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## **International students gain training and leadership knowledge**

PENSACOLA, Fla. – The Naval Education and Training Security Assistance Field Activity's (NETSAFA) International Training Center (NITC) held a graduation ceremony for International students Feb. 6 at the Naval Aviation Schools Command auditorium on board NAS Pensacola.

The ceremony marked the completion of the International Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education (MPT&E) and International Professional Advanced Leadership (IPAL) courses for a combined total of 29 students from 16 countries, ranging from Saudi Arabia to Estonia.

Cmdr. Russell Van Diepen, NITC officer in charge, served as guest speaker and presented graduation certificates to the students from U.S. partner nations.

"These international students should leverage their experience from NITC to manage innovative MPT&E solutions and to look from a different viewpoint at how to operate with other like-minded nations," said Van Diepen. "This will improve participating countries' interoperability with U.S. and other international forces, and our international partners will now realize a 'global network' of partner nations building trust and understanding that was expanded right here. Relationships that develop among classmates at NITC

MPT&E and IPAL provide the foundation for life-long bonds and common understanding."

Brian Casey, MPT&E course instructor said that the varying backgrounds of the course participants significantly contributed to the class dialogue.

"This International MPT&E class has been a joy for me to coordinate and teach," said Casey. "It included officer, enlisted and civilian personnel representing their various countries' navies, air forces, armies, and ministries of defense. Most of them are or will be involved in some aspect of MPT&E in their respective services, and the interaction among the students and the instructors was very dynamic and often very thought-provoking.

Paul Roarke, the NITC IPAL course instructor noted that his curriculum was designed in 2009 with a singular focus on enhancing the leadership capabilities and professional development of international military members, specifically senior enlisted to junior officer (E-5 to O3).

"IPAL combines the best aspects of time-tested and proven leadership training with the latest state-of-the-art educational methods", said Roarke. "Students completing this five and one-half week course will not only have greatly improved their own leadership skills and professional development, but will return to their commands with a wealth of knowledge and that will provide a long-lasting positive influence to their countries' military services".

According to Gavina S. Paramita, Indonesian Ministry of Defense, one of the things he enjoyed most about the NITC courses was their diversity.

"The MPT&E course was a great opportunity for me to learn about U.S. military manpower and personnel systems, and especially those of the U.S. Navy," said Paramita. "Much of what I learned will be applicable to my own country's personnel systems. The classes were well-managed and the trips

were amazing. Field visits helped me to understand the processes better by hearing briefs from those people actually involved in the processes that we had discussed in class. I was very pleased to develop new colleagues from several other countries and learn about their cultures.”

NETSAFA is the U.S. Navy’s agent for international education and training and coordinates training support to international governments and international organizations. As a field activity of the Naval Education and Training Command (NETC), the command serves as a focal point for all security assistance training program issues, coordination and advice within the U.S. Navy. In 2014, NITC trained 315 students, from 55 countries in 15 different courses at their International schoolhouse onboard NAS Pensacola, Fla.

For more information about NITC, visit <https://www.netsafa.navy.mil>. Additional information on the Naval Education and Training Command can be found on the NETC website: <https://www.netc.navy.mil>.

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Story by Lt. Cmdr. Shelline Floyd, NETSAFA Public Affairs