

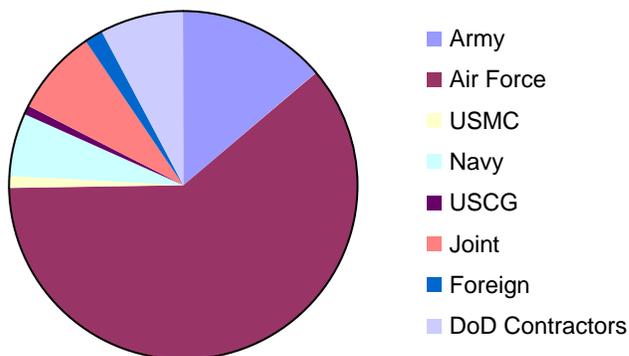


M&S Staff Officer Course (MSSOC) Introduces Basics to Wide Audience

DMSO-sponsored MSSOCs have been held at various locations around the U.S. during the past two years. The MSSOC provides a basic overview of M&S terms, concepts, activities, information sources, and key DoD M&S issues:

- This **three-day course** is designed for those with little or no M&S experience, who have responsibilities to plan and coordinate M&S activities for their organization.
- The curriculum provides an **in-depth discussion of key DoD M&S issues**, and a broad familiarization with M&S policies, organizations, programs, activities, and major players within the Department of Defense.
- The course **can be tailored** to specific audience M&S areas of interest.
- Graduates are able to discuss M&S terms, concepts, applications, and available resources, allowing them to be **more effective in using M&S** as an enabling technology.

Accomplishments. DMSO-sponsored MSSOCs bring together a diverse collection of M&S users. In the past two years, a total of **268 attendees** have participated in these courses. The MSSOC has introduced the basics of DoD M&S to **over 7,000 individuals** since the program's inception in 1997.



MSSOC has facilitated enhanced understanding and use in M&S communities. MSSOC lesson materials provide the attendee with a fundamental knowledge of M&S as it is used in DoD. The MSSOC reference CD-ROM, issued to each attendee, contains a multitude of handy and essential resources, such as the VV&A Recommended Practices Guide (RPG), the DoD M&S Master Plan, as well as other key M&S references linked to the topics addressed in the MSSOC lessons as indicated in the box below. A copy of the MSSOC reference CD can be obtained by contacting the MSSOC Registrar at 703-933-3332, or lharris@msiac.dmsmo.mil.

Communication links across community boundaries have been established as a result of MSSOC outreach activities. Student feedback comments routinely praise the value of the course and the relevance of course materials and information to the attendees' mission areas.

Course Introduction/Overview	Humans & Organizational Behavior
History of M&S	M&S in Training
M&S Fundamentals	M&S in Analysis
DoD M&S Strategy	M&S in Experimentation
High Level Architecture	M&S in Acquisition
Data Standards	VV&A/Simulation Support Plan (SSP)
Representation	MSIAC
Environments	Quantification of M&S Benefits
Systems	Course Summary

**Topics Addressed
in the
MSSOC**

For more information contact Public Affairs

U.S. DEFENSE MODELING and SIMULATION OFFICE (DMSO)

1901 North Beauregard Street, Suite 500, Alexandria, Virginia 22311-1705 USA

PHONE 1-703-824-3437 or -998-0660 FAX 1-703-998-0667 E-MAIL pao@dmsmo.mil www.dmsmo.mil

"DMSO is the catalyst organization for DoD modeling and simulation"

Background

In 1996, DMSO decided that a course was needed to focus on the key topic areas from the DoD M&S Master Plan to provide an awareness regarding structure, processes, terminology and concepts related to M&S technology from a DoD perspective. The course was originally designed for a 5-day presentation format, but was later shortened to 3-days based upon experience gained with teaching the course and student comments indicating a desire for a shorter course.

DoD Organizations

Air Force Material Command
USAF Electronic Systems Center
USAF Academy
Joint Forces Staff College
Defense Intelligence Agency
Joint Forces Staff College
Defense Threat Reduction Agency
JSIMS JPO
Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Director
JFCOM Joint Warfighting Center

Contractors/Allies

Allied (Japan)
Allied (Canada)
Boeing
Dynamic Security Concepts, Inc
American Management Systems
Northrop-Grumman
Titan
BAE Systems
CSC
COLSA
L-3 Instrumentation
Lockheed-Martin
General Dynamics
MITRE
Eastern VA Medical School
DDL Omni Engr.
AETC, Inc.

**Examples of Organizations
Participating in MSSOC '03/'04**

DMSO conducted an extensive Needs Assessment to determine the best way to structure the proposed MSSOC course and the topic areas to be covered. Focus group discussions ensured that lessons and supporting materials were carefully crafted to focus on providing the introductory exposure to M&S issues at the desired level of detail.

Challenges Ahead

Clearly, the MSSOC has been an extremely effective tool for providing the desired level of outreach to the broad DoD community of users who need and introduction to M&S structures, concepts, processes and terminology.

Looking to the future, there are several *management challenges*:

- **Improvement in dialogue with the M&S community of interest to facilitate crossfeed and idea exchange**
- **Improvement in DMSO Tech Lead interface with MSSOC lesson developers to ensure currency**
- **Improvement in the process for maintaining and updating MSSOC course materials**

There are four main areas of *development challenges*:

- **Improvement in MSSOC overall course design**
- **Improvement in MSSOC course materials**
- **Improvement in MSSOC “application level” experience**
- **Improvement in MSSOC coverage of training, analysis, acquisition and experimentation activities and available tools**

Where can you learn more about the MSSOC or obtain its materials?

A link to the MSSOC, as well as other M&S courses, is found on the cover page of the DMSO website. Course information and other related data can be obtained at the MSIAC Education web site: <http://www.education.dmsomil>, or by contacting the M&S University Director at 703-933-3343 or tstanford@msiac.dmsomil.

What is the next step?

Plans call for MSSOC course material to be updated based upon priorities gleaned from student feedback surveys. Current course lesson structure based upon the layout of the original DoD M&S Master Plan will be reassessed.