
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

News Release #113-14

Nov. 19, 2014

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International students participate in International Anti-Terrorism and Piracy (IATP) course

PENSACOLA, Fla. – International students enroll in Naval Education and Training Security Assistance Field Activity International Training Center's (NITC) International Anti-Terrorism and Piracy (IATP) course to understand security measures and secure potential terrorist targets.

Students from around the world take the four-week course to provide them with information on the latest developments in anti-terrorism and piracy initiatives, and equip them with the skills to help develop their national and command programs that address these issues.

The course is designed to provide military officers and civilian government officials with an overview of the latest developments in anti-terrorism/piracy actions being taken by governments, militaries and the private sector to defend against potential terrorist and pirate attacks and how to create a plan to meet those threats.

"These students benefit not only from course presentations and materials, but also the input of fellow students who come to the course from countries around the world to share their prospective," said NITC Officer in Charge

Cmdr. Russell Van Diepen. "The course is offered approximately twice a year and was first offered in 2009."

The IATP course features expert military and civilian guest speakers, numerous case studies, and interactive student exercises. They also tour Naval Air Station Pensacola's harbor with Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) officers to learn about strategic port security and visiting United States Coast Guard activities related to learn about Homeland Security.

According to Van Diepen, the training enables the successful execution of the Navy's maritime strategy. "This course is meant for all international officers and civilian equivalents detailed to government positions. However, the content is most applicable to individuals who will return to their respective countries and have direct influence in the areas of anti-terrorism and anti-piracy operations within their service, their country and their region of the world," he said.

Naval Education and Training Security Assistance Field Activity (NETSAFA) coordinates training with the Navy's learning sites, private institutions, and other training providers, depending on a client nation's training needs. More than 5,500 international students from 155 nations attend training annually at various professional military education institutions, warfare community schools, technical centers, and various training sites in support of Foreign Military Sales (FMS) weapons acquisitions. It also manages the NITC aboard Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, Fla. The school's preparatory training introduces international students to the U.S. Navy's approach to training.

Prior to becoming known as NITC, the International Preparatory School was established in 1985 to meet the needs of Royal Saudi Naval Forces students by providing them additional academic and physical training to enhance their success in the rigorous U.S. Navy flight training program.

In 1991, NITC transitioned to the International Technical Training Preparatory School to help prepare all international students to meet the learning demands placed on them in various U.S. Navy technical training courses.

Since then, the school has evolved to include training in numerous military disciplines, both operational and administrative, and has met the needs of more than 50 countries. The school is capable of tailoring programs to meet each client country's needs.

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From the Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs Office