indian War

Great Power Conflict

American Revolution & Napoleon

Theory:
Clausewitz, Jomini, Mahan, & Corbett

WWI
France & Mid-East

Total War: WWII ETO & Pacific

Dissolving Empires: Korea & Vietnam

Post-Cold War: Iraq & Afghanistan

Create solutions to complex problems and apply operational art in an uncertain geostrategic security environment.

Apply knowledge of the operational level of war, the art of command, and ethical behavior in warfighting.

Quickly and critically evaluate a situation, determine the essence of a problem, fashion a suitable response, and concisely communicate the conclusion in oral, written, and visual forms.

Apply the competence, confidences, character, and creativity required to plan, lead, and command at high-level service, joint, and combined headquarters.

Create, design, plan, and implement adaptive concepts to meet current and future challenges.

- Campaign analysis focused on planning and command.
- Alternate solutions with historical examples.
- Theory & Doctrine in the historic context.

7200: Operational Planning

VEO, Iran

Italy (Historical)

China

China

Conceptual Planning
Critical Thinking
Red Team

Functional Planning
MEF Ops

Strategic Direction
Global Integration

Competition
CCMD Campaign Plans

Maritime Campaigns

CCMD Contingency Plans

- Provides depth, understanding and appreciation of Service and Joint planning processes.
- Design campaign plans against trans-regional, all-domain, all-functional military problems across the competition to conflict continuum.

7300: Changing Character of Conflict (3C)

Future War Project

What Is Military Power?
China Case Study

What is Military Innovation?
Russia Case Study

What Is Competition?
What are Battle Networks?
Cyber, Space Case Studies

What is the Character of Irregular Threats?
Insurgency, Terrorism Case Studies

- Study contemporary great power competition and conflict to develop campaign plans.
- Explore how modern militaries generate power, respond to change, and create response options.
- Generate planning products from an adversary perspective.

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SAW Themes

Great Power Competition; Nature and Character of War; Political Aim; National and Military Culture; Leadership and Command; Learning and Adaptation; Operational Environment; Resourcing Military Forces; Single Battle Concept; Military Force Below Armed Conflict

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Continual Assessment

- 21 Written Assignments
- Fall Comprehensive Exam
- 7 Planning Exercises
- 10+ Wargames
- Quarterly CCRBs
- Student feedback to faculty

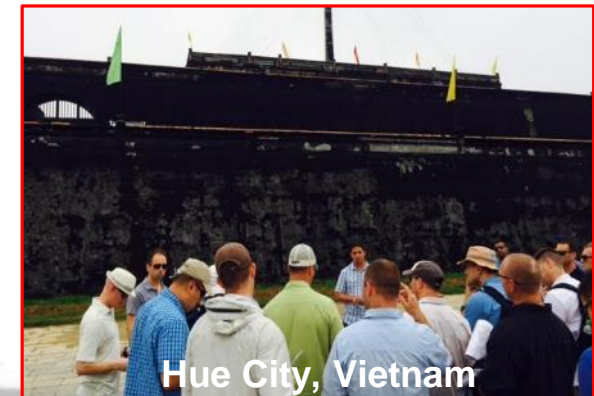
7100: Op Art Staff Ride Program



Yorktown, Virginia



Belleau Wood, France



Hue City, Vietnam

Staff Rides complement the planning problems and serve as a venue to examine campaigning at the operational level

- 7 weeks in duration
(15% of curriculum)
- ~6 countries; 12 campaigns; Adapted Staff Ride Program for AY21 and AY22 IOT account for the COVID environment (Civil War, Israel, Italy)
- Ongoing planning for AY23:
- Euro-trip: Turkey, Italy, France
- Asia-trip: Vietnam, Philippines



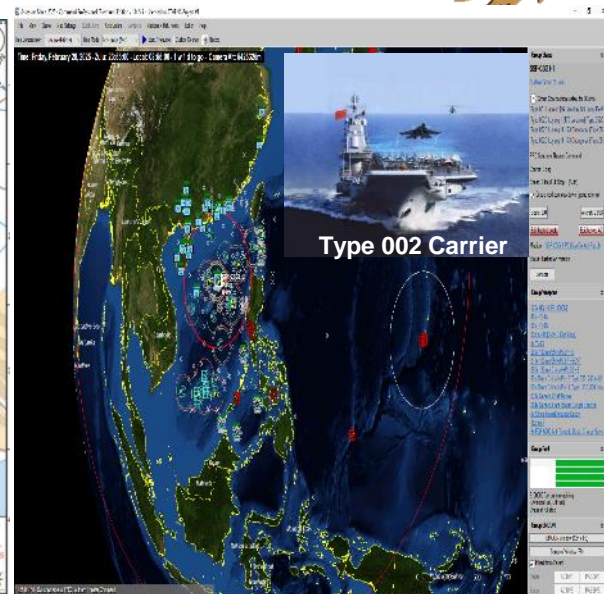
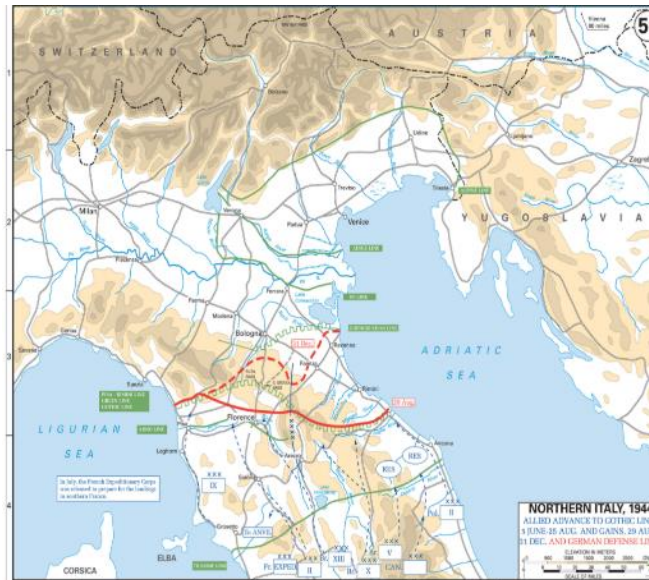
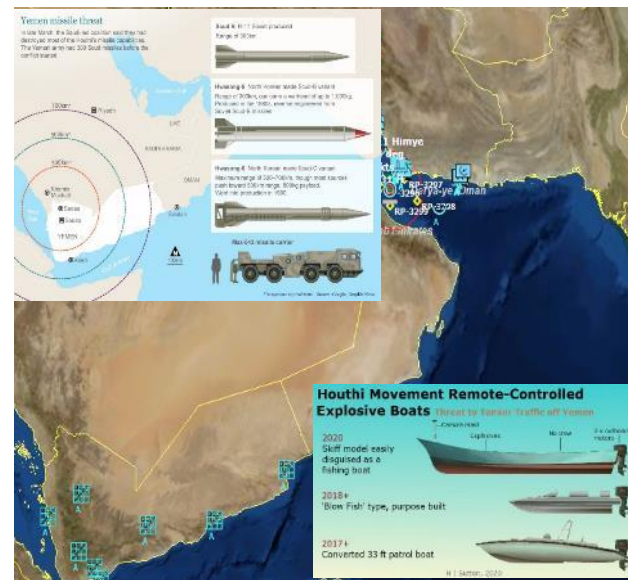
Monte Cassino, Italy





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Wargaming = Active Learning



NEW HORIZON (CENTCOM)
Starting in AY 21, SAW designed a scenario replicating a JFEO to seize an airfield, interdict Houthi ASCM/SSM/SAM sites, and block rebel forces. Students also have to address Iranian and Russian forces in the Gulf IOT deter their involvement and establish sea control in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden IOT isolate the objective.

HISTORICAL WARGAME SERIES
Starting in AY21, SAW began building operational decision games and wargames based on historical cases in the Operational Art of War IV software. These cases allowed students to “reenact” historical campaigns and battles” and explore alternative COAs as a means of advancing their understanding of operational art.

AGILE SERIES (INDOPACOM)
Starting in AY20, SAW used Command software to model a scenario fighting the Chinese PLA Southern Theater Command (STC). The scenario includes unclassified/open-source replication of the new force design. Students fight other students replicating the STC based on studying the PLA.

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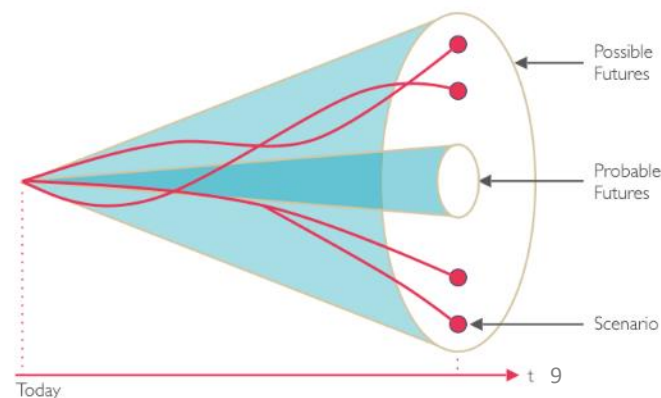
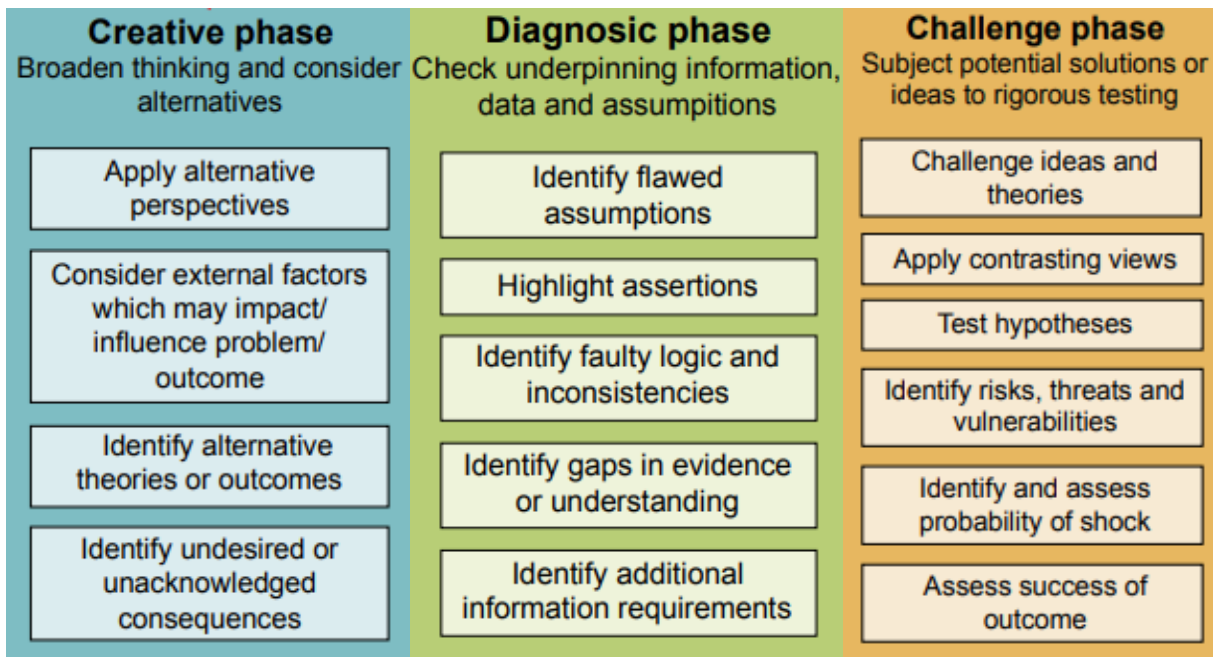
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Red Teaming & Alternative Analysis



Students will:

- Learn advanced analytical and alternative analysis techniques that support operational planning through seminars and practical applications
- Incorporate red teaming techniques into planning exercises
- Generate individual red team assessments at the conclusion of planning exercises and




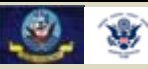



















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Class Composition

	AY 2018	AY 2019	AY 2020	AY 2021	AY 2022	AY 2023
	19	19	19	18	18	19 (1 USMCR)
	-	-	-	1 (USCG)	-	2 (USCG)
	2	2	2	2	2	2
	2	2	2	2	2	1
IMS	  	  	  	  	  	 
USMC MOS Break Down						
Infantry	7	9	7	6	8	5
Artillery	1	1	2	1	1	1
Armor	1	-	-	-	-	-
AAV	-	-	1	-	-	1
Engineer	1	1	1	-	1	1
Intel	2	2	3	2	1	3
SOF	-	1	-	-	-	-
Log / Supply	3	3	2	1	1	1
Aviation	3	-	3	5	2	6
Manpower	-	1	-	-	-	-
COMSTRAT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Comm	1	1	-	2	2	-
Mil Police	-	-	-	-	1	-
Financial Mgr	-	-	-	-	-	-
SJA	-	-	-	1	1	-
Cyber	-	-	-	-	-	1

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