SUPSALV Supports Removal of Display Ship BARRY


This week, SUPSALV (NAVSEA 00C) continues to prepare to tow Display Ship BARRY (DD 933) from Pier 2 at the Washington Navy Yard to Naval Inactive Ship Maintenance Facility (NISMF), Philadelphia, PA. BARRY, which has been docked at the Washington Navy Yard since 1983 and has provided generations of Washingtonians the opportunity to see 1950’s vintage naval destroyer. The ship is scheduled to be towed away from the Navy Yard on 7 May 2016.

The rebuilding of the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge (often referred to as the South Capitol Street Bridge) is scheduled to start in the fall of 2016. Naval District Washington (NDW) decided to remove Display Ship BARRY before the new bridge was built, which will be a fixed (non-opening) span. To remove BARRY, NDW turned to the Supervisor of Salvage and Diving (SUPSALV), whose Washington Navy Yard office overlooks BARRY, to conduct the preparations and facilitate the tow. Amongst the tasks previously undertaken by SEA00C to ensure a success include:

- Surveying the hull to ensure the ship’s hull has sufficient strength for the trip
- Sounding the Anacostia River channel to verify the depth of water
- Calculating BARRY’s weight and stability, weight removal, and ballasting requirements
- Developing the tow plan and coordination with the Maryland and Delaware River pilots.

This week begins the accomplishment of the more visible tasks. SUPSALV’s East Coast salvage contractor, Donjon Marine, who will be conducting the tow, has arrived with their 400-ton crane, Columbia New York, and tied alongside BARRY. Monday, the team rigged the primary and emergency tow bridles on the bow of BARRY.

Crane barge “Columbia New York” tied alongside Display Ship BARRY on 25 April 2016. The salvors are preparing to tow BARRY from Washington Navy Yard to Philadelphia, PA in early May. In this image, the towing bridle is being assembled on the bow of BARRY.

Next, the team will remove BARRY’s masts reducing the ship’s air draft from 122’ to 62’ to allow the ship to fit under the Woodrow Wilson Bridge.
4/26/2016 - DONJON crew makes final cut to after mast prior lifting it off Display Ship BARRY.

4/26/2016 - BARRY's after mast being lifted off the stern as a part of the tow preparations.

The ship’s departure is scheduled for 7 May when the spring tide is expected to raise the water level to 3.98 feet above mean high tide. After crossing the shoal at Haines Point and passing through the opened Fredrick Douglass Memorial Bridge, the tow will proceed under the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. The remainder of the route includes the transit south on the Potomac to the Chesapeake Bay. Then the ship will travel north the length of the Chesapeake to the Chesapeake and Delaware (C&D) Canal. After exiting the C&D, the tow will proceed up the Delaware River to Philadelphia.