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Defense Orientation Conference Association



DOCA's Visit to New England

Fifty DOCA members recently traveled to New England to visit the USS Constitution, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Surface Warfare Officers School, Naval War College, Electric Boat Shipbuilding and Submarine Base New London. Three new members joined us for their first DOCA program along with two prospective members: Michael O'Neil of Napa, California; William Roebel of Fort Wayne, Indiana; and Donald Steininger of Fort Wayne, Indiana; and prospective members Michael Bradford of Gainesville, Florida and Donald Reeder of Newport Beach, California.

Meeting in Boston on a Sunday evening, we toured the historic USS Constitution. "Old Ironsides" is the oldest commissioned warship in the world and her daring victories during the War of 1812 are legendary.

On Monday morning we bused to Groton, Connecticut for a day-long series of briefings and tours at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Rear Admiral Sandra Stosz, Superintendent of the Academy, welcomed our group and fielded our questions before handing us off to the impressive young men and women of her staff.

The next day, we visited Naval Station Newport, Rhode Island. There we toured the training simulators at the Surface Warfare Officers School, the Battle Lab at the Naval War College (NWC), and met with Rear Admiral Walter Carter, President of NWC, and members of his faculty for some fascinating discussions.

On Wednesday, we moved on to Electric Boat Shipbuilding's Quonset Point facility where much of the pre-fabrication work is done to build modern nuclear powered submarines, then to the actual shipyard in Groton, CT where the hull sections are assembled and completed submarines are launched.

We wrapped up our program on Thursday morning at Naval Submarine Base New London, where Captain Carl Lahti, Commanding Officer of the base, and members of his team gave us an in-depth look at how today's submariners are trained.

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