

**Milper Message Number  
14-149**

**Proponent  
AOJK-EDG**

**Title  
ACADEMIC YEAR (AY) 15 NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY JOINT SPECIAL OPERATIONS  
MASTER OF ARTS PROGRAM**

**...Issued: [30 May 14]...**

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1. THIS MESSAGE EXPIRES NLT 14 MAY 2015.

2. THIS MESSAGE ANNOUNCES THE PROCEDURES FOR REQUESTING ACCEPTANCE INTO THE NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY (NDU) JOINT SPECIAL OPERATIONS MASTER OF ARTS PROGRAM AT THE U.S. ARMY JOHN F. KENNEDY SPECIAL WARFARE CENTER AND SCHOOL (USAJFKSWCS), FORT BRAGG, NC (AY) 2015.

3. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A. THE USAJFKSWCS HAS PARTNERED WITH THE NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY (NDU) TO OFFER A FULLY ACCREDITED, TEN MONTH, MASTER OF ARTS IN STRATEGIC SECURITY STUDIES AT FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA. THE MASTER OF ARTS PROGRAM MIRRORS THE JOINT SPECIAL OPERATIONS MASTER OF ARTS OFFERED BY NDU'S COLLEGE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS. THE JOINT SPECIAL OPERATIONS PROGRAM OFFERS A CURRICULUM INCORPORATING THE STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVE ON THE GLOBAL THREAT ENVIRONMENT, THE RISE OF NEWLY EMPOWERED AND POLITICIZED IDEOLOGICAL MOVEMENTS, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POLITICAL OBJECTIVES, STRATEGY, ALL INSTRUMENTS OF NATIONAL POWER, AND THE ROLES OF POWER AND IDEOLOGY. THE DEGREE IS COMPLETED THROUGH A COMBINATION OF THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL LEARNING INCLUDING SEMINAR PARTICIPATION, INDEPENDENT STUDY, RESEARCH, AND WRITING OF A THESIS. THE PROGRAM PREPARES PROFESSIONALS TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGIES FOR CONDITIONS OF PEACE, CRISIS, AND WAR.

B. STUDENTS WHO COMPLETE THE MASTER OF ARTS IN STRATEGIC SECURITY STUDIES WILL BE ABLE TO MEET THE FOLLOWING LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

(1) ANALYZE THE 21ST CENTURY GEOPOLITICAL ENVIRONMENT CHARACTERIZED BY THE RISE OF NON-STATE ARMED GROUPS AND THE UNEVEN EROSION OF STATE SOVEREIGNTY;

(2) EVALUATE THE ROLES OF POWER AND IDEOLOGY, THE RISE OF NEWLY EMPOWERED AND POLITICIZED IDEOLOGICAL MOVEMENTS, AND THE BASES FOR AUTHORITY AND LEGITIMACY;

(3) UNDERSTAND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POLITICAL OBJECTIVES, STRATEGY, AND ALL INSTRUMENTS OF NATIONAL POWER;

(4) DEVELOP SKILLS TO THINK CRITICALLY AND STRATEGICALLY, TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN POLICY AND ANALYSIS, AND TO APPLY KNOWLEDGE TO PRACTICE IN COLLABORATIVE AND COMPLEX CIRCUMSTANCES WITH DIVERSE PARTNERS.

4. COURSE DATES:

- A. REPORT DATE – AUGUST 2015
- B. CLASS START DATE – SEPTEMBER 2015
- C. GRADUATION DATE – JUNE 2016

5. ILE AOC CREDENTIALING: BE ADVISED THAT ILE IS CONDUCTED IN TWO PHASES: PHASE I IS COMMON CORE AND PHASE II IS THE ADVANCED OPERATIONS COURSE (AOC). ILE COMMON CORE OPTIONAL GRADUATE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: THE NDU MASTER OF ARTS IN STRATEGIC SECURITY STUDIES HAS BEEN APPROVED AS AN INTERMEDIATE LEVEL EDUCATION (ILE), ADVANCED OPERATIONS COURSE (AOC) CREDIT PRODUCING PROGRAM. THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES 50% OF YOUR MILITARY EDUCATION LEVEL (ILE MEL-4). ARSOB BRANCH AND HRC RECOMMENDS THAT OFFICERS WISHING TO COMPLETE 100% OF THEIR ILE MEL-4 REQUIREMENT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH ATTENDANCE AT THE NDU JOINT SPECIAL OPERATIONS MASTER OF ARTS PROGRAM SHOULD CORRESPOND WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE ASSIGNMENT OFFICER TO BE ENROLLED IN AN ILE-COMMON CORE COURSE.

6. SELECTION PROCESS: THE USAJFKSWCS, SPECIAL WARFARE EDUCATION GROUP, WILL HOST THE AY 15 SELECTION PANEL. OFFICERS, WARRANT OFFICERS, AND NON COMMISSIONED OFFICERS SELECTED TO ATTEND THIS PROGRAM WILL BE ASSIGNED TO THE STUDENT DETACHMENT, FORT JACKSON, SC.

7. APPLICATION DATES:

- A. APPLICATIONS DUE TO SWCS – 31 OCTOBER 2014
- B. BOARD CONVENES – 2 DECEMBER 2014
- C. BOARD RESULTS RELEASED – 12 DECEMBER 2014

8. PREREQUISITES:

A. OFFICERS THAT PREVIOUSLY ATTENDED AN ILE COMMON CORE COURSE BUT DID NOT RECEIVE A MASTERS DEGREE ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY. OFFICERS PARTICIPATING IN PROGRAMS APPROVED IN LIEU OF AOC MAY ONLY COMPETE FOR A SATELLITE OR DL OPPORTUNITY. OFFICERS SELECTED BY THE FY 14 ILE SELECTION BOARD FOR ATTENDANCE AT A 10-MONTH RESIDENT OR 14-WEEK SATELLITE COURSE ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND ILE IAW THEIR SELECTED VENUE BETWEEN JANUARY AND DECEMBER 2015. THE GOAL OF OPTIMIZED ILE IS TO PROVIDE THIS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION EARLY FOR NEW MAJORS, THEREFORE DEFERMENTS ARE HIGHLY DISCOURAGED. OFFICERS REQUEST DEFERMENTS OR TO CHANGE THEIR VENUE ON A DA4187 ROUTED THROUGH THE FIRST GENERAL OFFICER IN THE OFFICER'S CHAIN OF COMMAND, THROUGH HRC, FOR APPROVAL BY THE VCSA. YOU MAY ONLY CHANGE YOUR VENUE FROM RESIDENT TO DISTANCE LEARNING OR SATELLITE TO DISTANCE LEARNING; YOU MAY NOT REQUEST TO CHANGE FROM RESIDENT TO SATELLITE.

B. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES OFFICERS (18A, 180A, 37A, OR 38A) ELIGIBLE YEAR GROUPS:

(1) SPECIAL FORCES: (18A) - YG 2000 - YG 2005. SF OFFICERS ARE REQUIRED TO GAIN A

BRANCH APPROVAL MEMO SIGNED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE ASSIGNMENT OFFICER IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED. NOTE: WITH RESPECT TO YG 2005, ONLY SATELLITE OR DISTANCE LEARNING ILE SELECTEES ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR NDU DURING THIS APPLICATION WINDOW. YG 2005 SELECTEES THAT ARE ORIGINALLY RESIDENT ILE SELECTS CAN APPLY TO NDU DURING THIS APPLICATION WINDOW ONLY AFTER RECEIVING AN HRC APPROVED ILE CHANGE OF VENUE. DEADLINE FOR ALL CHANGE OF VENUE REQUESTS IS 01 JULY 2014.

(2) SPECIAL FORCES WARRANT OFFICERS (180A) - MUST BE IN THE PAY GRADE OF CW2(P) TO CW4 WITH LESS THAN 2 YEARS TIG WHEN CLASSES BEGIN. MUST HAVE A MINIMUM 36 MONTHS OF DOCUMENTED SERVICE ON AN ODA AND POSSESS REQUISITE OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE TO SERVE IN ASSIGNMENTS AT BN LEVELS AND ABOVE. MUST BE RECOMMENDED BY THEIR GROUP CDR/DPT GRP CDR (IF IN A TDA ASSIGNMENT OFFICERS MUST ALSO BE RECOMMENDED BY THEIR FIRST O-6 IN THEIR CURRENT CHAIN OF COMMAND). OFFICERS MUST HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE SPECIAL FORCES WARRANT OFFICER ADVANCE COURSE (SFWOAC).

(3) CIVIL AFFAIRS (38A) – YG1999 - YG 2005 (YG 99 – YG 03 OFFICERS MUST HAVE KD COMPLETE). OFFICERS ARE REQUIRED TO GAIN A BRANCH APPROVAL MEMO SIGNED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE ASSIGNMENT OFFICER IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED. NOTE: WITH RESPECT TO YG 2005, ONLY SATELLITE OR DISTANCE LEARNING ILE SELECTEES ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR NDU DURING THIS APPLICATION WINDOW. YG 2005 SELECTEES THAT ARE ORIGINALLY RESIDENT ILE SELECTS CAN APPLY TO NDU DURING THIS APPLICATION WINDOW ONLY AFTER RECEIVING AN HRC APPROVED ILE CHANGE OF VENUE. DEADLINE FOR ALL CHANGE OF VENUE REQUESTS IS 01 JULY 2014.

(4) PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS (37A) – YG1999 - YG 2005 (YG 99 – YG 03 OFFICERS MUST HAVE KD COMPLETE). OFFICERS ARE REQUIRED TO GAIN A BRANCH APPROVAL MEMO SIGNED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE ASSIGNMENT OFFICER IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED. NOTE: WITH RESPECT TO YG 2005, ONLY SATELLITE OR DISTANCE LEARNING ILE SELECTEES ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR NDU DURING THIS APPLICATION WINDOW. YG 2005 SELECTEES THAT ARE ORIGINALLY RESIDENT ILE SELECTS CAN APPLY TO NDU DURING THIS APPLICATION WINDOW ONLY AFTER RECEIVING AN HRC APPROVED ILE CHANGE OF VENUE. DEADLINE FOR ALL CHANGE OF VENUE REQUESTS IS 01 JULY 2014.

C. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES NON COMMISSIONED OFFICERS (CMF 18, 37, OR 38).

(1) COMPLETED APPROPRIATE NON COMMISSIONED OFFICER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR GRADE AND YEARS OF SERVICE.

(2) NOT HAVE MORE THAN 22 YEARS OF ACTIVE FEDERAL SERVICE, AS OF REPORT DATE TO THE ACADEMIC INSTITUTION.

(3) BE INDEFINITE OR HAVE SUFFICIENT ENLISTMENT REMAINING EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN THE THREE TIMES THE LENGTH OF REQUESTED SCHOOLING.

(4) DO NOT HAVE A GRADUATE DEGREE PAID FOR BY THE U.S. ARMY.

(5) HAVE POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE MILITARY SERVICE.

(6) HAVE AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE FROM A REGIONALLY ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.

(7) MEET ARMY HEIGHT AND WEIGHT REQUIREMENTS.

(8) MUST BE ABLE TO COMPLETE PROGRAM WITHOUT INTERRUPTION.

(9) NOT BE PENDING ANY ADVERSE ACTIONS.

D. SPECIAL OPERATIONS AVIATION, RANGER REGIMENT, AND SOF SUPPORT PERSONNEL APPLICANT PREREQUISITES:

(1) MUST BE ON ASSIGNMENT TO A SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNIT.

(2) NOT HAVE A GRADUATE DEGREE PAID FOR BY THE U.S. ARMY.

(3) HAVE POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE MILITARY SERVICE.

(4) HAVE AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE FROM A REGIONALLY ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.

(5) MEET ARMY HEIGHT AND WEIGHT REQUIREMENTS.

(6) MUST BE ABLE TO COMPLETE PROGRAM WITHOUT INTERRUPTION.

(7) NOT BE PENDING ANY ADVERSE ACTIONS.

E. JOINT APPLICANT PREREQUISITES:

(1) MUST BE ON ASSIGNMENT TO A SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNIT.

(2) NOT HAVE A GRADUATE DEGREE PAID FOR BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(3) HAVE POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE MILITARY SERVICE.

(4) HAVE AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE FROM A REGIONALLY ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.

(5) MEET SERVICE HEIGHT AND WEIGHT REQUIREMENTS.

(6) MUST BE ABLE TO COMPLETE PROGRAM WITHOUT INTERRUPTION.

(7) NOT BE PENDING ANY ADVERSE ACTIONS.

(8) ALL PERMANENT CHANGE OF STATION COSTS ARE FUNDED BY THE PARENT SERVICE. USAJFKSWCS IS ONLY RESPONSIBLE FOR FUNDING THE COST OF TUITION.

F. NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE APPLICANT PREREQUISITES.

(1) MUST BE ON ASSIGNMENT TO A SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNIT.

(2) NOT HAVE A GRADUATE DEGREE PAID FOR BY THE U.S. ARMY.

(3) HAVE POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE MILITARY SERVICE.

(4) HAVE AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE FROM A REGIONALLY ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.

(5) MEET ARMY HEIGHT AND WEIGHT REQUIREMENTS.

(6) MUST BE ABLE TO COMPLETE PROGRAM WITHOUT INTERRUPTION.

(7) ALL WAGES AND ALLOWANCES ARE FUNDED BY THE SOLDIERS UNIT. USAJFKSWCS IS

ONLY RESPONSIBLE FOR FUNDING THE COST OF TUITION.

G. OBLIGATIONS INCURRED: ALL STUDENTS INCUR A THREE FOR ONE ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE OBLIGATION (ADSO) UPON GRADUATION.

9. APPLICATION PROCESS REQUIREMENTS. ELIGIBLE OFFICERS, WARRANT OFFICERS, AND NON COMMISSIONED OFFICERS MUST SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS TO [SWCSEEDUCATION@AHQB.SOC.MIL](mailto:SWCSEEDUCATION@AHQB.SOC.MIL) NOT LATER THAN 31 OCTOBER 2014. ALL DOCUMENTS MUST BE LEGIBLE, SCANNED, AND EMAILED. THE SPECIAL WARFARE EDUCATION GROUP WILL COORDINATE WITH BRANCH ASSIGNMENT OFFICERS AND BRANCH MANAGERS AT HQ, U.S. ARMY HUMAN RESOURCES COMMAND, FORT KNOX, KY TO ENSURE THAT ALL APPLICANTS MEET ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.

10. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

(1) UPDATED ORB/ERB – TO INCLUDE A CURRENT DA PHOTO.

(2) LAST THREE OFFICER OR NON COMMISSIONED OFFICER EVALUATION REPORTS.

(3) DA FORM 1618 – ENDORSED BY THE FIRST O6 IN THE APPLICANT'S CHAIN OF COMMAND.

(4) STATEMENT OF PURPOSE (MINIMUM OF 250 WORDS NOT TO EXCEED 500 WORDS). THERE IS NO REQUIRED FORMAT. THE STATEMENT OF PURPOSE IS THE APPLICANT'S OPPORTUNITY TO COMMUNICATE TO THE SELECTION PANEL THE RETURN ON INVESTMENT FOR ADMITTING THEM INTO THE PROGRAM.

(5) COMPLETED NDU APPLICATION (APPLICATIONS CAN BE FOUND AT THE FOLLOWING HYPERLINK: [HTTP://JSOMA.ORG/](http://JSOMA.ORG/)).

(6) OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT(S).

(7) SUBMIT COMPLETED APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS TO [SWCSEEDUCATION@AHQB.SOC.MIL](mailto:SWCSEEDUCATION@AHQB.SOC.MIL).

11. ANY APPLICATION THAT IS NOT COMPLETE, AS DIRECTED IN PARAGRAPH TEN ABOVE, OR DOES NOT MEET THE SUSPENSE OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPH SEVEN WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS PROGRAM.

12. SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ABOUT THE USAJFKSWCS NDU JOINT SPECIAL OPERATIONS MASTER OF ARTS IN STRATEGIC SECURITY STUDIES PROGRAM SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE GRADUATE MANAGEMENT OFFICE: [SWCSEEDUCATION@AHQB.SOC.MIL](mailto:SWCSEEDUCATION@AHQB.SOC.MIL).