

NETSAFA Conducts Advanced Leadership Training in Comoros

PENSACOLA, Fla. -- The Naval Education and Training Security Assistance Field Activity's (NETSAFA) Mobile Education Training (MET) recently returned from a two week leadership course in Comoros, Africa.

The MET taught a class on International Professional Advanced Leadership (IPAL) to 21 experienced officers from the three main branches of the Comoros military: the Army, Coast Guard and Gendarmerie (military police).

All lectures were presented in French through simultaneous translation by staff from the United States Embassy in Madagascar. All course materials were translated into French in advance by the Navy Center for Language, Regional Expertise and Culture, Naval Technical Training Center, Pensacola.

According to AOC (AW/SW) Ryan G. Johnson, Advanced Leadership Instructor assigned to the NETSAFA International Training Center (NITC), the translators and translations were essential to success for the MET.

"Being able to deliver the IPAL course in the native language of the Comoran military made it much easier for both of us" (said Johnson). "That way, we could concentrate on course content rather than language differences".

Course instruction included forty hours of leadership and values training, eight hours of battlefield/leadership guided discussions, four hours of the Law of Armed Conflict and four hours on ROE and of rules of engagement and use of force with associated exercises for the courses.

"The Comoran military enthusiasm throughout all facets of the curriculum demonstrated the vital importance of global partnership between Comoros and the United States", said Paul Roarke, NITC Instructor. "Comoros

routinely participates in the joint maritime capacity building operation known as Africa Partnership Station, and this Training will enhance their military leadership.”

The Course graduation was held at the Comoros Gendarmerie Headquarters, hosted by Colonel Youssouf Ijhadi, the Chief of Staff of the Comoros military.

CDR Russell Van Diepen, NETSAFA International Training Center (NITC) Officer in Charge, said that the MET is an important facet of the NITC organization.

“This training marks the fourth successful delivery of NETSAFA International Training Center’s IPAL MET abroad over the past 6 years,” said Van Diepen. “Although the majority of NITC’s training is held stateside, for countries that cannot be without their senior enlisted, their military leaders or afford a large group absent at one time, this allows NETSAFA to bring the needed expertise and training to them.”

NETSAFA is the U.S. Navy's agent for international education and training, and is dedicated to providing assistance to international partners to facilitate development of successful training programs.

For more information about NETSAFA, visit <http://www.netsafa.navy.mil>.

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