



PEARL HARBOR NAVAL SHIPYARD CONGRESSIONAL & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

667 Safeguard Street Suite 100, Code 1160

Pearl Harbor, Hawaii 96860

Phone: (808) 474-0272 Fax: (808) 474-0269

Web site: www.navsea.navy.mil/shipyards/pearl

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 6, 2012

Pearl Harbor shipyard hosts international shipyard management class

By Katie Vanes, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii – Naval officers from six different countries are attending a six-week annual International Shipyard Management Course at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. Classes began Jan. 23 and will finish in early March.

“We are supporting the Theater Security Cooperation Program to enhance strategic alliances and partnerships” said Robert Sonoda, Shipyard supervisory production controller. “We familiarize them in shipyard management concepts to conduct efficient, economical, environmentally sound and secure operations to help allies build their capability and capacity.”

Ten naval officers from Ireland, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Philippines, Saudi Arabia and the Republic of China (Taiwan) are learning about shipyard capabilities, project management, docking vessels and establishing analysis programs. They are additionally learning about quality assurance and how certain work is performed. The last two weeks of the course involve generic ship maintenance processes and selected subjects requested by the international military students.

The international naval forces involved in the program have fleets that vary in size and capability, according to Sonoda. For example, some of the countries have floating dry docks and others do not have any at all.

Sonoda explained that the students benefit from the opportunity to see firsthand and understand how a U.S. Navy shipyard operates.

“Essentially they take away valuable management skills and the ability to compare and improve their programs as needed,” said Sonoda. “They talk amongst themselves about solving problems.”

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard is a full-service naval shipyard and regional maintenance center for the U.S. Navy's surface ships and submarines. It is the largest industrial employer in the state of Hawaii with a combined civilian and military workforce of about 4,850 and an economic impact of \$925 million.

Strategically located in the mid-Pacific, the Shipyard is about a week of steam time closer to potential major regional contingencies in East Asia than sites on the West Coast.

For more information on the Shipyard, visit www.navsea.navy.mil/shipyards/pearl.