
International Supply Officer Training: The Navy Supply Corps School

By

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The Navy Supply Corps School, Athens, Georgia, has been training International Supply Corps Officers since 1955 and has graduated in excess of 1,200 students from over fifty countries. The first course offered was the Foreign Officer Supply Course, better known as FOSCO. Over the years, the FOSCO course has evolved from a very general course discussing the U.S. Government and Navy Supply Systems to one that explores the detailed concepts of Security Assistance Management. The course now emphasizes the types of assistance that the United States Government and the United States Navy offer through the Defense Security Assistance Agency (DSAA), Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), Navy International Logistics Control Office (NAVILCO), Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP), Navy International Program Office (Navy IPO), and Fleet Material Support Office (FMSO). Over the past 38 years, the Navy Supply Corps School, Athens, Georgia, in partnership with the Athens community and the State of Georgia, have contributed significantly to the training of International Supply Officers thereby promoting good will between the United States and its allies.

The objective of the seven week FOSCO course is to provide Junior International Supply and Maintenance Officers basic instruction in the fundamentals of afloat supply operations and to foster and promote a mutual understanding between the United States and our allies abroad. The initial objective is accomplished at the Navy Supply Corps School, where the course is segmented into four categories: (1) the United States Government, (2) basic shipboard supply operations with emphasis on material identification and use of the COSAL, (3) material requisitioning, and (4) security assistance and foreign military sales (FMS) systems. Figure 1 illustrates the course breakdown by major topic area.

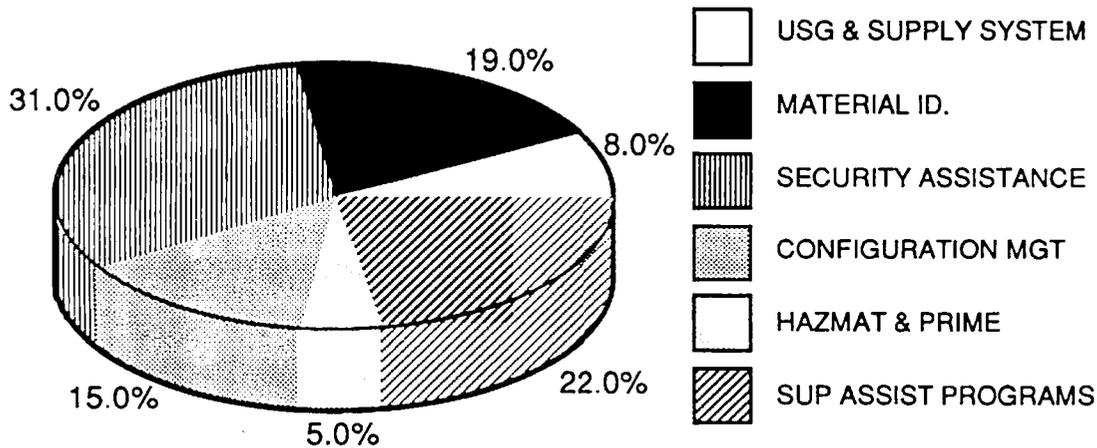
The second objective is accomplished by the Department of Defense Informational Program activities (approximately 30% of the course) and classroom interaction. The Department of Defense Informational Program exposes the student to U.S. Government institutions, the judicial system, political parties, the media, diversity of American life, minorities, agriculture, the U.S. economy, labor and labor management relations, education, social welfare, and human rights.

In the early 1980s, foreign governments expressed an interest in Supply Aviation Maintenance Training and the Navy Supply Corps School established the first Foreign Officer Supply/Maintenance Aviation Training (FOSMAT) course. The first class convened on 11 January 1982. Just as the FOSCO class has evolved to meet the specific needs of the International Officer, so too has the FOSMAT course. The objective of the five week FOSMAT class is twofold: to provide the junior international supply and maintenance officer basic instruction in the elements of aviation operational supply and to reiterate the objectives of the FOSCO. The FOSMAT course is segmented into four basic elements: (1) the United States Government, (2) aviation supply operations with emphasis on material identification and use of the Aviation Consolidated Allowance List (AVCAL), (3) material requisitioning (i.e. in support

of aircraft and maintenance facilities), and (4) security assistance agencies and foreign military sales (FMS) systems. Figure 2 describes major areas of study in the FOSMAT curriculum.

FIGURE 1

**FOREIGN OFFICER SUPPLY COURSE
(FOSCO)**



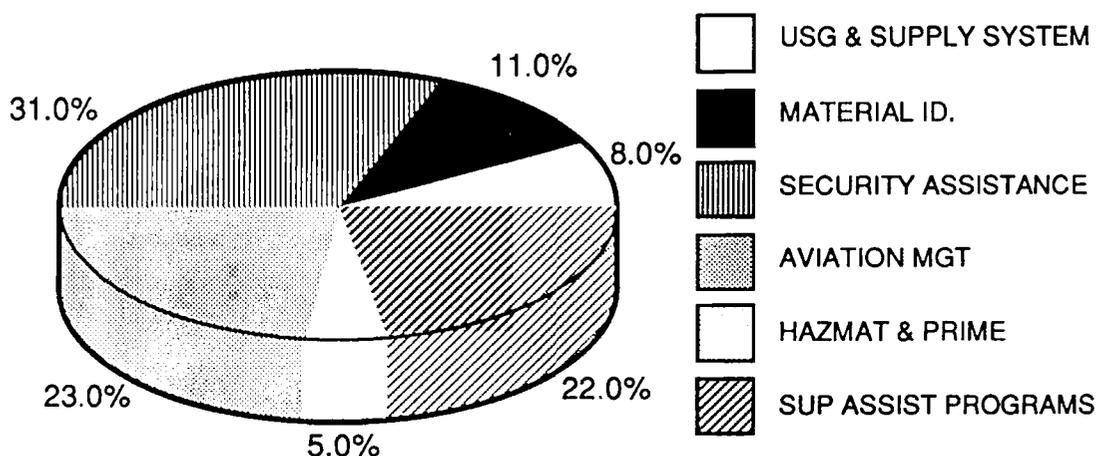
General Course Breakdown - FOSCO

Upon completion of their studies at the Navy Supply Corps School, both FOSCO and FOSMAT students spend three days in Washington, D. C. where they visit the Naval Supply Systems Command, the Pentagon, the Naval Academy, and tour historic sites in and around Washington, D. C. During their stay in Washington, they meet with the Chief of Supply Corps and are awarded graduation diplomas. While touring the Naval Academy, the students have a unique opportunity to dine with the midshipmen. This event has become a highlight of the trip. The tour of the Pentagon gives the students a chance to see the magnitude of the Department of Defense organization. One of the most frequent observations of our International Officers during their tour of the Nation's capitol is an appreciation for our citizen's expression of free speech and freedom of the press.

From Washington D. C., the class travels to Philadelphia for one week of follow-on training at NAVILCO, ASO, SPCC, and Fleet Material Support Office (FMSO). At NAVILCO, both FOSCO and FOSMAT students receive comprehensive briefings from the staff on all aspects of Navy FMS. They also meet the liaison officers from their respective countries and discuss issues relative to their individual supply systems. The FOSMAT class will spend the majority of this week at ASO receiving briefings and meeting with their liaison officers. During this week the class travels to Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania for briefings by the SPCC and the FMSO. These briefings discuss the students' role in FMS and the assistance SPCC and FMSO provide to their governments.

FIGURE 2

FOREIGN OFFICER SUPPLY/MAINTENANCE AVIATION TRAINING (FOSMAT)



General Course Breakdown - FOSMAT

From Philadelphia the class travels to Pensacola, Florida for two weeks of tailored training provided by the Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC), Pensacola. This training addresses the students' and their countries' specific logistics management concerns. It allows the student hands-on training in the functional area of a FISC. Specific areas that have been examined in the past include: financial management, procurement, requisition services, customer services, naval integrated storage tracking and retrieval system (NISTARS), training, transportation and shipping, systems analysis, and technical and receiving processes. The final two weeks of this cycle of training for International Supply Officers is concluded in Pensacola with two weeks of Practical Inventory Control (PIC) training.

In addition to FOSCO and FOSMAT, Naval Supply Systems Command offers an eight week Supply Management Course for senior international officers (Grades 0-5 through 0-7) (SR-FOSCO). These officers receive briefings on several major issues concerning the United States and our allies. The first and last week of the course is held in Washington, D. C., at NAVSUP Headquarters. The schedule takes the officers through several states and numerous naval activities. Each of the activities conduct senior management briefings drawing from their current area of expertise. Generally, the second week of training is held at the Navy Supply Corps School, Athens, Georgia, where the officers visit an Aviation Intermediate Maintenance Department (AIMD), tour CNN headquarters in Atlanta, and visit the campus of the University of Georgia in Athens. From Georgia, they visit the Fleet and Industrial Supply Center, in Charleston, South Carolina; the Naval Training Center, Orlando, Florida; the SPCC, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania; NAVILCO, Philadelphia; Ottawa and Halifax, Canada; and return to Washington, D.C. Officers who attend this course frequently attain Flag Rank and serve in prestigious positions in their respective governments.

**SUPPLY COURSES FOR
INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS
NAVY SUPPLY CORPS SCHOOL, ATHENS, GEORGIA**

Foreign Officer Supply Course (FOSCO)
Foreign Officer Supply/Maintenance Aviation Training (FOSMAT)

FOSCO

Course Length - 7 Weeks
Student Eligibility: 0-1 to 0-4
Course Offerings: Twice Annually
Beginning Mid-March & September
Class Size: 10 - 15 students

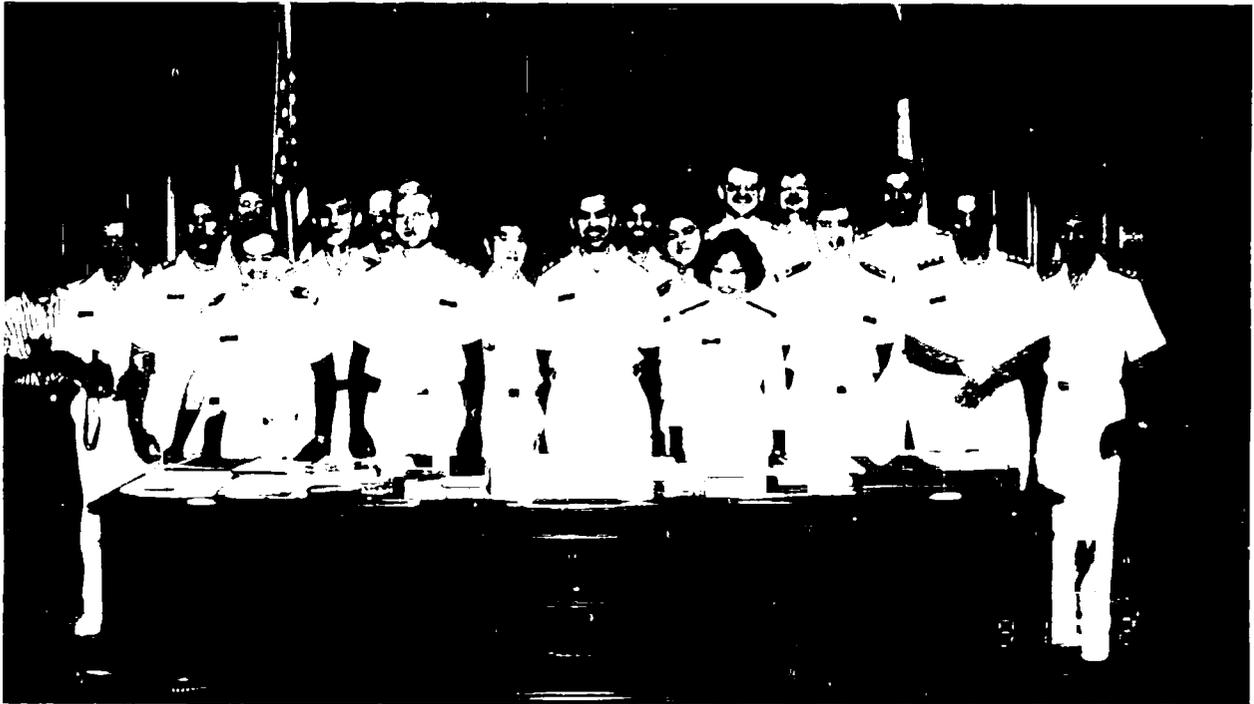
FOSMAT

Course Length: 5 Weeks
Student Eligibility: 0-1 to 0-4
Course Offerings: Annually
Beginning June
Class Size: 10 - 15 students

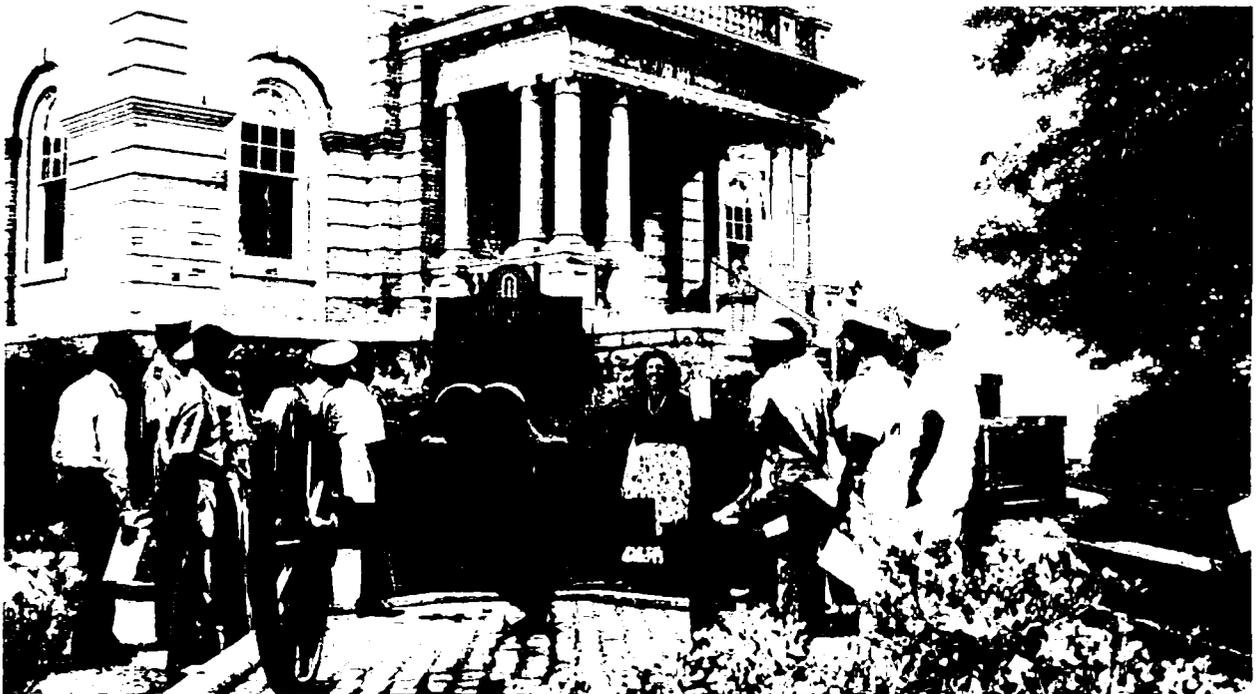
In a recent Georgia visit, the FOSCO students visited Atlanta and met with Governor Zell Miller and senior State Senator Paul Broun. They learned about Georgia state government and the legislative process in the state house and senate, and met the Chief Elected Officer of Athens' Clarke County, Mrs. Gwen O'Looney and discussed city and county government. Athens is one of seventeen cities in the United States that has incorporated city and county governments which provides a unique perspective for the international student. In addition, the students visit the University of Georgia, State Botanical Gardens, Athens Regional Medical Center, Athens Clarke County Police Department, *Athens Banner Herald*, WGAU/WGNC Radio Station, the Leon Farmer Company, and tour Oconee County with the County Agricultural Agent.

The Athens Georgia community has proven to be an ideal training site for International Officers, as Athens truly reflects "Americana." The Athens community has for years extended a warm welcome to all of the International Officers by acquainting them with American life. The community hosts every class and open their homes, businesses, churches, and schools to the students. The International Officer in Athens can count on a full social calendar and an opportunity to see lots of "southern hospitality". Indeed, the students departing Athens have a thorough understanding of American customs and traditions and develop life long friendships with members of the local community. At a recent FOSCO graduation, Captain J. D. McCarthy, SC, USN, Commanding Officer, Navy Supply Corps School, Athens, Georgia stated it best by saying, "The Athens community has once again been the cornerstone of this important training. Hosting students in your homes and businesses has had a tremendous impact on cooperation between our governments and has fostered lifetime friendships. We cannot put a price tag on the international goodwill resulting from your time and generosity."

For almost 40 years the city of Athens, Georgia and the Navy Supply Corps School have joined in a partnership which has formed the centerpiece for International Officer training in naval logistics and naval aviation support. This partnership has impacted over fifty countries and twelve hundred students, and has fostered improved international goodwill across the globe. The future of these Athens based courses will continue to grow as our dynamic world and foreign policies increase the need for open avenues of communication created by just this type of training.



FOSCO class in Georgia Governor's office, Atlanta, Georgia



FOSCO class with Ms. O'Looney outside Athens, Georgia City Hall