

NAVAL SURFACE AND MINE

SMWDC MEDIA KIT

WARFIGHTING DEVELOPMENT CENTER





Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center

Five Naval Warfighting Development Centers (WDCs) were established in 2015 to align how the Navy organizes to fight, to enhance warfighting effectiveness, to maximize commonality, and to focus on community centric training across all warfare areas. Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center (SMWDC), is the Surface community's WDC.

SMWDC's mission is to increase the lethality and tactical proficiency of the Surface Force. To successfully complete this mission, SMWDC develops top-talented Surface Warfare Officers (SWOs) into Warfare Tactics Instructors (WTIs) – in one of four warfare specialty areas: Amphibious Warfare (AMW), Anti-Submarine Warfare / Surface Warfare (ASW/SUW), Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD), and Mine Warfare (MIW). WTIs are the surface warfighting tactical experts behind SWMDC's five lines of operation.

SMWDC Headquarters is located in San Diego, and has four divisions located in California and Virginia – each focused on surface warfighting and SMWDC's lines of operation.

SMWDC's Lines of Operation:

Advanced Tactical Training: SMWDC provides individuals, ships, and staffs tactical reps and sets to increase lethality and tactical proficiency. Additionally, Surface Warfare Advanced Tactical Training is SMWDC's premiere advanced tactical training exercise that is a combination of classroom, synthetic, and underway training.

WTI Production: WTIs are the center of gravity who drive each of SMWDC's lines of operations and they increase overall fleet lethality. They are SWOs who receive advanced training as instructors and achieve advanced tactical expertise in one of four warfare areas (ASW/SUW, IAMD, AMW or MIW). WTIs are charged with preparing ships and their crews to be more capable, ready and tactically proficient.

Doctrine & Tactical Guidance Development: SMWDC manages and develops doctrine and tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP) for the surface fleet across all warfare mission areas. Doctrine is

written for the warfighter and is authoritative in nature, while tactical publications are readable, understandable, executable, and repeatable.

Operational Support: SMWDC provides operational and subject matter expert support to ships, squadrons, strike groups, independent deployers, Numbered Fleet Commanders (NFCs) Naval Component Commanders, and Combatant Commanders through direct request for assistance, request for information, reach-back, Ballistic Missile Defense mission package planning, or fly-away team support, as needed.

Capability Assessments, Experimentation and Future Requirements: SMWDC conducts training and tactical level warfighting capability assessments to include: AMW, MIW, SUW and IAMD Warfare Improvement Programs, and support to Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Fleet Force Command, Commander, Pacific Fleet, and Commander, Naval Surface Forces-led assessment efforts. These efforts include surface capabilities and requirements, as well as numerous Concept of Operations / Concept of Employment working groups.

Warfare Tactics Instructor – Warfare Specialty Patches

The WTI represents the primary warfighting disciplines within the Surface Warfare Community: Mine Warfare, Amphibious Warfare, Anti-Submarine and Anti-Surface Warfare, and Integrated Air and Missile Defense. While these disciplines are interrelated, each are complex enough to comprise specific fields of expertise, all focused on improving the Surface Community warfighting ability. Upon graduation, each WTI receives a patch to be worn on their Navy Working Uniform.

Amphibious Warfare has been practiced throughout history, arguably longer than mine warfare. There is a close bond and interdependence of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps team when maneuvering the Amphibious Force at sea and then projecting combat power shore. This mutually supporting relationship dates back to the earliest days for the Navy and Marine Corps team, but the enduring amphibious legacy was most strongly forged during the Pacific Campaign of World War Two and the Korean War. The elements of the Amphibious Warfare Tactics Instructor patch illustrate this interdependence.

Amphibious Warfare (AMW)

The alligator (or ‘gator’ for short) is the traditional symbol of the Navy’s amphibious community. It represents maneuverability, primordial strength, and the ability to rapidly deliver lethal combat power from sea to shore. Beneath the alligator is the conventional symbol used in land warfare to represent a Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF), which is the Marine Corps’ fundamental design for warfighting organization. On a military map, this symbol would include markings at the top to indicate the size of



the unit, which in the case of a MAGTF could range from a massive Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) to a medium Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) down to a Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU). However, the alligator is intentionally obscuring the unit size markings to convey the adaptable nature and scalability of a naval Amphibious Task Force and its embarked MAGTF depending on the mission or missions assigned.

Anti-Submarine Warfare / Surface Warfare (ASW/SUW)

Surface Warfare is the core competency of the U.S. Navy. Starting with German submarine attacks in World War I, Anti-submarine Warfare also became a core competency.

In 1941 the U.S. Navy entered the Battle of the Atlantic against an already war tested German Navy. Capitalizing on new technologies such as Sonar, the fleet was outfitted with Combat Information Centers (CIC) to gather, process, display, evaluate, and disseminate the rapidly changing tactical picture. To manage this data, the Navy developed plot table symbology. In CIC, sailors converted reports into symbols on paper with colored pencils, allowing Commanders to lift the fog of war. Now able to develop and execute innovative Tactics and Doctrine, the Navy ended the war with a 5-to-1 kill ratio of U-Boats sunk for every allied warship.



Among the symbols developed, two stand out:

- The Red “Diamond” indicates a hostile Surface unit
- The Red “V,” a hostile Sub-Surface unit

Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD)

By the 1960s, the enemy threat had evolved. Soviet ballistic missile submarines patrolled in the famed “Yankee Box” ready to strike our cities with nuclear weapons. Soviet Battlecruisers sailed the waters of the globe from the Mediterranean to the Sea of Japan threatening the sea lines of communication. American sailors rose to the challenge and once again developed innovative Tactics and Doctrine. Using the latest computer technology, fleet CIC’s were outfitted with the Navy Tactical Data System (NTDS). Sailors continued to see the familiar symbology of their paper plots, but now the symbols were distributed across the force at the speed of light. As follow on systems continue to proliferate, they continue to use this distinctive symbology.



Surface Ship Anti-Ballistic Missile Defense became a natural extension of the established Surface Navy Anti-Air Warfare mission. NTDS symbology evolved to include the new hybrid mission

area, Integrated Air and Missile Defense. The IAMD WTI patch uses Navy Tactical Data System symbology. The inverted V is the symbol for a Hostile Air track. The rocker below this symbol shows that the track has been designated for engagement. The bar atop the symbol shows that a Fire Control System has been assigned to the track. The modifier flag just below the bar shows that a missile has been paired to the track to complete the engagement and kill the target.

Mine Warfare (MIW)

Mines are also used to deny the enemy access to areas and to quarantine the enemy into specific locations. The use of sea mines dates back to the American Revolution when David Bushnell, while a student at Yale, discovered gunpowder could be exploded while underwater. In 1777, a portion of the British fleet was stationed at the Delaware River off Philadelphia. Bushnell was authorized by General George Washington to attempt to destroy some of them by the use of the newly invented sea mine. Although the device failed to damage any British ships, the invention sparked considerable excitement among the Continental Navy and even the British. Mine warfare continued to increase in complexity into what it is today. The MIW patch reflects the NTDS symbology used today.



Today's WTIs face new threats, but carry on the traditions of excellence. Their Patch is designated to reflect this, with symbols understood by generations of Sailors and Marines to mean "We have met the enemy, and he is ours!"



United States Navy Biography

Rear Admiral Christopher Alexander Commander Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center

Rear Admiral Alexander, a native of Key West, Florida, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1992 with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering and earned a Master of Science in Operational Research from the Naval Postgraduate School.

At sea, he served as Damage Control Assistant aboard USS Wabash (AOR 5); Navigator aboard USS Reid (FFG 30); Operations Officer aboard USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51); Operations Officer for Destroyer Squadron 2; and Executive Officer of USS Hopper (DDG 70).

Ashore, Alexander served as the Maritime Operations Center director for U.S. 3rd Fleet; as Executive Assistant for Commander, Naval Surface Force U.S. Pacific Fleet; as a legislative fellow; on the staffs of the Secretary of the Navy and Chief of Naval Operations; and on the Joint Staff.

Alexander commanded USS Sampson (DDG 102), USS Princeton (CG 59), and the Surface Warfare Schools Command.

While in command, his Sailors earned Battle “E” Efficiency awards, Spokane Trophies, the Arizona Memorial Trophy, and the James F. Chezek Memorial Gunnery Award.

Alexander assumed the role of Commander, Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center in May 2021.





Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center

Press Release – July 23, 2021

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Best Preparation for SWO Career Success – Become a WTI

From MC2 Devin Lowe at Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO - Rear Adm. Christopher Alexander, commander, Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center, along with several Warfare Tactics Instructors (WTIs), visited the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Decatur (DDG 73) July 15, 2021.

Alexander and the WTIs briefed Decatur's wardroom on the WTI Program, which was followed by an informal Q&A with the WTIs.

"The battlefield is changing," said Alexander. "Our peer competitors are building more capable platforms and our asymmetric threats are gaining access to advanced weapon systems. As the threats change, we have to evolve – whether it be through advanced sensors, more lethal weapons, or compensating with advanced tactics and training. We are actively moving forward, and the WTI program is a large part of the effort."

SMWDC accepts WTI applications from top-talented junior surface warfare officers (SWOs), then selected WTI Candidates complete training to become expert warfighting tacticians in one of four surface warfare areas – Amphibious Warfare (AMW), Mine Warfare (MIW), Anti-Submarine Warfare / Surface Warfare (ASW/SUW), or Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD).

"Becoming a WTI is the best preparation for success as a department head, executive officer or commanding officer," said Alexander. "It's challenging and rewarding, and short of command it's the most satisfying job you will ever have."

Decatur was one of several SMWDC fleet outreach visits planned to deliver the latest information about the WTI program, WTI career progression, and how becoming a WTI benefits the fleet and the individual who becomes a WTI.

"We're looking for potential, not necessarily experience level, because we're going to grow your experience," said Lt. Kristen Rovito, an AMW WTI.

SWOs do not need a particular level of knowledge about a warfare area to apply for the WTI program. WTIs conducting the brief agree, it is more important for potential candidates to have a desire to learn and genuine interest in a warfighting field.

"We're looking for the desire to learn and humility," said Lt. Nicholas Brady, an ASW/SUW WTI. "You should recognize that you are applying for a difficult course and know that you can be successful [as a WTI] because you've been successful in your career so far, and you want to learn."

"The training I received was outstanding," said Lt. Matt Serio, an IAMD WTI. "The level of tactical knowledge is something you want to expose yourself to."

WTIs train to acquire an expert level of knowledge in their chosen area and develop skills necessary to provide lecture based training, guide tactical discussions and train the fleet in doctrine, tactics, techniques, and procedures as well as weapon systems operation and employment in any environment - regardless of the WTI candidate's initial level of knowledge.

“SMWDC has the ability to work with many different organizations, many different commands,” said Brady. “Here in San Diego, and all across the country. If you're curious about anything, feel free to reach out to us via email. We want you to be interested in our program, and we're here to help.”

SWOs interested in professional growth and development with opportunities to increase the fleet's readiness and lethality can email the WTI program managers at SWO_WTI@navy.mil for more information or to submit an application.



Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center

Press Release – June 14, 2021

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Top Tacticians Can ‘Red Chip’ into the WTI Program

From Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO –Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center’s (SMWDC) newest ‘Red Chip’ initiative allows afloat Commanders flexibility to select the best tactician in their wardroom for automatic approval into the Warfare Tactics Instructor (WTI) program – no WTI application required.

During Surface Warfare Advanced Tactical Training (SWATT) exercises, Commanding Officers and Commodores have the option to hand select and ‘Red Chip’ one Division Officer who they recognize as their best tactician.

The ‘Red Chip’ initiative is modeled on the ‘Blue Chip’ concept – Midshipmen who receive a Blue Chip from a warship Commanding Officer (based on their summer cruise performance) are awarded a reserved spot on that specific ship instead of having to wait their turn to choose from available ships during the Naval Academy’s annual Ship Selection Night.

The Red Chip, similar to a challenge coin, is red and black (like the WTI logos). One side features a surface warfare officer (SWO) pin and is labeled ‘WTI Red Chip’, the opposite side is SMWDC’s red and black command logo. The labeled side also includes the WTI ethos written at the top – ‘Warrior Thinker Teacher’ – and bottom ‘Humble Credible Approachable’. Nineteen top tacticians received their ‘Red Chip’ since the initiative was introduced earlier this year.

The primary pathway to becoming a WTI is for top, talented junior SWOs to submit a WTI program application to SMWDC to become a warfighting expert in one of four surface warfare areas – integrated air and missile defense (IAMD), anti-submarine warfare/surface warfare (ASW/SUW), mine warfare (MIW), or amphibious warfare (AMW). SMWDC conducts WTI selection boards every other month and the next deadline is July 9th.

“WTI applicants can apply to become surface warfare experts in any of the four warfare areas regardless of the surface platforms they have experience with,” said Cmdr. Chad Trubilla, SMWDC Headquarter’s Operations Officer. “Littoral Combat Ships, Destroyers, Amphibious ships, as long as the junior SWO is talented and intellectually curious, they can apply to any WTI warfare area.”

Headquartered in San Diego, SMWDC has four Divisions in California and Virginia focused on AMW, IAMD, MIW, and ASW/SUW. SMWDC’s mission is to increase Surface Force lethality, tactical proficiency, and warfighting integration across all domains.



Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center

Press Release – May 21, 2021

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39 New Warfare Tactics Instructors, Arriving!

From Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO –Rear Adm. Christopher Alexander, commander of Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center (SMWDC) welcomed 39 new surface Warfare Tactics Instructors (WTIs) during a graduation ceremony conducted onboard Naval Station San Diego May 21.

The newest warfighting tactical experts represent each of the four surface warfare areas – integrated air and missile defense (IAMD), amphibious warfare (AMW), mine warfare (MIW), and anti-submarine warfare / surface warfare (ASW/SUW).

“I am incredibly proud of the dedication and hard work that you have all put in to be here today,” said Alexander. “By demonstrating mastery of the SMWDC Surface Warfare Advanced Tactical Training (SWATT) Plan, Brief, Evaluate, and Debrief (PBED) standards, you will continue to maintain a uniformed application across the enterprise. The Surface Navy needs you, and you should be proud of your hard work and dedication to better the Surface Force through the Warfare Tactics Instructor program.”

Top-talented junior surface warfare officers submit applications to become WTIs and those selected complete 15-33 weeks of warfighting training (depending on the warfare area) in San Diego, Norfolk, Va., Dahlgren, Va., and NATO school Ecole de Guerre des Mines (EGUERMIN) [translates as Naval Mine Warfare School], located in Oostende, Belgium. The WTI courses are designed to develop each element of the WTI “Warrior, Thinker, Teacher” model.

The 15-week AMW WTI course incorporates amphibious doctrine, tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs), student-led briefings, practical applications, and open forum discussions. Students exercise tactics in synthetic training evolutions conducted at the Center for Surface Combat Systems’ (CSCS) Ship Self-Defense System trainer onboard Wallops Island, Va., and one-on-one immersion training with Marine Corps personnel from each element of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force onboard Camp Lejeune, N.C. Immersion teaches students to plan and execute missions across the range of military operations with their Marine Corps counterparts – a crucial element of AMW mission success.

The 32-week MIW WTI course incorporates rigorous classroom instruction, mission planning, and scenarios focused on critical application of the Navy’s most cutting-edge tactics and technologies in MIW with an emphasis on tactical simulations, immersion in doctrinal TTPs, and the development of instructor skills through threat briefs and Capstone presentations. MIW WTI students completed - MIW staff officer, principal warfare officer, amphibious warfare immersion, aviation mine countermeasure airborne systems, mining, and NATO integration training.

The 17-week IAMD WTI course includes classroom instruction with CSCS' Aegis Training and Readiness Center, tactical training, mission planning, and on-site visits with the Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center (NAWDC) and various Army and Air Force commands. The IAMD WTI course focuses on the Navy's most cutting-edge tactics and technologies in the air defense domain, and within the ballistic missile defense mission set.

The 15-week ASW/SUW WTI course includes an emphasis on tactical simulations, immersion in doctrinal TTPs, and the development of instructor skills through threat briefs and capstone presentations. The curriculum featured lectures from subject-matter experts from across the warfighting communities. SMWDC's Sea Combat Division staff were the primary instructors, but there were guest lecturers from NAWDC, Naval Undersea Warfare Center, and other training commands.

"This is the largest graduating class of WTIs since SMWDC stood up in 2015," said Cmdr. Chad Trubilla, head of SMWDC HQ's Operations and Training. "These graduates completed the new model for training where WTI candidates complete their warfare area specific training at the individual sites and then complete WTI capstone training, instructor and tactics course here at SMWDC HQ. In the near future, WTIs from all warfare areas will complete most of their training at the WTI University – a state of the art facility complete with innovation cells – onboard Naval Station San Diego."

The Graduates

AMW WTIs – Lt. Michael Cassidy, Lt. Tarenta Daniels, Lt. Krista Hebenstreit, Lt. Bryan Karg, Lt. j.g. Ian Mack, Lt. Patrick McDonough, Lt. Cmdr. Terra Reber, and Lt. Jacqueline White.

MIW WTIs – Lt. Rodriguez Manuel and Lt. Russell Pattison.

ASW/SUW WTIs – Lt. Steven Badeaux, Lt. Cmdr. Andre Cleveland, Lt. Daniel Correia, Lt. Thomas Foster, Lt. Christopher Habiak, Lt. Angelica Jaimes, Lt. Michael Lacaman, Lt. Cmdr. James Leggett, Lt. Cmdr. Kodi Lock, Lt. Cmdr. Ryan McFadden, Lt. Cmdr. James McLaughlin, Lt. j.g. Alejandra Murillo, Lt. Jennifer Pendleton, Lt. Cmdr. Savannah Peters, Lt. Evan Singleton, Lt. James Strunk, Lt. Cmdr. Courtney Towles, and Lt. Susan Wissmann.

IAMD WTIs – Lt. David Bailey, Lt. Audrey Bigger, Lt. Cmdr. Walter Buitragojr, Lt. Alex Gilbert, Lt. Cmdr. Kristen Jones, Lt. j.g. Connor Keating, Lt. Hayden Marsh, Lt. Jose Oterovera, Lt. Matt Serio, Lt. Zachary Spadoni, and Lt. Cmdr. Jeffrey York.

WTIs each have a specific research "focus area" to start them on the path to becoming a subject matter expert on that particular topic. After earning qualification, WTIs complete a production tour, where they bring their skills to the Fleet providing advanced tactical training, developing tactics and doctrine, providing operational support, and crafting capability assessments.

"I am proud to join the WTI cadre of elite surface warfighting tacticians," said Cleveland. "I'm excited to bring PBED, doctrine, and TTP to the fleet watchstanders and assist in developing their confidence and competence to win the high-end fight!"

Headquartered in San Diego, SMWDC has four Divisions in California and Virginia focused on IAMD, AMW, ASW/SUW and MIW.



Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center

Press Release – May 10, 2021

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Rear Adm. Christopher Alexander Assumes Command of Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center

From Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO –Rear Adm. Christopher Alexander, a native of Key West, Fla., assumed command of Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center (SMWDC), headquartered in San Diego, May 10 without a change of command ceremony due to his predecessor being transferred ahead of Alexander’s arrival to fill an urgent operational role.

Prior to SMWDC, Alexander was most recently the Commanding Officer of Surface Warfare Schools Command located onboard Naval Station Newport, R.I.

Alexander is the fifth SMWDC Commander since its 2015 establishment as the Surface Warfare community’s Warfighting Development Center.

“I am truly humbled and honored to assume command of SMWDC. To be able to work with some of the best surface warfare tacticians to build and refine doctrine, tactics, techniques and procedures (TTP) for the Surface Warfare community is an immense and exciting opportunity. SMWDC has been in great hands with the Commanders who have come before me and I am excited to see where we will go in the future,” said Alexander.

SMWDC is designated the Executive Agent for and responsible to Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMNAVSURFPAC), for Surface Warfare Combat Training Continuum (SWCTC) planning, development, and implementation, including management of the Warfare Tactics Instructor (WTI) program, Surface Tactical Training Syllabi (STTS), and the associated Training and Readiness matrix.

“The Surface Force rolled out a six-month SWCTC pilot program aboard two destroyers this year, to test the DDG-51 STTS and tactical action officer grading criteria,” said Alexander. “The data from this pilot will aid in the follow-on implementation of SWCTC which will result in an automated system that tracks qualifications, currency, proficiency and experience throughout a watchstander’s career.”

A great deal of SMWDC’s planning and execution is accomplished by WTIs, the top-talented Surface Warfare officers that applied, selected and trained to become warfighting experts, in one of four surface warfare areas – amphibious warfare, integrated air and missile defense, mine warfare or anti-submarine warfare / surface warfare. WTIs plan and execute Surface Warfare Advanced Tactical Training (SWATT) exercises with increasing complexity that continues to challenge surface combatants and their crews to become more proficient and lethal at the individual, watch team, unit and strike group levels. These exercises ultimately foster battle-minded crews and combat ready ship for the high-end fight.

Top-talented junior surface warfare officers interested in becoming WTIs can send an email to SWO_WTI@navy.mil for more information about the WTI program and their graduate education opportunities.



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