

NAVY RESERVE OFFICER'S GUIDE TO NONRESIDENT JPME PHASE I PROGRAMS – PART 2

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MARINE CORPS AND ARMY SCHOOLS

Last month, we discussed some significant changes to the role professional military education will play in the Navy officer's career and surveyed Navy and Air Force nonresident JPME Phase I programs. This month, we will continue with Marine Corps and Army JPME options.

U.S. Marine Corps Command and Staff College Distance Education Program (CSCDEP)



The CSCDEP can be taken as a weekly seminar, drill weekend (DWE) seminar, student organized study group, or as independent study. The curriculum is identical regardless of delivery. This commonality enables students to move from seminar to study group to independent study upon completion of any course.

The seminars and study groups overlay a structure upon the baseline curriculum to facilitate the student's progress. Nevertheless, the CSCDEP seminar instructors are an additional resource, adding their own considerable insight and experience to the learning environment. For AY2005-06, the weekly seminar is offered at 66 locations; and the DWE seminar, at six. The DWE seminar is organized and funded for Marine Corps Reserve officers. Navy RC officers may participate in the DWE seminar only on a Space-A basis and should plan on drilling with their units as scheduled, in addition to the separate, unpaid DWE attending the CSCDEP seminar.

While the weekly seminars are scheduled to complete the CSCDEP in less than two years, students have a maximum of five years to complete the program, by far the most generous of the five nonresident schools.

The curriculum, as with ACSC, is a mix of textbook study and prerecorded briefings, the latter delivered via audio CD. Students must pass a total of nine (9) proctored, multiple choice exams; and the seminars also require brief, analytical papers.

The CSCDEP curriculum is composed of eight (8) courses:

- * Theory and Nature of War;
- * Strategy and Policy;
- * Operational Level of War;
- * Warfighting from the Sea: MAGTF Organization & Operations;
- * Marine Corps Planning Process;
- * Joint Operations;

- * Amphibious Operations;
- * Operations Other than War

“American military training and education have proved to be the sure path to competence, to high standards, to victory.”

— General William Richardson, U.S. Army, 1985

Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC) – Intermediate Level Education



The Army Command and General Staff College's nonresident program is currently in the midst of a major revision. Recognizing criticism that its legacy syllabus was overly process driven, the Army CGSC redesigned its curriculum, creating the Intermediate Level Education – Core Curriculum (ILE-CC). This curriculum is intended to produce warfighting officers possessing a sound foundation in the command of joint forces.

Registration for the legacy nonresident CGSC curriculum was closed to new students in April 2005, and the new ILE-CC was scheduled to open at the start of the FY2006. The ILE-CC curriculum can be taken as a seminar via The Army School System (TASS) Battalion or via digital independent study. As this article goes to press, the CGSC was assessing the most efficient and effective means to open ILE-CC to officers from all services. The legacy curriculum required students to have access to Army Knowledge On-line (AKO), which grants only limited access to non-Army service members. In light of this, CGSC may administer ILE-CC as a CD-ROM-based program.

The availability of the digital independent study program is of great importance to Navy officers. Although the Army strongly encourages officers from other services to enroll in the 13-month **TASS Battalion** curriculum, that program requires two twelve-day AT/ADT periods. Unlike the Army War College program (next page), there are currently no AT/ADT funds set aside for Navy RC officers to attend the ILE-CC resident phases. It will be incumbent upon individual officers, in addition to meeting their supported commands requirements, to request and justify AT/ADT funding to attend the ILE-CC resident phases.

Such a request is likely to be a tough sell, particularly in light of the other JPME Phase I options available.

The **ILE-CC independent study** program will directly parallel the structure of the TASS Battalion course, the subject material will be identical, and the student will have 18 months to complete the syllabus.

War College vs. Command and Staff College

The curricula at the War Colleges center on strategy, whereas the Command and Staff College curricula centers on the operational arts. Joint Publication 3-0: Doctrine for Joint Operations states: *“Strategy is the art and science of developing and employing armed forces and other instruments of national power in a synchronized and integrated fashion to secure national or multinational objectives The operational art helps commanders use resources efficiently and effectively to achieve strategic objectives. Without (it), war would be a set of disconnected engagements, with relative attrition the only measure of success or failure.”*

ILE-CC has an unusual course administration method. The basic unit is the subcourse, which is intended for as few as two hours of study to as many as twelve. ILE-CC syllabus is composed of 45 total subcourses. One interesting characteristic of the syllabus is the central role history plays: 14 of the subcourses are historical studies or case studies. Other academic areas include critical reasoning; leadership assessment and improvement; Army and joint organization; and study of the strategic, operational, and tactical levels of war.

The TASS Battalion program is JPME Phase I accredited and the Joint Staff will assess the digital independent study program during FY2006.¹

Army War College



The Army War College is the only senior-level school to offer a JPME Phase I accredited nonresident program. As such, it is open only to Navy officers in the ranks of Commander (O-5) and Captain (O-6). Students must also have a TS/SCI clearance or be currently eligible for such access. Like the NWC-CDE Fleet Seminar, this program provides the opportunity to complete an advanced degree, a Master of Strategic Studies (MSS). Unlike the other nonresident JPME Phase I schools which function with nearly open enrollment, admission to AWC is highly competitive. Navy RC officers must apply to an annual COMNAVRESFOR selection board to compete for one of only ten annual quotas. The scheduling of the board is announced by COMNAVRESFOR each December.

The program takes two years to complete and incorporates an ungraded introductory course, ten Web-based courses, and two in-residence periods taught at Carlisle Barracks, PA. The resident courses are two weeks long, and COMNAVRESFOR will provide ADT funds for SELRES officers admitted into the program. Students should plan on performing AT according to the needs of their supported command in addition to the resident AWC courses. The AWC courses are as follows:

- * Introduction to Strategic Leader Education (ungraded);
- * Strategic Leadership;
- * International Relations and the Use of Power;
- * Strategy and the Use of Power;
- * War and Strategy;
- * DoD – Organization, Planning, and Strategy;
- * Strategic Leadership in a Global Environment (resident course);
- * Regional Strategic Appraisals;
- * Joint and Multinational Operations I: Theater Strategy;
- * Joint and Multinational Operations II: Operational Art and Campaign Planning;
- * Joint and Multinational Operations III: Phase IV Transition Ops & Homeland Defense;
- * Military in the 21st Century;
- * Strategic Leadership in Current and Future Warfare (resident course).

All courses, not just those in residence, must be completed per an AWC promulgated schedule taking 60-75 days each. The second year of study also requires robust, Web-based interaction among the students in completion of their studies.

Now What?

So, you are now left with a question: not “should I?” but rather “which one?” When evaluating these PME programs, you should weigh such factors as whether your foundation in Navy PME is sufficient; whether a Master’s degree would strengthen your resume; can you commit to regularly scheduled classes; can you maintain focus on independent study while juggling your family, your civilian career, and the needs of your supported command. Although any of these schools will lead to intermediate-level or senior-level Service PME and JPME Phase I credit, also consider these words from former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral William J. Crowe: “I want people for my staff who are thoroughly proficient in their own service’s capabilities. Everything else will follow.”²

NOTES:

¹ Author’s PHONCON on 19 July 2005, with PAJE Operations Officer, The Joint Staff.

² See Wilkerson, COL Lawrence B., USMC, “What Exactly Is Jointness?” *Joint Forces Quarterly*, Summer 1997.

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Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) Phase I Nonresident Schools

School	Program	Duration (months)	Minimum Paygrade	Classroom Time	Student Paced	Inactive Points*	Notes
Naval War College – College of Distance Education	• Fleet Seminar	36	LT/O-3	3 hrs/week	No	252	Master's degree option (w/ electives)
	• Web-Based Correspondence Course	<24	LT/O-3	None	No	144	Classes start in OCT, JAN, APR, JUL
	• CD-ROM Correspondence Course	<18	LCDR/O-4	None	Yes	144	FY 06 enrollment increases to 600
Air Command and Staff College	• Web-based Self-Study	<18	LCDR/O-4	None	Yes	82**	
	• Student Organized Seminar	<18	LCDR/O-4	2 hrs/week	Yes	82**	requires 3 students minimum
Marine Corps Command and Staff College	• Weekly Seminar Program	24	LCDR/O-4	2 hrs/week	No	119**	Offered at sixty-six locations
	• Drill Weekend Seminar Program	12	LCDR/O-4	16 hrs/month	No	119**	Navy officers admitted Space-A only
	• Student Study Group	<60	LCDR/O-4	Varies	Yes	119**	
	• Independent Study	<60	LCDR/O-4	None	Yes	119**	
Army War College	• Distance Education Program	24	CDR/O-5	2 x 12 day ATs	No	90** (+24 AT)	Master's degree, competitive board, requires TS/SCL eligibility
	Army Command and General Staff College - Intermediate Level Education						
	• TASS Battalion Seminar	13	LCDR/O-4	2 x 12 day ATs & 2 hrs/week	No	TBD** (+24 AT)	Navy Reserve A DT/AT funds NOT appropriated for this program
	• Digital Independent Study	<18	LCDR/O-4	None	Yes	TBD**	New syllabus effective 01 OCT 2005

* Reserve Component personnel are limited to 90 inactive points per anniversary year

** Inactive points for non-Navy schools are *estimated* based upon information provided by each of the schools correlated with guidance from BUPERSINST 1001.39E. As a rule, one retirement point is granted per three hours of scheduled study. There are no inactive points awarded for resident phases. Students will receive one retirement point for each day of AT/ADT in attendance.

JPME Nonresident School Hyperlinks:

Naval War College – College of Distance Education – <http://cde.nwc.navy.mil>

Air Command and Staff College Distance Learning – <http://www.aesc.maxwell.af.mil/Distance%20Learning/distance-learning.htm>

Marine Corps Command and Staff College – Distance Education Program – http://www.tecom.usmc.mil/cee/students/pme/stu_csc.asp

Army War College – <http://www.carliste.army.mil/Orgs.asp>

Army Command and General Staff College Nonresident Studies – <http://cgsc.leavenworth.army.mil/NRS/index.asp>