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NETSAFA graduates International Professional Advanced Leadership (IPAL) course.

PENSACOLA, Fla. -- The Naval Education and Training Security Assistance Field Activity (NETSAFA) International Training Center (NITC) graduated its 12th resident International Professional Advanced Leadership (IPAL) course April 18.

Attending this five-week leadership and professional enhancement course were eight military students ranging in rank from E5 to O5, from the countries of Estonia, Haiti, Indonesia, Nigeria, Papua-New Guinea, Taiwan, and Trinidad-Tobago. With this graduating class, IPAL now enters its 5th year assisting partner countries to meet the dynamic leadership challenges of the 21st century.

According to Cmdr. Russ Van Diepen, NITC officer in charge, the IPAL curriculum incorporates a combination of interactive leadership instruction including out-of-the classroom exercises designed to enhance the leadership and problem-solving abilities of senior enlisted members and junior officers.

"IPAL combines the best aspects of time-tested and proven leadership training with the latest state-of-the-art educational methods," said Van Diepen. "The course has been designed to create a cadre of individuals in participating countries who can rise to levels of prominence within their country's military leadership ranks."

Physical training, Myers-Briggs personality profiling, Instructor Training and a robust field studies program provide comprehensive supporting instruction to this one-of-a-kind international leadership course.

“Unique to the IPAL course is our Leadership Reaction Course (LRC),” added Van Diepen. “Students hone their leadership, communication and team-building skills by conducting a series of hands-on exercises, where the team members must work together to solve a simulated combat or search and rescue situation. The IPAL course concludes with a two-day leadership exercise on the LRC, bringing together all of the course instruction in a final culminating event.”

NETSAFA is the U.S. Navy’s agent for international education and training. For more information about NETSAFA, 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