

...ITs Experience a Schoolhouse Revolution

The Navy's enlisted information technology specialists now receive the same training as their contemporaries in the civilian world -- thanks to feedback from the fleet and cooperation from Task Force Excel. Information Systems Technician (IT) "A" School, at Service School Command Great Lakes, has undergone a revolution in training. ITs operate and maintain the Navy's state-of-the-art information systems. These systems include local- and wide-area networks, mainframe, mini- and macro-computer systems, and associated peripheral devices. They provide communication links and connectivity to every shore station and ship at sea. Starting Sept. 3, IT "A" school students will go through a new 14-week course, which includes A+ certification, Windows 2000 training and Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) classes. There will be 20 students in each course, with one or two instructors per course. To receive the A+ certification, which assesses basic computer repair skills, students must pass two tests -- one for software and one for hardware. Training for A+ certification takes place in a hands-on setting, with modern computers, computer parts and tools. Windows 2000 is the operating system upon which the Navy currently relies. Prospective ITs will learn basic Windows 2000 skills, such as how to set up client accounts and troubleshooting. The Cisco Networking Academy Program (CNAP), equivalent to 280 hours of instruction, teaches IT 'A' school students valuable Internet technology skills, including networking, Web design, IT essentials, cabling, Java and UNIX. CNAP combines instructor-led learning with hands-on laboratory training. Students apply what they learn in class while working on actual networks. The new curriculum began to take shape last December. After IT "A" school officials assessed feedback from the fleet, they decided that the course of instruction should go in a different direction.



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