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CNATTU delivers quality training to an international partner

BEJA AIR BASE, Portugal - The International Ordnance Mobile Training Team (MTT) from the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit Whidbey Island (CNATTU) completed their first deployment March 1 – 13.

During the first-ever deployment of the IO MTT, The CNATTU instructors provided the Portuguese Maritime Patrol and Anti-Submarine Warfare Squadron 601 'Lobos' with 10 days of modern conventional weapons training during their visit to Beja Air Base, one of the largest military airbases in Portugal.

Cmdr. Larry Spradlin, commanding officer of CNATTU Whidbey, said that the goal of the mobile team is to improve the abilities of our international military partners.

"The IO MTT program sends highly-qualified Navy Aviation Ordnancemen to train alongside our allies; sharing our skills and promoting their development, ultimately delivering well-trained international military partners," said Spradlin.

"We are proud to work with the Portuguese Air Force; during the visit we learned from each other and can now better provide security around the world together."

The beginning of the 10-day training program consisted of classroom and hands-on instruction covering topics ranging from ordnance certification

procedures to loading gear and skid configuration for the AGM-65 (Maverick) and AGM-84D (Harpoon) missile systems.

After completing the classroom instruction, the CNATTU team presented the Lobos with real-life weapons loading scenarios and mission systems checks. The block of instruction was designed to ensure that the Lobos had a thorough understanding of all ordnance safety and loading procedures.

"We were able to show them a lot of things that many of them had never seen before, like loading the Maverick or doing system checks on the ALE-47 Airborne Countermeasures Dispenser System," said Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class Benjamin Howe. "We also refined their technique on things they already knew, like making the process of loading the MK-47 torpedo much faster, and more importantly, a great deal safer."

Rick D. Ogan, a CNATTU Whidbey Island P-3C Ordnance Instructor, noted the importance of the training for the Lobos.

"This was the first international MTT for ordnance and the most extensive training ever given by us," said Ogan. "Training other navies on the correct way to perform ordnance-related missions will make us and our allies stronger."

CNATTU Whidbey Island provides career "C" school training to the fleet on the EA-6B, P-3C, EP-3E and EA-18G aircraft. CNATTU also provides training in many other aspects of the Navy and Marine Corps aviation team including Training in Micro-Miniature Repair (2M), Senior Enlisted Aviation Maintenance (SEAM), and flight deck firefighting.

For more information about CNATTU NAS Whidbey Island
<https://www.netc.navy.mil/centers/cnatt/whidbey>

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