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## **New international partner to train at NETC Dahlgren schoolhouse**

DAHLGREN, Va. – The project officer for the Royal Australian Navy's new Hobart class destroyer visited the Center for Surface Combat Systems (CSCS) and Aegis Training and Readiness Center (ATRC), co-located onboard Naval Support Facility Dahlgren, Jan. 10.

Cmdr. Mark Whitehouse, Royal Australian Navy (RAN), the Air Warfare Destroyer (AWD) project officer, Defence Material Organisation, Embassy of Australia, visited the schoolhouse to address 17 RAN Sailors who started training Jan. 13 in the first class for RAN students. The Sailors will be learning the Aegis combat system, which is standard equipment on the new Hobart class of air warfare destroyers (DDGs).

Whitehouse congratulated the students on their selection into the training program.

"You will be the first Australian Sailors to work on Aegis equipment," he said. "You will receive qualifications that will not only serve you well in your Navy career, but also throughout your life."

The students attending the courses are a mix of crew members and shipyard personnel. The courses include SPY Air Warfare Destroyer (AWD) radar, Aegis Weapon System (AWS) for shipyard personnel, Aegis Computer Network Technician (ACNT) (AWD), Fire Control System operator / Operation Readiness Testing System operator (FCS/ORTS) (AWD), Crew AWS (AWD), and AWS Combat Systems Maintenance Manager (CSMM).

Capt. Don Schmieley, CSCS commanding officer, welcomed the students to the schoolhouse.

"I have been a guest in your country and now it is a pleasure to host you," said Schmieley. "The training will be rigorous but at the end, you will have the knowledge and skills that will enable you to become a successful crewmember for the lead ship Hobart."

The lead ship for the Hobart class will enter into the RAN's service March 2016, while the second hull, Brisbane, is due to commission in September 2017 followed by Sydney which is expected to be operational by June 2019.

"We share a special partnership with the Royal Australian Navy," said Dr. Darrell Tatro, director of CSCS International Programs. "CSCS International Programs is focused on facilitating an exchange of ideas, information and training material as we progress with the Air Warfare Destroyer program."

The mission of CSCS International Programs is to provide allied forces quality training to enable them to develop ready teams capable of operations that maintain and expertly employ surface combatants. The directorate partners with U.S. training, readiness, and policy organizations, as well as other government agencies and industry to support international missions.

One of 13 Learning Centers in the Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) enterprise, The Center for Surface Combat Systems oversees the development of surface warfare training and its headquarters staff manages 14 learning sites, including Aegis Training and Readiness Center. CSCS provides almost 70,000 hours of curriculum and close to 700 courses a year to more than 40,000 Sailors.

For information on the Center for Surface Combat System, visit

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

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