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Maritime Security and Governance Staff Course

Dr. Curtis Bell

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WPS IN THE CLASSROOM: LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE MARITIME SECURITY AND GOVERNANCE STAFF COURSE

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS | U.S. NAVAL WAR COLLEGE



About MSGSC



MSGSC is a new 21-week/500-hour concentrated staff course for mid-grade international navy and coast guard officers.

Our focus areas overlap with U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard functions, including **marine safety, environmental protection, port and vessel security, maritime transnational organized crime and terrorism, gray zone competition, fisheries enforcement, maritime illicit trades, piracy and armed robbery at sea, and maritime mixed migration.**

Learning by Doing

- Each student completes **nine country questionnaires** and provides **four country briefs**.
- Rigorous capstone experience which includes drafting a **National Maritime Security Strategy** and presenting the plan to a panel that includes the faculty, CNO Fellows, and the **Women, Peace and Security Chair** (Dr. Saira Yamin).
- 100 hours spent in a **new, complex, and fictitious TTX world**.



“MSGSC is an exemplary and pioneering effort to integrate WPS in NWC curricula. The course format incorporates the gendered perspective using creative and practical approaches replicable by other departments.”

Dr. Saira Yamin, NWC WPS Chair



Purp

Morada Archipelago

But did we do a good job?





Initial Approach to Women, Peace, and Security (2022 Class)

1. Lectures from guest speakers at the beginning and end of the course
2. Guest speaker on gendered aspects of migration before the Migration TTX
3. Explicit instruction to consider gender in the Migration TTX
4. No explicit instruction to incorporate gender into their Capstone Strategies

Students were receptive to the WPS lectures and they rated our guests as very helpful, yet many students did not raise gender explicitly in their capstone maritime security strategy presentations.

Summer 2022: *How can we improve?*



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3. Therefore, we can make students more receptive to WPS lectures by “showing” them how they failed to think about gender in an exercise they already completed, rather than “telling” them that they should do so before they work.
4. This failure may create an acceptance that there is some room to grow, creating greater receptivity to subsequent lectures on the topic.



Revised Approach to Women, Peace, and Security (2023 Class)

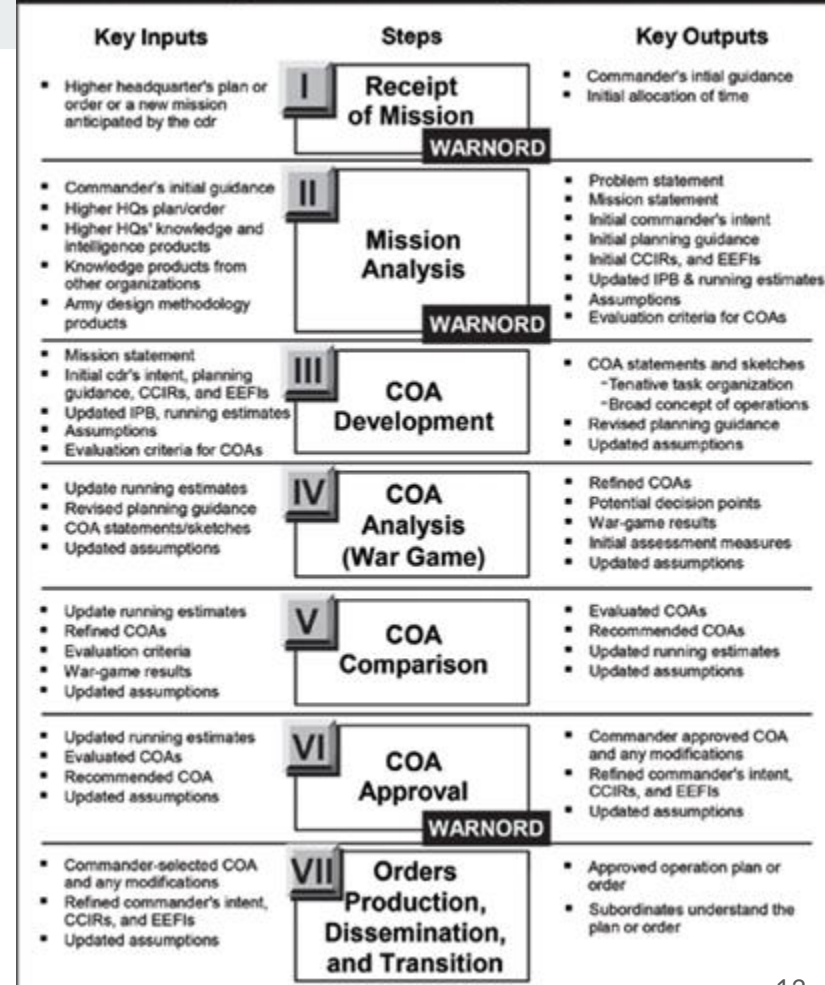
1. No lectures from guest speakers at the beginning of the course
2. Prominent information about gender in the students' first TTX, but no explicit instructions to consider it in their operational planning
3. TTX debrief that asked why students didn't plan operations that were sensitive to the gender of the civilians involved. Frank discussions about how a failure to consider gender created unnecessary risks
4. Lecture on Women, Peace, and Security and ways to work gendered perspectives into Mission Analysis
5. **Coming Soon**: No explicit instruction to consider gender in the Migration TTX
6. **TBD**: Explicit instruction to incorporate gender into their capstone strategies?

Challenges/Next Steps

Good “critical thinking” on this topic runs straight into the buzzsaw of planning doctrine. If gender analysis is not part of a planning process, students may not implement what they learn.

Before the next class, we will develop simple gender analysis heuristics that we will teach in the “Mission Analysis” stage of operational planning.

The Military Decisionmaking Process (MDMP)



QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!

