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Ship maintenance process milestone achieved on USS Paul Hamilton

By Ronald Singer, NAVSEA Surface Maintenance Engineering Planning Program

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii – USS *Paul Hamilton* (DDG 60) completed a 20-week selected restricted availability at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Jan. 27, becoming the first surface ship to complete a shipyard availability using a new maintenance process.

The process - known as the Baseline Availability Work Package (BAWP)/Availability Work Package (AWP) - is designed to ensure each ship receives all required maintenance at the correct point in its life cycle to improve operational availability and reduce maintenance costs over the life of the ship.

The BAWP identifies and mandates all required life cycle assessments and maintenance for each ship. The BAWP is then used to create a work package — the AWP — for each specific availability.

As part of the effort by the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) to sustain the current surface fleet, the Surface Maintenance Engineering Planning Program (SURFMEPP) is phasing in the BAWP/AWP process throughout the entire surface force to support meeting each surface ship's expected service life.

"I'm very pleased to report this successful milestone - a key step in the maturation of the end-to-end process," said Capt. Michael L. Malone, SURFMEPP commanding officer. "This new

process ensures each ship receives the critical maintenance it needs and steers the fleet toward the most effective use of its maintenance dollars."

Implementation of the BAWP/AWP process in planning availabilities is a critical new component of the fleet maintenance program, and is essential to ensuring each surface ship reaches its expected service life. As of February, 65 ships are using the new process, with an eventual goal of 150 ships by fiscal year 2014.

SURFMEPP and Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard are field activities of NAVSEA. SURFMEPP is responsible for managing the long-term maintenance requirements for ships in the surface fleet.

The Shipyard is a full-service naval shipyard and regional maintenance center for the U.S. Navy's surface ships and submarines. It is the largest industrial employer in the state of Hawaii with a combined civilian and military workforce of about 4,850 and an economic impact of \$925 million.

Strategically located in the mid-Pacific, the Shipyard is about a week of steam time closer to potential major regional contingencies in East Asia than sites on the West Coast.

For more information on the Shipyard, visit www.navsea.navy.mil/shipyards/pearl.