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SWOS Hosts Chinese Officers for Exchange Visit

NEWPORT, R.I. – Surface Warfare Officers School (SWOS) at Naval Station Newport, R.I., hosted 29 officers from the Chinese People’s Liberation Army (Navy) for an exchange visit Feb. 2-4.

The group included mid-grade officers from the Chinese navy’s surface, submarine and aviation communities.

Cmdr. Justin Kubu, SWOS director for Fleet Division Officer and International Training, coordinated this first-of-its-kind event and was extremely pleased with the results.

“This engagement provided a unique opportunity for current and prospective commanding officers from both nations to learn more about each other professionally,” said Kubu. “During the discussions, participants from both sides discussed training processes and shared insights as to how officers are prepared for at-sea command assignments. I feel the event was very positive and aligned well with the continuing effort to build mutual trust between our two Navies.”

In addition to setting the stage for future interactions and exchanges, Kubu noted the visit accomplished two key objectives. First, the daily roundtable discussions fostered a common bond through discussion of specific evolutions at sea. Second, it allowed officers from both countries to gain

better understanding of their counterparts' methods for training and educating prospective commanding officers.

The visit concluded with an "encounter exercise" between U.S. and Chinese navies staged in SWOS' state-of-the-art shiphandling trainers. Both navies practiced basic maneuvering skills and standard procedures for formally greeting one another at sea.

Capt. Dave Welch, SWOS commanding officer noted the importance and potential impact of the exchange event.

"Command in any Navy is an extraordinary responsibility," said Welch. "We greatly value the opportunity to learn and observe how others prepare their officers for this role. Additionally, I am thrilled that SWOS could play a role in building trust with the Chinese Navy. We look forward to the next opportunity, either here in Newport or in China."

For more information about Surface Warfare Officers School, visit <https://www.netc.navy.mil/centers/swos/>.

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