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USMC School of Advanced Warfighting

Academic Year 2019-2020

Overall classification: **Unclassified**

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Agenda



- Mission
- Program Outcomes
- Faculty
- Class Composition
- Curriculum
- AY 20 Initiatives/Changes
- AY 20 Dates of Interest



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Mission



SAW develops **lead planners** and **future commanders** with the **will and intellect** to solve **complex problems**, employ **operational art**, and design/execute **campaigns** in order to **enhance the Marine Corps' ability to prepare for and fight wars.**

Operational Art

What military organizations do to win campaigns

Operational Planning

How military organizations prepare for war

Educational Focus: The Operational-Level of War

- Graduates Awarded Masters Degree in Operational Studies
- Marine Graduates Receive 0505 MOS



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Program Outcomes



1. Formulate solutions to complex problems and apply operational art in an uncertain geostrategic security environment.
2. Employ knowledge of the operational level of war, the art of command, and ethical behavior in warfighting.
3. Quickly and critically assess a situation, determine the essence of a problem, fashion a suitable response, and concisely communicate the conclusion in oral and written forms.
4. Demonstrate the competence, confidence, character, and creativity required to plan, lead, and command at high level service, joint, and combined headquarters.
5. Design and plan adaptive concepts to meet current and future challenges.

Planner/Leader

(Creative) Problem-Solver

Operational Artist

Adaptive Planner (Futurist)

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Faculty



Colonel James Fullwood
Director

Post O-6 Command, TLS, &
SAW

Lieutenant Colonel Whit Johnson
Deputy Director/Dean of Students

Post O-5 Command & SAMS

Lieutenant Colonel Matt Van Echo
Op Planning Course Director

Recruiting Station CO & SAW

Dr. Gordon Rudd
*Academic Dean/
Professor of Military History*

PhD: Duke University

Dr. Ben Jensen
*Future War Course Director
Professor of Strategic Studies*

PhD: American University










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Class Composition



	AY 2016	AY2017	AY 2018	AY 2019	AY 2020
	18	18	19	19	19
	-	1	-	-	-
	2	2	2	2	2
	1	2	2	2	2
IMS					
Infantry	7	7	7	9	7
Artillery	3	1	1	1	2
Aarmor	-	1	1	-	-
AAV	-	1	-	-	1
Engineer	1	1	1	1	1
Intel	3	2	2	2	3
SOF	-	1	-	1	-
Log/Supply	1	3/1	3	3	2
Aviation	1	7	3	-	3
Adjutant	-	-	-	1	-
Public Affairs	-	-	-	-	-
Comm	2	-	1	1	-
Military Police	-	-	-	-	-
Fiscal	-	-	-	-	-
Medical	-	2	-	-	-



Curriculum Overview

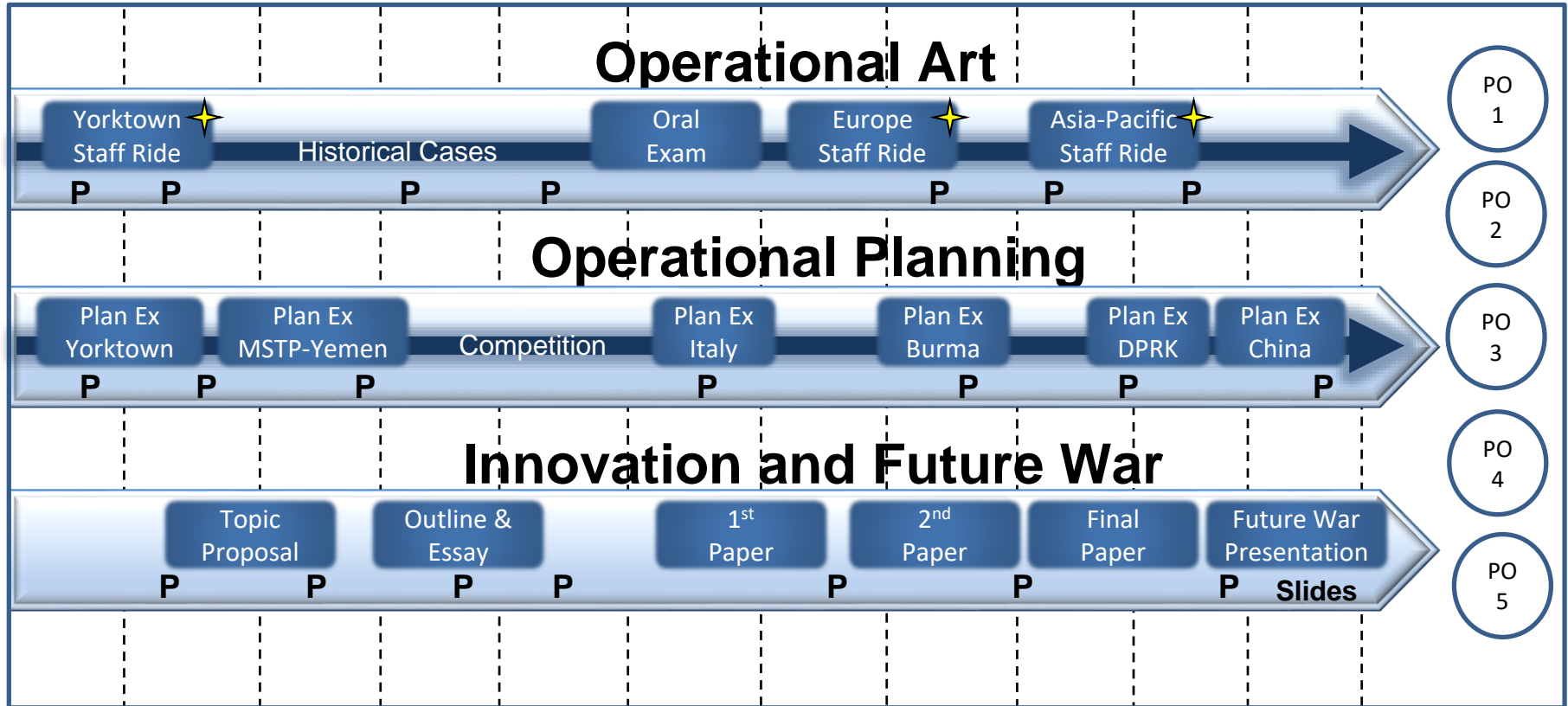
- 48 Weeks in the AY
 - 32 weeks of Seminar (~105 x 2-hour seminars)
 - 8 weeks of Planning Exercises
 - **7 weeks of Staff Rides (3 events)**
 - 1 week Oral Exams (fall semester)
- ~ 21 papers + planning products
- ~ 21,000 pages of reading

Curriculum Approach: 3 Concurrent Courses



JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN

Operational Art



SAW Themes

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

Program Outcomes (POs)

1. Formulate solutions to complex problems and apply operational art.
2. Employ knowledge of the operational level of war, the art of command, and ethical behavior in warfighting.
3. Quickly and critically assess a situation, determine the essence of a problem, fashion a suitable response, and communicate a conclusion.
4. Demonstrate the competence, confidence, character, and creativity required to plan, lead, and command at service, joint, and combined headquarters.
5. Design and plan adaptive concepts to meet current and future challenges.

Legend

P– Graded Papers

★ QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan) Event

Operational Art



American Revolution
Napoleon & Clausewitz
Moltke & the Franco-Prussian War
The Boer War
The Marine Corps and Small Wars
World War I
World War II
Korea
Post Conflict Operations
Huk Rebellion
Malayan Emergency
Indo-China Wars
Algerian Revolution
Vietnam
Falklands
Desert Shield and Desert Storm
Operation Iraqi Freedom
Afghanistan
Irregular Warfare Theory
Critical Thinking
Decision-Making
Airpower Theory
Design & Systems Theory

✓ Comprehend the operational level of war & explore the principal issues that inform and shape campaign design

✓ Employs the case study approach – i.e., reenactment of historical examples supported by theory

Operational Planning

A series of planning problems in which the students master selected steps of the Marine Corps Planning Process and other design and planning techniques



Seven Planning Exercises

- American Revolution – Yorktown
- Contemporary – MAGTF Operations, Yemen
- WWII Amphibious Operations in Italy
- WWII Amphibious Operations in CBI Theater
- Contemporary – Joint Forcible Entry, DPRK
- Contemporary – Competition Below Armed Conflict, China
- Contemporary Final Exercise – Contingency Response, China

15 Seminars → Theory, Doctrine, Application



Future War



Individual Research

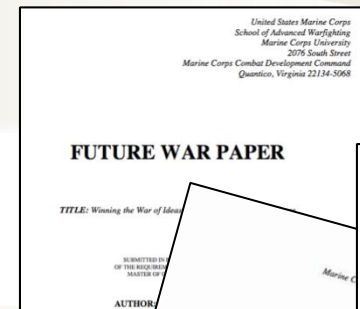
Select Seminars

Student Presentations

Future War Paper



The future war course stresses recognizing how existing paradigms may lose their relevance with regard to evolving technological, social, political, and other pressures





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Staff Ride Program



- Key component of school's educational methodology
- 6+ weeks in duration (15% of curriculum)
- 6 countries; 12 campaigns; 36 battles

The staff rides complement the planning problems and serve as a venue to examine campaigning at the operational level



Yorktown, Virginia



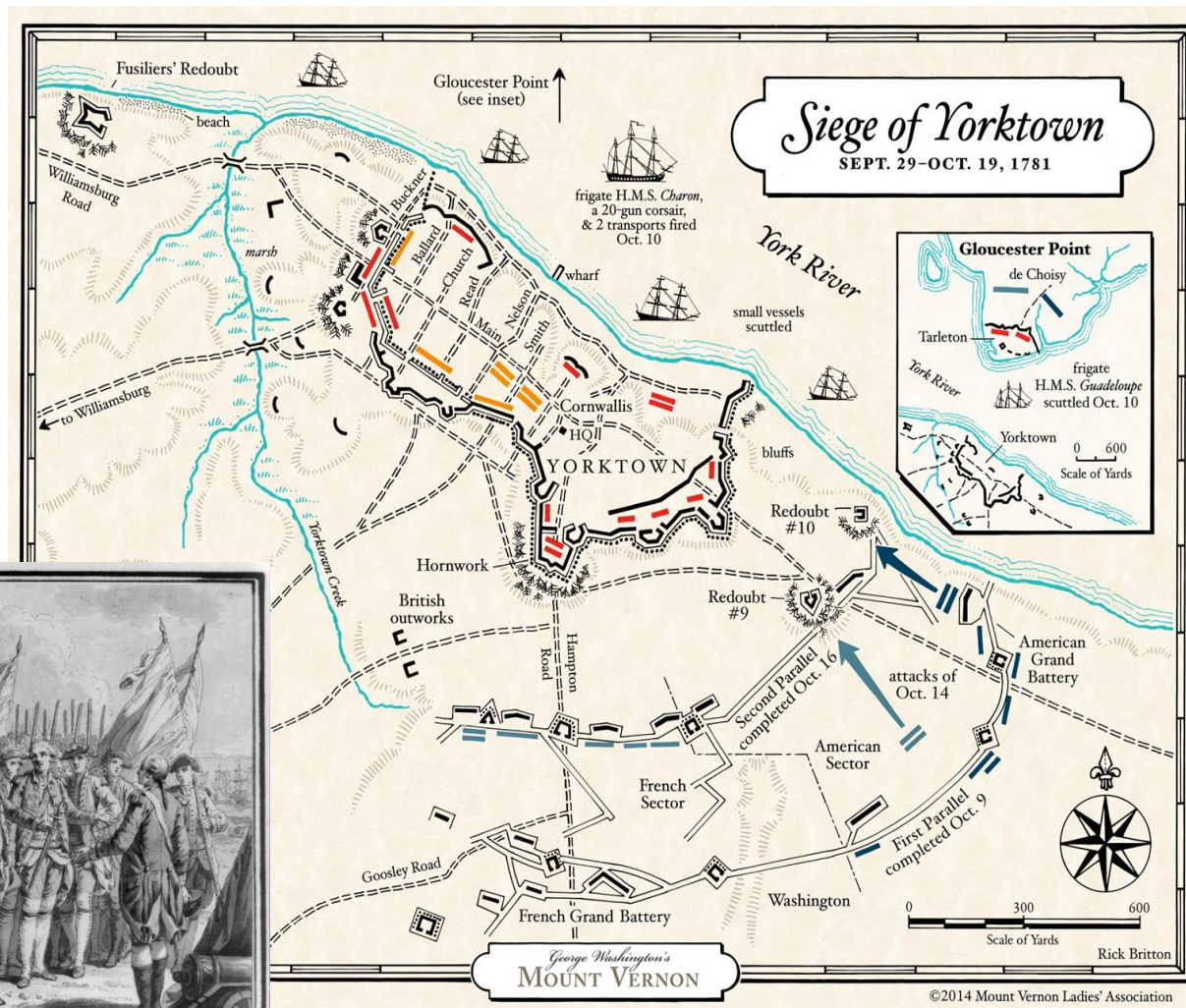
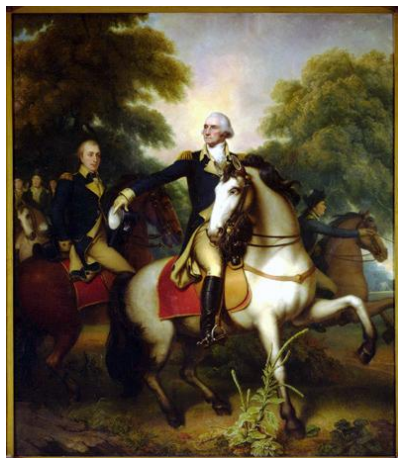
Monte Cassino, Italy



Hue City, Vietnam

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Staff Ride 1: Yorktown Campaign





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Staff Ride 2: Europe

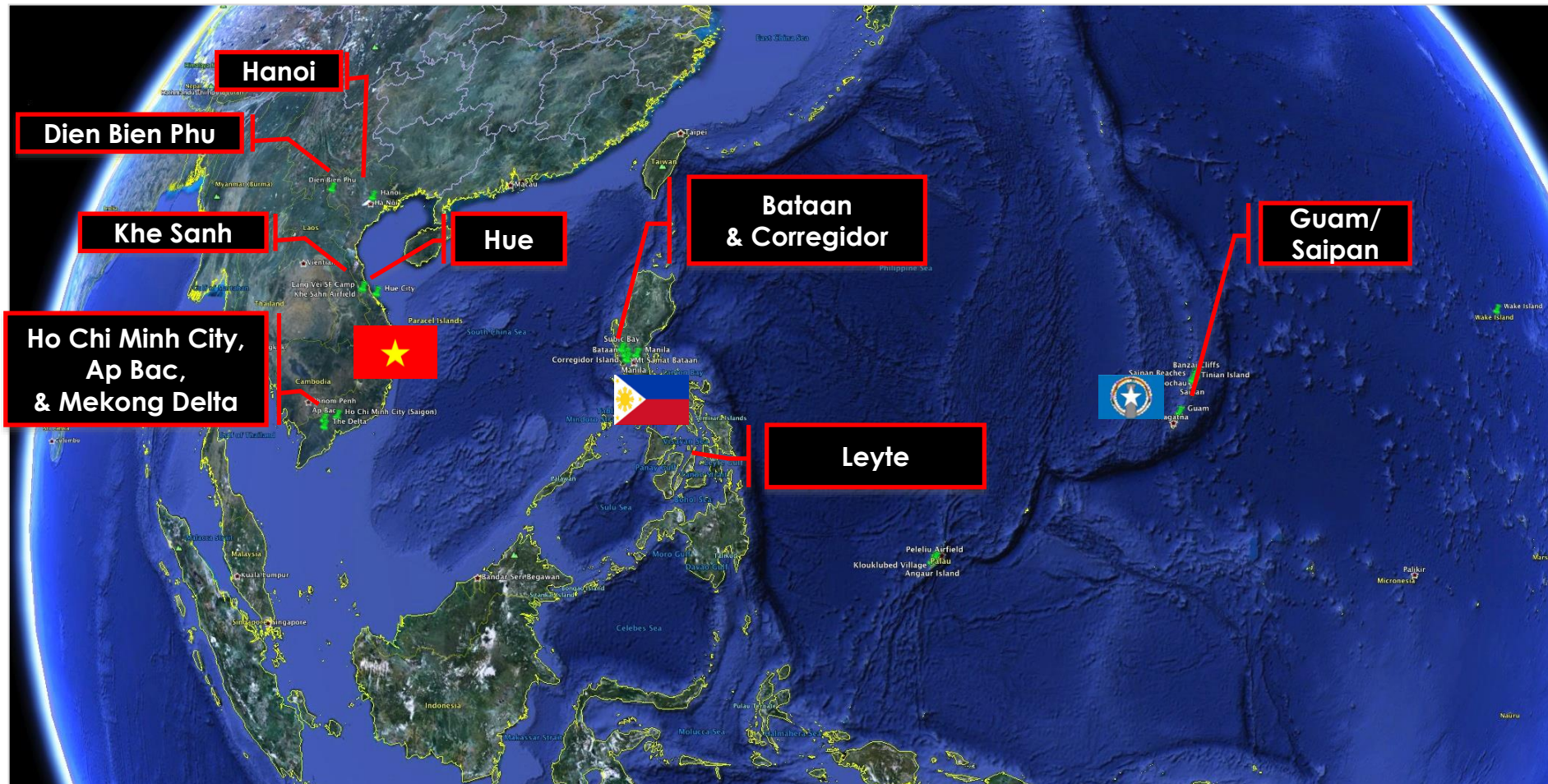


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Staff Ride 3: Asia - Pacific



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AY 20 Initiatives/Changes



- Developing the capability to grant the FMOS 0506 Red Team to SAW graduates
- Aligning and consolidating planning foundational planning classes to better support initial planning exercise.
- Continuing the close coordination with MMOA for screening perspective Marine applicants
- Automating the SAW application process through MarineNet/Moodle
- Sustaining the inclusion of the Marine student at SAASS in a SAW exercise
- Sustaining SAW participation in the Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA)
- Sustaining participation in the BKCIC Competitive Wargame
- Sustaining outreach opportunities for staff and faculty with planning and wargaming with CSBA, ONA, etc

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Exercise Program

AY 19

Strengthening Relevance



- Address 2+3 problem sets
- Analyze peer crisis/conflict with attendant challenges (deterrence, coercion, cyber, space, nuclear weapons)
- Develop understanding of competition spectrum and competition space
- Wargame to further student learning

AY 20

Yorktown
Historical/Peer

Yemen
FHA-VEO, Iran, China

Italy
Historical/Peer

Indo-Pacific
Historical/Peer

DPRK
JFEO-DPRK, China, Russia

China
Competition/China, Russia

China
Conflict/China, Russia



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AY20 Dates of Interest



- Design Practical Application – 17 Jul
- Yorktown Staff Ride – 18-20 Jul
- Future War Program – 25-31 Jul
- Exercise NEW HORIZON Briefs – 19-20 Sep
- Exercise GOTHIC WILDCAT Briefs – 21 Nov
- Europe Staff Ride – 7-24 Jan
- JINSA Field Trip – 31 Jan-7 Feb
- Exercise SINGAPORE SLING Briefs – 6 Feb

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