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Oversight of Navy Quartermaster Training Moved to New Command

NEWPORT, R.I. – On Oct. 1 all quartermaster training across the fleet transitioned from the Center for Surface Combat Systems (CSCS) to the Surface Warfare Officers School (SWOS) Command.

The move is administrative and no schools will be moved.

“Effectively, SWOS is assuming responsibility for all navigation operator training throughout the Navy,” explained Gretchen Woodard, SWOS’s administrative director. “This training will continue to take place at learning sites in Norfolk, Va., Great Lakes, Ill., Yokosuka, Japan, Pearl Harbor, and San Diego. Additionally, Voyage Management System (VMS) training continues to be held here in Newport.”

VMS is an electronic system that allows operators to generate voyage plans that are used to guide the ship to its desired destination.

Cmdr. Justin Kubu, SWOS director of fleet training, sees great importance in the move.

“The transition of QM training to SWOS highlights the importance surface community leadership has placed on navigation training,” said Kubu.

“Aligning officer and enlisted navigation training will ensure continuity across

career paths. This means that the skills learned by our youngest officers and quartermasters will be honed and advanced throughout their careers, emphasizing navigation as a core competency for surface warfare.”

Richard Callas, SWOS executive director, views the transition as an extremely positive one.

“This is a win-win for CSCS, for SWOS, and for the fleet as well,” Callas stated. “SWOS already possesses the existing infrastructure for officer navigation training. This transition will allow CSCS to focus on combat systems training. CSCS has been so supportive during this entire process; we were actually able to accelerate our turn-over by more than eight months.”

SWOS Commanding Officer Capt. Dave Welch, shares Callas’ view.

“Navigation is a core competency in surface warfare – for officer and enlisted Sailors. SWOS is now singly responsible for continuity and consistency in navigation training from seaman recruit to captain. I believe this is an important step to enhance confidence and competence in the fleet. I’m grateful to Capt. Bill McKinley, commanding officer at CSCS and his staff for a professional turnover of this important role.”

For more information about Surface Warfare Officers School, visit

<https://www.netc.navy.mil/centers/swos/>.

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Story by Lt. Jason Bilbro, Surface Warfare Officers School Command Public Affairs.