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Contact: Ed Barker

850.452.4858  
(DSN) 922.4858  
(FAX) 850.452.4900

## **First students graduate from Navy's new Basic Division Officer Course**

NORFOLK, Va. – The Surface Warfare Officers School (SWOS) Basic Division Officer Course (BDOC) graduated its inaugural class of Division Officers at a ceremony in Norfolk Nov. 30.

The class, consisting of 70 junior officers, completed the eight-week course designed for prospective surface warfare officers.

“The Basic Division Officer’s Course gives new division officers the foundational knowledge and skills needed to make them more effective in running their divisions and leading their personnel,” said Capt. Richard A. Brown, SWOS commanding officer.

The course places emphasis on in-class instruction and the use of technology such as the Conning Officer Virtual Environment (COVE) simulators, which simulate every class of ship in the U.S. Navy and all their homeports, in addition to many routine ports of call around the world. COVE allows for the reinforcement of concepts in navigation, seamanship, and shiphandling. The

new BDOC also provides instruction on administration, engineering, leadership, and damage control.

Rear Adm. David M. Thomas Jr., commander, Naval Surface Forces Atlantic, spoke at the graduation, and thanked the guests and students for being part of this major achievement for the Surface Warfare community. Thomas reminded the graduates of the importance of their challenging roles and how they will be relied upon as leaders on their ships.

"You're a symbol of our nation, our Navy, your ship, and your division.

Everybody is watching you, so please live up to those very high expectations that I have of you, that the Navy has of you," said Thomas. "Remember, work hard, do your best, be a part of what's going on aboard your ship and most importantly, be a good person."

Ensign Arian Davis, assigned to USS Mesa Verde (LPD 19) earned the BDOC award for Honor Graduate; possessing the highest overall grade point average for the course.

"It was an awesome opportunity, mainly getting to know other SWOs and the different aspects of the ship," said Davis. "The instructors and officer-in-charge were very supportive, staying late with me and answering my questions; I had thousands of questions."

Ensign Carson Talley, assigned to USS Stout (DDG 55), was selected for the COVE shiphandler class award, given to the student who best demonstrates safely docking their ship and displaying the greatest understanding of shiphandling principles.

BDOC training sites in Norfolk and San Diego have staffs of seven, headed by a lieutenant commander, and six lieutenant instructors. BDOC training facilities have been equipped with state-of-the-art electronic classrooms and shiphandling simulators including COVE. Junior officers attending BDOC will also use computer-based training (CBT) for advanced qualifications.

SWOS is headquartered in Newport, R.I., and oversees nine learning sites, providing more than 1,000 courses a year to more than 60,000 Sailors. SWOS uses a mix of instructor-led classes, hands-on labs, simulation and computer-based training. Courses include specialized training supporting all enlisted engineering ratings, and surface warfare officers at every level. Building maritime partnerships, the command also provides training to many international students.

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

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To learn more about the Naval Education and Training Command, visit <https://www.netc.navy.mil>.

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Story by Lt. Forrest Griggs, Surface Warfare Officers School Command