

Agencies, Thais analyze oil platform security

By Aleksander Rodriguez / Naval Postgraduate School Center for Asymmetric Warfare

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Personnel from Naval Postgraduate School-Center for Asymmetric Warfare (CAW) met with representatives from the Royal Thai Naval Special Warfare and from Ventura County and Los Angeles County regional response agencies to examine offshore oil platform safety and security.

The approach of the exchange was to review and discuss previous efforts at establishing a security and emergency response plan in the event of an offshore platform emergency.

The meeting started with an overview of the experience and awareness that CAW has gained since 2007 about offshore platform safety and security around the coast of California and the United States. Part of the discussion was to analyze current Ventura County, Los Angeles County, state and federal emergency response capabilities.

After discussions, CAW demonstrated the standard infrastructure construction of an offshore platform and its potential vulnerabilities. They ranged from easy access from a boat, including a kayak, to potential communication difficulties in the event of a threat.

The group then flew by helicopter to the offshore Platform Grace, off the coast of Ventura County, to tour the platform and see some of the safety and security measures.

The goal of the meeting was to continue creating and supporting offshore platform safety and security programs with potential cooperation from international allies.

CAW (www.cawnps.org) is a satellite research center of the Naval Postgraduate School and a tenant of Naval Base Ventura County, Point Mugu. Its mission is to facilitate the improvement of preparedness and capabilities of military and civil authorities at all levels to prevent, defend against and mitigate the effects of asymmetric threats to national, homeland and global security, including terrorism and natural or man-made disasters. The offshore platform event is one of many efforts in support of that mission.



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