NPS Resident Wargaming Course

This 11-week course for NPS resident students is a mixture of lecture and hands-on practical exercises designed to develop student wargaming knowledge and skills.

By the third week of the course, the student teams have been introduced to their sponsor.

After the completion of formal instruction and the Wargaming Apprentice Certification Exam, the student teams focus solely on designing, developing, executing, and analyzing the sponsor’s wargame. This capstone wargaming project serves as the students’ final exam. The sponsors’ wargames are conducted during the NPS wargaming week, usually the first weeks in June and December.

Resident Course Sponsors

Defense organization sponsorship of student-led wargames produced in this course has been instrumental to the course’s relevancy. There have been over 50 sponsored wargames conducted by NPS wargaming student teams since 2009.

Working with sponsors who have real-world wargaming requirements provides NPS students a unique opportunity to apply their problem definition and communications skills as they shape the wargame to best meet their sponsor’s needs. While many sponsoring organizations are from DoD, several sponsors have been from allied or partner nations.

Past Sponsors include:

Directors

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NPS Resident Course Undersea Constellation student wargaming team with sponsors from Undersea Integration Program Office, PEO C4I in San Diego
Mission
Provide the Department of Defense, allies and defense partners access to the unique wargaming capabilities of the Naval Postgraduate School students and faculty.

The Vision
Provide DoD, allies and partners:
• Access to wargaming education through the NPS Wargaming Mobile Education Team (MET).
• The opportunity to sponsor an NPS student wargaming team to design, develop, conduct and analyze a wargame for their organization in the 11-week resident course.
• Support, advice, and assistance from NPS wargaming experts as organizations stand up inherent wargaming capabilities and capacities.

NPS Mobile Education Teams
The NPS Wargaming Mobile Education Team (MET) stood up in 2011 to provide organizations the opportunity to educate a wargaming cadre to design, develop, conduct and analyze wargames through the Basic Analytic Wargaming Course (BAWC).

The BAWC is a 5-day course (40 contact hours) built around hands-on practical exercises coordinated with the sponsoring organization.

The BAWC provides two benefits to the sponsoring organization:
• Training a cadre of the organization’s personnel as analytic wargamers who can design, develop, conduct and analyze wargames for their command.
• Leading students through a wargaming workshop as they are learning basic wargaming fundamentals. The workshop is focused on a wargame that the sponsoring organization needs to conduct, and by the end of the 40 hours the students conduct that wargame as a graduation exercise.

Indonesian Navy students tackle a South China Sea scenario in the BAWC in Surabaya, Indonesia
• NPS has conducted more than 20 courses for CCMDs, the U.S. Services, Canadian Forces, Australian Defence Force/DST-Group, New Zealand Defence Force, the Indonesian Navy, Partnership for Peace nations, and industry.