

USMC Center For Advanced Operational Culture Learning (CAOCL)

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Vision

CAOCL executes the vision of the Commandant to develop an operationally focused “...understanding of the people we are trying to help and the people we are fighting: their culture, what they think is unimportant, what they think is important,” through focused training for the operating forces, individual training and Professional Military Education (PME), Distance Learning, and Professional Reading.

CAOCL promotes a grasp of culture and language as regular, mainstream components of the operating environment—the human terrain—throughout the full spectrum of military operations; is the Corps’ “one-stop” clearing house for operational culture and language training.

Mission

As the Marine Corps’ Culture and Language Center of Excellence, CAOCL ensures Marines are equipped with operationally relevant regional, culture, and language knowledge to allow them to plan and operate successfully in the joint and combined expeditionary environment:

- In any region of the world
- In current and potential operating conditions
- Targeting persistent and emerging threats and opportunities

Goal

CAOCL does not teach culture for its own sake, or for a non-directed appreciation of or sensitivity towards foreign peoples. CAOCL executes operationally focused training and education in individual training, PME, and pre-deployment phases, reflecting current and likely contingencies and functions, to ensure Marines and leaders deploy a grasp of culture and indigenous dynamics for use as a force multiplier.