

# JLATF WEST

NEWS QUARTERLY

Counternarcotics Program News in the Indo-Asia-Pacific



## Counternarcotics Training in the Philippines

VOLUME 1  
ISSUE 3  
2014



# JIATF WEST

N E W S   Q U A R T E R L Y

July - September 2014

Volume 1 Issue 3

## **Director**

RDML James E. Rendon, USCG

## **Deputy Director**

Mr. Earl Hampton

## **Chief of Staff**

CAPT Andrew St. John, USN

## **Editorial Director**

LtCol Duncan Buchanan, USMC

## **Senior Contributing Editor**

CDR Solomon Thompson, USCG

## **Copy Chief & Graphic Design**

Mr. Shawn Parrish

## **Editorial Staff**

Ms. Nancy Linn

Ms. Lee-Ann McClain

Mr. Stephen Bower

LCDR Aja Kirksey, USCG

Lt Col Jason Schramm, USAF

Mr. Scott Hawman

Mr. Tom Wood

## **Article Contributors**

Mr. Sesh Munipalli, Capt Paul Trower, USMC; LCDR Michael Hosey, USCG; LT Franz Federschmidt, USN; Mr. Shawn Parrish; LCDR Aja Kirksey, USCG; LCDR Mitch Boltz, USN; LCDR Stephen Bower, USN

## **Foreign Disclosure Officers**

Mr. Kenneth Ayers

Mr. Terrence Honay

## **Public Affairs Support - USPACOM**

MAJ David Eastburn, USA – USPACOM

MAJ Karolyn Mcewen, USA – SOCPAC

This e-Newsletter was produced by  
Joint Interagency Task Force West  
J5 Strategic Communications.

For questions, comments, or story ideas, please contact

Mr. Shawn Parrish

Ph: 808-477-9758

Email: shawn.parrish.ctr@jiatfw.pacom.mil

JIATF West ATTN: J5

BOX 64033, CAMP H.M. SMITH, HI 96861-4033

Phone 808-477-9708 Email: info@jiatfw.pacom.mil

Web:

<http://www.pacom.mil/Contact/Directory/JointInteragencyTaskForceWest.aspx>

This publication is available for download at:  
<http://www.dvidshub.net/publication/570/joint-interagency-task-force-west-newsletter>

Photos on Flickr <http://www.flickr.com/photos/jiatf-w>

All content within this document is unclassified.

Reproduction and distribution of this publication or any of its content is allowed and welcome.



4

## CNT Training in the Philippines

JIATF West kicked off two law enforcement training events in Puerto Princesa, Philippines, on 14 July 2014. One training event was a three week Integrated Maritime Skills (IMS) course and the other was a four week Counter Narco-Terrorism (CNT) training course, Baker Piston 14-1.



17

## PTCN Website Demo

JIATF West's IT Plans and Implementation Officer, LCDR Mitch Boltz, USN, travelled to Apia, Samoa, to present training on a new web based coordination service designed for the Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Center (PTCCC).



10

## ADM Harris Visits JIATF West

On Tuesday 23 September 2014, ADM Harry Harris, Commander U.S. Pacific Fleet, paid a visit to JIATF West for an office call with RDML James Rendon. The purpose was to learn more about the mission of JIATF West and its programs in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.



19

## NETT Training in Thailand

The Narcotics Enforcement Training Team program conducted three counterdrug courses in Thailand late August, 2014. Courses included a Narcotics Investigation Course (NIC), an Airport Interdiction Operations course, and an Undercover Operational Planning course.



12

## Financial Investigations in Hong Kong

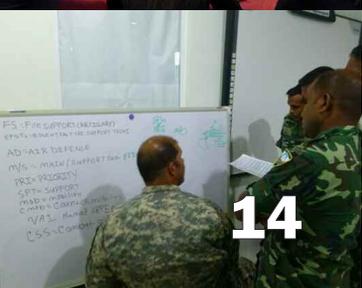
JIATF West and Homeland Security Investigations Hong Kong (HSI HK) conducted a one week Advanced Topics in Financial Investigations Workshop (ATFIW).



22

## Vietnamese Delegation

A delegation, from Vietnam's Ministry of National Defense, traveled to Hawaii to meet with JIATF West while in town for a Bilateral Defense Dialogue with USPACOM.



14

## Baker Series CNT in Maldives

From 24 August to 19 September, 2014, members of the Maldives National Defense Force Coast Guard (MNDF CG) participated in "Baker Metal 14-1", a counter narco-terrorism training event organized by JIATF West.



24

## CNT in Vinh, Vietnam

A 21 day DEA/JIATF West organized Counter Narco-Terrorism Training (CNT) mission, Baker Veil 14-1, was completed with members of the Vietnamese Ministry of Public Security (MPS) Counternarcotics Police (known as the C-47).



16

## French Polynesia Delegation

On 10 September, 2014, a French Polynesian Inter-Service Delegation met with JIATF West for working level meetings to discuss French Polynesian and U. S. maritime law enforcement interoperability.



27

## 3 Country Oceania Visit

RDML James Rendon, and an interagency delegation traveled to Australia, Samoa, and New Zealand to participate in meetings with partner nation law enforcement, military, and US country team personnel.

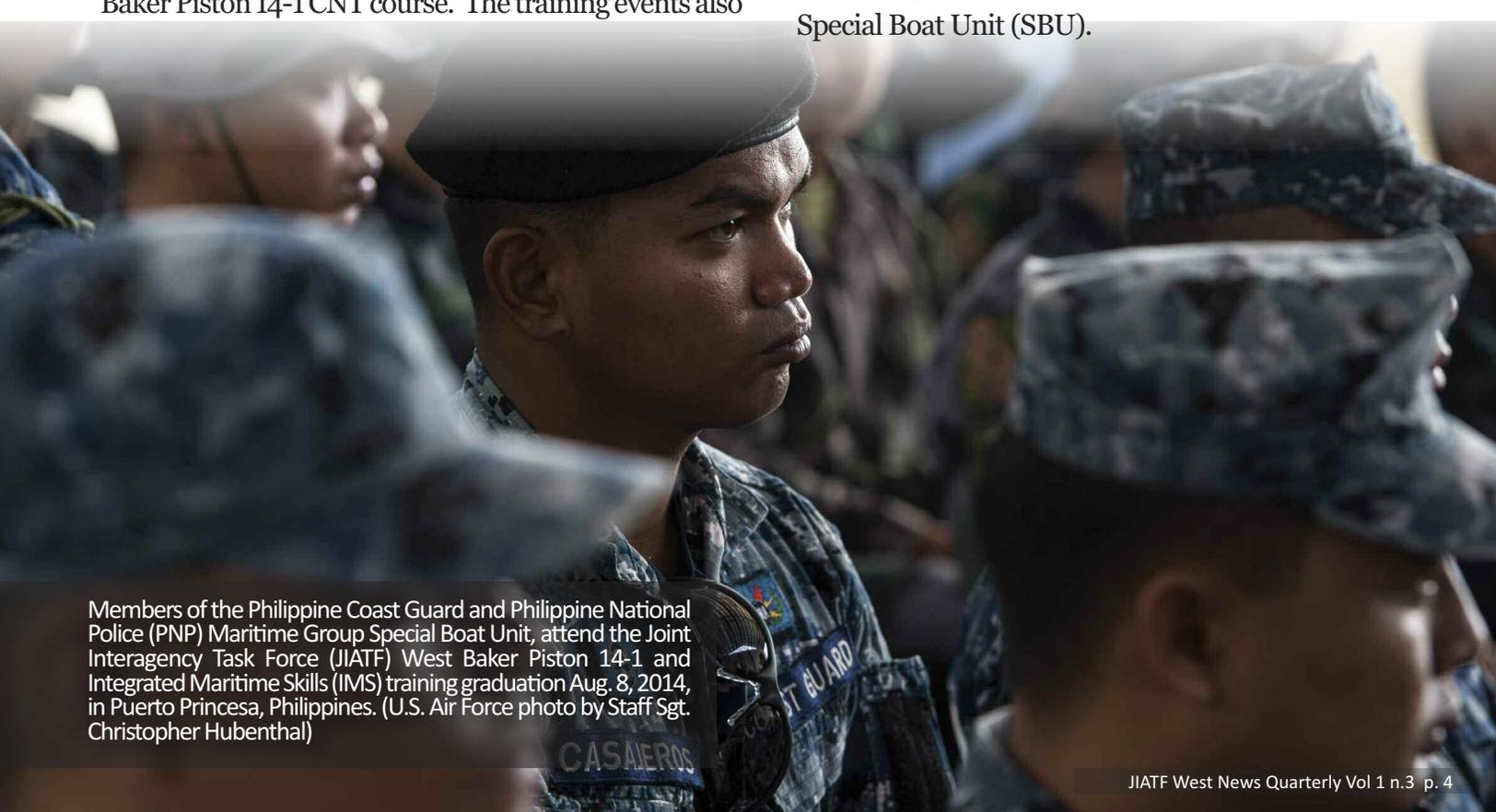
**Cover Photo** A Philippine National Police (PNP) Maritime Group member provides security during a direct action training scenario as part of the Joint Interagency Task Force (JIATF) West exercise Aug. 6, 2014, in Puerto Princesa, Philippines. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Hubenthal)

# J IATF West Conducts Dual CNT Events in Puerto Princesa

J IATF West kicked off two law enforcement training events in Puerto Princesa, Philippines, on 14 July 2014. One training event was a three week Integrated Maritime Skills (IMS) course and the other was a four week counter narco-terrorism training (CNT) course, Baker Piston 14-1. Altogether 67 Philippine law enforcement officers graduated from the two courses. Thirty-two members from the Philippine Coast Guard and the Philippine National Police Maritime Group (PNP-MG) Special Boat Unit (SBU) graduated from the IMS course; and 35 PNP-MG SBU members from the Baker Piston 14-1 CNT course. The training events also

received media coverage from American Forces Network (AFN). Videographer and Photojournalists from AFN Hawaii, SSgt Christopher Hubenthal, USAF, and SGT Brad Parrish, USA, documented the event.

A joint opening ceremony was held for both IMS and Baker Piston participants on Monday morning at SBU Headquarters Honda Bay, Santa Lourdes, Puerto Princesa City. Notable attendees included Luis Marcaida, Vice Mayor of Puerto Princesa; Police Chief Superintendent Noel Vargas, Director of Philippine National Police-Maritime Group (PNP-MG); and Police Superintendent Osmundo Salibo, Chief of the Special Boat Unit (SBU).



Members of the Philippine Coast Guard and Philippine National Police (PNP) Maritime Group Special Boat Unit, attend the Joint Interagency Task Force (JIATF) West Baker Piston 14-1 and Integrated Maritime Skills (IMS) training graduation Aug. 8, 2014, in Puerto Princesa, Philippines. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Hubenthal)



A Philippine National Police (PNP) Maritime Group member communicates with other PNP forces during a direct action training scenario as part of the Joint Interagency Task Force (JIATF) West exercise Aug. 6, 2014, in Puerto Princesa, Philippines. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Hubenthal)

# JIATF WEST CONDUCTS DUAL CNT EVENTS IN PUERTO PRINCESA



Members of the Philippine Coast Guard and Philippine National Police Maritime Group secure a “jacob's ladder” prior to boarding a vessel during a boat inspection training scenario as part of the Joint Interagency Task Force (JIATF) West exercise Aug. 5, 2014, in Palawan, Philippines. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Hubenthal)

IMS training was conducted by JIATF West’s own IMS training team while the Baker Piston training was under the instruction of U.S. Army, Operational Detachment-Alpha Special Forces operators who specialize in field tactics.

JIATF West IMS training helps maritime police train within niche skillsets required to perform law enforcement work at sea. According to JIATF West IMS Team Officer in Charge, LCDR Stephen Bower, USN, “We’re comprised mostly of Navy and Coast Guard reservists, many of whom have backgrounds in law enforcement or work as police officers in their civilian careers and can bring those skills to the table.” LCDR Bower went on to explain, “This allows us to help train in maritime law enforcement skills such as boarding and vessel search and seizure.”

“We’re here to help our partner nation law enforcement to safely operate boats, board ships safely, and support the rule of law in the waters of Palawan,” said LCDR Bower.

SSgt Hubenthal from AFN interviewed U.S. Navy Lieutenant, Franz Federschmidt, JIATF West training liaison officer for the Philippines, who explained, “This iteration of training combines both our internal IMS team and instruction from Army personnel who can focus on tactical aspects of CNT work such as land navigation, combat casualty care, and advanced marksmanship.” “Combining these events gives law enforcement members a very good baseline of skillsets to better enforce their laws and deal with narcotics threats and environmental crimes,” said LT Federschmidt.

# JIATF WEST CONDUCTS DUAL CNT EVENTS IN PUERTO PRINCESA

CONTENTS



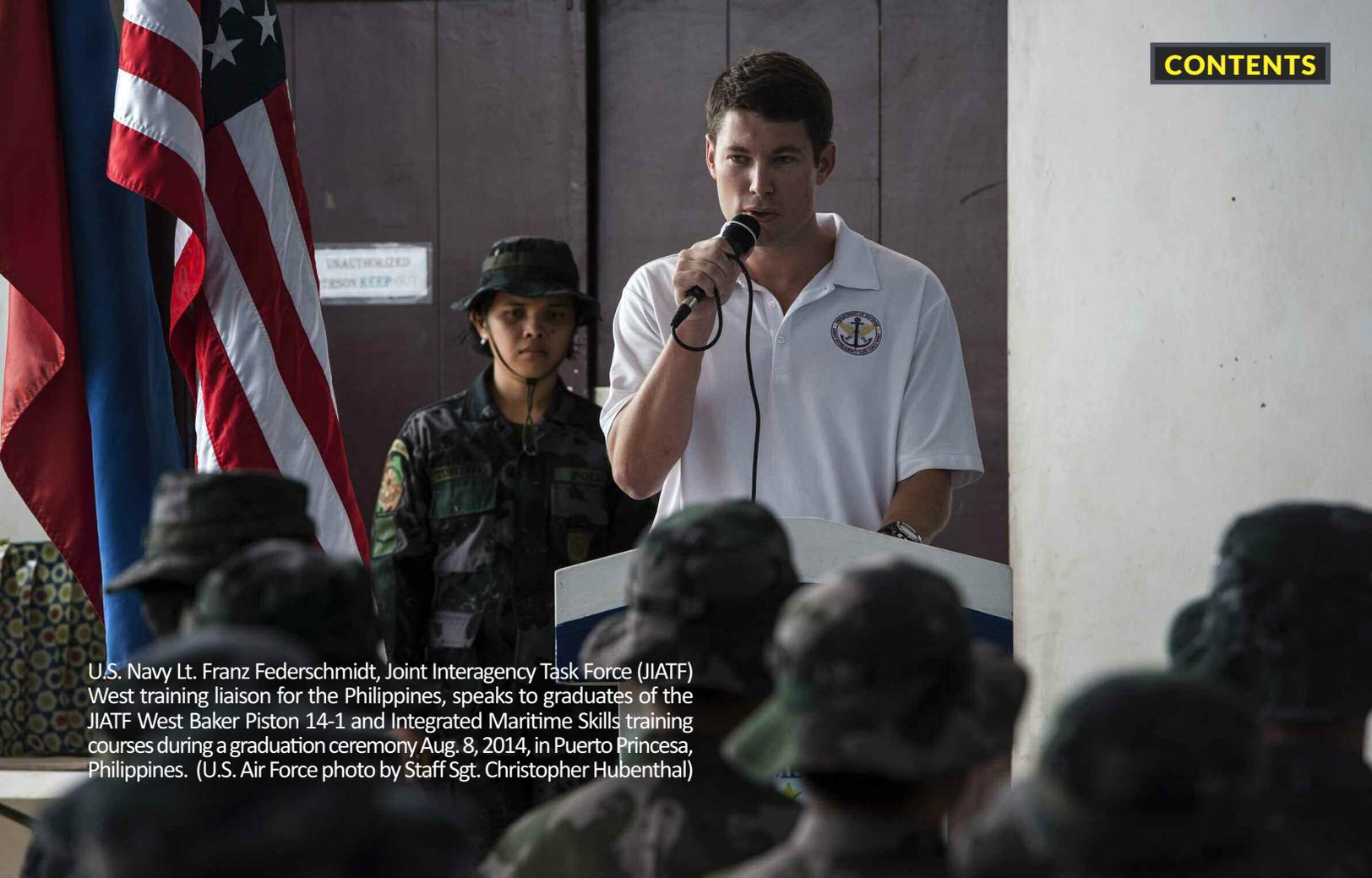
Members of the Philippine Coast Guard and Philippine National Police (PNP) Maritime Group restrain IMS team instructors, as they role play the part of ship crew members during a boat inspection training scenario. — Aug. 4, 2014, Puerto Princesa, Philippines. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Hubenthal)

Some of the topics covered in the training with PNP Special Boat Unit officers included security, room clearing, and practicing arresting a criminal from a simulated transnational organized crime group.

U.S. Army Capt. Rush Vann describes a typical day of training, “Today started out with the planning sequence, about six to seven hours of planning, and then moved into a target urban environment utilizing close quarter battle (CQB), tactical questioning, and reinforcing the basics of security.” “The assault teams move into the building and from there they gather some intelligence that will drive the next target island off the coast of Palawan which they will do a squad type assault using live-fire and small unit tactics,” said Capt Vann.

“Vann believes that providing training opportunities for maritime units in the Philippines is beneficial in protecting their borders against illegal activity” (Hubenthal, PNP Maritime Group police conduct direct action training mission with JIATF West ODA Special Forces operators, 2014).

“I think it's very important to have these partnerships with other countries, especially in the Philippines, with the challenges of its terrain, numerous islands and the smuggling corridors that move through these countries,” Vann said. “It's important to project their power forward to protect their citizens from any illegal activities. I think the Special Boat Unit is critical to develop that national power to give the citizens a safe area to live.”



U.S. Navy Lt. Franz Federschmidt, Joint Interagency Task Force (JIATF) West training liaison for the Philippines, speaks to graduates of the JIATF West Baker Piston 14-1 and Integrated Maritime Skills training courses during a graduation ceremony Aug. 8, 2014, in Puerto Princesa, Philippines. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Hubenthal)



Members of JIATF West's Integrated Maritime Skills training team stand with participants from the Philippine National Police Maritime Group and Coast Guard after successfully completing three weeks of training in Puerto Princesa, Philippines. (1 August 2014, photo courtesy of the PNP)

# JIATF WEST CONDUCTS DUAL CNT EVENTS IN PUERTO PRINCESA

CONTENTS



A Philippine National Police (PNP) Maritime Group member moves up a staircase as another PNP Maritime Group member scans his sector of fire during a direct action training scenario as part of the Joint Interagency Task Force (JIATF) West exercise Aug. 6, 2014, in Puerto Princesa, Philippines. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Hubenthal)

Philippine National Police and Coast Guard members were eager to learn and actively participated throughout the weeks of training. "There's a huge increase in the capability of these students," Federschmidt said. "They came in, many of them with some prior U.S. instruction, but after this training they were able to locate a target and use live ammunition in support of a scenario in which some hostages had been taken and it went off with absolutely no hitches. The students were very impressive while under the pressure the instructors provided" (Hubenthal, *Sixty-seven complete JIATF West Baker Piston*, 2014).

JIATF West works with U.S. and foreign military units as well as law enforcement agencies tasked with counterdrug responsibilities.

Some of JIATF West's interagency partners include such organizations as the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. By working with interagency and partner nation law enforcement, JIATF West's goal is to protect U.S. national security interests and promote regional stability within the Indo-Asia-Pacific area. □

To view a video of the event by Sgt Bradley Parrish, please visit this web address:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/video/354977>

Hubenthal, C. (2014, 08 12). *PNP Maritime Group police conduct direct action training mission with JIATF West ODA Military Trainers*. Retrieved from Defense Video & Imagery Distribution System: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/139125/pnp-maritime-group-police-conduct-direct-action-training-mission-with-jiatf-west-oda-special-forces-operators#.VN1smC7tRcV>

Hubenthal, C. (2014, 08 12). *Sixty-seven complete JIATF West Baker Piston 14-1, IMS Piston training courses*. Retrieved from Defense Video & Imagery Distribution System: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/139141/sixty-seven-complete-jiatf-west-baker-piston-14-1-ims-piston-training-courses#.VN0kCy7tRcV>

# Commander U.S. Pacific Fleet visits JIATF West

On Tuesday 23 September 2014 ADM Harry Harris, Commander U.S. Pacific Fleet, paid a visit to JIATF West for an office call with RDML James Rendon. Just the day before, the Defense Department released news that ADM Harris was the president's pick to be the next head of U. S. Pacific Command. According to Defense News, "Harris, who commands the Pacific Fleet, has been nominated to relieve current PACOM boss Adm. Samuel Locklear as head of American forces from the West Coast to Southeast Asia to India." (Harris Tapped to Lead PACOM, 2014). ADM Harris' visit to JIATF West was to

learn more about the mission of JIATF West as U.S. PACOM's executive agent for counternarcotics programs in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. While visiting JIATF West, staff members presented a mission brief to Harris.

Adm. Harris was born in Japan and raised in Tennessee and Florida. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1978 and became a Naval Flight Officer (NFO). Throughout his career as an NFO, he has logged over 4000 flight hours, 400 of which were in combat. Harris has also served in every geographic combatant command region.



His operational experience included the following major operations: S.S. Achille Lauro terrorist hijacking incident, Attain Document III (Libya, 1986), Earnest Will (Kuwaiti reflagged tanker ops, 1987–88), Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, Willing Spirit (Colombia hostage rescue, 2006–7), and Odyssey Dawn (Libya, 2011). For Odyssey Dawn, he served as the Joint Force Maritime Component Commander afloat.



Adm. Harris attended Harvard's Kennedy School of Government where he focused on East Asia security. Adm. Harris also attended Georgetown's School of Foreign Service, Oxford University, and is a MIT Seminar 21 fellow.

His awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, two Navy Distinguished Service medals, three Defense Superior Service medals, three Legion of Merit awards, two Bronze Stars and the Air Medal. □

*Harris Tapped to Lead PACOM.* (2014, 09 22). Retrieved 11 20, 2014, from DefenseNews: <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20140922/DEFREG/309220019/Harris-Tapped-Lead-PACOM>



U.S. Navy Admiral Harry Harris, Commander U.S. Pacific Fleet, (left) is greeted by Director of JIATF West, RDML James Rendon, USCG, at Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii, for an office call. —23 September 2014, photo by JIATF West

# Advanced Financial Investigations Training–Hong Kong

**J**IATF West and Homeland Security Investigations Hong Kong (HSI HK) conducted a one week Advanced Topics in Financial Investigations Workshop (ATFIW) from 15 to 19 September, 2014. The workshop, designed for HK law enforcement officials, covered topics in financial investigations related to transnational crime and drug trafficking.

A total of 40 law enforcement officials from various agencies participated, including members from HK Customs & Excise (HKCE), HK Police Force (HKPF), HK Independent Commission against Corruption (ICAC), HK Securities and Futures Commission (SFC), and the HK Monetary Authority (HKMA). Five HSI agents and one JIATF West Analyst lectured throughout the week. Participants also recieved presentations from Hong Kong-based representatives of the Internal Revenue Service–Crimina Investigations



Offices from various Hong Kong law enforcement agencies participate in JIATF West sponsored Advanced Topics in Financial Investigation Workshop. – 15 September 2014, photo by Sesh Munipalli.

# Advanced Financial Investigations Training – Hong Kong

and Federal Bureau of Investigation as well as the United Kingdom's Revenue and Customs Office and the National Crime Agency. Throughout the week of training, students received instruction on Tracing of Funds/Asset Forfeiture, Money Laundering Vulnerabilities, Shell Corporations, Money Service Businesses, Online Payment Systems, Trade-based Money Laundering (TBML), Black Market Peso Exchange, and Bulk Cash Smuggling, Kleptocracy, Terrorism Finance, Funnel Accounts, International Mass Marketing Fraud and Financial Data Exploitation, among other topics.

During the week-long workshop, HSI instructors shared highlights from past investigations, best practices, and lessons learned. Of great interest to the Hong Kong students were instruction on Digital crimes, especially money laundering investigations related to Digital Currency (e.g. Bitcoin) and other Underground Digital Economies. One example was the HSI initiated indictment against HSBC Bank for laundering nearly one billion dollars tied to nefarious drug and terrorism proceeds.

Differences in U.S. and HK law regarding digital forensics were highlighted as well. According to the JIATF West Forward Deployed Analyst, Mr. Sesh Munipalli, "In the U.S., a digital entity such as Yahoo may be required to provide information based on an

administrative summons request from HSI, while in Hong Kong, a judicially-issued subpoena is required."

Inclement weather caused by Typhoon Kalmaegi added an extra challenge to the week of training. The typhoon made landfall in China on Tuesday the 16th, bringing with it wind gusts of up to 166 km/h. Training had to begin late on Tuesday and one set of practical exercises had to be cancelled.

The week-long training was a tremendous success. Participants indicated that the training was highly relevant and interesting. Participant comments included: "one of the best courses," "way better than expected," "great case studies," "instructors gave excellent presentations and had great story telling abilities," and "very enjoyable." "Officers consistently remarked on the value of meeting their colleagues from other agencies and the sharing of experiences in conducting investigations," said Sesh Munipalli. The training was designed to complement existing cooperative efforts and highlight new threats and trends. The week of training was the first round of financial investigations training in Hong Kong and the third overall round supported by JIATF West during 2014. JIATF West seeks to continue supporting future HSI and Consulate Hong Kong LEA team organized financial investigation training efforts. □

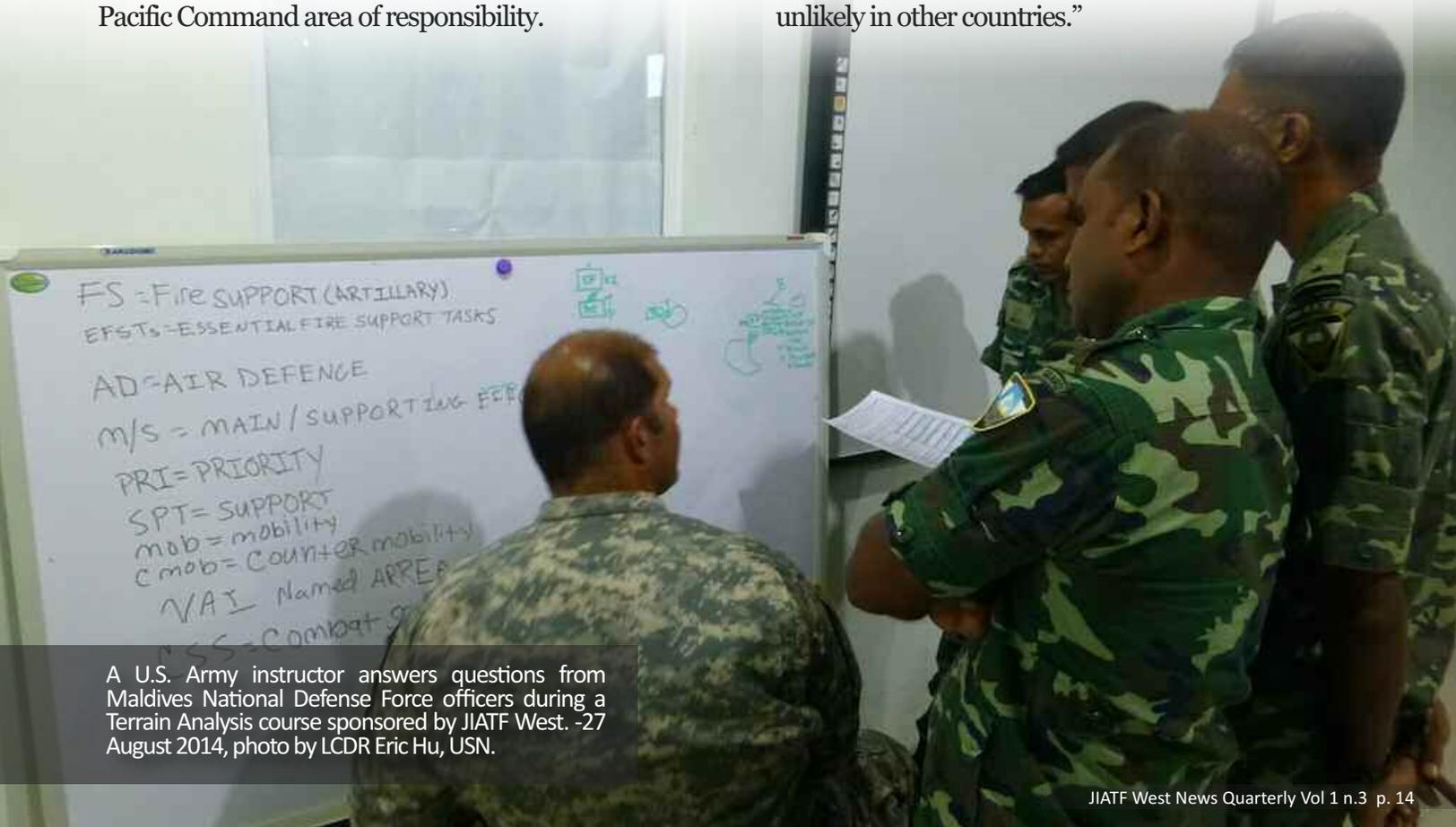


# Baker Series CNT Training with the MNDF

The Baker Metal 14-1 Counter-Narcotics Training mission for the Maldives National Defense Force – Coast Guard kicked off on 24 August for four weeks until 19 September 2014. In total, 20 junior officers and senior enlisted personnel participated in the training, which emphasized Operational Level Planning and mission development.

This Baker training event was different than previous Baker Missions since the participants were higher ranking and with greater levels of experience than typical training missions organized by JIATF West in the U.S. Pacific Command area of responsibility.

The training was designed much like a miniature version of Joint Military Professional Education (JPME) Phase 1 courses for US mid-grade officers; with an emphasis on how to dissect a problem, set up and develop missions, and issue orders. According to JIATF West Training Liaison, LCDR Eric Hu, USN, “We can train the Maldives officers and senior enlisted at a much higher and complicated level than in other countries, because the officer promotion system requires a minimum of ten years enlisted experience before you can put in a package to become an officer. At the same time, MNDF gives responsibility to its enlisted personnel that would be unlikely in other countries.”



A U.S. Army instructor answers questions from Maldives National Defense Force officers during a Terrain Analysis course sponsored by JIATF West. -27 August 2014, photo by LCDR Eric Hu, USN.

## Baker Series CNT Training with the MNDF

The other unique aspect of Baker Metal 14-1 was the addition of instructors from the Defense Institute for International Law Studies (DIILS), and the JIATF West Staff Judge Advocate, who provided training in the legal aspects of Law of the Sea.

Throughout the training, emphasis was placed on “thinking outside the box.” The mantra of the month was to view challenges through the lens of mitigating variables and identify problem sets. One example was terrain analysis. When U.S. Army instructors gave instruction on terrain analysis and taught how to use a Modified Combined Obstacle Overlays (MCOO) for planning, MNDF members had to modify the instruction for use in their nation of islands. “We wanted to take them out of their comfort zone and see if they could identify variables and problems in unfamiliar territory,” said LCDR Hu. “Terrain analysis doesn’t really have any application in a country with its highest point 4m above sea level. However the approach to thinking of a problem set is the same whether in the mountains or at sea.”

The culmination exercise in the fourth week drew from a real-world oil spill incident that happened in Maldives a year earlier. Students divided into two teams and planned a complex multi-national response mission to an oil spill, designed to test the MNDF Coast Guard’s ability to contain the spill, coordinate internationally, and execute operations with joint forces. The culmination exercise was such a success that MNDF used the scenario in a tri-lateral exercise with India in October.

Since this training event was geared toward officers, the class size was smaller than other typical events sponsored by JIATF West; in this case, a total of 20 MNDF members participated in the month-long event. Prior to Baker Metal 14-1, many MNDF Coast Guard officers also participated in “Coconut Grove”, a joint training exercise conducted bi-annually with the U.S. Marine Corps. “We looked to capitalize on the training they received from Coconut Grove by incorporating what they learned and expanding on it during our training,” said LCDR Hu. “By teaching methods on Joint Operation Center (JOC) operations, operational planning, and Command and Control (C2) we’re helping improve the MNDF Coast Guard’s abilities in maintaining their maritime domain.”

□

A Maldivian Marine leads his fire team through the bushes during the final raid for Exercise Coconut Grove 2012. The exercise is a bilateral training event conducted bi-annually between the U.S. Marine Corps and the Maldivian National Defense Force. – Photo by Cpl. Isis M. Ramirez, USMC, October 16, 2012 (Courtesy of MARFORPAC)

# French Polynesian Delegation visits JIATF West

On 10 September, 2014, a French Polynesian Inter-Service Delegation met with JIATF West for working level meetings to discuss French Polynesian and U. S. maritime law enforcement interoperability. In addition to meeting with JIATF West, the delegation was in town to also meet with U.S. Pacific Fleet and U.S. Coast Guard District 14.

Members of the French Polynesian Delegation included LCDR Hervé Pacault, Chief of the Law

Enforcement at Sea Office, CDR of the French Polynesia Maritime Zone; Commander Laurent Charpentier, Chief of Maritime Operations, French Pacific Joint Headquarters; Mr. David Taillandier, Chief Superintendent and Operations Officer, French Customs in French Polynesia.

JIATF West and French Polynesia work together to support law enforcement counterdrug efforts through information sharing. □

**French Polynesian Inter-Service Delegation members in working level meetings at JIATF West Headquarters. From left to right at the table, Ms. Veronique Dillon, JIATF West; Mr. David Taillandier, Chief Superintendent and Operations Officer, French Customs in French Polynesia; LCDR Hervé Pacault, Chief of the Law Enforcement at Sea Office, CDR of the French Polynesia Maritime Zone; Commander Laurent Charpentier, Chief of Maritime Operations, French Pacific Joint Headquarters —10 Sept 2014, photo by JIATF West.**



# J IATF West Supports the PTCN with Collaborative Tools

In September of 2014, JIATF West's IT Plans and Implementation Officer, LCDR Mitchell Boltz, USN, travelled to Apia, Samoa, to present training on a new web based coordination service designed for the Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Center (PTCCC). The web tool, called the "Pacific Transnational Crime Network Collaboration Website", provides a SharePoint based website service to store, exchange, and track information on the widely used All Partners Access Network, or APAN.

The web based collaboration tool was designed for Oceania countries to replace the previous service provided by the U.S. based "Ad Net" Antidrug Network, owned by the Defense Information Systems Agency.

According to LCDR Boltz, "The main purpose of this website is to quickly provide a means of official information sharing between law enforcement agencies of Oceania countries." "We worked with the PTCCC to define requirements and then worked with our own developer, Mr. Gary Nacapuy, to implement the design in house," said LCDR Boltz. The idea to use APAN as a platform to develop an information exchange for law enforcement first originated in February of 2014 when

JIATF West's IT Plans manager, Mr. Charles Lee, proposed using APAN as a possible replacement.

The training was for two days with one day for classroom work and one for hands-on practice. LCDR Boltz shared that, "Law enforcement representatives praised the new collaboration tool, citing how much easier it was to interact with than previous information sharing methods."

Participating in the training were law enforcement

members from Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. The PTCCC is the command center for the Pacific Transnational Crime Network (PTCN), which is a joint operating environment for law enforcement agencies of island

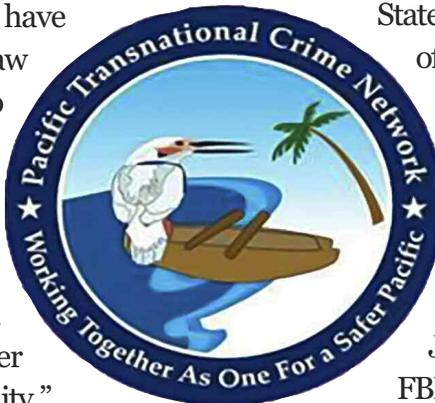


LCDR Mitchell Boltz, USN, presents training to law enforcement members of the PTCN in Samoa on using online collaboration tools. —15 September 2014, Photo by PTCN

nations throughout the Pacific. Established in July of 2002 by the Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police, the PTCN is supported by the Australian Federal Police (AFP), New Zealand Police (NZP), and JIATF West. In 2004, the AFP first opened the PTCCC in Fiji as an effort to support the PTCN and increase cooperation with police forces in Oceania. In 2008, the PTCCC was relocated to Apia, Samoa.

# JIATF West Supports the PTCN with Collaborative Tools

The PTCCC's primary focus is combating transnational crime such as drug smuggling, human trafficking, and money laundering. According to a June 2008 media release by Australian Minister for Home Affairs, Bob Debus, "The Australian Federal Police have invested heavily in supporting law enforcement in the Pacific region to combat crime and be self-sufficient. The PTCCC is a vital component of this joint policing approach and provides a central point for the exchange of criminal information, not only between Pacific nations, but also the wider international law enforcement community."

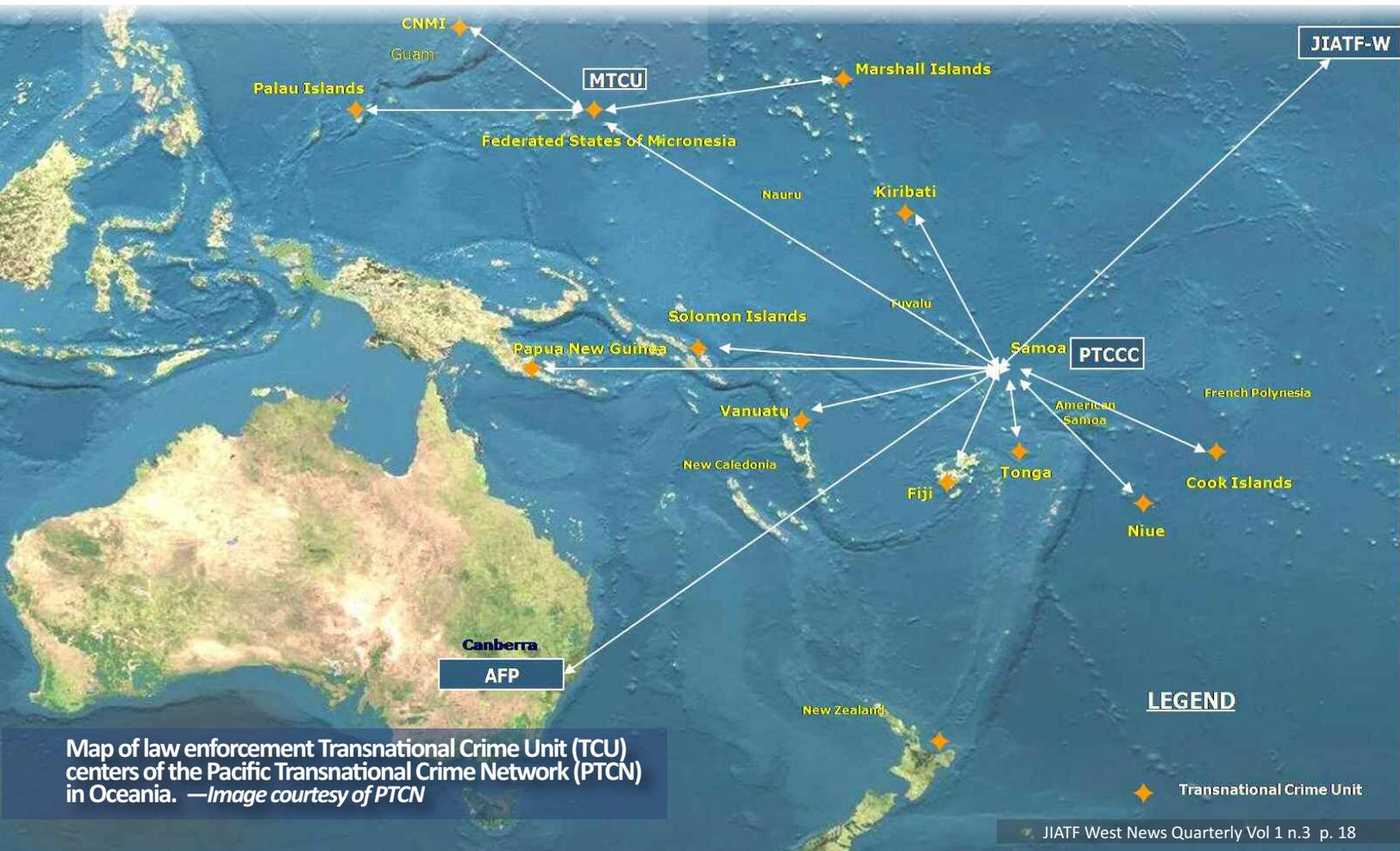


13 countries and their 18 law enforcement units known as "transnational crime units" or TCU's, coordinate with the PTCCC as a central point for the exchange of criminal

information. In addition to the countries mentioned above participating in training, other PTCCC nation members include the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Cooks Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau, Samoa, and Tonga.

The efforts of the PTCN have led to many successful drug interdictions and apprehensions of international criminals. In November of 2014, Niue Police arrested Jeffrey Hanson, who was wanted by the U.S. FBI for international parental kidnapping.

Another recent example was the collaborative effort between AFP, U.S. DEA, and the Vanuatu Police Force who successfully interdicted 750 kilograms of cocaine from the yacht known as the "Raj" docked in Port Vila, Vanuatu. □



Map of law enforcement Transnational Crime Unit (TCU) centers of the Pacific Transnational Crime Network (PTCN) in Oceania. —Image courtesy of PTCN

# NETT Conducts CN training in Central Thailand

JIATF West's Narcotics Enforcement Training Team (NETT) program conducted three counterdrug courses in Thailand between August and September, 2014. Courses included a Narcotics Investigation Course (NIC), an Airport Interdiction Operations course, and a course in Undercover Operational Planning. The first NIC course took place from 25 to 29 August, 2014, at the Cha Am Tactical Training Center, located in the southern part of Phetchaburi Province, central Thailand.

The second course, Undercover Operational Planning, was conducted from 8 to 12 September at the Royal Thai Police (RTP), Narcotics Suppression Bureau (NSB) Head Quarters in Bangkok. The third course, Airport Interdiction Operations, took place between 15 and 19 September at Suvarnabhumi Airport, also in Bangkok.

Altogether, 69 law enforcement officers from the Royal Thai Police, Narcotics Suppression Bureau; Royal Thai Customs; and the Office of Narcotics Control Board participated in the various training events.



An officer of the Royal Thai Police practices searching the interior of a vehicle at a checkpoint in the Northern Province of Lampang during JIATF West and NCIS counternarcotics training. -23 February 2014, Photo by Gary Lehnert, courtesy of NCIS.

# NETT Conducts CNT in Central Thailand

CONTENTS

Instructors for the courses came from DEA Special Agents and JIATF West contracted Subject Matter Experts from International Preparedness Associates Inc.

JIATF West members were also on hand to observe the training including Mr. Peter Won, Senior Law Enforcement Advisor, and Task Force Representative, Mr. Lance McInnis.

These three NETT courses brought the total number of JIATF West counternarcotics training events in Thailand to eight for 2014. Earlier in 2014, five courses focusing on checkpoint procedures and vehicle inspection were conducted in the North of Thailand. To date, there have been 15 NETT training missions in Thailand since the first course back in April of 2013.

The concept for the NETT was co-developed between Law Enforcement and JIATF West in 2012. Curriculum development was also a collaborative effort between interagency partners such as the DEA and the U. S. Embassy's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) and private sector subject matter experts (SMEs).

Unlike previous counternarcotics training efforts where individual law enforcement officers attend from varying units and

locations, the NETT approach is to train select units as a whole. "This is different from all other training programs," says Mr. Peter Won, JIATF West's Senior Law Enforcement Officer.



Royal Thai Police officers search the undercarriage of truck at the Mea Prik checkpoint in Lampang, Thailand. - 26 February 2014, Photo by Gary Lehnert, courtesy of NCIS.



Interview practical during a Narcotics Investigation Course at the Royal Thai Police Tactical Training Center in Cha Am, Thailand. -25 August 2014, photo by JIATF West.

# NETT Conducts CN Training in Central Thailand



Undercover exercise by Royal Thai Police at Royal Thai Police (RTP), Narcotics Suppression Bureau (NSB) Head Quarters in Bangkok. —9 September 2014, Photo by JIATF West.

“The NETT conducts a pre-course assessment and test so the trainers can determine the current knowledge base and skill set before providing instruction.” To date, the NETT approach to counternarcotics training is only available in Thailand to select RTP units involved checkpoint security and drug related crime.

Specialized NETT training focuses on developing skills in the areas of interdiction, enforcement, and investigations. Examples of some of the training topics include information analysis, firearms training, arrest tactics, highway narcotics interdiction, and undercover operations. Courseware is provided by various law enforcement groups, checkpoint training is provided by NCIS special agents, and US Army Special Operations Force instructors provide training in marksmanship and field medicine/first aid. Since the NETT approach to

developing partner nation counternarcotics capabilities isn't simply training alone, but also about measuring effectiveness, Law Enforcement mentors assist with collection of performance metrics. The metrics are related to both training and investigative effectiveness and will help JIATF West assess how successful the new approach is. All data and metrics are being shared with the Department of Justice's International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) and

to the Interdiction Committee (an advisory board to the Office of National Drug Control Policy) to determine if future funding will be granted. According to Mr. Peter Won, JIATF West's Senior Law Enforcement Advisor, “If this approach proves successful, JIATF West is hoping to be able to offer

the NETT program to additional partner nations in Southeast Asia.” Thus far JIATF West is very pleased with the accomplishments of the Royal Thai Police and is looking forward to future training engagements. □

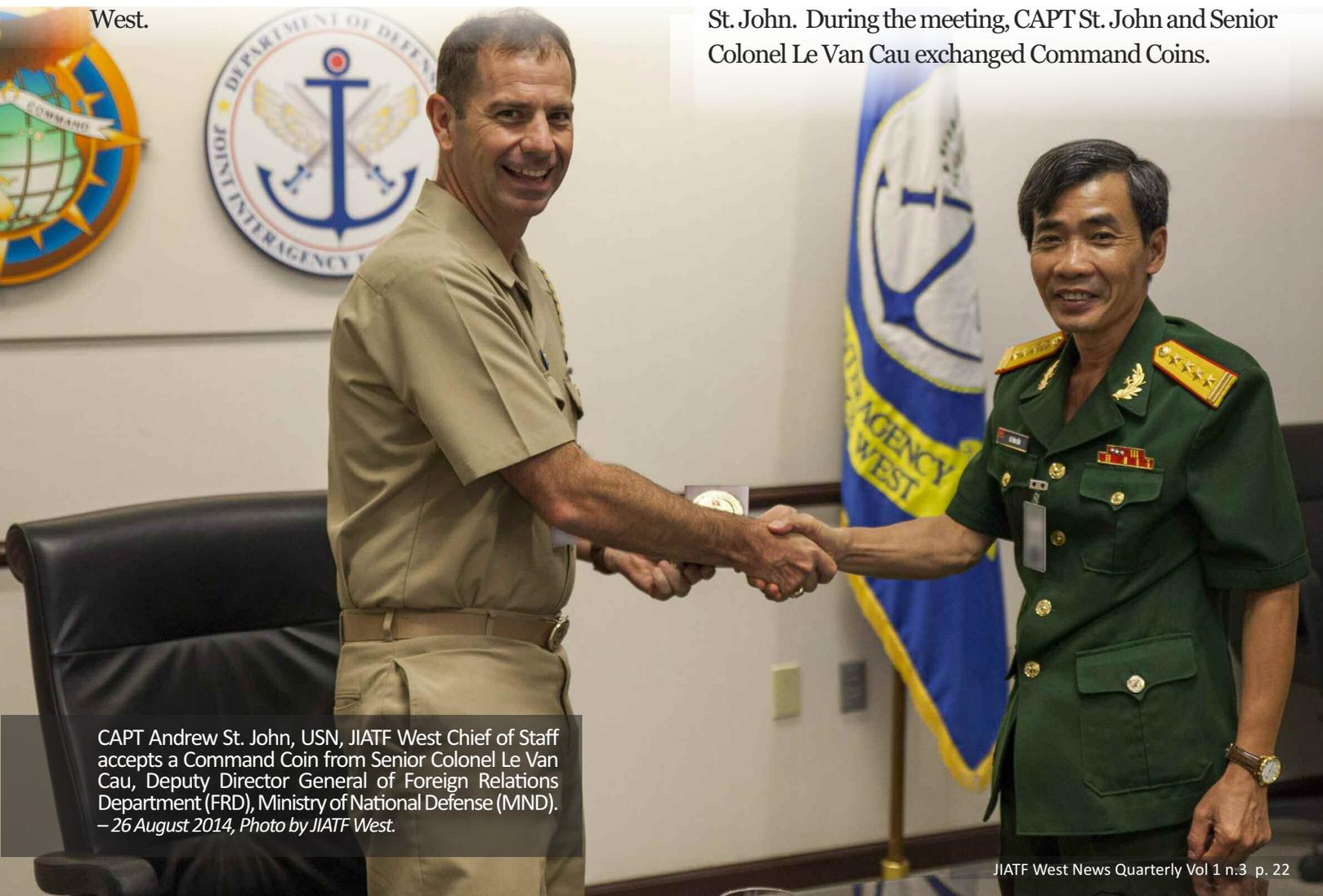


Royal Thai Police officers search the undercarriage of truck at the Huai Rai checkpoint in Phrae, Thailand. - 28 February 2014, Photo by Gary Lehnert

# Delegation from Vietnam visits JIATF West

On 26 August 2014, JIATF West received a visit from Senior Colonel's from Vietnam's Ministry of National Defense. The ten member delegation, led by Senior Colonel Le Van Cau, Deputy Director General of Foreign Relations Department (FRD), Ministry of National Defense (MND), traveled to Hawaii to meet with USPACOM for a Bilateral Defense Dialogue. The visit opened the opportunity to also meet with JIATF West.

Chief of Staff, CAPT Andrew St. John, USN, hosted the meeting and Lt Col Duncan Buchanan, USMC, and Mr. Richard Shizuru presented a brief of JIATF West's counternarcotics efforts in Southeast Asia. Mr. John Guarco, from the Plans and Policy Directorate was the Action Officer for the meeting. "It was a good engagement and looks like it will set the stage for increased engagement in Vietnam in the coming year", said CAPT St. John. During the meeting, CAPT St. John and Senior Colonel Le Van Cau exchanged Command Coins.



CAPT Andrew St. John, USN, JIATF West Chief of Staff accepts a Command Coin from Senior Colonel Le Van Cau, Deputy Director General of Foreign Relations Department (FRD), Ministry of National Defense (MND).  
- 26 August 2014, Photo by JIATF West.

# Delegation from Vietnam visits JIATF West

Prior to the arrival of the delegation, JIATF West wrapped up three weeks of counternarcotics training with members of Vietnam's Ministry of Public Security C-47 (Vietnam's DEA equivalent) in the Northern city of Vinh.

Since 2005, JIATF West has conducted 15 training missions to support the counternarcotics efforts of Vietnamese Law Enforcement. □



**From left to right, LTC Stephen Peters, USA, JIATF West ,Deputy Director Analysis; Senior Captain Do Thanh Tung, Assistant of Americas-Oceania-Africa Division (AOAD), Foreign Relations Department (FRD), Ministry of National Defense (MND); Major Nguyen Duy Minh, Deputy Director of AOAD, FRD, MND; LtCol Duncan Buchanan, USMC, JIATF West Assistant Chief of Staff of Plans and Programs; MAJ Quoc Nguyen, USA, USPACOM J52; LTC Powell, Raymond, USAF, U.S. Embassy Air Attaché; Senior Colonel Le Duc Cuong, Deputy Director of General Planning Division, FRD, MND; Senior Colonel Nguyen Huu Tieu, Vietnam Defense Attaché Office to the U.S.; CDR Jeffrey Scudder, USN, JIATF West Assistant Chief of Staff of Operations; Senior Colonel Do Mai Khanh, Institute for Defense International Relations (IDIR); CAPT Andrew St. John, USN, JIATF West Chief of Staff; Senior Colonel Le Van Cau, Deputy Director General of FRD, MND, Head of the Vietnam Delegation; MAJ Jackie Ly, USA, Office of Defense Cooperation, Hanoi; Senior Colonel Luu Dinh Hien, Deputy Director General of PKO Center; Senior Colonel Nguyen Quang Vinh, Director of AOAD, FRD, MND; Colonel Hoang Van Tuan, Director, Foreign Relations Department, Vietnam Coast Guard (VCG); Senior Colonel Dam Xuan Truong, Deputy Director of Specialized Search and Rescue Division, Vietnam Search and Rescue Committee (VINASARCOM); Ms. Giang (Interpreter) U.S. Office of Defense Cooperation; Mr. John Guarco, JIATF West Plans and Programs Directorate, Chief Regional Plans. – 26 August 2014, Photo by JIATF West.**

# Training with Vietnam's C-47 Police – Vinh

J IATF West completed a 21 day U.S. DEA sponsored Counter Narco-Terrorism Training (CNT) mission, Baker Veil 14-1, with members of the Vietnamese Ministry of Public Security (MPS) Counternarcotics Police (known as the C-47). The event took place from 11 to 29 August, 2014, at the MPS C-47 Counter Narcotics Department Training Academy in Cua Lo, in Northern Vietnam near the city of Vinh. A total of 50 MPS C-47 law enforcement officers participated in the three weeklong event.

The intent of the training was to improve law enforcement member's skills in the area of Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) and law enforcement techniques such as handcuffing, self-defense, and raid/entry procedures. According to the DEA Country Attaché, the training was well received and participation involvement was excellent.

The first week of training focused solely on TCCC with instruction presented by U.S. Military instructors from





Ministry of Public Security officers practice self-defense techniques as part of law enforcement training organized by JIATF West at the Counter Narcotics Training Facility in Vinh, Vietnam. —August, 2014, photo courtesy of U.S. DEA.

# Training with Vietnam's C-47 Police – Vinh

the 1st Special Forces Group. Training received in the first week was reinforced in the following two weeks and utilized in a culmination exercise involving a mock shoot house scenario with simulation rounds and handguns. During the week of TCCC training, MPS C-47 members rehearsed treating wounds and injuries common to C-47 officers working in the field. Medical supplies used in the training were only those that could be sourced locally.

Week two of training concentrated on law enforcement techniques. Participants reviewed and rehearsed handcuffing techniques, arrest procedures, interactive combatives and self-defense. A member of the Vietnam Ministry of Public Security came in to teach a course in Rule of Law and Use of Deadly Force. Learning how to interact with non-compliant suspects was a priority for the class.

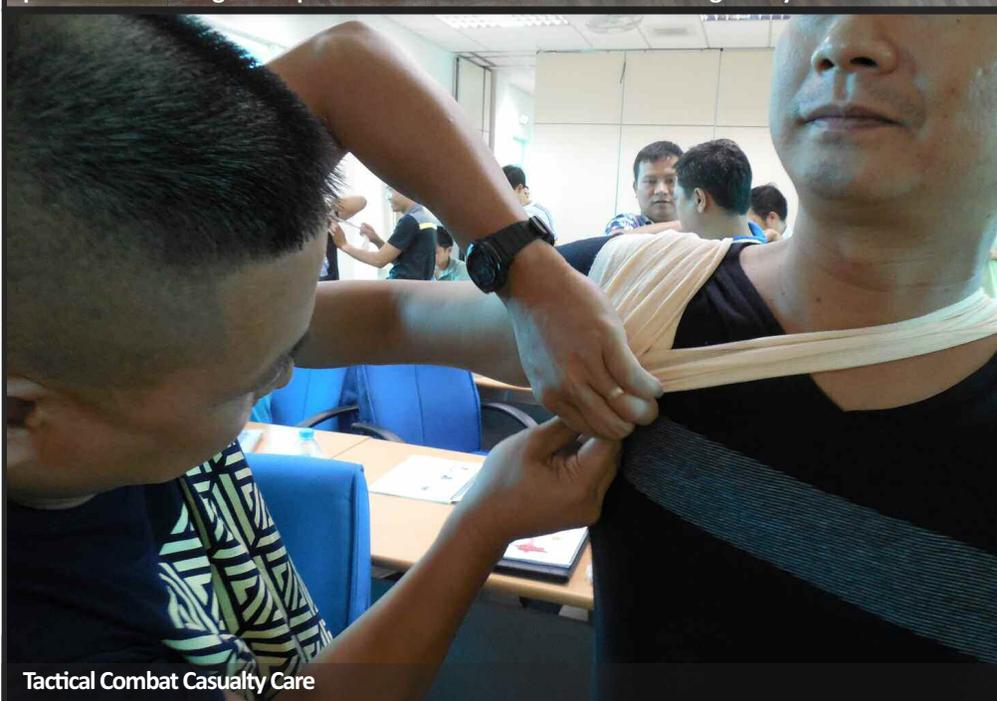
The third week of training covered topics in weapons safety and handling taught by the military instructors and raid tactics and entry procedures taught by U.S. DEA instructors. The last week concluded with a culminating exercised in which students combined all aspects of the training into one event. A shoot house was set up for 4-6 member teams to conduct a raid or entry into a building with opposing forces.

This CNT event was the 15th successful joint training event organized by JIATF West in Vietnam since 2005. □

Photos courtesy of U.S. DEA Hanoi, August 2014.



Counter narcotics law enforcement officers from Vietnam's Ministry of Public Security practice handcuffing techniques at the Counter Narcotics Police Training Facility in Vinh.



Tactical Combat Casualty Care



Weapons handling practice

# J IATF West Delegation visits Australia, Samoa, and New Zealand

By LCDR Aja Kirksey, USCG

In mid-August, 2014, Director of Joint Interagency Task Force West (JIATF West), RDML James E. Rendon, and an interagency delegation traveled to Australia, Samoa, and New Zealand to participate in senior level meetings with partner nation law enforcement, military, and US country team personnel, and to highlight JIATF West's commitment to its key partners in Oceania.

The two week trip began in Canberra, Australia, with

discussions focused on reinforcing the relationship between JIATF West, Australian Federal Police, and the Drug Enforcement Administration, capitalizing on the already strong alignment between Australian and US counterdrug priorities.

Subsequent meetings with Australian military and law enforcement, to include Australian Customs & Border Protection Service, Australian Defense Forces, and the Border Protection Command, gave way to new



The delegation at the Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Center, located in the Apia Government Building, Apia, Samoa. -18 August 2014, photo by LCDR Aja Kirksey, USCG

# J IATF West Delegation visits Australia, Samoa, and New Zealand

opportunities for collaboration and information sharing. A portion of the delegation then went on the Apia, Samoa, nearly 3,600m to the east of Australia. While there, RDML Rendon met with the High Commissioners to both Australian and New Zealand to convey JIATF West goals and priorities.

The highlight of his time in Samoa's capital city was his tour of the Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Center (PTCCC), the central coordinating body of the Pacific Transnational Crime Network. The delegation was accompanied by Chargé d'Affaires Peter Ganser, a strong advocate of both JIATF West and the PTCCC.

The Pacific Transnational Crime Network, through the coordination of the PTCCC, provides an interconnected, proactive criminal intelligence and investigative capability to combat transnational crime in the Pacific. RDML Rendon expressed his appreciation for the regional assessments and reports produced by the PTCCC, which provide JIATF West valuable information on Oceania drug and criminal situation trends.

While in Samoa, RDML Rendon reunited with New Zealand Police Liaison to the South and South West Pacific, Det/Superintendent Don Allan, the New Zealand Police Liaison to JIATF West from 2006 to 2010.

**Dinner hosted by New Zealand High Commissioner, Jackie Frizelle, Apia, Samoa.**



# J IATF West Delegation visits Australia, Samoa, and New Zealand

The final stop for the travel party was Wellington, New Zealand, where the delegation met with New Zealand Defense Forces, to include visits to the Joint Force Headquarters and the National Maritime Coordination Center in order to better understand information sharing opportunities with those organizations.

Finally, RDML Rendon visited New Zealand Police Headquarters to meet Police Commissioner Mike Bush and members of New Zealand's National Drug Intelligence Bureau, a multi-agency unit made up of Police, New Zealand Customs Service, and the Ministry of Health, focused on strategic drug intelligence.

For the duration of the trip, RDML Rendon was joined by Drug Enforcement Administration Regional Director to Southeast Asia and the DEA Country Attaché to Canberra, further cementing the close and continuing relationship of our two organizations. □



**RDML James Rendon, accepts a token of professional appreciation and friendship from Deputy Commissioner Michael Phelan, Australian Federal Police. Canberra, Australia.**



**Chargé d'Affaires Peter Ganser (US Coast Guard Retired) accepts a gift from RDML James Rendon, JIATF West Director. Apia, Samoa.**



**The delegation tours the Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Center, located in the Apia Government Building, Apia, Samoa.**



View of coast in Apia, Samoa. —  
Photo by LCDR Aja Kirksey, USCG,  
7 October 2014.

JIATF West  
ATTN: J5 Plans and Policy  
BOX 64033  
CAMP H.M. SMITH, HI 96861-4033  
Phone 808-477-9708  
Email [info@jiatfw.pacom.mil](mailto:info@jiatfw.pacom.mil)