

## SAFETY AND HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING INNOVATIONS

The Navy Occupational Safety and Health and Environmental Training Center



(NAVOSHENVTRACEN) provides innovative and cost effective safety, health, and environmental protection training to the Navy and Marine Corps' active duty, reserve, and civilian employees. The Training Center's safety, health and environmental professional staff trains via video teletraining, computer-based curricula, and traditional classroom sessions at 53 worldwide locations and anywhere their

training expertise is needed, including ships at sea.

Last year, the Center trained 7,405 individuals worldwide in 406 convenings of 55 courses. Forty seven percent of the trainees were sailors and marines from afloat commands. The Norfolk, Virginia-based Training Center offers 50% of its training at its Norfolk (pictured above) and San Diego training centers and the remaining 50% to other Navy homeports and to deployed sailors and marines.

Instruction includes hands-on courses, such as hazardous materials spill response. Creative instructional techniques employ crossword puzzles and interactive multi-site *Tic Tac Toe* and *Jeopardy*-style training contests, complete with wireless buzzers. Such innovations keep trainees on their toes and significantly enhance their recall of the information covered.

CAPT William Stover, Commanding Officer of the NAVOSHENV-TRACEN, explained the philosophy behind the Center's innovative training methods. "Research on adult learning shows that trainees retain more when they actively participate in the learning process, a key factor in *hands-on* exercises in many of our classes. Additionally, asbestos removal and spill response training regulations require that trainees demonstrate the ability to perform tasks and make appropriate decisions on protection against and management of hazardous materials. Laboratory class sessions demonstrate to both trainees and their instructors the effectiveness of the learning process and understanding of the concepts and how to use them."



**Hands-on spill response training**

CAPT Stover added, “NAVOSHENVTRACEN’s game show format is a valuable tool for getting an entire class involved in the learning and review process. It has been



**Computer training on the Hazardous Material Information System (HMIS)**

particularly useful in our Video Tele-Training (VTT) classes, in which two sites compete against each other. Our mobile training team and VTT approach to training minimizes travel expenses for trainees’ commands. In this way, the Center saves other Navy and Marine Corps commands more than \$3 million each year. We have expanded the number of locations where we offer our courses from 35 in 1997 to 53 in 2000. We provide some of the best safety, occupational health, and environmental protection training

that the Navy can get for its money. The greatest number of sailors and marines get the right training in their home ports at the right time, in a cost-effective manner, and in the shortest time possible.”

Some of the NAVOSHENVTRACEN courses offer credits towards degree programs at Tidewater Community College and Old Dominion University in Virginia, and at other colleges across the country. The NAVOSHENVTRACEN also provides Navy occupational safety and health professionals with periodic training required to meet international certification requirements.

To find out more about courses being developed for training Navy and Marine Corps enlisted and civilian personnel in the Twenty-First Century, the extensive NAVOSHENVTRACEN course catalogue can be viewed on the Center’s website at <http://www.norva.navy.mil/navosh/>. The website also provides information on the

Navy’s occupational safety and health and environmental protection training aids such as a hazardous materials incompatibility chart, training guides, and an index of safety training videos. In addition, the site contains links to other safety, health, and environmental web sites.



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