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International Students Graduate Surface Warfare Officers School

NEWPORT, R.I. – Surface Warfare Officers School (SWOS) graduated 23 International naval officers from the Division Officer and Joint Maritime Tactical Development (JMTD) courses during a ceremony in the Pringle Auditorium at the Naval War College Dec. 7.

Students from Bahrain, Bulgaria, Egypt, Latvia, Lebanon, Malaysia, Montenegro, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, and Ukraine graduated during the ceremony and were representative of the more than 150 allied nations sending military students through selected courses at training centers and schools throughout the Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) domain.

“The mission of the international program at SWOS is simple,” said Capt. Richard A. Brown, SWOS commanding officer. “Create the foundation for building trust through knowledge-sharing for the purposes of international partnership and global security. The program is designed to foster international cooperation and prepare officers to serve at-sea, world-wide, through professional education.”

During their stay, International Surface Warfare Division Officer students were immersed in the school’s mission of preparing professional military

officers to serve in afloat billets. The course emphasizes multi-threat warfare, combat information center equipment, special maneuvering, and navigation. Joint Maritime Tactical Development (JMTD) students were provided with the tactical development skills to support a joint force commander or naval component commander in a multi-threat environment. The course stresses joint maritime planning, war gaming, and weapon systems information.

The guest of honor for the ceremony, Rear Adm. (ret.) Jamie Kelly, Dean of the College of Operational Strategic Leadership, Naval War College, thanked the SWOS instructors for their hard work and the graduates for achieving this major accomplishment in their careers. After congratulating the graduates, Kelly reminded them of the global importance of their demanding roles and how they will be relied upon as leaders in the international community.

"It is all about working together. Everything that we do is about working together. We need to understand cross-cultural issues," said Kelly. "You need to understand the cultures you are working with because everyone is different from each other. You are going to have to maintain the sea lanes of communications around the globe."

The students shared the same facilities and instructors with students from the U.S. and like their American counterparts, used the same modern classrooms and high-tech virtual reality trainers. The technology, along with hands-on training, is used to broaden the scope of the students' surface warfare knowledge, and ranges from basic seamanship to complex maritime operations.

Social and cultural events were included in the curriculum. The international students participated in field studies programs designed to promote an understanding of American society, its institutions, ideals and overarching commitment to basic principles of human rights. Field trips included tours at the Rhode Island state house, Plimoth Plantation, Newport Police Department, and a Newport history and mansions tour along with social gatherings with international students attending the U.S. Naval War College.

SWOS is headquartered in Newport, R.I. and oversees nine learning sites which provide more than 1,000 courses a year to more than 67,000 Sailors. SWOS uses a mix of blended-learning techniques comprised of instructor-led classes, hands-on labs, simulation and computer-based training. Courses include specialized training supporting all enlisted engineering ratings, and SWOs 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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