



# SMWDC QUARTERLY

NAVAL SURFACE AND MINE WARFIGHTING DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Volume 1, Issue 1

December 2016

## First SWATT Exercise

*Warfare Tactics Instructors coordinate missile exercise rehearsals on USS Princeton (CG 59)*

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IAMD Division participates in Black Dart 2016

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## The Admiral's Corner

Last summer I relieved Rear Admiral Jim Kilby as Commander, Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center (SMWDC). In today's strategic environment, the maritime domain is growing in importance. As such, SMWDC's charge is to enhance the tactical proficiency of the surface force so that we are better prepared to operate and fight decisively alongside our naval, joint and coalition partners.

SMWDC consists of a headquarters staff based in San Diego and four Divisions -- Sea Combat (San Diego, California), Mine Warfare (Point Loma, California), Integrated Air and Missile Defense (Dahlgren, Virginia) and Amphibious Warfare (Little Creek, Virginia). We are focused on four lines of effort: advanced tactical training; doctrine and tactical development; operational support; and capability assessment and experimentation.



*Rear Admiral John Wade  
Commander, SMWDC*

Everything we do and all we aim to achieve is enabled by a cadre of trained warriors, thinkers and teachers known as Warfare Tactics Instructors (WTI). They are the subject matter experts in their respective warfare areas who help facilitate training in all phases of the Navy's Optimized Fleet Response Plan. Additionally, they drive the efforts to refresh or generate new tactics, techniques and procedures, support their deployed surface forces, and help identify the capabilities needed for the fleet of the future. WTIs are the engine that drives everything; I refer to them as our "Center of Gravity".

The purpose of this inaugural newsletter and those that follow is to inform and update the Surface Warfare Enterprise on what the dedicated professionals of SMWDC and WTIs are doing within our four lines of effort to help our community, our Navy and our joint force better prepare to fight, and win – today and tomorrow.

## Valiant Shield 2016

Exercise Valiant Shield 2016 was a U.S. Pacific Command directed Joint Field Training Exercise (FTX) with over 11,000 participants from the Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Army. This biennial FTX showcased high-end joint tactics and over two dozen experiments designed to advance joint warfighting capability. During this two-week event, forward deployed naval forces, including both sea and land based Marine assets, and Air Force Aircraft improved fighter and strike interoperability through challenging advanced tactical vignettes and free-play scenarios.

More than 30 SMWDC personnel supported Valiant Shield 2016, including WTIs embedded with Destroyer Squadron 15 staff onboard USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), with the Integrated Air and Missile Defense Commander, USS Chancellorsville (CG 62), and guided missile destroyers. Additionally, several personnel supported the Joint Exercise Control Group (JECG) as maritime planners and adjudicators. Supporting this major joint exercise, SMWDC WTIs provided training and mentoring opportunities and had first-hand observation of advanced tactics employment in a large scale FTX. Ashore, JECG participants provided subject matter expertise to support scenario realism and timely battle hit assessments.

Two live-fire events highlighted the exercise, including the sinking of Ex-USS Rentz (FFG 46) with two surface-launched Harpoon missiles from USS John S. McCain (DDG 56) and USS Benfold (DDG 65), and a surface-to-air missile (SAM) exercise with eight SM-2 SAMs and three rolling airframe missiles against drone targets. The interaction of the forward deployed Carrier Strike Group, Expeditionary Strike Group, and expeditionary Marine and Air Force aircraft from Guam and Tinian islands highlighted the full spectrum of the nation's joint sea control and power projection capabilities.



*Lieutenant Steve Perry conducts training with Lieutenant j.g. Ashley Perry during Valiant Shield 2016.*

## WTIs Underway for First SWATT Exercise

SMWDC led its first ever stand-alone Surface Warfare Advanced Tactical Training (SWATT) exercise in the Southern California operating area for USS Nimitz Strike Group (NIMSG) ships, September 26 through October 11, 2016. SWATT is a three week event that serves as a bridge between the Basic Phase level of training and COMPTUEX. It provides ships, Air Defense Commander teams, and Destroyer Squadron staffs with the advanced level training in a multi-ship environment before proceeding to the integrated phase with the entire strike group.

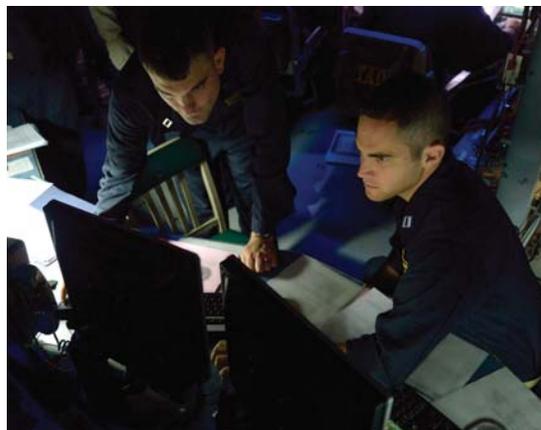
NIMSG SWATT included one week of academic training followed by 16 days of at-sea training. Six NIMSG cruisers and destroyers, along with two Canadian Halifax Class Frigates, and a Chilean submarine executed over

100 at-sea events across anti-aircraft warfare, anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare and electromagnetic maneuver warfare areas during the 16-day event. The at-sea schedule provided the training in a crawl-walk-run approach by increasing complexity/difficulty of warfare area events over time.

On top of multiple sets and repetitions to increase proficiency, NIMSG SWATT also encompassed the Plan, Brief, Execute and Debrief (PBED) model of training. The PBED model provided NIMSG ships a standardized methodology, with dedicated time in the schedule of events, to prepare, brief and fully debrief each tactical event. Embarked WTIs, in conjunction with subject matter experts from Naval Surface Warfare Center Corona, constructed event replays using recorded shipboard data and voice circuits combined with ground truth positional data to produce a detailed replay of each tactical event. This allowed WTIs to walk shipboard watchteams through each event chronologically, pausing to discuss tactical decision making and watchstander actions during key elements of the event. The ground truth replay and subsequent discussion allowed watchstanders to think tactically about their actions and then apply lessons learned when preparing for the next event, significantly enhancing learning, knowledge, retention, and performance throughout the 16-day underway.

While SWATT is still in its early stages of maturation, it has redefined the standard to which our community will train, fight, and win -- tactically. SMWDC looks forward to continuing to work with afloat units and training commands to deliver tactically relevant training to our surface Fleet.

*Right, Lieutenants Damon Goodrich-Houska and Ben Olivas teach a combat watch team aboard USS Chafee (DDG 90).*



*Left, USS Chafee (DDG 90) fires its Mark 45 5-inch lightweight gun off the starboard side during a Surface Warfare Advanced Tactical Training (SWATT) live-fire exercise with USS Princeton (CG 59) and USS Shoup (DDG 86) in the Southern California operating area. SWATT is a three-week exercise designed to tactically prepare cruisers and destroyers for carrier strike group integration.*



*Above, USS Princeton (CG 59) launches an SM-2 missile during a live missile fire event as part of an exercise in the Pacific Ocean.*

AMW

## Gator Tactics

SMWDC Amphibious Warfare (AMW) Division is the home of the 'Tactical Gator' and a key node for amphibious training and tactical development across the Navy – Marine Corps team. We collaborate with multiple partners in the amphibious training arena, including the Expeditionary Warfare Training Groups, Tactical Training Groups, and the certifying Carrier Strike Groups (CSGs) for both Atlantic and Pacific Fleets. In addition, we interact with a variety of Marine Corps commands, including Expeditionary Warfare School, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, and Marine Forces Command, among others. With a mandate to look across the entire continuum of amphibious warfare training, SMWDC AMW is uniquely positioned to standardize tactics and procedures and accelerate the learning as ships move from basic phase to integrated training and then to deployment.

Following the success of the USS Nimitz Strike Group's Surface Warfare Advanced Tactical Training (SWATT) in October 2016, SMWDC is working to advance the concept of conducting SWATT events in support of Amphibious Ready Groups (ARGs). With the USS Bataan ARG well into the integrated training window, AMW Warfare Tactics Instructors (WTIs) have participated in the ARG's Fleet Synthetic Training Group Commander event and went to sea during ARG Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) exercise. In San Diego, SMWDC headquarters is developing a plan for advanced tactical training that will complement the PHIBRON MEU Integration Training (PMINT) for USS America ARG in Spring 2017.

AMW Division also supports the planning and execution of SWATT events for Atlantic based CSGs and is looking at how best to support Harry S. Truman CSG later in 2017. The integrated training for both the CSG and ARG in the Fall of 2017 will coincide with exercise Bold Alligator 2017, which provides an opportunity to develop amphibious doctrine and explore the interoperability of CSGs and an Expeditionary Strike Group embarked with a large Marine Air Ground Task Force. AMW WTIs will play an active role in both the planning and execution of this exercise as well as the post analysis that shapes future amphibious doctrine and capabilities.

The SWATT mission requires a full spectrum of support from all three WTI cadres: Integrated Air and Missile Defense, Anti-Submarine/Anti-Surface and AMW. As a result, SMWDC AMW Division is growing in size and complexity, becoming an environment for collaboration across warfare areas.

The operational debut of the F-35B Lightning in 2017 represents an exciting avenue of tactical development for the amphibious force. AMW WTIs are actively participating in the development of the operating concepts and will participate in a U.S. Fleet Forces Command sponsored F-35B wargame in January 2017. SMWDC is also supporting a related effort to develop an "Ungunned Expeditionary Strike Group" operating concept that envisions the offensive and defensive capabilities of an Amphibious Task Force enabled by both F-35B and cruiser/destroyer assets.

SMWDC AMW Division is working on a variety of tactical publication updates, including the Ship-to-Shore manual (NTTP 3-02.1 / MCWP 3-31.5) and Allied Tactical Publication 08 (Amphibious Operations). AMW Division is also working on the DDG 1000 Warfighting Concept of Operations and Class Tactical Publication in support of SWMDC's broader mission of maintaining the surface warfare community's tactical library.

AMW Division's location at Joint Base Little Creek puts WTIs within a short drive of the world's largest concentration of naval power and creates tremendous opportunities for interacting with ships, training commands, and our Navy's laboratories and Surface Warfare Centers. Whether developing concepts in amphibious warfare or supporting advanced tactics across all mission areas at sea, AMW Division is making a positive impact across multiple facets of the Surface Force.



AMW WTI course students visit the 7th Sustainment Brigade at Fort Eustis, Virginia.

*"Warfare Tactics Instructors: The Tactical Center of Gravity"*

# AMW

## AMW WTI Update

The 13 week AMW WTI curriculum is currently the main focus of effort at SMWDC AMW Division. In 2016, AMW Division graduated two classes of students, in May and October, totaling 20 AMW WTIs.

The most recent class of graduates included 10 U.S. Navy post-division officer students and one Australian Navy officer. Those graduates were Lieutenant Christopher Browett (first SWO(N) to become a WTI), Lieutenant Courtney Banske, Lieutenant George Gagnon, Lieutenant Brittany Hubbard (Honor Graduate), Lieutenant Kaila Julia, Lieutenant Latoya Phillips, Lieutenant Diana Spivey, Lieutenant Takeru Tajiri (Leadership Award Winner), Lieutenant Phil Wise (attended WTI course post Naval Postgraduate School), Lieutenant Sequoia Watson, and Lieutenant Commander Chris Emonson of the Royal Australian Navy (first foreign-allied officer to become a WTI).

Of the first 20 AMW WTI graduates, nine have become SMWDC AMW Division staff officers with the primary goal of refining the AMW WTI curriculum. Our goal is for WTIs to teach WTIs the most relevant material on employment of amphibious ships and embarked forces across the full spectrum of warfare missions with an emphasis on amphibious warfare.

The remaining AMW WTIs are in production tours at a combination of commands including: Expeditionary Warfare Training Groups Atlantic and Pacific; Commander Naval Surface Forces Atlantic; U.S.

Marine Corps Expeditionary Warfare School at Quantico; Expeditionary Strike Group Seven in Okinawa; Surface Warfare Officers School; SMWDC Sea Combat Division; and SMWDC headquarters. The Royal Australian Navy graduate is an air defense principal warfare officer currently serving as a liaison naval officer to SMWDC and will transfer back to Australia in Summer 2017.

In its first two iterations, the AMW WTI course relied on the support of other warfare training commands, including Tactical Training Group Atlantic, Expeditionary Training Group Atlantic, and experts on Ship Self-Defense System from the Aegis Training and Readiness Center in Dahlgren. These interactions add tremendous value and will continue in future courses, but as the base of AMW WTIs grows, we intend to leverage WTI talent in facilitating the course.

One key aspect of the AMW WTI curriculum is the two-week Fleet Immersion module which includes visits to Naval Beach Group Two, L-class ships (LHD, LPD and LSD), Maritime Pre-positioning Force ships, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, II Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Lejeune, and the U.S. Army's Seventh Sustainment Brigade at Fort Eustis, in order to learn about LCU 2000 landing craft and joint logistics over the shore operations.

AMW WTIs graduate from the 13-week course with a solid academic background in all aspects of amphibious planning, ship-to-shore movement, Ship Self Defense System, amphibious aviation, combat cargo embark/debark, composite warfare concept in an Amphibious Ready Group or larger Amphibious Task Force, and enabling functions such as intelligence, supporting arms, logistics and cross-CTF support.

The year 2016 was 12 months of tremendous growth for SMWDC AMW Division, and 2017 will be more exciting as our capacity grows.



*Left and below, AMW WTI Class 16020*



## IAMD

*SMWDC IAMD Participation in Black Dart 2016*

SMWDC's Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) Division participated in the annual Black Dart Counter Unmanned Aircraft System (C-UAS) demonstration event, September 19 to 23, 2016. Black Dart is the U.S. military's largest live-fire C-UAS exercise. This event, sponsored by the Joint Staff J8 Joint Integrated Air and Missile Defense Organization (JIAMDO), assesses Department of Defense, Inter-Agency and Industry C-UAS capabilities across the IAMD Joint Engagement Sequence. This unique opportunity brings together a wide variety of UAS systems and technologies to defeat them, and for the first time was hosted on the east coast at Eglin Air Force Base.

USS Lassen (DDG 82) and USS Jason Dunham (DDG 109) participated in the event under the leadership of Carrier Strike Group 12 as operational test coordinator and SMWDC IAMD's technical and tactical guidance. SMWDC's primary objective for this event was to validate procedures in a new C-UAS tactical memorandum that was developed in support of Commander Fifth Fleet and initially exercised in July 2016 with Carrier Strike Group 10. Both ships performed well during Black Dart, having implemented tactical memorandum settings, consistently tracking exercise UAS and maintaining radar resources for other missions. IAMD Division updated the tactical memorandum with lessons learned from this event and delivered the updated revision in November 2016.

Other Black Dart objectives of interest to the surface community included the demonstration of non-kinetic negation techniques, operations in the contested electromagnetic domain, and demonstrations of Joint technologies to support enhanced combat identification. Subject matter experts, IAMD WTIs and officers from Surface Warfare Officers School were engaged in planning with event stakeholders. WTIs were embarked on both ships during rehearsals and the demonstration event. This was an excellent event for refining C-UAS tactical guidance and showed the value in the relationship between Carrier Strike Group staff and WTIs through the process of tactical validation. SMWDC IAMD is already planning for the next Black Dart event, scheduled for May 2017. Key maritime objectives for this event include a live fire of five inch Multi-Function Fuze rounds and the first shipboard assessment of Agile Sundowner, the new Aegis capability for UAS detection and tracking improvements.

**INTEGRATED AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE IS THE ALIGNMENT AND OPTIMIZATION  
OF PLATFORMS, SYSTEMS, OPERATIONS, AND TACTICS, TECHNIQUES AND PROCEDURES  
AT THE UNIT, FORCE AND JOINT LEVELS  
FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFEATING AIR AND MISSILE THREATS**

*New Operational and Tactical Level Publications Advance Navy Air and Missile Defense*

Since our transition from the former Navy Air and Missile Defense Command to SMWDC IAMD Division, we have renewed our emphasis on doctrine and tactics. We have created 14 new operational and tactical level publications to advance Navy Air and Missile Defense operations. These publications directly support NATO ballistic missile defense, ship self-defense for aircraft carriers and amphibious assault ships, and employment of advanced integrated fire control networks to attack enemy aircraft. Additionally, SMWDC IAMD Division provided expert content to numerous Joint and Navy publications to include Joint Publication 3-01 Countering Air and Missile Threats and Multi-Service Tactics Integrated Air Defense Systems. Creation of innovative tactical guidance for our ships in challenging environments is a collaborative team effort that includes the entire SMWDC staff, IAMD WTI community, and stakeholder commands including Navy Warfare Development Command, Missile Defense Agency, Program Executive Officer for Integrated Warfare Systems, Navy Information Operations Command, Fleet Electronic Warfare Center, training commands, Fleet staffs and ship crews. This great work continues aggressively into the coming year with revision of Aegis Core Tactics and new Navy Warfare Publication Fleet Air and Missile Defense.



*The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Benfold (DDG 65) fires a standard missile (SM-2) at a target drone.*

## Rim of the Pacific 2016

In support of Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2016, SMWDC Mine Warfare (MIW) Division stood up as Commander Task Force (CTF) 177 to conduct Mine Warfare Operations off the coast of San Diego, California. RIMPAC is a multi-national exercise that takes place every two years. This year, CTF 177 consisted of six nations: United States, Australia, Canada, Norway, Germany, and Japan. There were two task groups, one led by Australia and the other by the United States. The United States ships involved in this year's RIMPAC were USS Champion (MCM 4), USS Pearl Harbor (LSD 52) and USS Freedom (LCS 1). The purpose of the exercise was to refine coalition interoperability, and to test the ability of Expeditionary Mine Countermeasures (EXMCM) Companies to conduct Mine Countermeasure (MCM) missions off a Littoral Combat Ship. RIMPAC allowed CTF 177 to exercise and refine multi-national communications and tactical decision aids interoperability.



SMWDC's Commander, Task Unit 177.2.1 Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians, retrieve an inert mine during a mine-hunting exercise in support of the Southern California portion of RIMPAC 2016.

## Ulchi Freedom Guardian 2016

On August 22, 2016, SMWDC Mine Warfare Battle Staff deployed to the Republic of Korea (ROK), joining personnel from Mine Countermeasures Squadron (MCMRON) 7 and MCMRON 3 (Division 31), to form CTF 77 for participation in Ulchi Freedom Guardian 2016. This annual two week joint exercise is held to enhance and refine U.S./ROK interoperability and readiness. Stationed in the Mine Warfare Coordination Center in Busan, ROK, CTF 77 worked closely with the ROK Navy's Mine Squadron 52 staff to provide a combined and coordinated MIW effort in support of the Naval Component Commander. This effort included testing and refining new doctrine and executing bilateral mine countermeasures mission sets and reporting processes. The exercise culminated in an amphibious landing challenge that flexed and strengthened U.S./ROK problem solving capabilities.

SMWDC MIW Division personnel and the Mine Warfare Training Center led a pilot Surface Warfare Advanced Tactical Training (SWATT) onboard USS Gladiator (MCM 11) September 6 to 15, 2016. The 10 day training visit focused on advanced tactical skillsets, and facilitated the progression of Command Information Center (CIC) watch teams beyond basic phase competency. Following an in-port training period centered on key MCM administrative programs, the team got underway with Gladiator in transit to a Fifth Fleet exercise minefield. Once on station, the SWATT team assisted ship's company through seven days of rigorous training that encompassed all aspects of mine hunting and sweeping. In the CIC, SWATT members provided training to sonar operators while others on the weather deck guided ship's force personnel through the launch and recovery of an inert SEAFOX Remotely Operated Vehicle. On the fantail, SWATT team personnel gave hands-on training on the rigging, streaming, and recovery of complex minesweeping equipment.

Response from the crew was overwhelmingly positive. "The crew received over-the-shoulder mentoring from the Fleet's subject matter experts. By the end of the exercise, the crew developed a higher level of expertise and the SWATT trainers made several observations which should bring positive change," said Lieutenant Commander Francisco Garza, the ship's Commanding Officer. In light of the pilot program's success, SMWDC expects a strong demand signal for these visits, and intends to conduct seven annually to units in the Third, Fifth, and Seventh Fleet areas of operations.



Left, SWATT personnel from SMWDC observe USS Gladiator (MCM 11) deck personnel rig a minesweep during the inaugural SWATT MCM training visit.

## Sea Combat Division Trains to Attack Effectively First

Interested in developing and teaching tactics? SMWDC Sea Combat Division is where you should be! As warriors, thinkers and teachers, our primary purpose is to improve Fleet combat readiness in multiple warfare areas, and be fully engaged in Fleet training and exercise initiatives across the Surface Force.

Anti-Submarine/Surface WTI class 02-16, recently completed the final phase of rigorous academics and applied tactics in the Anti-Submarine Warfare mission.

The class consisted of 17 junior officers, including three post-department head and 14 post division officers. All were screened and selected based on sustained superior performance throughout their career, and demonstrated talent and initiative in earning tactical qualifications. Most had some degree of experience in anti-submarine warfare (ASW) and anti-surface warfare (SUW), but applicants without ASW/SUW backgrounds were welcome to apply. Six of class 02-16's graduates recently joined the SMWDC Sea Combat Division staff to continue developing and improving the ASW/SUW WTI course. The 11 remaining graduates will serve in production tours at tactical training commands including Afloat Training Group San Diego, Distributed Lethality Task Force, Fleet Anti-Submarine Warfare Training Center, National Maritime Targeting Center, SMWDC headquarters, SMWDC Amphibious Warfare Division, Undersea Warfighting Development Center, and Tactical Training Group Pacific.

The Anti-Submarine and Anti-Surface warfare areas are exceptionally demanding and crucial to U.S. Navy primary missions. Both require an in-depth understanding of U.S., allied, and threat nation capabilities and limitations. If you are a warfighting professional interested in evolving Fleet training to meet the high demands of present and future naval warfare, the ASW/SUW WTI program is seeking eager, motivated officers who aspire to be tactical leaders!



*Lieutenants Elyse Mielnik, Beatriz Beach, Ashley Allison and Anya Kinoshita proudly show the patches they received upon graduating from the SMWDC's WTI course at Naval Base San Diego. The tactical quartet was four of 17 graduates from SMWDC's second ASW/SUW WTI course.*

## WTI in the Spotlight

A 2015 Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) Warfare Tactics Instructor (WTI) course graduate, Lieutenant Commander Chad Trubilla is this quarter's WTI in the spotlight. Trubilla is a primary author of a new Tactical Memorandum for integrated, non-organic, joint sensors for maritime targeting solutions to be used by Fleet warfighters. He also developed tactics, techniques, and procedures for Fleet warfighters to employ the next generation Tomahawk Land Attack Missile. He authored a multiphase test plan, coordinating with multiple joint and interagency partners to validate his new tactics.

Trubilla led a maritime targeting team in the execution of his test plan during Valiant Shield 2016 when USS Benfold (DDG 65), USS John S. McCain (DDG 56), and joint and combined assets successfully sank the former USS Rentz (FFG 46).

Currently assigned to SMWDC headquarters N5 department, Trubilla is the Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance, and Targeting, and Distributed Lethality lead. He screened for O-5 command and is slated as the prospected executive officer/prospective commanding officer of USS Rafael Peralta (DDG 115).



*Lieutenant Commander Chad Trubilla*

## Warfighting First

Congratulations to the 40 WTIs who received their patches as graduates of WTI class 16-020! These incredibly talented Warriors - Thinkers - Teachers are empowered to be the most tactically proficient warfighters in our community. They will continue to raise the warfighting readiness and tactical acumen of the Surface Force.

Many of them have reported to SMWDC headquarters in San Diego and SMWDC warfare divisions in San Diego, Little Creek and Dahlgren. WTIs are SMWDC's center of gravity for training Naval Surface Forces in advanced tactics, techniques and procedures (TTP) at all levels during all phases of training, and for developing the doctrine and TTP we need to fight and WIN. Once again, congratulations to these 40 WTIs - the tactical best of the best!

*Below, IAMD graduates with Rear Admiral Wade*



*Above, AMW graduates with Rear Admiral Wade*

*Below, Sea Combat graduates*



## IAMD WTIs -- From the Classroom to the Fleet

Having managed the Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) Warfare Tactics Instructor (WTI) program for the past two years, my qualification as an IAMD WTI and service at SMWDC IAMD are career accomplishments for which I am especially proud. As I head toward my next tour as an executive officer/commanding officer of a destroyer, I am excited to see how the program will further develop and I know that our IAMD WTIs will continue to have an immensely positive impact on the tactical readiness of the Fleet.

Since 2013, the IAMD WTI program has managed the execution and completion of seven IAMD WTI classes with a total of 78 patch wearing graduates. Each IAMD WTI convening includes over 750 hours of lessons, labs, table-top exercises, guided discussions, instructional opportunities and boards. Additionally, each IAMD WTI class participates in stand-alone and integrated combat simulations with the Aegis Training and Readiness Center Combat Systems Officer course students under the Air and Missile Defense Commander curricula – alongside propective department heads, executive officers and commanding officers. Every graduate must possess complete comprehension of foreign sensors, platforms, and weapons – both conventional and asymmetric. This level of understanding must be demonstrated through a board process requiring on-the-spot analysis of C4ISR, “tactics, techniques and procedures”, kill chains, the “Find, Fix, Track, Target, Engage, and Assess”, process in the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Fleet area of responsibilities (AORs).

In addition to running the Maritime Air Defense schoolhouse (affectionately called MAD House), the IAMD WTI staff is heavily involved with all SMWDC divisions and the Fleet. Over the past 18 months, SMWDC IAMD has executed Fleet Engagement events in each AOR aimed at providing in-depth tactical training to the ships and staffs, but also soliciting vital Fleet feedback to incorporate into the tactical development process. These inputs have assisted the SMWDC IAMD staff in writing the Advanced Anti-Ship Cruise Missile and Counter-Unmanned Autonomous Systems Tactical Memorandums (TACMEM-Os), ensuring that the Fleet has the most up to date and relevant tactical guidance.



Commander Dave Taft,  
IAMD WTI Program Manager

Over the past year, IAMD WTIs and SMWDC IAMD staff -- along with the Carrier Airborne Early Warning Weapons School WTIs, have developed a course of instruction, Integrated Air Defense Course, for Carrier Strike Groups with Naval Integrated Fires Control – Counter Air capabilities that dramatically improves the communication line between Surface Warfare Officers and our aviation counterparts for future tactical operations.

Concurrently, SMWDC IAMD Division utilized Live Fire With a Purpose (LFWAP) missile exercises as a way in which to test and validate TACMEMOs and latest tactical recommendations. Multiple IAMD WTIs have planned, trained, and executed LFWAP events for three Carrier Strike Groups, one Expeditionary Strike Group, and an operational exercise, seeking to increase the complexity and tactical application with each event. Additionally, through the Operational Reachback support arm of SMWDC IAMD, the IAMD WTI candidates, staff WTIs and subject matter experts have provided in-depth analysis as well as technical and tactical recommendations, real time, for ships operating in Seventh Fleet, the eastern Mediterranean and the Red Sea.

Going forward, our IAMD WTIs will continue to be involved in a variety of events around the globe and are deeply invested in helping to improve the tactical proficiency of the Surface Navy. This elite cadre of tactically advanced, highly trained and innovative Surface Warfare Officers will continue to develop the tactics which will provide our Sailors with the competence and confidence to employ their weapons systems if called upon -- where it matters -- when it matters.

*"Projecting power from the sea thousands of miles from our shores  
is our Navy's competitive advantage.*

*We are beginning a concerted upgrade in our tactical standards and expertise  
with the establishment of the Naval Surface Warfighting Development Center (SMWDC).*

*SMWDC's Warfare Tactics Instructors (WTI) will  
renew our focus on tactics development and warfighting.*

*I am committed to SMWDC's success as an  
essential means of improving our community combat readiness."*

**Vice Admiral Thomas Rowden,  
Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific**

## ***Tactical Excellence by Design***

**Commander  
Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center  
4170 Norman Scott Rd, Ste 4  
San Diego, CA 92136-5519**

**N1/N4: 619-788-7949**

**N3/N7: 619-767-6042**

**N5: 619-952-6153**

**N6: 619-767-6104**

**N8: 619-556-4703**

**EA: 619-309-3172**

**PAO: 619-379-0264**



**Captain Brian Finman, Director  
Amphibious Warfare Division  
757-675-5030**



**Captain Jim Jones, Director  
Integrated Air and Missile Defense Division  
540-653-9901**



**Captain Chris Merwin, Director  
Mine Warfare Division  
619-524-0396**



**Captain Brian Shipman, Director  
Sea Combat Division  
619-556-4696**

**<http://www.public.navy.mil/surfor/nsmwdc/>**

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