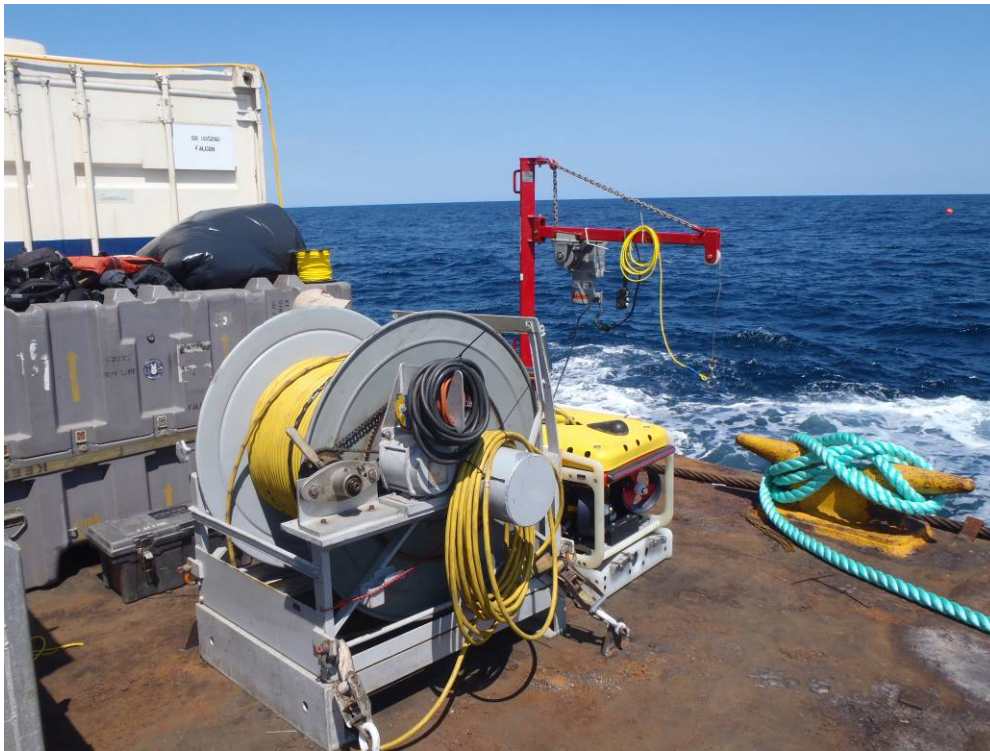


SUPSALV Supports Fleet Exercise

20 Sept 2011

SEA 00C supported NUWC and Second Fleet undersea exercises with surface and sea floor target support services in the Virginia Capes operating area. Working with NAVSEA PMS 404, and Navy Undersea Warfare Center, Newport, SUPSALV mobilized its East Coast Salvage Contractor, DONJON Marine based in Hillside, NJ, to provide crane barge and towing services and Phoenix International of Largo, MD to provide undersea and offshore marine services.

The operation began by coordinating the extensive logistics tasks with all three activities. Two large steel targets (> 16 Tons each) needed to be handled, one free floating and one positioned on the bottom at opposite ends of the exercise area. Additionally torpedo recovery teams needed to be deployed to collect the floating exercise torpedoes at the end of the exercise. Finally, a vessel was needed to deploy a small Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) for verifying the target was properly oriented on the sea floor. This required 4 capable service vessels.



SUPSALV's Mini ROV on deck of M/V HUGO to be used to survey the target on the sea floor.

To complicate the task, the north Atlantic was experiencing strong wind and high seas from Hurricane Irene which posed challenges in handling the extremely heavy targets. Activities began with the arrival of two NUWC trucks delivering the targets to a marine facility in Portsmouth, VA where they were assembled. After Hurricane Irene passed through the area, two additional trucks with SUPSALV and Phoenix gear arrived and mobilization continued at Little Creek, VA onto M/V HUGO. Simultaneously, DONJON's crane, COLUMBIA, arrived and the targets were loaded. With preparations complete, all vessels departed Norfolk on 1 September.

Targets were deployed on 2 September and the Fleet exercises proceeded as scheduled. The team of

support vessels remained busy with Columbia spending most of the exercise period in the safe zone while M/V Atlantic Salvor tended the Floating Target and M/V Mary Alice performed ferry services between the two and acted as a radio relay.



One of the targets being lowered into the water. The yellow air bags will keep the target floating near the surface. DONJON's tug Mary Alice is in the background.

M/V Hugo was further south supporting the bottom target range. The SUPSALV rep was transferred to the Hugo early Monday (5 September) to assist with the torpedo pinger triangulation task. The exercise was completed at 1600 5 September and the Floating Target was successfully recovered aboard Columbia approx 1800pm Mon 5 Sept.



Divers are deployed tending the floating target. DONJON's tug Atlantic Salvor is in the background.

Weather again impacted operations. This time, it was Hurricane Katia's anticipated path up the western Atlantic. The timing couldn't have been better as the exercise was complete. All vessels headed to safe port. Operation successful.