



Photo by Ashley Cowan

Dry Dock Work Completed on CVN 73

Newport News Shipbuilding has completed the dry dock portion of USS *George Washington*'s (CVN 73) refueling and complex overhaul (RCOH).

Following the recent flooding of more than 100 million gallons of water into the dry dock, CVN 73 was successfully moved to an outfitting berth, where it will begin final outfitting and testing. The overhaul now is more than 60% complete and on track to be completed in late 2021.

“Getting *George Washington* out of the dry dock and back into the water is an important milestone in the overhaul process for

shipbuilders, sailors and our government partners. Over the next 24 months we will focus on readying the ship for the next 25 years of its operational life,” said **Chris Miner**, vice president of In-Service Aircraft Carrier Programs. “Once our work is complete, *George Washington* will leave Newport News Shipbuilding as the world’s most technologically advanced *Nimitz*-class warship in the fleet.”

During the dry dock phase of the RCOH, *George Washington* underwent significant upgrades and extensive repair work both inside and outside the ship. In addition to defueling and refueling its power plant, shipbuilders have re-preserved approximately...



Shipbuilders celebrate the completion of 100 safety improvements in the Foundry. Photo by **Ashley Cowan**

Foundry Celebrates Safety Improvements



Shipbuilders who work in the Foundry recently celebrated the completion of 100 safety improvement projects in their workspace this year. Their intent was 60.

“The goal to make 60 improvements seemed steep at first, but we reached our goal by June,” said **Matthew O’Quinn**, a welding general foreman. “The team’s commitment to safety is impressive.”

Improvement projects include weekly eyewash station inspections, monthly fire extinguisher inspections and adequate lighting installations. A contributor to a few of the projects and a member of the Safety Task Team, **Paul Howard** said the Foundry has come a long way. “I’ve worked here for 27 years, but experience doesn’t matter when it comes to safety,” he said. “Safety comes first. It’s important to question your leadership if you think something isn’t safe.”

Kate Britting, a welder, said she enjoys using the lines and hoses that are now elevated or under yellow tracks on the floor. “The improvement saves me time and back pain when welding,” she said. “It also is less of a tripping hazard because the hoses and lines used to be scattered on the floor.”

Moving forward, the Foundry team is familiarizing itself with a new 5S assessment checklist and focusing on how to finish the year with a best-ever safety performance. The 5S assessment checklist stands for sort, set in order, shine, standardize and sustain. Each shipbuilder received a Foundry-logged T-shirt.

**CVN
79**
JOHN F. KENNEDY

NNS to Christen *Kennedy* in December

Newport News Shipbuilding will christen the second *Gerald R. Ford*-class aircraft carrier, *John F. Kennedy* (CVN 79), Saturday, Dec. 7. Look for more details in upcoming editions of *Currents* and on the NNS to Go app.

Practice Fire Safety at Work and Home

October is National Fire Safety Month. Many everyday operations at Newport News Shipbuilding like welding and grinding provide potential ignition sources for fire. Read the tips below to stay safe at work and at home:

Work

- Before starting any hot work, remove all combustibles within 35 feet.
- Make it a habit to dispose of debris and items that burn.
- Know the evacuation routes in your work space.

Home

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home.
- Test smoke alarms every month.
- Ensure all household members know two ways to escape from every room.

If a fire occurs in your work area or your home, get out, stay out and call for help. Never go back inside.

Dry Dock Work Completed on CVN 73

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

...600 tanks, and replaced thousands of valves, pumps and piping components. On the outside, they performed major structural updates to the island, mast and antenna tower; upgraded all aircraft launch and recovery equipment, painted the ship’s hull, including sea chests and freeboard, updated the propeller shafts and installed refurbished propellers.

During the next phase, shipbuilders will finish up the overhaul and installation of the ship’s major components and test its electronics, combat and propulsion systems before the carrier is redelivered to the Navy. This period also will be dedicated to improving the ship’s living areas, including crew living spaces, galleys and mess decks.

CVN 73 arrived at NNS in August 2017 and is the sixth *Nimitz*-class aircraft to undergo RCOH, which will equip the carrier to operate in the U.S. Navy fleet for the second half of her 50-year expected service life.



Lisa Gabriel was diagnosed with breast cancer after taking advantage of an onsite mammogram last fall. Photo by Matt Hildreth

Onsite Mammogram Leads to Cancer Diagnosis

Lisa Gabriel (E79) knew she was overdue for a mammogram last fall. When coworker Deb Burrill (E79) suggested they take advantage of Chesapeake Regional Healthcare's mobile mammography unit – which was onsite at the HII Family Health Center – Gabriel agreed.

"I knew I needed to have one. I just didn't want to take the time to go to get it done. With it being right here at the health center, it was just so much easier to schedule it and go after work," Gabriel said. "If it hadn't been here, I probably still would be procrastinating."

She later received a letter telling her she needed to have a follow-up mammogram. Within weeks, Gabriel was diagnosed with stage two breast cancer. It was a shock for the then 51-year-old shipbuilder who had no family history of breast cancer. She had even conducted self-exams and never felt a lump.

"I had never had any health problems at all," she said. "I barely missed work because I don't get sick." After surgery and months of chemotherapy and radiation treatments, Gabriel is now cancer free. She returned to work in July. But she knows her story could have been different had she continued to wait to have a mammogram.

"It could've been worse. I didn't have to have a mastectomy, I just had the lump taken out," Gabriel said. "Early detection really saved my life and my breast."

Gabriel said her story shows anyone can be affected, even if they have no signs or symptoms. She now advocates for everyone to closely follow guidelines for breast cancer screenings and to take advantage of wellness programs offered through Newport News Shipbuilding.

"It's your health. They're offering these screenings right here where you work. Why not take advantage?" she said. "It doesn't take that long. It doesn't hurt. Just go get it done."

Gabriel is regaining her strength and happy to be back at NNS. "I had a lot of support from my management and my department, and that makes it easier," she said.

Free Mammograms Available in October



Chesapeake Regional Healthcare's mobile mammography unit will be onsite at the HII Family Health Center every Monday during Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October to perform free annual screening mammograms for Newport News Shipbuilding employees:

- Oct. 7 and 21: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Oct. 14: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Oct. 28: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The fully equipped mobile mammography van offers comfortable and discreet appointments for state-of-the-art 2D and 3D mammograms for women age 40 and over.

For more information and to schedule your appointment, call (757) 312-6400 or visit www.chesapeakemammo.com and select Newport News Shipbuilding as your appointment location. Walk-ins are welcome. Bring your medical insurance card and photo ID to your appointment.

UPoint No Longer Supported by Internet Explorer

Due to new security protocols from HII's benefits administrator, UPoint is no longer accessible from Internet Explorer. To log into UPoint, visit www.hiibenefits.com from Google Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge or Safari.

NOTICE: Vaping Devices and Electronic Cigarettes

To ensure a safe workplace and prevent potential fire hazards, Newport News Shipbuilding will no longer permit the use, possession or storage of electronic cigarettes and/or vaping devices on company property and property the company is leasing effective Monday, Oct. 7.

This decision comes after numerous reports of vaping device and electronic cigarette explosions. The U.S. Navy has already instituted a policy prohibiting vaping devices and e-cigarettes on their ships. The NNS policy regarding this can be found in the Fire Prevention and Control Manual, which is available on the Security and Emergency Management website on MyNNS.

To learn about the low- and no-cost tobacco cessation programs offered by the company and to see a list of frequently asked questions, see the Distribution A memo.

iDS Career Opportunities Available

Newport News Shipbuilding will host an internal Integrated Digital Shipbuilding (iDS) hiring information session from noon until 2 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 24, in Bldg. 520-6 (James River Room). Employees interested in learning about NNS' digital transformation initiatives or internal iDS career opportunities are encouraged to attend.

The presentation will begin at noon. iDS leadership and Talent Acquisition will be available to answer questions. The Mobile

Experience (MX) trailer will be onsite for tours following the presentation. Employees are not required to stay for the full two hours.

Employees are encouraged to register online. They must use personal time or flex with management approval if attending during normal working hours. Career opportunities are available in design, engineering, IT and production planning.



Hill President and CEO **Mike Petters** (center) greets Secretary of Defense Mark Esper during his visit to NNS. Photo by **Matt Hildreth**

Secretary of Defense Visits NNS

Secretary of Defense Mark Esper visited Newport News Shipbuilding and the aircraft carrier USS *Gerald R. Ford* (CVN 78) on Sept. 25. This was Esper's first visit to the shipyard since he was sworn in to lead the U.S. Department of Defense in July.

Esper toured *Ford* to see the progress being made during the ship's post-shakedown availability and to learn more about its weapons-handling innovations and increased warfighting capabilities.

"Our shipbuilders play a vital role in building our Navy's future fleet," said NNS President **Jennifer Boykin**. "We appreciate that Secretary Esper took the time to visit our operations and *Ford* to see first-hand how we are working with our Navy partners to redeliver the newest nuclear-powered aircraft carrier that will be the centerpiece of our nation's security strategy for decades to come."

NNS Celebrates Inclusion and Diversity Week



Inclusion and diversity stand at the forefront of Newport News Shipbuilding's NNSFORWARD Strategy. Just last week, the company celebrated its first "I&D Week" with lunch and learns and other activities to highlight the importance of inclusion and diversity.

Diversity is the range of human differences, commonly associated with age, race, gender, ethnicity and sexual orientation. As each employee is different and offers unique contributions to the workplace, diversity also recognizes professional characteristics such as communication style, work habits, behavioral attitudes, geographical origin, economic status and experiences. Inclusion is involvement, valuing and embracing these differences to cultivate a culture where employees are able to work to their full potential and

have a sense of belonging.

A diverse workforce alone does not ensure differences will be leveraged to maximize performance. "Without inclusion, you won't have engagement," said **Margaret Williams**, manager of Inclusion and Diversity.

An engaged workforce is a core driver of performance and the success of the company. According to research by Gallup, engaged employees are twice as likely to stay in their current jobs, two and a half times more likely to feel they can make a difference and three times as likely to report being satisfied in their jobs.

Figg Speaks at TEA Talk

Engineering and Design hosted Teaching Enlightening Aspiring (TEA) Talk with **Gary Figg**, Professional Enhancement Enrichment Rotation (PEER) Program manager, in August.

Figg told attendees how he lost his fear of fear through confronting new challenges and making connections with others. Figg credits his relationships for shaping his leadership style and said he still turns to people he respects for counsel and coaching.

Two of Figg's go-to leaders at Newport News Shipbuilding are **Aylin Robertson** and **Jessica Gomez**, who told him, "The path to success is never a straight line." Figg said he lives every day without fear of fear and consistently pushes himself into new opportunities through his very active life in art. For more information, visit the TEA Talk website.



AROUND THE YARD

PEER Program Recruiting Host Managers



In the past 18 months, the Professional Enhancement and Enrichment Rotation (PEER) Program roster has grown from 66 to 93 participants with an expected peak of 100 in January 2020. PEER participants bring a wide range of skills and backgrounds, including administrators, production planners and engineers. Benefits of hosting a PEER participant include accelerating the development of highly engaged shipbuilders, building your professional legacy and enabling our workforce.

Leaders from across Newport News Shipbuilding, including those listed below, have seen the program's benefits firsthand.

"PEERs offer diversity in knowledge and experience. We learn from each other. We grow together. We challenge, stretch and develop one another."

Katina Adams (O55)
PEER Host Manager

"Hosting PEER participants allows me to reap the rewards of a highly-engaged, contributing member to my team."

Josh Buchanan (K49)
PEER Host Manager and Cohort 7 Alumnus

"We all have a responsibility to drive leadership development across the company. Participating in the PEER program is a great way to do so and, also, benefit your department."

Brian Caccavale
Vice President of Supply Chain Management

"Hosting a PEER participant is a great opportunity to help employees reach their true potential. The PEER team does an excellent job in getting the right fit."

Nancy Harvin (O34)
PEER Host Manager

"If you like being around people that are energetic, willing to learn and want to leave your organization better off than when they arrived, then I encourage you to host a PEER."

Aylin Robertson
Director of Production, Planning and Scheduling

Potential hosts can attend a PEER open house event to experience the program and meet prospective and active participants. An invitation is not required. Open houses will be held from 4 until 6 p.m. Oct. 2 in Bldg. 520-6 (James River Room) and from 4 until 6 p.m. Oct. 16 in Bldg. 903-7 (MDC).

Participating as a host manager requires only a brief description of work using the Host Agreement Template by Wednesday, Oct. 9. For more information, contact **Gary Figg (O44)** at 688-4495 or via email.



William Watson III, second from left, presents a plaque to Christopher Sparno, second from right. Photo by Ashley Cowan

Shipbuilder Honored for Outstanding Performance

Christopher Sparno (X36), a crane operator in Structural Fabrication and Assembly, was recently honored for going above and beyond to support fitters (X11). Foreman **William Watson III** presented Sparno with a plaque to recognize his outstanding performance.

REMINDER: Social Media Guidelines for HII Employees

Kenny Rogers, corporate director of Ethics and Business Conduct, sent a message to employees Sept. 24 regarding social media.

The consequence of a Huntington Ingalls Industries employee posting racist, sexist, bullying or other offensive content on his or her social media pages – or even on someone else's – may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination. The company's expectations for employee behavior are included in HII's Code of Ethics and Business Conduct. The company also has guidelines for employee use of social media.

HII does not routinely monitor employees' social media activity, but the company receives reports – from employees and from members of the general public – when offensive content is posted by HII employees. These reports are taken seriously and promptly investigated.

For more information, employees should contact their business conduct officer.

Second-Shift Food Truck Roundup Planned for Oct. 2



Aramark Services and Newport News Shipbuilding Food Services will host a Food Truck Roundup at 8 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 2, at Pier 3/Material Laydown Area. Shipbuilders are invited to come out and support the vendors and fellowship with fellow employees.

For questions, contact **Dwain Jenkins Sr. (K49)** via email or at 688-7281 or Mickey Yeaman at (757) 285-0153 or Yeaman-Mickey@aramark.com.

DATEBOOK

OCTOBER 1

October is National Disability Awareness Month. Human Resources and Administration inclusion and diversity champions, in collaboration with the G.I.F.T. employee resource group, invite shipbuilders to an event from 4:30 until 6 p.m. in the VASCIC auditorium with Holly Whittenburg, VCU Rehabilitation Research and Training Center's site coordinator for research studies. She will discuss the importance of an inclusive workforce that includes individuals with disabilities and how they bring a range of strengths and assets to our organization. The event is open to all NNS employees.

OCTOBER 1

The Professional Enhancement and Enrichment Rotation (PEER) Program is hosting a learn at lunch (bring your own lunch) event for potential candidates from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. in Bldg. 160-2 (Engineering Ops. Conference Room). The program is open to salaried individual contributors. Sign up by emailing PEERProgram@hii-nns.com and include your name, department, phone number and learn at lunch date.

OCTOBER 2

Shipbuilders who are interested in the PEER Program can attend an open house from 4 until 6 p.m. in Bldg. 520-6 (James River Room). The event will provide an opportunity for candidates, active participants and host departments to discuss rotation opportunities, candidate goals, department needs and mutual expectations. The program is open to salaried individual contributors. Visit the PEER Program website for more information.

OCTOBER 3

The Hispanic Outreach and Leadership Alliance (HOLA) employee resource group is hosting a Hispanic Heritage Month celebration from 4:30 until 6 p.m. in the VASCIC auditorium. Professor John Riofrio, director of Latin American Studies and associate professor of Hispanic Studies at the College of William & Mary, will be the featured speaker. The topic of Riofrio's discussion is "Hispanic Americans: A History of Serving Our Nation."

OCTOBER 3

Several engineering professional societies are hosting E-Trilogy, a joint fall meeting, at 6 p.m. at Revolution Golf and Grill in Williamsburg. Dr. John D. Anderson Jr. will speak on "NASA Langley Research Center: A Magnet for Quality." The cost is \$30. To purchase tickets, visit bit.ly/2m8QuPW.

OCTOBER 4

In-Service Aircraft Carriers is hosting its 16th Annual Aircraft Carrier Invitational Golf Tournament at Ford's Colony Country Club. The event is a four-man captain's choice format starting at 1 p.m. with registration beginning at 11 a.m. Cost is \$500 per team, which includes golf, driving range, welcome gifts and dinner. Proceeds from the event will benefit the USO. Contact **Bruce Roberts** (K69) at 380-4964 to register.

OCTOBER 8

Have too many family members on your payroll? Attend the Finances and Family class from SmartPath to help your family become financially independent. Classes are available at noon in Bldg. 520-6 (James River Room) and at 4:30 p.m. in the VASCIC auditorium. To register, visit nns.huntingtoningalls.com/smartpath-registration.

OCTOBER 9

The Professional Enhancement and Enrichment Rotation (PEER) Program is hosting a learn at lunch (bring your own lunch) event for potential candidates from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. in Bldg. 903-7 (MDC). The program is open to salaried individual contributors. Sign up by emailing PEERProgram@hii-nns.com and include your name, department, phone number and learn at lunch date.

OCTOBER 15

L.E.A.R.N. will host an after-work presentation with **Christie Thomas**, vice president of Contracts and Pricing, from 4:30 until 6 p.m. in the VASCIC auditorium. The event is open to all employees by reservation only. Sign-up on the L.E.A.R.N. website. For questions, contact **Tanika Vasquez** (E08) at 688-7916, **Helen Dennie** (O28) at 380-4831, or email LEARN@hii-nns.com.

OCTOBER 19 & NOVEMBER 2

Newport News Shipbuilding is a sponsor of the Hampton Roads Heart Walk. The Peninsula walk is Oct. 19 at Peninsula Town Center in Hampton, and the Southside walk is Nov. 2 at Mount Trashmore in Virginia Beach. Register at www.HamptonRoadsHeartWalk.org or become a team lead. For more information, visit the NNS Heart Walk website on MyNNS or contact **Tammy Wagner** (E42) at 688-2824.

OCTOBER 22

Join the Hampton Roads Section of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers (SNAME) at the Hampton Yacht Club from 6 until 8:30 p.m. for "The Apprentice School - Celebrating a Century" with Bill Fox. To RSVP, visit the SNAME website or email TJ Brackin at sname.meetings@gmail.com.

OCTOBER 19

The Apprentice School Builders football team will host Louisburg College from Louisburg, North Carolina, at 1 p.m. at the Apprentice Football Stadium for homecoming. Shipbuilders are encourage to come out to cheer on the Builders. Use the hashtag #AnchorsUp to support the team on social media.

OCTOBER 26

The Apprentice School Builders football team will host Keystone College from La Plume, Pennsylvania, at 1 p.m. at the Apprentice Football Stadium. Shipbuilders are encourage to come out to cheer on the Builders. Use the hashtag #AnchorsUp to support the team on social media.

NOVEMBER 16

Women in Shipbuilding Enterprise (WiSE) is seeking volunteers to work the silent auction at the 27th Annual Achievable Dream Tennis Ball. The event starts at 4 p.m. at the Hampton Roads Convention Center. Dinner will be provided. Contact **Cenise Waites** (T56) at 688-1697 or via email by Nov. 4 to sign up.

"FUN WALKS" PLANNED

Leading up to the Hampton Roads Heart Walk, shipbuilders are invited to join **Chris Miner**, vice president of In-Service Aircraft Carrier Programs, for lunchtime fun walks from noon until 12:30 p.m. to raise awareness of heart disease. Dates and locations are listed below.

Oct. 7

In front of Bldg. 86

Oct. 10

Between Bldgs. 1745 and 1865 (*Enterprise Route*)

Oct. 14

In front of Bldg. 86

Oct. 18

Pier 3 (*Nimitz-Class Route*)

SEEKING SHIPBUILDERS

Visit www.buildyourcareer.com to search for the latest NNS job openings.

Job Title	Req Number	Dept.	Location
Entry-level Pipefitter	31738BR	X42	Newport News
Entry-level Structural Welder	30625BR	X18	Newport News
Experienced Blaster	31476BR	X33	Newport News
Experienced Insulator	32073BR	X33	Newport News
Experienced Marine Painter	30184BR	X33	Newport News
Experienced Structural Welder	31788BR	X18	Newport News
Pipefitter Trainee	31743BR	X42	Newport News
Cost Estimating Analyst 3	31986BR	O19	Newport News
Director, Quality Assurance Policy 2	31890BR	O30	Newport News
Senior Supply Chain Specialist	28765BR	O51	San Diego, CA

Employees are encouraged to use the "Current HII Employees" portal to apply. The company continues to offer cash bonus awards for referrals to select positions, visit www.huntingtoningalls.com/careers/refer-a-friend for more information.