

**Milper Message Number
16-040**

**Proponent
AOJK-EDG**

**Title
ACADEMIC YEAR (AY) 17 NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY JOINT SPECIAL
OPERATIONS MASTER OF ARTS PROGRAM**

...Issued: [04 Feb 16]...

1. THIS MESSAGE EXPIRES NLT 01 FEBRUARY 2017.

2. THIS MESSAGE ANNOUNCES THE PROCEDURES FOR REQUESTING ACCEPTANCE INTO THE AY 17 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.

3. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION.

A. THE USAJFKSWCS HAS PARTNERED WITH THE 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 RELATIONSHIPS AMONG 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 RELATIONSHIPS AMONG 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 – 07 AUGUST 2017.

B. GRADUATION DATE – TBD JUNE 2018.

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). ARSOF 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 (AIRBORNE), WILL HOST THE AY 17 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 – COB 04 NOVEMBER 2016.

B. PANEL CONVENES – TBD.

C. PANEL RESULTS RELEASED – TBD.

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 16 ILE SELECTION BOARD FOR ATTENDANCE AT A 10-MONTH RESIDENT OR 14-WEEK SATELLITE COURSE ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND ILE IAW THEIR SELECTED VENUE. 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.

OFFICERS MUST NOT HAVE A GRADUATE DEGREE PAID FOR BY THE U.S. ARMY OR RESPECTIVE SERVICE (EXCLUDING TUITION ASSISTANCE).

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

(1) DO NOT HAVE A GRADUATE DEGREE PAID FOR BY THE U.S. ARMY (EXCLUDING TUITION ASSISTANCE).

(2) HAVE EXTRAORDINARY POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE ARMY SERVICE.

(3) HAVE AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE FROM A REGIONALLY ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY WITH A MINIMUM 2.5 GPA.

(4) MEET ARMY HEIGHT AND WEIGHT STANDARDS.

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

(6) NOT PENDING ANY ADVERSE ACTIONS OR AT RISK FOR PROMOTION.

(7) SPECIAL FORCES: (18A) - YG 2001 - YG 2007. NOTE: WITH RESPECT TO YG 2007, ONLY SATELLITE OR DISTANCE LEARNING ILE SELECTEES ARE ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND NDU. ALL YG 2007 OFFICERS ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY TO NDU DURING THE APPLICATION WINDOW BUT OFFICERS THAT ARE NOT SELECTED FOR PROMOTION OR SELECTED FOR RESIDENT ILE WILL BE DEEMED NOT ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND NDU AS BOARD RESULTS ARE RELEASED. YG 2007 SELECTEES THAT ARE RESIDENT ILE SELECTED CAN STILL ATTEND NDU BUT MUST REQUEST AND RECEIVE AN HRC APPROVED ILE CHANGE OF VENUE.

(8) 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 0-6 IN THEIR CURRENT CHAIN OF COMMAND). OFFICERS MUST HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE SPECIAL FORCES WARRANT OFFICER ADVANCE COURSE (SFWOAC).

(9) CIVIL AFFAIRS (38A) – YG 2001 - YG 2007 (YG 01 - YG 05 OFFICERS MUST HAVE KD COMPLETE). NOTE: WITH RESPECT TO YG 2007, ONLY SATELLITE OR DISTANCE LEARNING ILE SELECTEES ARE ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND NDU. ALL YG 2007 OFFICERS ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY TO NDU DURING THE APPLICATION WINDOW BUT OFFICERS THAT ARE NOT SELECTED FOR PROMOTION OR SELECTED FOR RESIDENT ILE WILL BE DEEMED NOT ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND NDU AS BOARD RESULTS ARE RELEASED. YG 2007 SELECTEES THAT ARE RESIDENT ILE SELECTED CAN STILL ATTEND NDU BUT MUST REQUEST AND RECEIVE AN HRC APPROVED ILE CHANGE OF VENUE.

(10) PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS (37A) – YG 2001 - YG 2007 (YG 01 - YG 05 OFFICERS MUST HAVE KD COMPLETE). NOTE: WITH RESPECT TO YG 2007, ONLY SATELLITE OR DISTANCE LEARNING ILE SELECTEES ARE ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND NDU. ALL YG 2007 OFFICERS ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY TO NDU DURING THE APPLICATION WINDOW BUT OFFICERS THAT ARE NOT SELECTED FOR PROMOTION OR SELECTED FOR RESIDENT ILE WILL BE DEEMED NOT ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND NDU AS BOARD RESULTS ARE RELEASED. YG 2007 SELECTEES THAT

ARE RESIDENT ILE SELECTED CAN STILL ATTEND NDU BUT MUST REQUEST AND RECEIVE AN HRC APPROVED ILE CHANGE OF VENUE.

C. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS E6 AND ABOVE (CMF 18, 37, OR 38):

(1) HAVE 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) NOT HAVE A GRADUATE DEGREE PAID FOR BY THE U.S. ARMY (EXCLUDING TUITION ASSISTANCE).

(5) HAVE EXTRAORDINARY POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE ARMY SERVICE.

(6) HAVE AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE FROM A REGIONALLY ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY WITH A MINIMUM 2.5 GPA.

(7) MEET ARMY HEIGHT AND WEIGHT STANDARDS.

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

(9) NOT PENDING ANY ADVERSE ACTIONS OR AT RISK FOR PROMOTION.

D. SPECIAL OPERATIONS AVIATION AND RANGER REGIMENT APPLICANT PREREQUISITES:

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

(2) HAVE COMPLETED APPROPRIATE OFFICER OR NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR GRADE AND YEARS OF SERVICE.

(3) NOT HAVE A GRADUATE DEGREE PAID FOR BY THE U.S. ARMY (EXCLUDING TUITION ASSISTANCE).

(4) HAVE EXTRAORDINARY POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE ARMY SERVICE.

(5) HAVE AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE FROM A REGIONALLY ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY WITH A MINIMUM 2.5 GPA.

(6) MEET ARMY HEIGHT AND WEIGHT STANDARDS.

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

(8) NOT PENDING ANY ADVERSE ACTIONS OR AT RISK FOR PROMOTION.

E. JOINT SERVICE APPLICANT PREREQUISITES:

- (1) MUST BE ON ASSIGNMENT TO A SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNIT.
- (2) HAVE COMPLETED APPROPRIATE OFFICER OR NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR GRADE AND YEARS OF SERVICE.
- (3) NOT HAVE A GRADUATE DEGREE PAID FOR BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (EXCLUDING TUITION ASSISTANCE).
- (4) HAVE EXTRAORDINARY POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE JOINT SERVICE.
- (5) HAVE AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE FROM A REGIONALLY ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY WITH A MINIMUM 2.5 GPA.
- (6) MEET SERVICE HEIGHT AND WEIGHT STANDARDS.
- (7) MUST BE ABLE TO COMPLETE PROGRAM WITHOUT INTERRUPTION.
- (8) NOT PENDING ANY ADVERSE ACTIONS OR AT RISK FOR PROMOTION.
- (9) 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 E6 AND ABOVE:

- (1) MUST BE ON ASSIGNMENT TO A SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNIT.
- (2) HAVE COMPLETED APPROPRIATE OFFICER OR NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR GRADE AND YEARS OF SERVICE.
- (3) NOT HAVE A GRADUATE DEGREE PAID FOR BY THE U.S. ARMY (EXCLUDING TUITION ASSISTANCE).
- (4) HAVE EXTRAORDINARY POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE ARMY SERVICE.
- (5) HAVE AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE FROM A REGIONALLY ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY WITH A MINIMUM 2.5 GPA.
- (6) MEET ARMY HEIGHT AND WEIGHT STANDARDS.
- (7) MUST BE ABLE TO COMPLETE PROGRAM WITHOUT INTERRUPTION.
- (8) NOT PENDING ANY ADVERSE ACTIONS OR AT RISK FOR PROMOTION.
- (9) ALL WAGES AND ALLOWANCES ARE FUNDED BY THE SOLDIERS UNIT. USAJFKSWCS IS ONLY RESPONSIBLE FOR FUNDING THE COST OF TUITION.

G. SPECIAL OPERATIONS SUPPORT PERSONNEL/ENABLERS E6 AND ABOVE:

- (1) MUST CURRENTLY BE ON ASSIGNMENT TO A SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNIT AND MUST BE SLATED TO RETURN TO A SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNIT UPON GRADUATION.
- (2) HAVE COMPLETED APPROPRIATE OFFICER OR NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR GRADE AND YEARS OF SERVICE.

(3) NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS MUST BE AT THE RANK OF E6 AND ABOVE.

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

(5) HAVE EXTRAORDINARY POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE ARMY AND ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS SUPPORT SERVICE.

(6) HAVE AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE FROM A REGIONALLY ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY WITH A MINIMUM 2.5 GPA.

(7) MEET ARMY HEIGHT AND WEIGHT STANDARDS.

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

(9) NOT BE PENDING ANY ADVERSE ACTIONS OR BE AT RISK FOR PROMOTION.

H. YG 2007 OFFICERS FROM ALL BRANCHES: ATTENDANCE IS DEPENDENT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE FY16 MAJOR BOARD.

I. 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 EITHER BY EMAIL TO MICHELLE.WORSLEY.CTR@AHQB.SOC.MIL OR IN PERSON TO ROOM 369 COL AARON BANK HALL FBNC NO LATER THAN COB 04 NOVEMBER 2016. ALL DOCUMENTS MUST BE LEGIBLE COPIES OR ORIGINALS. THE SPECIAL WARFARE EDUCATION GROUP (AIRBORNE) 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. PACKETS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED THROUGH ANY OTHER CHANNELS.

10. APPLICATION PACKET REQUIREMENTS:

A. UPDATED ORB/ERB – MUST INCLUDE A CURRENT DA PHOTO.

B. LAST THREE OFFICER OR NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER EVALUATION REPORTS.

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

D. HRC BRANCH APPROVAL MEMO SIGNED BY THE APPLICANT'S RESPECTIVE ASSIGNMENTS OFFICER (EXAMPLE CAN BE FOUND AT THE FOLLOWING HYPERLINK:
[HTTP://WWW.SOC.MIL/SWCS/SWEG/GRADUATE.HTML](http://www.soc.mil/swcs/sweg/graduate.html)).

E. 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 TO THE FORCE.

THE STATEMENT OF PURPOSE MUST ALSO INCLUDE ANY RELEVANT RESEARCH AREAS THAT THE APPLICANT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN PURSUING.

F. NDU ADMISSIONS APPLICATION (APPLICATIONS CAN BE FOUND AT THE FOLLOWING HYPERLINK: [HTTP://WWW.SOC.MIL/SWCS/SWEG/GRADUATE.HTML](http://www.soc.mil/swcs/swcg/graduate.html)).

G. OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT(S). NOTE: ALL UNDERGRADUATE REQUIREMENTS FOR DEGREE CONFERRAL MUST BE COMPLETE BY THE END OF CY 2016. IF YOUR DEGREE HAS NOT BEEN CONFERRED BY THE APPLICATION DEADLINE, YOU MUST INCLUDE YOUR MOST CURRENT ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPT AS WELL AS AN OFFICIAL MEMO, ON LETTERHEAD, FROM YOUR INSTITUTION'S REGISTRAR STATING THAT YOU WILL MEET ALL OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR DEGREE CONFERRAL AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE FALL/WINTER TERM (NLT 31 DECEMBER 2016) WITH YOUR PACKET. TRANSCRIPTS CAN BE EMAILED DIRECTLY FROM THE INSTITUTION TO MICHELLE.WORSLEY.CTR@AHQB.SOC.MIL; SEALED AND DELIVERED IN PERSON TO ROOM 369 COL AARON BANK HALL; OR MAILED (PROVIDE TRACKING INFORMATION) TO:

USAJFKSWCS; AOJK – EDG
ATTN: MICHELLE WORSLEY
3004 ARDENNES STREET STOP A
FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA 28310

H. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE STATUS OF YOUR APPLICATION PACKET. PLEASE WAIT AT LEAST 48 HOURS AFTER SUBMITTING YOUR PACKET BEFORE SUBMITTING ANY INQUIRES. PACKETS NOT SUBMITTED THROUGH THE REQUIRED CHANNELS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED OR REVIEWED.

11. ANY APPLICATION THAT IS NOT COMPLETE AS DIRECTED IN PARAGRAPH TEN, OR DOES NOT MEET THE SUSPENSE OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPH SEVEN, WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED TO COMPETE FOR THIS PROGRAM. ANY PACKETS SUBMITTED THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS THEN WHAT IS OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPHS NINE AND TEN WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

12. THERE WILL BE NO WAIVERS OR EXCEPTION TO POLICY REQUESTS PROCESSED FOR MISSED DEADLINES.

13. SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ABOUT THE USAJFKSWCS NDU JOINT SPECIAL OPERATIONS MASTER OF ARTS IN STRATEGIC SECURITY STUDIES PROGRAM SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE ATTENTION OF MS. MICHELLE WORSLEY: MICHELLE.WORSLEY.CTR@AHQB.SOC.MIL.