

Officer Education System–Warrant Officers (OES-W)

What is it?

When fully implemented, the OES-W will provide an expanded framework of progressive education opportunities which are scheduled at the right time and place throughout a warrant officer's (WO) career. The goals of OES-W are to produce a WO corps of leaders who are fully competent in technical, tactical and leadership skills; possess knowledge and experience; are knowledgeable of how the Army is organized and operates; and are prepared to operate in Joint, interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational environments.

What has the Army done?

In June 2008, the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) approved redesigns of the Warrant Officer Staff Course (WOSC) and the Warrant Officer Senior Staff Course (WOSSC). These changes expanded the length of the courses and will include newly developed distance learning components. These re-designed senior-level WO professional military education courses are set to begin in FY11.

In August 2008, five WOs were the first to attend an Intermediate Level Education pilot at the Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

In September 2008, the commanding general of TRADOC approved the WO technical/functional needs analysis, results and implementation strategy. This initiative will add additional senior-level technical or functional specific training opportunities in conjunction with the WOSC or WOSSC as determined by the branch proponents. This recommendation has been forwarded to the Army G-3 (training) for final approval.

What continued efforts does Army have planned for the future?

Warrant officers are currently scheduled to be fully integrated into the Basic Officer Leader Course (BOLC) II by FY10. The current technical certification, the Warrant Officer Basic Course, will become the final phase of the BOLC process for WOs.

The Army plans to complete the redesign of the OES-W and implement the approved recommendations into the technical training and education no later than 2012.

Revised and expanded WOSCs and WOSSCs, to include possible follow-on technical/functional training, is scheduled to be a part of the WO Professional Military Education (PME) System starting in FY10. Course timing and duration will be synchronized with the Army Force Generation process.

By FY13 the warrant officer education recommendations in the 2003 Army Training and Leader Development Report should be completed; with all related components integrated and implemented as a part of an improved Warrant Officer PME.

Why is this important to the Army?

Completing the redesign of the OES-W will enhance the leadership ability and technical expertise of WOs that is so critical to supporting our campaign-quality, Joint-focused, and expeditionary Army. The new OES-W system will assist in guaranteeing that the WOs have an expanded educational framework which provides progressive, relevant, and timely technical and functional training. This initiative will provide the basis for developing competency-based, agile, adaptive, multi-skilled leaders and technical experts that will be able to meet the challenges and demands expected of our current and future WOs.

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