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International students graduate SWOS courses

Newport, RI – A graduation ceremony for the International Surface Warfare Officers School (ISWOS) Division Officer and Joint Maritime Tactical Development Courses was held Dec. 4 at Surface Warfare Officers School's Mullen Auditorium in Newport, R.I.

Adm. Guillermo Enrique Barrera-Hurtado (Ret.), former commander of the Colombian Navy, served as the guest speaker and presented graduation certificates to the 24 graduates from partner nations.

"SWOS is fortunate to host these talented officers from partner nations around the world," said Capt. David Welch, SWOS commanding officer.

"With a common set of principles and a shared set of values to guide our maritime operations, these navies – joined by the United States – can make significant contributions around the globe. I have been impressed with the professionalism, competence and commitment of each of these students."

Lt. Cmdr. Kelly Martin, Director of ISWOS noted that the relationships developed in the international courses will pay significant dividends.

“The students learn a lot here, but the real win is in the cooperation with each other and with the staff,” said Martin. “We really focus on the partnership aspect in working together.”

According to Martin, The International Division Officer Course provides junior officers (O-1 to O-3) with the ability to execute watch station duties aboard surface warfare ships. Highlighted are basic systems, interdependence and interaction, including a foundation in surface combat systems, operational concepts, basic seamanship skills, and engineering.

The International Joint Military Tactical Development (JMTD) course provides warfare specialty officers (O-3 to O-4) with the tactical development skills required to support a joint force commander or naval component commander in a multi-threat environment. This course stresses joint maritime planning and utilizes war gaming in order to assimilate air, surface, and submarine platforms into an effective fighting force.

In this latest offering to Internationals, 24 Students from 13 countries graduated from the courses. On average, ISWOS trains approximately 90 Students a year from 26 countries in four available courses.

For more information about Surface Warfare Officers School, visit <https://www.netc.navy.mil/centers/swos/>.

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