



# COPC

## COMPREHENSIVE OPERATIONS PLANNING COURSE

### COURSE PURPOSE

The purpose of the course is to prepare students to contribute to NATO's operations planning process, either as an operational-level or functional-area planner, while serving within a joint operational-level headquarters, applying the principles of the Comprehensive Operations Planning Directive (COPD).

### Target audience

Military officers (OF-3 through OF-5), who are assigned to NATO and Partner positions that involve the planning of combined joint operations.

Language Proficiency: English 3333 IAW STANAG 6001.

### Performance objectives

- Understand NATO's OPP System: Given references, students will be able to describe the main characteristics of NATO's operations planning system in accordance with MC 133/4.
- Understand NATO's OPP Strategic Environment: Following initial notice of an international crisis, students will be able to appraise the nature of the situation in order to contribute to an appreciation of the strategic environment in accordance with NATO's comprehensive approach.
- Demonstrate the Principles of Operational Art within the COPD: Applying the principles of operational art, students will be able to analyse a crisis in order to define the operational-level problem and determine the necessary operational conditions to be achieved.
- Prepare and analyse Courses of Action: Given references, students will be able to design and compare multiple courses of action, justifying a final recommendation in accordance with commander's guidance.
- Describe Remaining Phases of NATO's OPP: Given references, students will be able to describe the main characteristics of phases 4-6 of NATO's operations planning process.

### Method

Under the leadership of the lead facilitator and supported by a group of component liaison officers and functional area subject matter experts, this demanding and dynamic two-week course simulated a joint operational-level planning group. The curriculum is comprised of multiple short lectures, followed by practical exercises in sub-syndicates and back-briefs in syndicates (25% - 75%). Both weeks culminate in formal briefs to a senior mentor who performs the role of a joint commander.

The course language is English.

### References

NATO Allied Command Operations Comprehensive Operations Planning Directive (COPD).

### Course code

ACT ref: 436

### Course Classification

**NATO RESTRICTED.** Partner nation students are required to obtain Non-Nato Entity (NNE) approval and sign Letters of Acknowledgement in order to receive information up to NATO RESTRICTED during course introduction. All students will bring a copy of their NATO- and/or national security clearance on arrival.