

Inzpire and QinetiQ Deliver Live Firing Anti-Surface Warfare Training for HMS LANCASTER

18 MAY 2022: Inzpire and QinetiQ, in collaboration with Fleet Operational Sea Training (FOST), have successfully delivered a multi-domain warfare training scenario to HMS LANCASTER.

Operating from one of QinetiQ's T3E ranges, MOD Aberporth, Exercise SHARPSHOOTER 22 (EXSS 22) allowed the ship's personnel to use live ammunition from medium and close-range weapons against dynamic remote controlled surface vessels and static targets.

Experts from Inzpire's maritime and collective training divisions worked closely with the FOST team to understand the customer's needs and develop a scenario that would meet training objectives.

The scenario was then, with QinetiQ's range capability, presented to the ship's team with time-sensitive tactical dilemmas, created to rehearse the rapid prioritisation and engagement of high-threat targets travelling at real-world speeds.

The first two days tested the ship's ability to operate its gunnery systems against static targets in a deliberate fashion with maritime patrol aircraft, coastal defence cruise missile and coastguard enemy interactions overlaid.

During this phase, Inzpire provided additional capacity to the FOST team both ashore and afloat by simulating the maritime component commander's operational staff work and orders, to enable the immersive delivery of EXSS 22.

The close liaison between QinetiQ staff and the exercise director supported the dynamic range management needed to enable the smooth and safe conduct of the training.

This collaborative approach also provided flexibility to adapt the plan due to challenging weather conditions, with minimal impact to the ship's team.

In a true multi-agency approach, the exercise was also supported by analysts from the Maritime Capability Trials and Assessment (MCTA) team as well as members of 148 (Meiktila) Commando Forward Observation Battery, 29 Commando Regiment, Royal Artillery, who supported the ship's medium range gunnery firings.

The final day saw an increase in complexity of the scenario. Using its weapon systems and live ammunition, the ship responded to multiple targets including fast inshore attack craft while managing threats from maritime patrol aircraft and synthetic coastal defence cruise missile attacks.

On completion of the training period, Inzpire personnel facilitated interactive debriefs with the ship's company and FOST staff, noting any key lessons to ensure maximum training benefit. It was noted by all parties that EXSS 22 added a layer of scenario complexity not seen in previous SHARPSHOOTER packages, all enabled through QinetiQ's assured range and target expertise.

Personnel from across Inzpire's collective training, space and cyber divisions provided additional content and subject matter expertise throughout the event, which enhanced the multi-domain aspects of the training and supported the MOD's aim of achieving greater lethality and agility across warfare domains.

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Nick Borbone, Head of Inzpire Maritime Division: *“Inzpire was delighted to support FOST and work with QinetiQ to generate realistic scenarios which accompanied HMS LANCASTER’s ‘Sharpshooter’ enhanced lethality training.*

“By developing and delivering dynamically managed training vignettes, Inzpire provided an immersive tactical wrapper, which allowed the ship’s team the freedom to operate weapon systems against QinetiQ’s array of targets thereby enabling them to more effectively train as they would fight.”

Commander Tom Johnson Royal Navy, Commanding Officer HMS LANCASTER said: *“My team have come away from this package with their heads held high and hugely enthused about their ability to defend LANCASTER and take the fight to the opposition if required.”*

John Harries, QinetiQ Head of Air Ranges: *“The recent Sharpshooter exercise is the latest in the development of relevant and representative training environment at the MOD Aberporth Range for Royal Navy FOST.*

“The range is one of many that support the Test, Trials, Training and Evaluation (T3E) facilities and services under the Long-Term Partnering Agreement (LTPA), enabling us to support the continuous development of the Royal Navy capability and readiness to address the ever-changing threats, through effective live training and post event analysis.”

About Inzpire Limited

Founded in 2005, and part of QinetiQ Plc, Inzpire is a multi-award-winning supplier of advanced defence training, technical services and cutting-edge mission systems. The company is a trusted partner of the UK MOD and employs highly experienced former military personnel who work alongside defence engineers and business professionals to deliver operationally credible solutions to military, private and public sector customers. Find out more at www.inzpire.com.

Inzpire’s Maritime Division

Inzpire’s maritime experts work seamlessly alongside the company’s Collective Training Division and have designed and delivered over 300 live and synthetic exercises and provided operationally realistic training to over 10,000 frontline personnel.

Together, the QinetiQ and Inzpire teams have worked with the Royal Navy to support JTEPS Joint Warrior events, Fleet Operational Sea Training for Type 45 destroyer mission rehearsal and pre-deployment training for the UK Carrier Strike Group.

About QinetiQ

QinetiQ is an international integrated defence and security company focused on mission-led innovation for defence, security and civil customers around the world. They are 6000 people creating new ways of protecting what matters most; testing technologies, systems, and processes to make sure they work as expected; and enabling customers to deploy new and enhanced-existing capabilities with the assurance they will deliver the outcomes required. www.qinetiq.com

About T3E - Test, Trials and Evaluation

T3E – test, trials and evaluation, is managed under the Long-Term Partnering Agreement (LTPA) between QinetiQ and the UK Ministry of Defence. Under the Agreement, QinetiQ is responsible for

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the operation of 15 MOD land, sea and air ranges and specialist test facilities, and the provision of specialist technical expertise and support services, with a mission to enable the continuous development of UK and allied nations defence capabilities and readiness to address ever changing threats.

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Interview Requests

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