

Training Air Wing FIVE Improving “STREET To FLEET” Night Vision Goggle Instruction Through The Use Of Virtual Technology

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*TH-57C NVG compatible cockpit.
Photo taken by LT Tom Jones,, USN*

Due to the large volume of night operations in the current operational environment (Iraq and Afghanistan), student Naval Aviators training in the advanced rotary wing flight syllabus at NAS Whiting Field are now all receiving Night Vision Goggle (NVG) instruction. Since October 2005, over 1200 students have completed the advanced helicopter training syllabus that includes a NVG syllabus using the same goggles as the Naval operating forces, AN/AVS-9.

Before the first NVG flight, students complete the MAWTS-1 NVG indoctrination course. Whereas most Navy and Marine Corps NVG ground school programs are taught by Aeromedical Safety Officers (AMSO), the NVG classroom instructors at Whiting Field are all Naval aviators, including the current TW-5 AMSO. These unique NVG instructors bring a wealth of related flight experience into the classroom that is readily imparted to the students.

Not only is the classroom instruction first-rate, but the lab contains some of the latest state-of-the-art technology. TW-5 NITE Lab, in conjunction with the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) and Marine Air Group 39 is serving as one of four beta test sites for the latest innovative breakthrough in NVG classroom training, a virtual terrain board (VTB). The VTB is a small foot print, high fidelity, digital projection system for NVG training driven by customized multi-spectral



*LT Otis Travers teaching NVG indoctrination course at TW-5.
Photo taken by LT Tom Jones*

databases. The VTB’s 360° panoramic scenes in a virtual environment, with its simulate and stimulate NVG training modes, give users and trainers a unique advantage in NVG training for flight and ground operations. The VTB takes advantage of PC based graphics systems and advanced DLP projection capabilities to create extremely high fidelity renderings of the NVG environment.

The VTB utilizes actual real-life aerial photos taken at various locations to include training areas local to Pensacola.

Read more in Rotor Review 102