

Marine Interdiction Agent Jon Rose from Erie Marine Unit, Pennsylvania, navigates a vessel during his yearly recurrent vessel commander course.

given to our agents when making critical use-of-force decisions,” he said. “That’s huge.” Since 2003, AMO has engaged in 126 events involving marine warning and disabling fire.

However, the center prepares commanders to use good judgement since they’re accountable to act within policy. For example, deciding when and where to pursue a vessel. Offshore pursuits give agents more control and little chance for violators to escape.

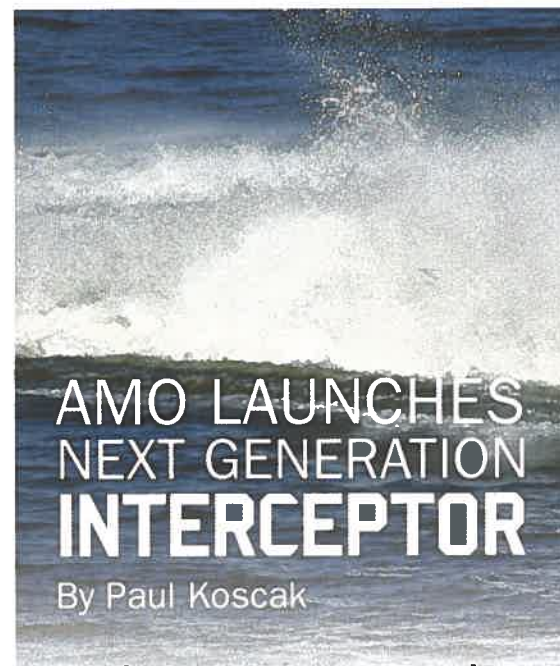
Thanks to a business mindset, the center gets the most from its \$1.08 million dollar budget, where efficiency and quality training go hand-in-hand.

The center has its own fueling station. Buying in bulk cuts costs and time since vessels no longer travel to offsite marinas to fill up at retail prices.

To eliminate airfare, attendees from Florida and Louisiana must drive to the center. Rental cars are shared and the center negotiated with three area hotels to provide rooms at \$33 below the government rate. Those measures alone save more than \$60,000 per year, Wade said, while the center pumps more than \$600,000 into the local economy.

More savings are captured through the center’s maintenance facility which keeps vessels in top shape at well below the going rate. Training vessels demand more attention because the constant maneuvering places greater stress and wear on the craft compared to regular operations.

“We never had to keep a class over because of maintenance issues,” Wade said. “Our dedicated technicians work day and night to support the mission.”



By Paul Koscak

To enhance operations, AMO is planning vessels. Through a contract with SAFE Bo hull design, safety equipment and electro reliability.

The vessels are designed to meet emergir be deployed to marine units nationwide, San Diego. They will defend the nation’s

“We are excited to share this new vessel department and the American public wh executive assistant commissioner. **F**

