EEP17 Input / Information paper

Agenda item EEP17 / 8.6 - Action Item 44

Task Number 14

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**ANTARCTIC NAVIGATION COURSE (NAVANTAR)**

# Summary

This course addresses professional navy officers, both civilian and military, Argentinean and foreigners, bearing degrees and credentials in accordance to the Antarctic Treaty and its annexes. On the one hand, it satisfies the compelling need to share knowledge, experience and procedures, with captains and bridge officers currently involved in Antarctic navigation under harsh geographic settings and strict regulations.

On the other hand, it serves as an answer to the importance of raising awareness and knowledge of the Antarctic environment, its preservation and that of its living resources, survival techniques, risk management and the improvement of maritime security. The aforementioned strict regulations stem from international treaties and agreements, the accomplishment of which both governments and operators are responsible for.

# Objectives:

Share the Argentine experience in the Antarctic region and condense all the available information gathered in order to:

* Understand the importance of survival on land and water, first aid and the prevention of spills and pollution in the region.
* Apply knowledge acquired as a useful tool to ensure the appropriate performance amidst Antarctic maritime operations.
* Implement the resources in the Antarctic region with regard to the environment, patience and steering skills in both good and harsh weather conditions.
* Value the Argentine activities in the Antarctic region.
* Relate the experience to the constant knowledge updates and to the thorough preparation during training and the thereupon successful performance in Antarctic latitudes.
* Appreciate the complex, harsh, unpredictable and severe Antarctic environment, as well as the impending need to protect it under strict codes of conduct of greater demand than those imposed in any other area in the globe.

Presented in an educational language in accordance with the Antarctic Treaty and National Policies.

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# OVERVIEW OF ITS CREATION AND EVOLUTION

## Creation

It started out as an endeavour of the Argentine Representative before the Sea Ice Working Group of the Commission for Marine Meteorology of the WMO, back in 1990, proposing specific activities for the members to acquire in their country of origin, a wider knowledge of sea ice.

## Programme

It started with 5 class days: focused principally on Ice and Meteorology.

Since 1994 it has been extended to 2 weeks, from 9 am to 5:35 pm. adding in 37 different classes to the syllabus, some of which may be changed along the way, and which are grouped into seven topic fields: *Antarctic Environment, Ecology, Marine Pollution, Foreign Affairs and Antarctic Legislation, Navigation and Maritime Security, Recent Nautical and Commanding Experience, Survival.*

The programmes have varied from year to year due to the evolution of activities in the area, the changes in legislation and fresh knowledge of the Antarctic.

In 2007 two presentations were included: "Antarctic Tourism" and "Operations with Tour Ships" as a response to the increasing wave of Antarctic Tourism. (Regulated by IAATO).

See ANNEX 1 to view the completely programme.

## Presenters

Around 30 every free pay. From: The Argentine Foreign Office, DNA, IAA, the Antarctic Commando unit of the Argentine Army; from de ARCH, the ARA and random military and merchant students (Australia, New Zealand, USA and the Royal Navy of the United Kingdom).

## Foreign Assitants

Germany, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Korea, Ecuador, Spain, USA, Guatemala, India, Italy, Mexico, Norway, New Zealand, Paraguay, Peru, UK, South Africa, Uruguay, Venezuela and Argentina.

## Number of students

Including 2010

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Foreigners | | Subtotal | Argentinean | | Subtotal | Listeners | Total |
| Merchants | Military | Mercantes | Militares |
| 18 | 162 | **180** | 120 | 376 | **496** | 14 | **690** |



## Academic Performance

It embraces numerous Argentine professionals specialized in Antarctic matters.

Every subject features contents that conveniently outline the Argentine Antarctic potential but need further improvement and consolidation (guidelines pertaining to bridge officers and bibliography translated into English)

# Background

## 21st Course in Antarctic Navigation 2010

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| The School of Maritime Sciences, answerable to the Naval Education Bureau, Naval developed the twenty-first course in Antarctic Navigation NAVANTAR between 23 August and 03 September 2010, with Spanish to English simultaneous interpretation, held in “MANUEL BELGRANO” public naval school, with the assistance of civil and military professionals from the maritime sector. | | |
| http://www.escm.edu.ar/Images/Noticias/N2010/Alumnos.jpg |
| *Alumni* |

### Participants:

• 11 foreign Army chiefs and officers from Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Spain, India, Italy, Paraguay, South Africa and Uruguay.

• 5 Argentine Merchant Mariners.

• 29 chiefs and officers of the Argentine Army.

• 5 Listeners.

Once again this year we have received the expert collaboration of the Officer in Chief of the Chilean Army, who gave us a thorough account on “Operating an auxiliary ship in the Antarctic Peninsula”.



*Some words from the Spanish Army officer*

Another main target of the course is to offer a clear insight into complexity, harshness and unpredictability of the Antarctic environmental conditions and the impending need to protect it by means of complying with the strictest codes of conduct in the world.

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### Special focus was placed upon the following:

* Foreign affaire, international law, Antarctic Treaty and Annexed Protocol (MARPOL). Response to spills in the Antarctic region.
* Geology, oceanography, terrestrial glaciology, sea ice and floes, meteorology and Antarctic climatology.
* Navigation and maritime security: Operating conventional ships. Classifying icebreakers. Set-up and preparation of icebreakers. Navigation aids. Strengths and weaknesses of radars used in the Antarctic. Operating in soft and hard glacial regions. GPS, the electronic chart and its general facts and uses in high latitudes. Hydrographic survey and mapping in the Antarctic. Icebreakers main features. Operating icebreakers. Operating helicopters from ships in the Antarctic.
* Nautical and commanding experiences: operating auxiliary and research ships. Set-up, planning and advanced management of Antarctic campaign.
* Antarctic survival in land and cold water. Immersion and drift. Hypothermia. First aid in the Antarctic.
* Fauna, environmental protection and preservation of living resources.

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| Closure Ceremony Throughout the 10 days, all activities were aimed at setting the stage for an international professional exchange, within scope of the spirit raised by the Antarctic Treaty, to comprise and share all the available knowledge on the Antarctic. Also, to pass on the Argentine experience in the region, in such a way that the assisting seamen understand how operations and nautical security work, and get acquainted with all the tasks concerning regional environment, survival on land and sea, and the prevention of spills and pollution of southernmost areas. |

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| http://www.escm.edu.ar/Images/Noticias/N2010/Clausura2010.jpg | *Authorities present at the Closure Ceremony of the 21st NAVANTAR* |

### Delivery of Certificates:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| All along, efforts have been placed on increasing and consolidating the community of maritime professionals concerned with operations in this region and mindful of the environment, strengthening fellowship amongst military and civilian mariners. Hence, this mutual acquaintance and comradeship of crews has deepened throughout the last 19 instalments of NAVANTAR, constituted by 748 mariners from Germany, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Guatemala, Holland, India, Italy, Mexico, Norway, New Zealand, Paraguay, Peru, South Africa, Spain, the UK, Uruguay, Venezuela and Argentina. | | | |
| http://www.escm.edu.ar/Images/Noticias/N2010/MMercante.jpg |  |
| *Certificate awarded to Merchant Navy Officer* |  |

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| http://www.escm.edu.ar/Images/Noticias/N2010/Docente.jpg |  |

* *Certificate awarded to Teacher*

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| Finally, it may be assured that the course has lived up to its motto: *Knowledge, training, experience and skills together are the driving force towards success in managing maritime risk in the Antarctic*; and whose corollary still is: *To protect the Antarctic environment, its fauna and living resources.* |

# Information about the course:

## Venue

ESCUELA NACIONAL DE NAUTICA

1535 Av. Antártida Argentina

C1104ACC Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires. Argentina.

## Date

This course is held on an annual basis between the last week of August and the first week of September.

## Class hours

09:00 to 12:30 and 14:00 to 17:30

## Language

Spanish with simultaneous Spanish-to-English interpretation.

## Bibliography

Reading material and class revision sheets are handed out in Spanish, except certain limited issues which come in English.

## Registration

* Fill out the pre-registration form (http://www.navantar.escm.edu.ar/Inscripcion.asp)
* Must be a graduate of a tertiary naval institute; with either military or civil training.
* The course is completely free of cost.
* The course does not provide facilities or expenses as regards lodging, transportation and meals. Neither does it include reception at airport and transfer to and from the city.