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Surface combat training command hosts training summit for international partner

SAN DIEGO – A training summit between Center for Surface Combat Systems (CSCS) International Programs and the Republic of Korea Navy's (ROKN) Naval Combat System School (NCSS) was held at various CSCS learning sites in the San Diego area Nov 14-18.

"Once again it was my distinct pleasure to join our valued military partners from the Republic of Korea Navy in discussions pertaining to training in Aegis Combat Systems," said Capt. Bob Kerno, commanding officer, CSCS. "I had the privilege of visiting the Republic of Korea in the spring where I was graciously hosted by Capt. Joo and his staff. This time in San Diego I was able to reciprocate by hosting Capt. Joo and his staff at the (CSCS) Fleet Antisubmarine Warfare Training Center (FLEASW). Our discussions centered on our nations continued efforts to improve and expand the training provided to the ROKN."

Included in the visit to the fleet concentration area was Fleet Antisubmarine Warfare Training Center (FLEASW), CSCS Detachment (Det) West, Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) Shore-Based Training Facility (LTF), CSCS Det San Diego and Training Support Center (TSC) San Diego.

While at FLEASW Joo discussed with Kerno and Capt. Richard Thomas, FLEASW's commanding officer how CSCS schools use a blended learning solution applied in instructor-led classrooms, interactive courseware, and hands on simulators to maintain, operate, and employ the Aegis Combat System.

Afterwards Thomas' staff provided Joo with information about the courses taught at FLEASW, while course managers gave detailed descriptions of course format, proficiency level and yearly throughput. The briefing was followed by a tour of the Single Ship Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) lab.

They also watched an Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) / Anti-Surface Warfare (ASUW) Tactical Air Controller emergency low visibility approach and air intercept control event.

On the second day Joo and his staff visited CSCS Det West. Cmdr. Marc Wentz the officer-in-charge (OIC) of CSCS Det West and staff provided a tour of the school, including the Vertical Launching System (VLS) and Close-In Weapons System (CIWS) classrooms, and other trainers.

"Tours and demonstrations of training equipment, both computer-based and operational equipment were of particular interest," said Lt. Cmdr. Kenge Lebold, CSCS Det West. "The merits of both training methods were discussed. Overall, the free flow discussion on training methods provided the ROKN with much to consider as they develop their training."

After concluding their tour of CSCS Det West, the group visited the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) Shore-Based Training Facility (LTF), operated and managed by CSCS Detachment San Diego, for an overview of training

operations. A walking brief presented the LTF missions, current / future capabilities, and strategies being developed to support Train-to-Qualify and Train-to-Certify. Joo and the ROKN delegation were provided an opportunity try the LCS1 Bridge trainer along with demonstrations of the Common Mission Package Trainer (CMPT) executing a launch and recovery scenario with the Remote Mine Hunting System.

The group watched crew members from the Pre-commissioning Unit (PCU) Fort Worth (LCS 3) complete a check list as part of the COMBATSS 21 Console Operator course. COMBATSS 21 is an LCS' core combat management system.

Next Joo and his staff visited CSCS Det San Diego to get familiarized with CSCS' command structure as it pertains to waterfront training. The visit included a look at classrooms and instructor spaces, followed by a brief of the facility's current and future capability.

"It was a great opportunity for us here at the waterfront detachment to explain what we do and how we improve the fleet's readiness," said Senior Chief Operations Specialist Erik Findall, CSCS Det San Diego's Air Intercept Controller Supervisor.. "The discussion on the approach to training between the CSCS waterfront detachments and Afloat Training Group with how CSCS training falls under the Naval Education and Training Command umbrella helped our global partners understand our processes."

Different from the mock-ups like those at LTF, it was stressed to Joo how the waterfront uses the ship itself as a training lab to teach a ship's crew members to operate as a team, but not provide professional certifications. The focus of waterfront detachment training is providing combat system

team training responsiveness and team training events, many of which are conducted onboard ships.

“Demonstrating our capabilities and detailing our training infra-structure assists in fostering understanding with allied partners around the world,” said Lt. Cmdr. Roy Henkle, , CSCS Det San Diego OIC. “It not only improves our efficiencies but it also allows us to provide avenues to assist our partners with the lessons we have learned. The ROKN is interested in how to develop a comprehensive shore-based training system and the opportunity to see ours gives them an example on how to develop their training to best fit their needs and expectations.”

Capt. Antonio Cardoso, commanding officer, Training Support Center (TSC) San Diego, provided Joo with an overview of TSC San Diego and its function.

On his last day Joo and his staff returned to FLEASW to discuss courses, future enhancements to ROKN NCSS education and training, and a plan for future lifetime support and technical training service requirements. Additional training courses were recommended by CSCS International Programs that support the Maritime Strategy by fostering and sustaining cooperative relationships with the ROKN. According to the strategy, expanded cooperative relationships with other nations contribute to the security and stability of the maritime domain for all.

“It is always an honor to build relations with foreign militaries,” Thomas said. “As we embark on new methods of teaching and develop procedures in the classroom, we find that assisting other militaries enhances our training.”

CSCS International Programs partner with U.S. training, readiness, and policy organizations, as well as other government agencies and industry to support international missions.

“Our mission is to provide allied forces quality training to enable them to develop ready teams capable of operations that maintain and expertly employ surface combatants,” explained Dr. Darrell Tatro, director, CSCS International Programs.

For more information about the Center for Surface Combat Systems, <https://www.netc.navy.mil/centers/cscs/>

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