Press Release

Emergent Repairs Completed on LPD 17, Ship Begins Basic Phase Training

NORFOLK Va. - Emergent repairs to USS San Antonio (LPD 17) have been fully completed by Norfolk Naval Shipyard and the ship has returned to Naval Station Norfolk to begin basic phase training in preparation for its upcoming deployment following 1-3 Aug at sea testing of repairs.

The repairs were conducted during an unscheduled availability at Naval Station Norfolk to correct leaks on all four of the ship's main propulsion diesel engines. While conducting the repairs, the Navy discovered multiple instances of incomplete or incorrectly completed work by prime contractor Earl Industries, LLC, of Norfolk, Va. These failures included foreign material exclusion plugs left in the drain piping system, use of incorrect material and improper installation and sealing of gaskets.

In May 2011, NAVSEA terminated for convenience the LPD 17 class multi-ship, multi-option maintenance contract with Earl Industries due to NAVSEA's loss of confidence in Earl Industries' ability to successfully complete repairs to LPD 17 class ships. These most recent findings are consistent with NAVSEA's decision to cancel Earl Industries' contract for LPD 17 class ships.

NAVSEA also took action earlier this year to replace senior leadership at Norfolk Ship Support Activity due to insufficient quality assurance oversight of work.

In light of these problems, NAVSEA is increasing quality assurance oversight at its Regional Maintenance Centers (RMCs). The RMCs are required to oversee all work conducted by contractors in their geographic regions, and they work closely with the industry partners to ensure work is correctly conducted and documented.

The Navy is examining ship repair contractual vehicles to increase focus on quality performance and contractor accountability.

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