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## **BRITISH JUDO TEAM LEARN LESSONS FROM THE FLIGHT DECK**

Members of the British Judo Association have been honing their teamwork skills with BAE Systems at Portsmouth Naval Base.

They spent two days at the company's Change Academy, which provides in-house training and support open to around 3,500 employees in its Maritime Services business on how to work more effectively.

It's the first time an external organisation has used the Change Academy, with 22 members of British Judo's performance team taking part.

They included the team's doctors, coaches and athletes, and as well as classroom time they were also given the opportunity to see first-hand the work BAE Systems' teams do at Portsmouth Naval Base, including supporting HMS Queen Elizabeth, the nation's new aircraft carrier.

British Judo Performance Director Nigel Donahue said: "The tour of Portsmouth Naval Base was inspirational. For example, getting an insight into all that it takes to build an aircraft carrier is transferable to the way we have to work together to reach success.

"Like the British military, we want to have the best equipment, technology and operations – we want to be the best in the world."

The day also involved hands-on sessions designed to test the participants' teamwork skills.

Athlete Lubjana Piovesana, 21, is about to compete in the qualifying rounds for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo, and attended the day.

She said: "I really enjoyed the game where teams had to make a boat out of Stickle Bricks in just 15 seconds, and had three chances to do it. Both teams started out feeling very stressed but then improved each time because they started communicating better with each other."

Other exercises helped them to gain clarity on their strategy and built on their team dynamic, which is especially important as British Judo, which has around 60 employees, is based at different sites around the UK.

Change Academy Lead Andrea Birmingham said: "Having learners from outside BAE Systems for the first time showed me that what we teach can be applied in a completely different context.

"Having people from different levels within their organisation was also brilliant - it gave their athletes a voice on how to improve the way they collaborate as a team."

ENDS

Notes to Editors

BAE Systems Maritime Services is headquartered at Portsmouth Naval Base, and provides end-to-end support for more than half the Royal Navy's fleet. The company also manufactures and supports underwater weapons, radar, and microwave electronics for use in the aerospace industry. We also

offer weapons training for Royal Navy personnel who will be deployed on some of the world's most advanced ship.

Maritime Services employs around 3,500 people at sites that include Portsmouth Naval Base, Broad Oak in Portsmouth, Cowes on the Isle of Wight, Chelmsford in Essex, Filton in Bristol, and Hillend in Fife.

BAE Systems' Change Academy is run with support from S A Partners, Europe's longest-established Lean Consultancy.

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